

NORTH TEXAS CHINESE CHURCH BYLAWS

Chapter One: Vision

North Texas Chinese Church is founded on the vision of the need for the gospel and the need of student ministry in Denton County.

Chapter Two: Mission

Our mission is to build a church that is after God's own heart, a place where the Chinese believers of the Denton area can come together to worship and serve God.

Denton is a city with many Chinese college students. Thus, our main objective is to reach out to them with the life-transforming Gospel of Christ, to build up their spiritual life, and to equip them for ministries in their vocations. We also encourage those who are called to serve full time to receive further training for the ministry of the Gospel. We also minister to the local Chinese residents through our worship services, Bible studies, evangelism, various equipping ministries, and caring, so that all believers live out their faith and grow in the knowledge of the word of God.

Chapter Three: Statement of Faith

1. We believe in the Holy Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We believe in Jesus Christ, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, although he was without sin, yet died on the cross as atonement for all. On the third day He was resurrected and had victory over death. After resurrection, He appeared many times to his disciples, and then ascended into heaven. He is now seated on the right hand of God, interceding for the saints. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
2. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Triune God. He convicts and regenerates, and dwells in the hearts of the believers.
3. We observe two sacraments: (1) Believer's Baptism and (2) the Lord's Supper. However, we stress that a person is saved not through baptism but through believing in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Savior of one's life.
4. We believe that the church is a body of Christ, who is the head. The purpose of a church is for the believers to gather together for worship, ministries, fellowship, love, and evangelism.
5. We believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God, free from error in the original autograph. The Old Testament consists of thirty-nine books and the New Testament consists of twenty-seven books. The Bible is the highest authority and spiritual food for the believers' daily living and faith.

Chapter Four: Church Organization

A. Members meeting:

1. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in October, when a new deacon board will be elected. The meeting will be conducted by the chairman under the supervision of the pastor.
2. The agenda will be given to all members one week before the AGM.
3. Members must be at least eighteen years old to be qualified to vote.
4. Two-third of the total active membership shall form a quorum for a members meeting.
5. Any item that requires the members' approval shall need the support of a minimum of two-third majority of the votes.
6. In addition to the AGM, a members meeting may be called when deemed necessary by the chairman of the deacon board and at least half of the deacons.
7. A members meeting may be called if there are more than one-third of the membership signing a petition requesting for a meeting. The meeting will be chaired by the deacon board chairman and supervised by the pastor.
8. Except matters that require discussion and approval in a members meeting, the regular business administration and spiritual matters will be decided and carried out by the deacon board and the pastor.

B. Deacon Board Meeting:

1. The deacon board is responsible of planning and executing all church meetings and activities in cooperation with the spiritual leadership of the pastor to serve the brothers and sisters of the church, and is responsible for guiding the church to walk on the right path according to the teaching of the Bible.
2. The chairman of the deacon board shall be elected by the deacons.
3. A Deacon board meeting shall be held every month and conducted by the chairman. Extra meetings shall be called when deemed necessary.
4. The deacon board reserves the right to give the authoritative interpretation of the Bylaws.

Chapter Five: Membership Responsibility

A. Membership Application: Any person who fulfills anyone of the following two criteria may become a member:

1. A person who believes in Jesus Christ as his/her personal Savior, interviewed by the pastor or deacon board, approved by the members, and baptized at the church.
2. A baptized believer who has been a member of another church, who attends this church for at least three months, who has read and agreed with this Bylaws, with the recommendation of another member, interviewed by the pastor or deacon board, approved by the members of this church.

B. Termination of Membership:

1. Membership ceases when a person dies.
2. If a person willfully disobeys the clear teaching of the Bible, or does not conduct oneself in accordance with this Bylaws, after the admonition of the pastor and the

majority of the deacons to no avail, his membership will be terminated upon the approval of the deacon board and the members.

C. Membership Reactivation

1. A member whose membership is terminated under Chapter Five Section B (2) may have his or her membership reactivated if approved by the Deacon Board in accordance with the teaching of the Bible (2 Cor 2:6-8), and accepted by the Pastor and all members.

D. Inactive Member

1. Any member who can no longer regularly attend the meetings of NTCC for over six months, upon evaluation by the Deacon Board, will be classified as an “inactive member.”

2. An inactive member does not have voting right nor the right to be nominated.

E. The Rights and Responsibilities of a Member of NTCC

1. Member has the right to attend all activities and meetings organized by NTCC.
2. Member has the right to participate in members meeting and also participate in voting.
3. Member who is over the age of eighteen has the right to be nominated to the position of deacon.
4. Member must abide with the teaching of the Bible, regularly attend church meetings, participate in serving, witnessing, tithing, and caring for other members.

Chapter Six: The Office of a Deacon

A. Qualification:

1. Deacon must possess the qualification as listed in 1 Tim 3:8-13.
2. Deacon must have been a born again Christian for three years, baptized and must have been a member of NTCC for at least one year.
3. Deacon must be an active participant of church activities, has a godly lifestyle, and has a good repute outside of the church.
4. Deacon who wishes to resign must present his/her resignation one month in advance to the Deacon Board. The deacon may be relinquished from his/her duty upon acceptance by the Deacon Board and the Pastor, and the proper handover of responsibilities.
5. If a deacon does not fulfill the requirements of Chapter Six Section B, the Deacon Board may report to the members during the members meeting. Upon the approval of two-third of the members, the deacon in question will be relinquished from his/her office as deacon.

B. Election of Deacon:

1. Deacon nominees will be proposed by members, upon approval of the Deacon Board and the Pastor, the nominees will be presented to the members.
2. A nominee shall need to have the votes of two-third of the members in order to be elected.

3. The term of the office of deacon is one year. A deacon may be re-elected twice consecutively, thus serving a total of three years. After that he/she shall step down for one year before he/she can be re-elected again.
 4. In order to ensure smooth transition and operation of the church, the number of new deacons should not exceed half of the deacon board.
- C. Responsibilities of a Deacon:
1. To carry out the ministries as dedicated by the church.
 2. To attend regularly the monthly Deacon Board meeting.
 3. To assist the Pastor in caring, visitation, and teaching.
 4. To be an example of the believers.

Chapter Seven: The Office of the Pastor

1. If the Office of the Pastor is vacant, the Deacon Board shall nominate a person as the “interim Pastor” subject to the approval of the members.
2. The main responsibilities of the Pastor are preaching, praying, accurately interpreting the Bible, nurturing the believers. The Pastor will also baptize believers, officiate the Lord’s Supper, care for the members, and lead the church to fulfill the mission of the church.
3. The Pastor must be trained in a theological seminary, and adhere to the church’s vision and mission and the Bylaws.
4. The Pastoral candidate shall be nominated by the Pastoral search committee. Upon approval of the Deacon Board, and the vote of approval by two-third of the members, the candidate shall then be called to the office of Pastor of NTCC under a six month probationary period. The term of the Pastor shall be two years, extendable upon the Deacon Board’s approval and the approval vote of two-third of the members.
5. The Pastor shall work closely with the Deacon Board, recognizing that the true head of the church is Christ Jesus Himself. The Pastor and the Deacons shall uphold mutual respect for one another. If the Pastor is deemed to have deviated from the teaching of the Bible, the Deacon Board shall investigate and present its finding to the members. Upon the approval of two-third of the members, the Pastor shall be relinquished from his duty.

Chapter Eight: Finance

1. NTCC shall be financially supported through God’s providence, and shall not engage herself in any fundraising activity that is in contradiction to the teaching of the Bible.
2. A monthly report shall be given to members in writing.

Chapter Nine: Miscellaneous

1. This Bylaws can be revised by the Deacon Board or upon the request of at least ten members in writing. The revision shall be approved by the Deacon Board and the two-third of the members.
 2. The interpretation of this Bylaws shall be based on the Chinese version (the English version of which has been translated and approved by the Deacon Board on April 12th 2003).
 3. The Deacon Board is the final authority of the interpretation of this Bylaws.
 4. In the course of the Deacon Board meeting, if the discussion is about the Pastor or a certain Deacon, the person in question shall temporarily leave the meeting in order for the discussion to be carried out, after which the Chairman of the Deacon Board shall explain to the person in question about the result of the discussion.
 5. The Deacon Board reserves the right to decide matter that is not clearly laid out in this Bylaws.
 6. During every deacon election, it is encouraged for one-third of the Deacon Board to consider stepping down from the office of Deacon.
 7. This Bylaws has been approved by the members in the members meeting on May 5, 1996.
-

Amendment to the Bylaws as Approved on September 19, 1999:

Chapter Four Section A (4) is amended to read:

The presence of half of the NTCC members shall form a quorum for a members meeting.

Chapter Six Section B is amended to read:

1. Deacon Candidates shall be nominated by the members, upon fulfillment of (a) and (b) below, shall be presented to the members for election.
 - a. each candidate shall be deemed qualified by the Pastor and the existing Deacon Board;
 - b. and then notified and accepted by the candidate.
 2. Every deacon candidate shall need the approval vote of one-half of the members.
 3. The term of each deacon shall be two years. If a deacon wishes to resign before the end of a term, his/her resignation shall be presented to the Deacon Board for approval. An election shall then be conducted to fill the resulting vacancy for the remaining period of the term.
 4. Each Deacon can be re-elected twice consecutively, thus serving a total of six years, upon which he/she shall step down for at least one year.
-