

## **CROSSROADS BIBLE CHURCH OF THE TRI-CITIES**

### **CONSTITUTION**

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#### **Article I – Name and Affiliation**

The name of this organization, a Washington State non-profit corporation, shall be Crossroads Bible Church of the Tri-Cities (also known as Crossroads Bible Church and referred to as Church in this Constitution). The Church is affiliated with the Evangelical Free Church of America (EFCA), as part of their association of autonomous churches. The Church is an active member church in the EFCA Northern Mountain District.

#### **Article II – Statement of Faith**

The Crossroads Bible Church Statement of Faith shall be the same as that set forth by the EFCA (Attachment 1).

#### **Article III – Purpose**

The purpose of this Church shall be:

- The preaching of the Word of God to the mutual edification, instruction, and discipline of its members and other believers.
- The administration of New Testament ordinances.
- The spiritual care and growth of its Members and other believers.
- The equipping of disciples to serve and disciple others - participating in the winning of unsaved souls to our Lord, Jesus Christ.
- The representing of Christ to our community, as a New Testament church operating according to the Word of God.

#### **Article IV – Membership**

Church Membership shall consist of persons who have trusted in and publicly professed Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and whose character, conduct, and reputation honor the

Lord. The procedures for becoming a Church Member are defined in the Bylaws (Attachment 2).

The purpose of Membership is threefold:

1. It serves as a sign of commitment and accountability to the Church.
2. It gives one the right to vote on legal matters and other matters of significance at Congregational Meetings.
3. It makes one eligible to hold a Church Office position in accordance with the Bylaws, and according to one's willingness to serve.

### **Article V – Government**

The Church Membership shall appoint Elders to lead the Church. The Board of Elders shall consist of men who are Church members and who meet the biblical qualifications to hold such leadership. The Elders shall oversee all functions of the Church, including but not limited to, teaching, finances, legal affairs, special ministries, and discipline. They shall be especially devoted to teaching the Word of God and to prayer. They shall seek to delegate responsibility for other ministries to faithful, responsible, and qualified people within the Church. The process for appointing Elders as well as other Church Officers is described in the Bylaws. The minimum number of Elders necessary to constitute a Board of Elders shall be three.

In the absence of the minimum number of Elders necessary to constitute a Board of Elders the Church shall be led by a Leadership Council which is intended to be a temporary Council until the minimum number of Elders has been appointed. The Leadership Council shall consist of any duly appointed Elders plus other Members who exhibit Christian maturity and the ability and willingness to lead the Church. While in existence, the Leadership Council shall oversee all the functions of the Board of Elders. The minimum number of persons that constitute a Leadership Council shall be three. The process for appointing persons to the Leadership Council is described in the Bylaws. When the minimum number of Elders necessary to constitute a Board of Elders is appointed the existing Leadership Council and any existing non-Elder positions in that council shall be automatically terminated.

### **Article VI – Congregational Meetings**

There shall be an annual Congregational Meeting of the Church for reports on the ministries of the Church, appointment of Elders and other Officers, and to conduct such

other business as would normally come before it. The Board of Elders may call special Congregational Meetings at any time under the procedures provided in the Bylaws. Procedures for speaking at or voting at a Congregational Meeting are described in the Bylaws.

### **Article VII – Amendments**

The Constitution and Bylaws may be amended at any Congregational Meeting. The quorum to amend the Constitution and Bylaws shall require 2/3 (66%) of the active members. A 2/3 (66%) positive vote is sufficient to pass the amendment(s). All amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws must be posted on the Church bulletin board and announced at all regular weekly worship services of the Church for at least two months prior to the amendment vote to allow for adequate congregational discussion of the proposed amendment.

### **Article VIII – Indemnification**

The Church shall indemnify and hold harmless any person who is or was a Member, employee, agent, representative, Elder or Leadership Council appointee against any liability asserted against such person and incurred in the course and scope of his or her duties or functions within the Church to the maximum extent allowable by law.

### **Article IX – Mediation and Binding Arbitration**

In keeping with the Apostle Paul's admonition to the church at Corinth, Members, employees, agents, representatives, Elders, or Leadership Council members of Crossroads Bible Church waive the right to file lawsuits against one another involving Church duties, functions, activities, and disputes. Any difference or claim that cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of the parties shall be subject to mandatory mediation and, if necessary, binding arbitration by the EFCA Northern Mountain District or an acceptable neutral third party.

### **Article X – Compliance with Non-Profit Corporate Law**

The Church is organized exclusively for religious, charitable, literary, and educational purposes under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) and Revised Code of Washington Chapter 24.03. Notwithstanding any other provision herein, the Church

shall not carry out activities not permitted or authorized for a non-profit organization exempt from federal income taxes.

### **Article XI – Property Rights**

The Church shall have the power to buy, own, lease, and sell real property. The Church shall be sole owner of said property. In the event the Church is dissolved, assets and real property shall be distributed to the EFCA Northern Mountain District.