

Willamette Christian Church Governance

I. Overview of Willamette Christian Church

Willamette Christian Church (WCC) is a dynamic, growing body of believers in the city of West Linn, in the southwest Portland metropolitan region. Established in 1957, we are intentional in our efforts to appeal to the needs and interests of the unchurched, as well as our efforts to develop believers into spiritually mature, fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

Willamette Christian Church traces its roots to the historic Stone-Campbell restoration movement of the 1800s, which sought to form independent nondenominational churches across America.

A. Vision

Our vision is to provide the southwest Portland metropolitan area with a church where the message of Christ is presented in a compelling manner through solid, bible-based, dynamic worship and practical, relevant messages. We aspire to establish, sustain and grow a body of believers that provides people with hope, help and a home.

B. Mission

Our purpose statement is that we are a caring community that loves God, loves people and serves the world. WCC seeks to fulfill this purpose and the mission of Christ through:

- Connecting people with God through contemporary worship.
- Commitment to spiritual growth through relevant life-application teaching, small groups, and developmentally-appropriate Christian educational programs.
- Carrying out God's purposes through a variety of ministries.
- Continuing the Great Commission through local and foreign missions.

C. Governance

WCC is an independent Christian fellowship, governed by a local board of Elders. We are incorporated as a 501(c)(3) entity within the State of Oregon and have By-Laws on file with the Corporation Division of the State. Operating decisions are governed by a policy document, which is minimal in scope and allows freedom to meet emerging needs. In general, it covers voting processes, budget approval, expenditure controls and hiring/firing policies.

II. By-Laws Overview

The church is properly organized as a corporation in accordance with State of Oregon law.

1. The primary purpose for which this corporation is formed is to be a local congregation of Christians carrying out the Great Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ as revealed in the New Testament of the Word of God (Matthew 28:18-20). This Corporation will strive to

give opportunity for all Christian people to continue steadfastly in the Apostle's teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayers (Acts 2:42).

2. This corporation is and shall always be an autonomous congregation. This church is not, nor shall ever be, subjected to in any way to any outside organization such as a state board, or ecclesiastical denominational body. The business and government of this corporation shall be conducted within the local autonomy.
3. The membership of this congregation is guided by a Biblical organizational structure of Elders.

III. Theological Overview

Willamette Christian Church is a caring community that loves God, loves people and serves the world. We see ourselves as the local expression of the Body of Christ located throughout the world. We hold to the belief that:

- In essential beliefs, we have Unity (Ephesians 4:4-6)
- In non-essential beliefs, we have Liberty (Hebrews 12:1)
- And in all our beliefs, we show Love (I Corinthians 13:2)

We hold to two scriptural, essential truths; 1) that Jesus is the Christ, the savior of mankind through His death, burial, resurrection and exaltation to the right hand of God in Heaven, and, 2) that the Bible is the supreme authority as our guide to Christian faith and service. We seek to speak where the Bible speaks, and be silent where the Bible is silent.

Our Statement of Faith (choose About Us/What We Believe at willamettechurch.com) details what we believe is the basis for living the Christian life as a community of believers.

IV. Ministries

We seek to be a church which is about Christ, not about programs. We place a high value on the health of our church family, and believe that active involvement in worship services, participation in a community group, serving in ministry, and growing in one's spiritual walk are what we are called to focus upon.

V. Missions

We currently contribute 10% of our general fund toward missions, covering both foreign and domestic causes, and educational institutes. Missions is an area that is exploding in our church right now, and we have many people who are engaging in first time, short and long term missions efforts. We seek to review and support missions that can be fruitful and reflect the desires of our congregation.