

## **BYLAWS**

May 21, 2007

**TITLE:** Christian Science Society of San Juan Capistrano, California

**RELATIONSHIP:** This Society is organized in accordance with the Church Manual of The First Church of Christ, Scientist, 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, Society workshops, website, mutual support, and other activities 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 community to "reinstate primitive Christianity and its lost element of healing"<sup>1</sup>; a knowledgeable understanding of the responsibilities of membership; freedom from membership in other branches or denominations.

*Application Procedure:* Upon request to join, the applicant is provided with a membership packet, including a copy of the Bylaws and an Affirmation form. After reviewing the packet and completing the form, the applicant seeks the endorsement of two active members. It is these sponsors' responsibility to verify the applicant's readiness and willingness to assume the duties of membership, and to participate in the work of the Society. The completed affirmation form is returned within thirty days to the clerk, who then informs the membership that the new member will be signing the membership register.

### ***Duties:***

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

*Withdrawal:* Letter of withdrawal on request.

*Inactivity:* Inactive participants will be contacted to determine if help is needed. Members will have non-voting status after one year of non-participation.

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

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

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

**ELECTIONS:** Elections for Sunday Readers and Management Team members will take place at membership meetings not less than one month before the start of their terms.

**MANAGEMENT TEAM:** The leadership of this church is vested in the membership. The Management Team executes the directions of the membership in the practical administrative means necessary. It also serves as the Corporation Directors. Their term is one year.

**OFFICERS:** The officers are President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, appointed by the Management Team. Each shall be held by different people.<sup>4</sup>

*President:* The duty of the President is to ensure that meetings are conducted effectively.

*Vice-President:* The duty of the Vice-President is to take the President's place when he cannot be present at a meeting.

*Treasurer:* The duties of the Treasurer are to keep the Society financial records, make reports, and pay bills.

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

**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>1</sup>

**READERS:** Readers shall be members of The Mother Church. First and Second Readers shall serve for not less than one month, and shall be elected quarterly.

**REMOVAL FROM OFFICE OR MEMBERSHIP:** By 3/5 vote of active members present.

**AMENDING BYLAWS:** Bylaws may be amended by 2/3 vote of active members present. The text of the proposed bylaws change must be in members' hands two weeks prior to voting.

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

**DISPOSITION OF ASSETS:** If this Society 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**