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# OPEN DOOR CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## *Mid Week Message*

*Gather... Connect... Grow... Impact!*

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*Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together.*

*One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question:*

*“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”*

*Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” This is the first and greatest commandment.*

*And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’*

*All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”*

I read a very challenging and revealing statement that caught me off guard. It went something like this, “**Christians are naturally going to say that God is most important in their lives. But what does your life say is most important to you?**” Ouch! I’m going to reveal my answers, hoping that I’m not alone. I hope my life would say my order of importance is:

1. God. I got pretty tight with God over the years and my understanding of God has greatly increased. However, I wonder how much of this is due to my vocation.
2. My kids and grandson. I would walk through fire for them.
3. My relationship with Arcy. I would rearrange my life to be with her.
4. Financial stability. I fear being without.

When my 4 kids were young, we went all over the state for their sports, band, events, and I loved every bit of it. I coached baseball, softball, boys’ and girls’ basketball, football, and even soccer over a period of 10 years. I learned how to juggle my schedule, rely on other parents and friends, sleep less, eat poorly, and get more done. I was also very fortunate that I was a minister of a very active church. You could say I’m a hired Christian who wasn’t allowed to miss church. I was literally “forced” to be at church like when I was a child.

Looking back, I can say how thankful I am for being a minister. My time spent in worship, study groups, being with other like-minded people I enjoyed and respected really enhanced my life. I can’t image what my life would have been like if I wasn’t a “professional Christian”.

It made me a better parent, a better person who grew to be more patient and fun as a coach. I grew as a person who became less serious and more relational with my kids and the kids I coached. We had them over to the house, and hosted sleep overs after long days. I become more patient and tolerant with the parents who knew, without a doubt, their child would be in the Hall of Fame if I didn’t mess it up. I’m lucky that I was a hired hand at the church.

Jesus reminded the people that the greatest commandment God imposes upon God’s People is to love God more than anything else. Putting forth the effort or even “forcing” ourselves to be in the presence of God, to learn and grow with people we love, and respect makes a HUGE impact on the quality of our life. We become better at EVERYTHING; parenting, working, playing, serving, significant othering, adulting.

So...I guess...that is the “why” behind God’s command. It’s as if God was saying from the very beginning, “Give me a try first...and all that other stuff will be even better!”

Let’s get back there, again! See you, Sunday!

*Danny*

Official Bylaws  
of  
Memorial Drive Christian Church (d/b/a Open Door Christian Church)  
Revised January, 2022

## **Purpose**

Open Door Christian Church, formerly known as Memorial Drive Christian Church, has adopted these bylaws to provide a formal structure that enables us to pursue our mission: To proclaim the glory of God as made known to us in Christ Jesus by loving and serving our neighbors and one another.

## **General Designations**

The church is affiliated with the body of Christians known as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, or its successor, and is committed to the historic principles of this body. It is affiliated on a cooperative but voluntary basis with this larger body through the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest and the Coastal Plains Area of the Christian Church.

In the event of the dissolution of this church, all properties both real and personal including assets and liabilities, shall pass to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Southwest or its legal successor.

## **The Congregation**

The membership of this Congregation consists of those persons who are now identified as members and those who unite with it by baptism, transfer of membership or rededication.

The Congregation, as a body, has final authority over all matters unless otherwise specified by these bylaws, with voting privileges extended to all members. The Congregation must approve the purchase, mortgage, sale, or transfer of real property. Each member is entitled to one vote. Voting by proxy is not permitted.

The Officers of the Congregation are members who are elected to serve one year terms. The Officers of the Congregation are:

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer

Congregational business meetings are held as needed. The President or Vice President is responsible for calling congregational meetings. Congregational meetings may also be called by a majority vote of the Board or upon petition by twenty percent of the members of the congregation. All meetings will be announced during Sunday morning worship at least seven (7) days in advance and via email to the church members.

Congregational meetings are chaired by the President (or in their absence, the Vice President). Congregational meetings will be conducted in a spirit of Christian comity and understanding. In

the event of a disagreement over how to proceed, the Chair of the meeting may consult Robert's Rules of Order, Revised.

A quorum at all meetings of the Congregation shall consist of those members present and voting.

## **The Church Board**

The Church Board conducts the business of the Congregation, except where otherwise specified. The Church Board has responsibility for the care, custody, and control of the property of the Congregation real and personal, but does not have authority to purchase, mortgage, sell, or transfer real property without approval of the Congregation.

Church Board meetings will be conducted in a spirit of Christian comity and understanding. In the event of a disagreement over how to proceed, the Chair may consult Robert's Rules of Order, Revised. Board members are elected to serve one year terms.

The minimum number of voting members of the Board will be seven, consisting of:

1. The Church Officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary), elected by the Congregation
2. The chair of the Elders, chosen by the Elders
3. Two members at-large, elected by the Congregation

The board may, by majority vote, increase or decrease the size of the board as needed, excepting that the minimum number of members will be seven. The board may fill any vacancy that occurs for officers or board members by a majority vote.

All ministerial staff serve as non-voting, ex officio members.

The Elders serve as the spiritual leaders of the Congregation.

## **Ministers**

All ministers of the Congregation shall be duly ordained into the ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and in good standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Ministers will be called according to the policies established by the Board. In all cases, the hiring of ministers must be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the Church Board and a two-thirds majority vote of the members present at a Congregational meeting called for that purpose.

## **Amendments**

The Church Board may propose amendments to these bylaws at a Congregational meeting called in accordance with these bylaws. Amendments may also be proposed by petition of twenty percent of the church members. Any amendment requires a two-thirds majority vote of the members present to be accepted.