

SCUM OF THE EARTH CHURCH

Church Bylaws

What are the Bylaws?

This is the second scintillatingly interesting legal document that the State of Colorado requires to be filed annually in order for Scum to maintain recognition as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and church. The Articles of Incorporation establish what it is that Scum intends to be and to do. The Bylaws lay out the bare-bones plan for how we're going to actually go about doing that. What the State of Colorado mainly cares about is that we have a plan and a basic idea of how to carry that out in a way that complies with state and federal law. Think of this as the outline you give your professor in order to get a project approved. The Policies and Procedures document, which is not filed with any government entity, fleshes out this skeleton with the details of how we're going to put those basics into practice. Those are vital details for the leadership and congregation of the church, but they're really not of much interest to the State of Colorado.

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BYLAWS OF SCUM OF THE EARTH CHURCH

ARTICLE I

GOVERNANCE

AT SCUM OF THE EARTH CHURCH (SOTEC)

SOTEC is governed initially and finally by God and follows the authority of Scripture.

*And he [Christ] is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. (Colossians 1:18, NIV)
All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that all God's people may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, TNIV)*

We recognize the responsibility and authority of the overseers of the church: the Church Council, Senior Pastor, and other staff.

*The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. (1 Timothy 5:17, NIV)
It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. (Ephesians 4:11-12, NIV)
Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. (1 Peter 5:2-3, NIV)
Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you. (Hebrews 13:17, TNIV)*

We are subject to one another.

*Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. (Ephesians 5:20, NIV)
Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. (Philippians 2:4, NIV)*

We are subject to the laws of our state and country inasmuch as they do not conflict with our obedience to God, and we strive to act above and beyond legal responsibility, showing all integrity in ethics and practice.

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of the foolish. Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. Show proper respect to everyone, love your fellow believers, fear God, and honor the emperor. (1 Peter 2:13-17, TNIV)

ARTICLE II **CHURCH COUNCIL**

There will be a governing church body called the **Church Council** (or Council). Details regarding the job description, qualifications, selection process and other details relating to the SOTEC Council are documented fully in the SOTEC Policies and Procedures.

Section 1: Terms

New Church Council terms will begin on January 1st of each year and will last three (3) consecutive years.

Section 2: Quorum

In order for any vote of the SOTEC Council to be valid, a quorum of two-thirds of those eligible to vote must be present.

Section 3: Proxies

If a member of the Council is unable to attend, the voting member may vote by a proxy given to any other Council member. All proxies must be documented, as well as noted in the meeting minutes. Every proxy may be revocable at any time prior to its use. Details regarding the duties, qualifications, selection process and other details relating to the Church Council are documented fully in the SOTEC Policies and Procedures.

ARTICLE III **SENIOR PASTOR**

The Senior Pastors job description is to follow closely to that of an elder and is chosen under the qualifications of an elder.

Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap. (1 Timothy 3:1-7 NIV)

An elder must be blameless, faithful to his wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Since an overseer manages God's household, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. (Titus 1:6-9, NIV)

Details regarding the job description, qualifications, selection process and other details relating to the Senior Pastor are documented fully in the SOTEC Policies and Procedures and Employee Handbook.

ARTICLE IV
FINANCES

1. Access to financial information: The annual budget is open for anyone to see. Bank statements and other records are available for Council, Senior Pastor, Staff, and Lay leadership to see. Records of financial giving are only open to Senior Pastor, and necessary administrative leadership.
2. Loans, debt, and other institutionalized finances are decided by the Council.
3. Tax deductions are issued in compliance with IRS regulations. When there is room for interpretation of the laws, it is up to the discretion of the Church Council, who will consult with others as necessary.
4. The fiscal year runs March 1 to February 28 (29). Additional information regarding the handling of finances is provided in the SOTEC Policies and Procedures document.

ARTICLE V
BUILDING

Scum of the Earth Church owns 935 W. 11th Ave. Denver, CO 80204, which will be used to fulfill the mission statement of SOTEC.