

# **APPROVED BYLAWS**

**Updated August 9, 2022**

**TITLE:** First Church of Christ, Scientist San Juan Capistrano (FCCSSJC)

**RELATIONSHIP:** This Church is organized in accordance with the Manual of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts, and is incorporated as a religious non-profit corporation in the State of California.

**PURPOSE:** To promote spiritual growth, unconditional love, and healing based on the teachings of the Bible and Mary Baker Eddy's writings.

**PASTOR:** The Bible and *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy.

**ACTIVITIES:** Sunday services, Wednesday meetings, Sunday school, Reading Room, public lectures, Church workshops, website, mutual support, and other activities (including those on teleconference and the internet) that fulfill our purpose of promoting spiritual growth, love, and healing.

## **MEMBERSHIP:**

*Qualifications:* A love for Christian Science, active work as a Christian Scientist (in the San Juan Capistrano community and beyond) to "reinstat[e] primitive Christianity and its lost element of healing"<sup>1</sup>; an understanding of the responsibilities of membership; freedom from membership in other branches or denominations.

*Application Procedure:* Upon deciding to join, the applicant secures from the administrator or website a membership packet, which includes a copy of the Bylaws and an Affirmation form. After reviewing the packet and completing the form, the applicant seeks the sponsorship of two active members. The sponsors are responsible for verifying the applicant's readiness and willingness to assume the duties of membership, and to participate in the work of the Church. The completed affirmation form is returned to the administrator who then informs the Mentoring Team and all members of the date that the new member will be signing the membership register.

### ***Member's Duties:***

1. Unconditional love
2. Dedication to healing  
by spiritual means
3. Spiritual growth
4. Non-judgmental, non-critical support
5. Active participation
6. Financial contributions
7. Abide by the Bylaws

*Withdrawal:* A letter of withdrawal is available from the administrator on request.

*Inactivity:* Members will have non-voting status after one year of non-participation.

*Rights:* All members shall have the same voting and other rights.<sup>2</sup> Church records are available to all members, including Bylaws, meeting minutes, financial reports, and a Directory of Members.<sup>3</sup>

*Discipline:* Failure to maintain duties or qualifications for membership may lead to discipline based on the Matthew Code (Matthew 18:15-17).

**MEETINGS:** Membership and Facilitating Team meetings will be held as needed but not less than six times a year. Members shall be notified of membership meetings in advance. Meetings may be called by five members or 10% of the membership, whichever is greater. A quorum consists of 20% of the members. Decisions are by majority vote of the members present, unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws.

**ELECTIONS:** Elections for Readers and Facilitating Team members will take place the month before the start of their terms.

**CHURCH GOVERNANCE:** The leadership of this church is vested in the membership. The Facilitating Team executes the directions of the membership in the practical administrative means necessary. Their term is one year.

**DIRECTORS:** (a) The number of directors shall not be less than five nor more than the entire membership.<sup>5</sup> (b) Meetings: see meetings above. (c) All corporate powers shall be exercised by the membership.<sup>6</sup>

**CORPORATE OFFICERS:** For purposes of California non-profit corporation law, the corporate officers are President, Secretary, and Treasurer and are elected each December by the members for terms of one year beginning January 1. Each shall be held by different people.<sup>4</sup> These officers are also the Church's financial signatories.

*President:* The duty of the President is to preside during business meetings and to sign pertinent documents.

*Treasurer:* The duties of the Treasurer are to keep the Church's financial records, make reports, and guide the compilation of, and present to the membership, the annual budget.

*Secretary:* The duties of the Secretary are to insure that minutes are kept and to keep a record of Church membership.

**READERS:** All readers shall be members of The Mother Church. Readers shall be elected by the membership, as needed.

**REMOVAL FROM OFFICE OR MEMBERSHIP:** An officer may be removed from office or a member may be removed from membership by a 3/5 vote of members present at a membership meeting.

**AMENDING BYLAWS:** Bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of members present at a membership meeting. The text of the proposed Bylaw changes must be in all members' hands two weeks prior to voting.

**DISSOLVING:** The Church is dissolved by 2/3 vote of members present at a special meeting requiring one month's prior written notice.

**DISPOSITION OF ASSETS:** If this Church is dissolved, the assets shall be distributed to other non-profit organizations for the benefit of Christian Science as the members shall determine.

**ENDNOTES:**

**1. Eddy, Mary Baker, *Church Manual*, 17:12**

**The following endnotes refer to the California Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law Title I, Division 2, Part 4**

**2. Section 9331**

**3. Section 9160**

**4. Section 9213a**

**5. Section 9151**

**6. Section 9210**