

# *Constitution and By-Laws*

Of The

**Liberty Free Will Baptist Church Of Portland, Inc.**

*As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.  
Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I  
will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.  
To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also  
overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.  
He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.  
~ Revelation 3:19-22*

**Amended & Adopted on January 17, 2016**

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# ARTICLE 1

## NAME AND PURPOSE

### Section 1.01—Name

- (A) This congregation of believers has adopted the following name:  
**Liberty Free Will Baptist Church Of Portland, Inc.**
- (B) Said name shall be perpetual.

### Section 1.02 – Purpose

- (A) This congregation is organized as a Church exclusively for the worship of the only true God (Father of Jesus Christ), and for the teaching, hearing and spreading of God’s Word; and for charitable, religious, and educational purposes as understood within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue Law; as long as it does not infringe upon our understanding and application of God's Word; or our statement of faith); including, but not limited to, for such purposes, the establishing and maintaining of religious worship, the building of churches, parsonages, schools, chapels, radio stations, television stations, rescue missions, print shops, daycare centers, and camps; the evangelizing of the unsaved by the proclaiming of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; the educating of believers in a manner consistent with the requirements of Holy Scripture, both in Sunday and weekday schools of Christian education; and the maintaining of missionary activities in the United States and any foreign country.
- (B) The aforementioned is not meant to be a complete list of pursuits; and we will always seek the guidance of God's Word and His Holy Spirit as we move forward.
- (C) This church shall uphold the beliefs and practices of the Word of God (though there are other worthy translations, the King James Version of The Holy Bible will be used as our source of authority in making determinations when dealing with conflict, or scriptural understanding). Our “main focus” is to worship God, to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to be used of God in the building of His Kingdom, and the evangelizing of the whole world.

# ARTICLE 2

## STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANTS

### Section 2.01—Statement Of Faith

The following is an overview of the Scriptural beliefs of this church; and it is these truths that the members of this church acknowledge as biblical:

- (A) **The Holy Scriptures**—We believe the Holy Scriptures of both the Old and New Testament to be the verbally and plenary inspired Word of God. The Scriptures are inerrant, infallible, and God-breathed; and, therefore, are the final authority for faith and life. The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament are the complete and divine revelation of God to Man for this life. The Scriptures shall be interpreted according to their normal grammatical-historical meaning; and all issues of interpretation and meaning shall be determined by the Pastor(s) in accordance with our statement of faith. The King James Version of the Bible shall be the official translation referred to by this church (though some members may choose other

translations for their personal use) all final delineation or understanding of scripture shall come from the KJV Bible. (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21)

**(B) Dispensations**—We believe that God, at different times, introduced events that would help guide mankind to a restored relationship to Himself. These dispensations reveal a need for the saving grace provided by God's only Son, Jesus Christ. At the perfect time God introduced these events, such as; the law through Moses, the judges and prophets, and when He offered up His Son Jesus as the propitiation for mankind. We believe God has a perfect plan for all; but due do the fact that mankind has a free-will, each person has a choice concerning their eternal destiny. (Gen. 1:28; 1 Cor. 9:17; 2 Cor. 3:9-18; Gal. 3:13-25; Eph. 1:10; 3:2-10; Col. 1:24-25, 27; Rev. 20:2-6)

**(C) The Godhead**—We believe in only one God; a triune God (The Trinity); eternally existing in three persons; God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit; each co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections. (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; John 14:10, 26)

**(D) The Person and Work of God the Son, Jesus Christ:**

1. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ became man, without ceasing to be God; having been conceived by God the Holy Spirit, and born of a virgin; in order that He [Jesus] might reveal God and redeem sinful man-kind. (Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2, 14; 2 Cor. 5:19-21; Gal. 4:4-5; Phil. 2:5-8)
2. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and, that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. (Acts 2:18-36; Rom. 3:24-25, 4:25; 1 Pet. 2:24; Eph. 1:7; 1 Peter 1:3-5)
3. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God the Father; where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate. (Acts 1:9-10; Heb. 9:24; 7:25; Rom. 8:34; 1 John 2:1-2)

**(E) The Person and Work of God the Holy Spirit:**

1. We believe that God the Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and, that He is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the Body of Christ, indwelling and sealing all those who believe and persevere unto the day of redemption. (John 16:8-11; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 3:6; Eph. 1:13-14)
2. We believe that He is the divine Teacher who assists believers to understand and appropriate the Scriptures; and that it is the privilege of all the saved to be guided by the Spirit (Eph. 1:17-18; 5:18; 1 John 2:20, 27; John 16:13)
3. We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowal of spiritual gifts to every believer. God uniquely uses evangelists, pastors, and teachers to equip believers in the assembly, in order that they can do the work of the ministry; and that every believer is vital in the work of helping God build His Kingdom. (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-11, 28; Eph. 4:7-12)
4. We believe that the manifested gifts of God the Holy Spirit are biblical; but speaking in tongues was never the common, or necessary, sign of the baptism, or filling, of the Holy Spirit; and the Bible teaches that these "tongues" were known languages. We believe in only one (1) work of grace, and that every person that accepts Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, also receives the fullness of the Holy Spirit to dwell in them at the moment of salvation. (1 Cor. 1:22, 13:8, 14:21-22; 2 Peter 1:3-4; Acts 2:1-13)

**(F) The Depravity of Man**—We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God; but that in Adam's sin; the human race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated

from God. Man is, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition. We believe that unless God would awaken mankind to their need for salvation, no one would ever seek God on their own. Since mankind is a fallen and sinful being, he must be regenerated in order to obtain salvation. This change is an instantaneous renewal of the heart by the Holy Spirit, whereby the penitent sinner receives new life, becomes a child of God, and is disposed to serve Him. This is referred to as being born again, born of the Spirit, being quickened, passing from death unto life, and a partaking of the divine nature - it is truly a conversion. (Gen. 1:26-27; Rom. 3:22-23, 5:12, 6:23; Eph. 2:1-3; 4:17-19)

**(G) Salvation**—We believe that salvation is the gift of God, brought to mankind by God's grace, and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. We believe that all sin, except the rejection of Christ Himself, can be forgiven. We believe that a genuine conversion will be evident in one's life. The call of the Gospel is co-extensive with the atonement to all men, both by the word and strivings of the Spirit, so that salvation is rendered equally possible to all; and if any fail of eternal life, the fault is wholly their own. (John 1:12; Eph. 1:7; 2:8-10; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; Matt. 12:31-32; 1 John 1:5-10; Rom. 4:25, 10:9-13; Heb. 1:1-4, 10:14, 13:12; 2 Cor. 5:17, 7:10; James 2:14-26; Gal. 5:16-26; Acts 15:8-11; 2 Peter 3:18)

1. **Justification** implies that the person justified has been guilty before God; and, having accepted Christ by faith, the sinner is pardoned and absolved from the guilt of sin, and given peace with God.
2. **Sanctification** is not only the setting apart of the newly saved for God's purpose, but it is the continuing of God's grace by which the Christian may constantly grow spiritually in their faith.

**(H) Eternal Security, Assurance, and Perseverance of the Saints:**

1. We believe that it is the privilege of every believer to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word; however, the Bible clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh. (Rom. 6:1-23, 13:13-14; Gal. 5:13-18; Titus 2:11-15)
2. We believe that every Christian can know without a doubt that they are saved, and have confidence in their salvation provided through Jesus Christ. The Book of First John was written for this purpose (1 John 5:13), and each believer should read and understand the truths contained in it.
3. We believe that all the redeemed (Christians) are kept by God's power; and are thus secure in Christ forever through faith; as long as the individual holds true to their belief and faith in Jesus Christ; since only those who abide in faith will dwell eternally in heaven. We believe there are many people who claim to be Christians; but are lost (unsaved). We do not believe that everyone will go to heaven; nor do we believe that people are given a second chance to believe after death. We believe that a person must be born-again to enter into the family of God. We believe all people are God's creation; but only the saved (born-again) are God's children. We also believe the scripture gives very clear warnings to the believer not to get into a backslidden condition through the deceitfulness of sin, in which the heart becomes hardened towards God. Though we believe God will use the Holy Spirit's convicting power, and possibly place people and circumstances into one's life for the purpose of bringing the wayward to repentance, we cannot deny the very word of God; nor can we deny the free will that God has allowed each individual to use in accepting or denying His Son Jesus Christ. We believe that the complete act of apostasy is irreversible, and brings eternal damnation. (Matt. 7:21-23, 24:12-13; John 3:3-21, 6:37-40, 8:42-47, 10:27-30, 15:1-6; Rom. 1:18-32, 8:5-14, 11:17-22; 2 Cor. 6:1-2; 1 Pet. 1:4-5; Hebrews 2:1-3, 3:8-19, 6:4-12, 10:16-31, 11:1-6, 12:12-29; 2 Peter 2:20-

22; James 5:19-20; 1 Tim. 1:18-20; 2 Tim. 2:19; 2 Thess.2:3; Rev. 2:5,16,21, 3:3,11,15-21, 14:12, 16:15)

4. We believe the following are essential truths for a Christian:

- Jesus was both God and man (John 1:1,14, 8:24; Col. 2:9; 1 John 4:1-4).
- Jesus rose from the dead physically (John 2:19-21; Rom. 4:24-25).
- Salvation is by grace through faith (Rom. 5:1; Eph. 2:8-9; Gal. 5:1-5).
- The gospel is the death, burial, resurrection, and return of Jesus (1 Cor. 15:1-4; Gal. 1:8-9; Acts 1:1-11; Romans 6:1-11; 2 Corinthians 5:21).
- There is only one God (Exodus 20:1-3; Isaiah 43:10, 44:6,8; James 2:19).
- God exists as a Trinity of persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 4:4-7).
- The virgin birth of Jesus relates to the incarnation of Jesus Christ as God and man (Matt. 1:23; Isaiah 7:14).
- Jesus is the only way to salvation (John 14:6; Acts 4:10-12)
- Jesus is Lord (Rom. 10:9-13; Rev. 1:5-8).
- Faith is required for salvation (Heb. 11:1-6; John 3:18; Romans 10:9-13).
- The love of God the Father through the sacrificial death of His Son Jesus Christ, and the washing of regeneration by the Holy Spirit, allows all those who believe by faith to be forgiven, justified, and made righteous (Matt. 27:50-51; John 3:16, 6:44; Romans 5:8, 8:16-17; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 John 1:7, 2:2; Titus 3:3-7; Rev. 12:10-11)

**(I) The Church:**

1. We believe that the local church, which is the Body of Christ, is solely made up of born-again persons (faith alone in Jesus). (1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:25-27)
2. We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures. (Acts 14:27; 20:17, 28-32; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11)
3. We believe in the autonomy of the local church; free of any external authority or control; except for God. (Acts 13:1-4; 15:19-31; 20:28; Rom. 16:1, 4; 1 Cor. 3:9, 16; 5:4-7, 13; 1 Pet. 5:1-4)
4. We recognize Water Baptism, the Lord's Supper, and Foot Washing as the Scriptural acts of obedience for the church; along with prayer, fasting, serving, giving, evangelism, worship, and studying the scripture. (Matt. 6:1-24, 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42, 18:18; 1 Cor. 11:23-26, 12:4-7; 2 Timothy 2:15)

**(J) Separation**—We believe that all the saved (Christians) should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord Jesus Christ; or to hinder those of weaker faith; or those who need salvation. God commands His people to separate from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations, and to refrain from all immodest and immoral appearances. One reminder of that separation is seen in the believer's life by dedicating a day to the Lord; which from the creation of the world God has set apart for sacred rest and holy worship and service. Under the former dispensation, the seventh day of the week, as commemorative of the work of creation, was set apart for the Lord's Day. Under the Gospel, the first day of the week, in commemoration of the resurrection of Christ, and by authority of Christ and the apostles, is observed as the Christian Sabbath. On this day, we see a principle where all believers are taught to refrain from secular labor and devote themselves to the worship and service of God. Though we believe worship, prayer, and service is a daily devotion, we also understand the importance of being a collective witness to the world.

(Rom. 12:1-2, 14:13; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 9-11; Lev. 19:28; 1 Cor. 6:19-20, 16:2; Acts 15:28-29, 20:7; Exod. 20:8-11; )

**(K) The Return Of Christ**—We believe in that blessed hope; the personal, imminent return of Christ; who will receive all those that have accepted Him as their personal Lord and Savior. At the appointed time, Christ will personally and visibly return with His saints to establish His Kingdom, which He promised to His children. God the Father is the only one who knows the time of this return. (Ps. 89:3-4; Dan. 2:31-45; Zech. 14:4-11; I Thess. 1:10; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Rev. 3:10; 19:11-16; 20:1-6)

**(L) The Eternal State:**

1. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all people; the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. (Matt. 25:46; John 5:28, 29; 11:25-26; Rev. 20:5-6, 12-13)
2. We believe that the souls of the redeemed become absent from the body at mortal death, and become present with the Lord; where in conscious bliss they await the resurrection; when spirit, soul, and body are reunited, to be glorified forever with the Lord. (Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; 3:21; I Thess. 4:16-17; Rev. 20:4-6)
3. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in torment until the resurrection; when with soul and body reunited, they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment; and shall be cast into the everlasting Lake of Fire. (Matt. 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Rev. 20:11-15)

**(M) The Personality of Satan**—We believe that Satan is a person, a fallen angel; the lover of sin, a deceiver, a liar, a murderer, and an instigator of temptation; which led to disobedience, and the fall of man; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. (Job 1:6-7; Isa. 14:12-17; Matt. 4:2-11; 25:41; Rev. 20:10)

**(N) Creation**—We believe that God created all things as described in Genesis, in six literal 24-hour periods. We believe God created all of these as mature; whether it be man, animal, plant, or the earth; and though only days old, they each appeared as having been of some age. We reject evolution, the Gap Theory, the Day-Age Theory, and Theistic Evolution; or any unscriptural theories of origin. (Gen. 1-2; Ex. 20:11; Col. 1:15-17; Heb. 11:3; 2 Peter 3:5)

**(O) Authority**—We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: 1) the home, 2) the church, and 3) government. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities; but a saved person cannot separate themselves from their belief and their daily life; and must always know that their responsibility is to God first, according to Biblical standards. (Rom. 13:1-7; Eph. 5:22-24; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 2:13-14; Matt. 6:33)

**(P) Human Sexuality and Marriage:**

1. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, polygamy, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of, and forbids, any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery, appearance, or otherwise. (Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5, 13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1: 26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4)
2. We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man (natural by birth) and one woman (natural by birth) in holy matrimony; therefore, this church will not support, or take part in, any unions or marriages, that are not biblical; such as same sex marriage. (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23; 2 Cor. 6:14-17)

**(Q) Family Relationships:**



1. We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position of salvation before God; but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the spiritual leader of the home, and men are to be the spiritual leaders (Pastors, Deacons, and Trustees) of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by this church. (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18; 1 Tim. 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12)
  2. We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to sacrificially love his wife as Christ loves the church; the wife is to respectfully receive the scriptural leadership of her husband, just as the church submits to the headship of Christ; children are a heritage from the Lord, but they are to honor their parents; and parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values, and leading them spiritually through consistent Christian lifestyle examples, and appropriate discipline. (Gen. 1:26-28, 3:16; Ex. 20:12; Deut. 6:4-9; Ps. 127:3-5; Prov. 13:24,19:18, 22:15, 23:13-14; Mk. 10:6-12; I Cor. 7:1-16; Eph. 5:21-33, 6:1-4, Col. 3:18-21; Heb. 13:4; I Pet. 3:1-7)
- (R) Divorce and Remarriage**—We believe that God disapproves of, and forbids, divorce. The Lord intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Divorce and remarriage is regarded as adultery, except on the grounds of fornication. Although divorced and remarried persons, or divorced persons, may hold positions of service in the church and be greatly used of God for Christian service, those Christians who have been divorced since becoming a Christian (unless upon biblical grounds) may not be considered for the offices of pastor or deacon. Certain actions can disqualify us from certain areas of leadership. (Mal. 2:14-17; Matt. 5:31-32,19:3-12; Rom. 7:1-3; 1 Tim. 3:2-12; Titus 1:6; Mark 10:1-12)
- (S) Abortion**—We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, and unexcused, taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions are acceptable. God knows all potential life, and He even seen what could have been in the lineage of Abel. (Gen. 4:10; Job 3:16; Ps. 51:5; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44)
- (T) Love**—We believe that we should demonstrate love for others; not only toward fellow believers, but also toward those who are not believers; and those who oppose us. We are to deal with those who oppose us graciously, gently, patiently, and humbly. God forbids the stirring up of strife, the taking of revenge, or the threat and/or use of violence as a means of resolving personal conflict, or obtaining personal justice. Although God commands us to abhor sinful actions, we are to love and pray for any person who engages in such sinful actions. (Lev. 19:18; Matt. 5:44-48; Luke 6:31; John 13:34-35; Rom. 12:9-10, 17-21, 13:8-10; Phil. 2:2-4; 2 Tim. 2:24-26; Titus 3:2; 1 John 3:17-18)
- (U) Lawsuits Between Believers**—We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians, or the church, to resolve personal disputes. We believe the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. (1 Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32)
- (V) Missions**—We believe that God has given the church a great commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ, we must use all available means as directed by God to go forth; whether locally or abroad; and not wait for them to come to us. We, as a Body, will seek to actively support missions of all types that agree with our statement of faith; doing so with our prayers, our service, and with our monetary support. (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:20)
- (W) Giving**—We believe that every Christian, as a steward of God's blessings, is obligated to support their local church, in 4 main areas: prayer, attendance, service, and financially. We

believe that God has established the tithe as a basis for giving; but that every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. We believe that a Christian is to freely give, knowing that its use is under church authority. (Gen. 14:20; Prov. 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; 1 Cor. 12:1-31,16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17)

**(X) Church Conduct**—We believe that a caring and orderly approach to the worship of God is vital for the health of a church. We believe each church member, staff member, and all leadership, should be intentionally praying for our services, and ministry, to be pleasing and acceptable before God; and that all relationships between members should be holy and blameless. (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 14:40; Phil. 2:3-4; 1 Thess. 5:11-24; 1 Timothy 5:2-3)

**(Y) Church Property**—We believe that a Christian should not separate their belief from their daily activities; nor do we believe that a church should separate its belief from how it uses its property. God's house, and all property associated with this church, should be consistent in its use with the statement of faith contained herein. To allow God's house, or property, to be used for unholy or abominable things, would be to directly blaspheme God Himself. (Lamentations 2:1-8; Psalm 24:1; 2 Thess. 2:4; Ezekiel 8:1-18; Hebrews 10:29-31)

**(Z) Church Guidance**—We believe that the local church is autonomous (self-governing). If this church chooses to voluntarily organize with other churches or denominations, or seeks help and guidance from other churches or organizations, our main priorities will always be worship and service to God, the gospel of Jesus Christ, and the well-being of this congregation. We believe that God ordains certain called-out men to lead and have authority over a congregation as the under-shepherd of Christ; and this church will recognize and submit to that authority, as long as it remains biblical in accordance with our statement of faith. (Phil. 3:14; Acts 2:42-47; 2 Cor. 8 & 9; Heb. 13:7, 17, 24; 1 Peter 4:11)

## **Section 2.02—Authority Of Statement of Faith**

The Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. God's Word (The Bible; as discerned in the KJV version) itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the aforementioned Statement of Faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible; and, therefore, is binding upon all members. All teaching and literature used in the church should be in agreement with the Statement of Faith.

## **Section 2.03—Liberty Free Will Baptist Church Of Portland Covenant**

† We agree to faithfully pursue a *Christ-Like Christian Life* that motivates us to abstain from sinful pleasures for the betterment of our congregation, the Body of Christ, our families, and ourselves. (1 Thess. 5:22; Eph. 4:3; Gal. 5:16-17)

† We agree to faithfully prioritize our life to the service of the Lord, our family, this church, and its members; by using our time, talent, and treasure. (Matt. 6:1-34, 25:14-46; Deut. 6:1-9; Luke 10:27)

† We agree to faithfully exalt the name of Jesus publically; whenever and wherever possible. (Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 1:16)

† We agree to faithfully assemble together, work together, grow together, and to remain in one accord together; for the benefit of building up each other and God's Kingdom. (Phil. 2:3-4; Heb. 10:24-25; 2 Tim. 2:15-16)

† We agree to faithfully be active in our community, and to promote the love of Christ through compassion, grace, and mercy. (1 John 3:18; Matt. 5:13-16)

† We agree to faithfully pray for one another, this church, the lost, and the future of this ministry. (2 Peter 3:18; 1 Thess. 5:17; Eph. 3:14-21)

## **ARTICLE 3**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

#### **Section 3.01—Qualifications For Membership**

Upon recommendation by the Pastor(s), and a majority vote of the members present at any church service or meeting, membership shall be extended to all who have had, and whose lives evidence, a genuine experience of regeneration through faith in, and acceptance of, the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior; who renounce sin; who endeavor to live a consecrated life unto the Lord; who fully subscribe to the Statement of Faith contained herein; who enter into the church covenant contained herein; who agree to submit to the authority of the church and its leaders as set forth herein; and upon compliance with any one of the following conditions:

- (A) By baptism (full immersion) subsequent to a profession of faith in Jesus Christ;
- (B) By letter of transfer from another Bible-believing church of like faith and practice, or other written statement of good standing from the prior church if the applicant has been baptized by immersion subsequent to a profession of faith;
- (C) By testimony of faith (having been baptized by immersion subsequent to a profession of faith in Jesus Christ);
- (D) By restoration (at the discretion of the Pastor(s) for submittal, if having been removed from membership) upon majority vote of the congregation, one may be restored after having been shown the error of his way, public confession of sin has been made, and genuine repentance has been demonstrated.

#### **Section 3.02—Duties Of A Member**

On becoming a member of this church, in addition to the covenant contained in Article 2, Section 2.03, each one further covenants to love, honor, and esteem the church leadership; to pray for them; to recognize pastoral authority in spiritual affairs of the church; to cherish a brotherly love for all members of the church; to support the church in prayer, service, attendance, tithes, offerings, and with other financial support as the Lord enables; and in accordance with Biblical commands, to support the beliefs and practices of the church through their lifestyle choices.

#### **Section 3.03—Privileges Of Membership**

- (A) Only members who are physically present at a duly called meeting of the church shall be entitled to vote. In certain votes of a legal nature, the members may be required to be at least 18 years of age. There shall be no proxy or absentee voting.
- (B) This congregation functions not as a pure democracy, but as a body under the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the direction of the Pastor(s) as the under-shepherd. Determinations of the internal affairs of this church are ecclesiastical matters and shall be determined exclusively by the church's own rules and procedures, according to biblical standards. The Pastor(s) shall oversee and/or conduct all aspects of this church along with the help of any Board or person(s) appointed by the membership that the Pastor(s) may choose.
- (C) Membership in this church does not afford the members with any property, contractual, or civil rights based on principles of democratic government. The church and its property ultimately belong to God, and must be treated as such. Although the general public is invited to all of the church's worship services, the church property remains private property; and the attending of any church service or function shall not constitute membership. The Pastor(s) (or in his absence, an individual designated by the membership, such as a Trustee or Deacon) has the authority to suspend or revoke the right of any person, including a member, to enter or remain on church property, if said person seeks to do harm or create

disunity. If after being notified of such a suspension or revocation, the person enters or remains on church property, the person may, in the discretion of the Pastor(s) (or in his absence, an individual designated by the membership, such as a Trustee or Deacon), be treated as a trespasser.

- (D) A member can ask that any prepared financial statements of the church, the minutes of the proceedings of church meetings, and the minutes of the proceedings of board meetings be reviewed at the next business meeting; as long as sufficient time has been given prior to the request. A member may ask for, and receive, a copy of their individual contributions made to the church; but a member may not, under any circumstances, inspect or copy any record relating to individual contributions to the church other than their own.

### **Section 3.04—Discipline Of A Member**

- (A) There may be a discipline committee consisting of the Pastor(s) along with and/or Deacons and Trustees; or other spiritually mature men. These men shall have sole authority in determining heretical deviations from the Statement of Faith and violations of the church covenant. If the Pastor(s), Deacon(s), or Trustee(s) is the subject of a disciplinary matter, he shall not sit as a member of the discipline committee. The Pastor(s), Deacon(s), Trustee(s) shall be entitled to the same steps as other church members and be subject to the same discipline.
- (B) Members are expected to demonstrate special loyalty and concern for one another. When a member becomes aware of an offense of such magnitude that it hinders spiritual growth and testimony, he is to go alone to the offending party and seek to restore his brother. Before he goes, he should first examine himself. When he goes, he should go with a spirit of humility and have the goal of restoration.
- (C) If reconciliation is not reached, a second member, either a Deacon or the Pastor(s), is to accompany the one seeking to resolve the matter. This second step should also be preceded by self-examination and exercised in a spirit of humility with the goal of restoration.
- (D) If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in the above subsections, and (B) and (C) have been taken, the Pastor(s) and any disciplinary committee (as the church's representatives Biblically responsible for resolving offensive matters and disciplinary actions), shall hear the matter. If the matter is not resolved during the hearing before those appointed to hear the matter, said men shall recommend to the members of the church that they, after self-examination, make an effort personally to go to the offending member and seek that member's restoration.
- (E) If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in subsections (B), (C), and (D) have been taken, such members who refuse to repent and be restored are to be removed from the membership of the church upon a majority vote of the membership present at a meeting called for the purpose of considering disciplinary action.
- (F) No matter may be heard by the discipline committee or the church unless the steps outlined in subsections (B) and (C) have been taken, except in the case of a public offense.
- (G) If an unrepentant offending party is removed from the church membership, contact with them should be avoided, so that they know their need for restoration.
- (H) The procedures provided in this section are based on Matt. 18:15-20; Rom. 16:17-18; 1 Cor. 5:1-13; 2 Cor. 2:1-11; Gal. 6:1; 1 Thess. 5:14; 2 Thess. 3:6, 10-15; 1 Tim. 5:19-20; and Titus 3:10-11.

### **Section 3.05—Termination Of Membership**

- (A) A member may resign at any time, but no letter of transfer or written statement of good standing will be issued upon such resignation, except at the discretion of the Pastor(s) and the body.

(B) The following examines some reasons for membership termination:

1. Upon discovery, by the church's leadership, of gross unrepented sin, and/or neglect or failure to comply with the membership requirements, membership can be terminated using the guidelines set forth by the membership in the by-laws. Some of the guidelines to follow, but not limited to, are as follows:

- a) **Attendance:** In order to retain voting privileges and membership in this corporation, a member must attend regularly. Consensus of the leadership and other active members can easily discern if someone has been faithfully attending. It is imperative that a member be active if they are to make informed decisions during business meetings and other matters concerning the church. (Hebrews 10:25)
- b) **Outside Membership:** A member shall not knowingly be a member of another church and retain their voting privileges and membership in this corporation (church).
- c) **Human Sexuality & Sexual Immorality:** We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage; and that marriage is only defined as a union between one man (natural by birth), and one woman (natural by birth). We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, polygamy, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery, appearance, or otherwise. We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man (natural by birth) and one woman (natural by birth) in Holy matrimony. A member shall assent to these views, and shall behave in a manner, which is consistent with said views, and shall strive to attain to a state of Christ like living. Violation of these views shall result in loss of voting privileges and membership. (Gen. 2:24, 13:13, 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30, 20:13; Rom. 1:21-32, 7:2; 1 Cor. 5:1, 6:9-10, 7:1-2, 7:10; Eph. 5:22-25; 1Thess. 4:1-8, 5:22-23; Heb. 13:4; Rev. 21:8)
- d) **Strife:** A member must be willing to interact and cooperate with others. Constant strife, struggles, derision, gossip, and division among those attending our church or other gatherings, shall not be permitted; and may lead to termination of membership. (Philippians 2:3)
- e) **Other violations:** The violations and forfeiture of membership listed herein are not meant to be all-inclusive and may have other restrictions added or revised as the Spirit of God leads, and as set forth in the church's constitution and by-laws.

2. Reinstatement: Upon confession of sin and true repentance and meeting and maintaining a Christ like life, the Pastor(s) at his discretion, may seek the membership to have said person(s) reinstated into the membership, conditional upon approval by the voting body.

3. Our doors are always open to all who would come to worship in Jesus name, to seek the Face of God, and to seek Salvation through His Son Jesus Christ; but in no way shall the attending of our church services and/or any other functions, constitute membership or rights within our congregation.

4. Those who come for the purpose of destroying our faith and beliefs, or those who come to promote another doctrine or teaching contrary to the Word of God or our beliefs, or those who come to spread or to promote evil for the purpose of destroying the Body of Christ or this church, shall not be welcomed. Any sort of satanic practice, belief,

- abominations, idolatry, or false worship shall not be tolerated or accepted; and will lead to immediate removal and banishment; whether they are a member or not.
- (C) The voting body of this church will strive to make these membership guidelines, our gatherings, and the use of church property, pleasing to the Lord.

## **ARTICLE 4**

### **ORDINANCES AND ADMINISTRATION**

#### **SECTION 4.01 – Ordinances**

- (A) This church believes that Baptism, Communion, and Feet Washing are sacred solemn activities that have been commanded by Jesus for all those who are born-again.
- (B) We believe that only through biblical self-examination can one know if they are in right standing with God, and that knowledge should guide them in their willingness to participate in these ordinances.

#### **Section 4.02 – Administration**

- (A) This church will let the leading of the Holy Spirit decide the appropriate times to conduct such ordinances.
- (B) *Baptism, Communion, and Feet Washing* should take place under the guidance of the pastoral staff.

## **ARTICLE 5**

### **OFFICERS**

#### **Section 5.01—Church Officers:**

- (A) Those elected or selected for positions in this church must have a willingness to *serve the Lord*; must *be an encourager*; must *be dependable and faithful*; must be willing to *follow instruction from others*; must be willing to *interact and cooperate with others*. All officers, unless otherwise noted, shall be at least 18 years of age.

Some of those church officers are as follows:

Pastor(s); Deacon(s); Clerk(s); Treasurer(s); Trustee(s); Christian Education Board Director(s)

- (B) One person may hold one or more offices. The Pastor(s), from time to time, as he deems appropriate, may appoint other church officers.
- (C) It shall be up to the Pastor(s) to select the nominating committees for nominating officers based on their spiritual maturity, willingness to work, and their faithfulness in attending of church services; likewise these qualifications should be applied to those who are nominated. This committee shall be confirmed by the voting body.

#### **Section 5.02—Designation Of Corporate Officers**

As an accommodation to legal relationships outside the church, the Senior Pastor shall serve as *president* and *moderator* of the corporation; the Clerk shall serve as *secretary* of the corporation; the Treasurer shall serve as *treasurer* of the corporation; and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees shall serve as *vice president* of the corporation. Associate Pastors, Deacons, and Trustees may serve as moderator if needed.

### **Section 5.03—General Eligibility For Office**

- (A) The church shall not install or retain an officer who fails to adhere to, or expresses disagreement with, the Statement of Faith. All church officers, upon request of the Pastor(s), shall affirm their agreement with the Statement of Faith.
- (B) All church officers must be approved by a majority vote of the voting body.
- (C) Only church members that are faithful in their attendance are eligible for election, or appointment to any church office or position.
- (D) An officer should strive to be an example to other Christians. They should be faithful in all matters of the church, have and maintain a good prayer life, constantly seek to grow in the Lord, attend Sunday School, and practice tithing.
- (E) No person shall be eligible for office in this corporation (church), or any position of authority (including teaching, teacher helper, boards, committees, etc.); who cannot meet the biblical standards put forth by the Lord. Our leaders must lead by example.

### **Section 5.04—Terms Of Office**

- (A) The relationship between the Pastor(s) and the church shall be permanent unless dissolved at the option of either party by the giving of a month's notice, or less by mutual consent. The calling of a Pastor(s) or severance of the relationship between the Pastor(s) and the church may be considered at any regular church administration meeting; provided notice to that effect shall have been given from the pulpit to the church two Sundays prior to said regular church administration meeting. A three-fourths majority of the eligible members present and voting shall be required to call a Pastor(s) or to sever the relationship between the Pastor(s) and the church. Disciplinary removal of the Pastor(s) from office automatically terminates his membership. In the event more than one (1) Pastor is being considered for any action then only one (1) Pastor per meeting can be dealt with. A restoration to membership after disciplinary removal will be subject to the requirements of Section 3.01(D).
- (B) The term of service for all offices and positions in the church continue as the person is able, and as they meet the requirements.
- (C) A vacancy occurring in any office or board, except in the case of the Pastor(s), may be filled at the discretion of the Pastor(s), or at any business meeting.
- (D) All elected and appointed officers should serve in their respective offices until their successors are duly elected or appointed.
- (E) Members of any board (or any other person) may be removed from office for unbiblical conduct, as determined by the other board members, upon a majority vote of the remaining members of the board, and the Pastor(s).
- (F) All assistant officer positions held will be governed under the same guidelines as said officer.
- (G) Any and all pay for any officer or member will be set by the voting body.

### **Section 5.05—Election Of Officers**

The election to confirm those nominated for office or position, shall occur as needed.

### **Section 5.06—Pastoral Oversight Of Officers And Staff**

- (A) Subject to the approval of the church membership, and on the condition that they shall become a member of the church upon assuming their duties, the Pastor(s) may hire associates and assistants to assist the Pastor in carrying out his God-given responsibilities.
- (B) All church staff, whether paid or volunteer, shall be under the supervision of the Pastor(s) who has the sole authority to hire, appoint, or dismiss the same. The church shall not hire, appoint, or retain any employee or volunteer who fails to adhere to, or expresses

disagreement with, the Statement of Faith; and if after an employee has been hired, appointed, retained, or volunteered and it becomes known they do not agree with, or adhere to, the statement of faith and beliefs of this church, or said persons try to undermine the teachings and beliefs of this church, then said person can be terminated immediately with no course of action or retribution to be made or their behalf.

### **Section 5.07—Purchasing Guidelines**

Pastor(s), Trustees, and others entrusted to do so, are limited to purchasing only items for daily use, without authority from the body; as long as the treasurer advises there is sufficient funds to do so. Purchases that exceed \$200 should have treasurer and pastoral approval first; and may need church approval.

## **ARTICLE 6 DUTIES, POWERS, AND QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFICERS**

### **Section 6.01—The Pastor**

(A) The Pastor(s) shall preach the Gospel regularly and shall be free to preach the whole counsel of the Word of God as the Lord leads him. He shall believe in, and live in accordance to, the Statement of Faith contained herein. He shall meet all the qualifications for membership as set forth in Article 3. He must live a Christ like life and exemplify that of 1 Timothy 3:1-7 :

*<sup>1</sup> This is a true saying, if a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. <sup>2</sup> A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; <sup>3</sup> Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; <sup>4</sup> One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; <sup>5</sup> (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) <sup>6</sup> Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. <sup>7</sup> Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.*

(B) He should administer the ordinances of the church, act as moderator at all church meetings for the transaction of church matters, supervise the teaching ministries of the church, and tenderly watch over the spiritual interests of the membership.

(C) The Pastor(s) shall appoint and/or recommend (along with the nominating committee) the members of the various committees. He shall serve as the president of the corporation. He shall publicly inform all newly elected officers of the particular function and the responsibilities of their respective offices. He shall extend the right hand of fellowship to all new members on behalf of the church and perform such other duties as generally appertain to such a position. The Pastor(s) shall be free to choose the means and methods by which he exercises the ministry that God has given him; as long as it does not undermine the teaching of God's word or the beliefs of this church.

(D) All appointments for public worship and Bible study and the arrangements thereof, including time and place and the use of the property belonging to the church for purposes other than the stated appointments, shall be under the control of the Pastor(s) and/or person(s) he appoints to do so.

(E) Under the direction and guidance of the Senior Pastor, the Associate Pastor(s) shall assist in carrying out the ministries and functions of the Senior Pastor of the church. As such, the Associate Pastor(s) will be governed under the same provisions as the Senior Pastor.

(F) All Pastors shall be men only; male by birth and a minimum age of 21.



## **Section 6.02—Deacons And Their Respective Board**

- (A) He shall believe in, and live in accordance to, the Statement of Faith contained herein. He shall meet all the qualifications for membership as set forth in Article 3. He must live a Christ like life and exemplify that of 1 Timothy 3:8-13 :

*<sup>8</sup> Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; <sup>9</sup> Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. <sup>10</sup> And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless. <sup>11</sup> Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. <sup>12</sup> Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. <sup>13</sup> For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

- (B) They, the board of deacons, along with the board of trustees shall assist the Pastor(s), in such a manner as he shall request, in promoting the spiritual welfare of the church, in conducting the religious services, and in performing all other work of the church. They shall help make provision for the observance of the ordinances of the church. They shall, if requested by the pastor, consider applications for church membership. They shall assist the pastor in visitation and all other evangelistic efforts of the church. The board of deacons along with the board of trustees shall assist the pastor in caring for the administrative needs of the church's various ministries as requested by the pastor. They, along with the trustees, shall provide the pulpit supply and choose a moderator for church meetings if the pastor is unavailable or the office of pastor is vacant. Upon the death, resignation, or dismissal of the pastor, the board of deacons along with the board of trustees may appoint a pulpit committee (with approval of the voting body).
- (C) The board of deacons may or may not constitute the board of trustees of the corporation.
- (D) The office of Deacon shall be one of servitude.
- (E) In the case a new convert, or an unproven Christian, is felt led to hold the office of Deacon; the Pastor(s), at his discretion, may insist on said person go on a one (1) year watch list to observe his Christian walk, before confirming him.
- (F) In the case of a proven Christian feels led to hold the office of Deacon; the Pastor(s) may seek to immediately have the voting body confirm him.
- (G) Ordination of a Deacon is for life, except in cases where their credentials may be revoked by the church or by a quarterly; because of flagrant sins, unchristian conduct, and/or violations of these requirements.
- (H) Any and all Deacons shall be men only; male by birth and a minimum age of 21.

## **Section 6.03—The Clerk**

The clerk shall:

- (A) Certify and keep at the office of the church, the original bylaws or a copy, including all amendments or alterations to the bylaws;
- (B) Retain (at the place where the bylaws or a copy are kept) a record of the proceedings of all meetings dealing with the church; with the time and place of meeting, the notice of meeting given, the names of those present at the meetings, and matters discussed. It is the responsibility of each chairperson of each meeting held to see that the clerk has all the proper information for their respective meetings;
- (C) Sign, certify, or attest documents as may be required by law;
- (D) See that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws. (In case of the absence or disability of the clerk, or his or her refusal or neglect to act, notice

- may be given and served by the Pastor(s) or by the chairman of the board of deacons, or trustees.);
- (E) Be custodian of the records of the church, including the membership roll, baptisms, and certificates of ordination, licenses and commissions;
  - (F) See that the reports, statements, certificates, and all other documents and records required by law are properly kept and filed;
  - (G) Make available at all reasonable times (to proper persons on terms provided by legal law the by-laws of this church) any and all minutes of the meetings of this church;
  - (H) Keep an account of any special events in the life of the church which are of historical interest and give a report at the annual church administration meeting of the status of the church membership roll in the past year;
  - (I) Keep all records of the church as safe and secure as possible and deliver them to any successor upon leaving office;
  - (J) Serve as the secretary of the corporation.

### **Section 6.04—The Treasurer**

The treasurer shall:

- (A) Have charge and custody of, and be responsible for, all funds of the corporation, and deposit all funds in the name of the church in banks, trust companies, or other depositories as shall be selected by the pastor and/or the board of deacons, the board of trustees, the membership;
- (B) Receive, and give receipt for all contributions, gifts, and donations to the church;
- (C) Disburse, or cause to be disbursed, the funds of the church as may be directed by the pastor, the board of deacons, the board of trustees, or the budget adopted by the members of the church at the annual church administration meeting, taking proper vouchers for the disbursements;
- (D) Keep and maintain adequate and correct accounts of the church's properties and business transactions including account of its assets, liabilities, receipts, disbursements, and capital;
- (E) Make all expenditures of the church (except miscellaneous petty cash disbursements) by check, card or other church approved method;
- (F) When, and as requested, render to the Pastor(s), the Board of Deacons, and the Board of Trustees, accounts of all the transactions and of the financial condition of the church;
- (G) Present a written report of itemized disbursements as needed, and make a general report for the year at the annual church administration meeting;
- (H) Keep all church financial records secure for the church and deliver them to any successor upon leaving office;
- (I) Serve as treasurer of the corporation.

### **Section 6.05 ---Trustees And Their Respective Board**

- (A) All Trustees are to be men, with a minimum age of 21 years old; which live a Christ centered life and are examples of right Christian living to others.
- (B) They, along with the deacons, shall assist the Pastor(s), in such a manner as he shall request, in promoting the spiritual welfare of the church, in conducting the religious services, and in performing all other work of the church.
- (C) They shall help make provision for the observance of the ordinances of the church.
- (D) They shall, if requested by the pastor, consider applications for church membership.
- (E) They shall assist the pastor in visitation and all other evangelistic efforts of the church. The board of deacons along with the board of trustees shall assist the pastor in caring for the administrative needs of the church's various ministries as requested by the pastor.

- (F) They shall help provide the pulpit supply and choose a moderator for church meetings if the pastor is unavailable or the office of pastor is vacant. Upon the death, resignation, or dismissal of the pastor, the board of deacons along with the board of trustees may appoint a pulpit committee.
- (G) They will assist in the day-to-day activities of the church; to fix or to see that items are fixed or taken care of; to take charge of any construction on behalf of the church; and to lend their selves wherever possible.
- (H) The board of trustees shall exercise the following specific powers as confirmed by the voting Body of this church in a duly called meeting:
  - To purchase, hold, lease, or otherwise acquire real and personal property on behalf of the church, and to take real and personal property by will, gift, or bequest on behalf of the church;
  - To sell, convey, alienate, transfer, lease, assign, exchange, or otherwise dispose of, and to mortgage, pledge, or otherwise encumber the real and personal property of the church, to borrow money and incur indebtedness for the purpose and the use of the church; to cause to be executed, issued, and delivered for the indebtedness, in the name of the church, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, or other evidence of indebtedness; and to secure repayment by deeds of trust, mortgages, or pledges; and
  - To exercise all powers necessary for the dissolution of the church corporation if such action is mandated by a vote of the church membership.

### **Section 6.06 ---Christian Education Board Director**

The Christian Education Board Director shall:

- (A) Oversee the work of all Christian education.
- (B) Receive reports and recommendations from the various divisions of the Sunday School, Children's church, etc.
- (C) Review the work of the Sunday School and of the other teaching and make recommendations for improvements.
- (D) Give attention to and promote the growth of all classes.
- (E) Propose general plans for Christian Education and present them to the Pastor(s) and the Christian Education Board for policy consideration.
- (F) Fill all vacancies that occur during the year, with the approval of the Pastor(s) and/or the Christian Education Board.
- (G) Report to the Pastor(s).

### **Section 6.07—Duties Of All Officers**

- (A) All officers or boards shall prepare a written report of their work as needed. All records are the property of the church and must be kept in the church office.
- (B) Any officer who neglects his duties as outlined in the bylaws, or violates the statement of faith, may be removed from his office at the discretion of the pastor; and another may be appointed by the pastor to serve the un-expired term.
- (C) Officers, due to their position of authority, shall be expected to hold their selves to a higher standard of accountability. No officer shall be installed, accepted, or remain at this church, who does not agree with the statement of faith.

### **Section 6.08—Installation Of Officers**

A public installation service should be held anytime there is an election of officers, or an ordination.

# ARTICLE 7

## MEETINGS

### Section 7.01—Meetings For Worship

Unless otherwise determined, the church shall meet each Sunday for public worship, and at least once during the week (usually Wednesday) for Bible study and prayer.

### Section 7.02—Meetings For Church Administration

- (A) The church will gather for meetings as necessary.
- (B) All church administration meetings shall be opened and closed with prayer for divine guidance and blessing.
- (C) The moderator shall determine the rules of procedure according to fairness and discernment; giving all members a reasonable opportunity to be heard on a matter. The moderator is the final authority on questions of procedure, and his decision is final; as long as it does not violate the by-laws of this church. The following order may be observed at the regular church administration meetings:
  - 1. Devotions & prayer
  - 2. Reading of minutes
  - 3. Reception of members
  - 4. Dismissal of members
  - 5. Report of officers
  - 6. Reports of standing committees
  - 7. Reports of special committees
  - 8. Unfinished business
  - 9. Election of officers
  - 10. New business
  - 11. Adjournment
  - 12. Benediction
- (D) In an effort to be pleasing to the Lord, and to act in an orderly fashion, the church should follow Biblical principles, and proper parliamentary procedure in business meetings. For any meeting under this article, the moderator, in his sole discretion, shall have full and unilateral authority to require nonmembers to leave the meeting room and to order the immediate removal of any member or other person present who is deemed by the moderator to be disruptive to the proceedings by act or presence. The moderator shall have full authority to order the removal of all children from the meeting (ages to be determined by the moderator) if the moderator determines, in his sole discretion, that circumstances so warrant. If the moderator determines that compliance with his order of removal is unsatisfactory, the moderator may, in his sole discretion, revoke the disruptive person's right to remain on the premises in accordance with the guidelines contained herein, and treat the person as a trespasser.

### Section 7.03—Special Meetings

- (A) The pastor (or deacons and/or trustees, if the office of pastor is vacant, or the pastor is the subject of possible disciplinary action) may call a special meeting by giving notice of such a meeting and the purpose for which it is called to the church from the pulpit at least one service prior to said meeting. A meeting for the calling of a pastor or the severance of the relationship between the church and pastor shall be called in accordance with the provisions contained herein.

(B) Bible conferences, missionary conferences, and revivals may be held as the pastor deems beneficial, and as the church is financially able to do so.

### **Section 7.04—Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year of the church shall begin January 1<sup>st</sup> and end December 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **ARTICLE 8 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

### **Section 8.01—Purpose**

The church believes that it is to provide (as it is able to do so, as directed by the Pastor(s)) its members, their children, and all who would receive it, with education and training based upon, and consistent with, Biblical teachings and the Statement of Faith contained herein. The church believes that the home and church are responsible before God for providing a Christian education. To this end, the church shall engage in any ministries in education as it sees fit to do, and in keeping with the following dictates.

### **Section 8.02—Church Participation**

All educational programs or courses of instruction formulated and offered by the church shall be primarily for the benefit of the members of the church; however, the pastor may permit non-church members to participate in church educational programs or courses of instruction if he deems it in the best interest of the church.

### **Section 8.03—Staff Membership**

All instructors, teachers, and administrators should be members of this church. This provision shall not apply to visiting missionaries, evangelists, or preachers engaged for the purpose of delivering sermons, conducting revivals, or other special meetings on a temporary basis; or training and seminars located elsewhere. The only requirements for the aforementioned is that they confess Jesus Christ as their Savior; that they promote no lifestyle contrary to the Word of God, or our statement of faith; and that they do not attack or tear down the beliefs of this church.

### **Section 8.04—Statement of Faith Accord**

All educational programs or courses of instruction shall be taught and presented in full accord with the Statement of Faith of this church. The church shall not hire, appoint, or retain any employee or volunteer for its educational programs; who fails to adhere to or expresses disagreement with the Statement of Faith; or who has not accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

### **Section 8.05—Unity**

All educational programs or courses of instruction shall be conducted as an integral and inseparable ministry of the church. Any ministry or teacher must be willing to let others in the church to be involved and help as needed.

### **Section 8.06—Teaching**

All educational programs or courses of instruction shall be conducted consistent with the teaching of the inerrant Word of God and in accordance with our beliefs. Any assertion or belief, which conflicts with or questions a Bible truth is a pagan deception and distortion of the truth and will be disclaimed as

false. It is the responsibility of every instructor or teacher to present the inerrant Word of God as the sole infallible source of knowledge and wisdom based on our beliefs.

### **Section 8.07—Christian Walk**

All administrators, instructors, and teachers shall continue, or adopt, a lifestyle consistent with the statement of faith contained within this church's constitution, whether in or out of the classroom.

## **ARTICLE 9 LEADERSHIP**

### **Section 9.01 --- Duties And Powers**

- (A) The bible has placed the Pastor(s) as the leader(s) of the local church. Each member should place their trust and confidence in the Pastor(s) knowing that God is in control. The Pastor(s) has the responsibility to spiritually discern the best course of action for this church and who should be put in office or in positions of authority. All things must be handled in order, and in decency, and the Pastor(s) has to have the control needed to see that the church is being operated in the right spirit.
- (B) Any leader, whether it is the Pastor(s) or any other, shall be held accountable by this membership if their actions are not based on biblical principles. All persons, no matter who they are, are fallible and can make bad decisions; but their heart must first be examined to see if any malice or evil was involved before judgment is passed.
- (C) Those we (this body) elect, or select, as our leaders must be free to lead and to make decisions according to their best ability. A leader must be able to lead without undo bureaucracy hindering their decisions. This body can layout guidelines, but ultimately this body must trust the spiritual discernment and decision making of the individual(s) they have selected to lead.

## **ARTICLE 10 DEPARTMENTAL DIRECTORS AND ADMINISTRATORS**

As this church is able, it will seek to appoint different individual members into different roles of leadership. These individuals should lead an active devotional life before the Lord. Some of those are listed as follows:

### **Section 10.01—Activity Director(s) / Committee**

The Activity Director (AD) shall:

- (A) Plan, through the course of the year, church fellowship dinners, special holiday dates, and assorted entertainment and special days for the body.
- (B) Confirm dates and plan long range agendas with the Pastor(s).
- (C) Ensure unity and fellowship; and the AD will seek the help of all that are willing when organizing and planning activities.
- (E) Answer to the Pastor(s); Any activity sub-committee or assistants, shall answer to the AD.

### **Section 10.02—Youth Director(s) / Committee**

The Youth Director (YD) shall:

- (A) Plan, through the course of the year, youth fellowship dates, special holiday dates, and assorted entertainment for the youth, youth lead worship services, camp and retreat dates, and mission trips.
- (B) Confirm dates and plan long range agendas with the Pastor(s)
- (C) Ensure unity and fellowship; and the YD will seek the help of all that are willing when organizing and planning activities.
- (D) Seek assistants that will work closely in all of the planning and preparation. The assistant(s) will answer to the YD; and the YD will answer to the Pastor(s).
- (E) Strive to challenge the youth to grow spiritually, and promote missions and evangelism.

### **Section 10.03—Moderator(s)**

The Moderator shall:

- (A) Conduct all business meetings of the church and/or corporation. The Senior Pastor shall serve as Head Moderator.
- (B) Maintain control of the meetings at all times.
- (C) Conduct all meetings according to biblical standards, and use standard parliamentary procedure.

### **Section 10.04—Associate Pastor(s)**

Under the direction and guidance of the Senior Pastor, the associate pastor(s) of the church shall assist the pastor in carrying out the ministries and functions of the Senior Pastor of the church. As such, the Assoc. Pastors will be governed under the same provisions as the Senior Pastor.

### **Section 10.05 – Sunday School Superintendent**

The Sunday School Superintendent shall:

- (A) Oversee the work of the Sunday School.
- (B) Receive reports and recommendations from the various divisions of the Sunday School.
- (C) Review the work of the Sunday School and make recommendations for improvements.
- (D) Give attention to and promote the growth of the Sunday School.
- (E) Propose general plans for the Sunday School and present them to the Pastor(s) and the Christian Education Board for policy consideration.
- (F) Fill all teaching vacancies that occur during the year, with the approval of the Pastor(s) and/or the Christian Education Board / Director.
- (G) Report to the Christian Education Director/Pastor.

### **Section 10.06---Music / Choir Director**

The music/ choir director shall:

- (A) Promote worship and praise to God through music and singing.
- (B) Line up all special singing and arrange practice times.
- (C) Oversee all aspects of music and equipment, and make recommendations to the planning board.
- (D) Report to the Pastor(s)

### **Section 10.07 ---Children’s Church Director**

The children’s church director shall:

- (A) Promote growth for children from ages newborn to twelve (12) years of age.
- (B) Ensure each service is properly staffed and that each class has the proper materials.
- (C) Provide a place that children can safely learn.

- (D) Ensure confidence that parents/guardians can enjoy worship service without worry for the children.
- (E) Report to the Christian Education Director/Pastor.

### **Section 10.08 ---Women's Ministry Director**

The women's ministry director shall:

- (A) Promote the spiritual growth and well-being for ladies of all ages within the church.
- (B) Provide a safe place for sharing and learning.
- (C) Share in, and delegate, responsibility to others for the planning of devotion, fellowship, and activities.
- (D) Report to the Christian Education Director/Pastor.

### **Section 10.09 ---Men's Ministry Director**

The men's ministry director shall:

- (A) Promote the spiritual growth and well-being for gentlemen of all ages within the church.
- (B) Provide a safe place for sharing and learning.
- (C) Share in, and delegate, responsibility to others for the planning of devotion, fellowship, and activities.
- (D) Report to the Christian Education Director/Pastor.

## **ARTICLE 11 LICENSING AND ORDINATION**

### **Section 11.01—Licensing And Ordination Qualifications**

- (A) Any male member of this church or its mission churches, who gives evidence of a genuine call of God into the work of the ministry and possesses the qualifications stated in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9, and agrees with the Statement of Faith contained herein, may seek Licensing and Ordination (at the discretion of the Senior Pastor) as a minister of the Gospel.
- (B) The following procedures are aimed more at Pastors, but Deacons will likewise be subject to similar requirements. Licensing and Ordination procedures for Deacons shall be up to the discretion of the senior pastor; and therefore the senior pastor will best decide how to handle the office of deacon.

### **Section 11.02—Licensing Procedure**

- (A) Upon a conference with the Senior Pastor and after the Pastor has approved the candidate for licensing, the Pastor, at his discretion, may seek to examine the candidate for a period of time or based on past relations may recommend licensing to the church.
- (B) If the candidate is found worthy of licensing by the Pastor, the candidate may be licensed for at least one (1) year through this church before he can seek ordination.
- (C) The Senior Pastor, and any he may choose, shall arrange for the licensing service.

### **Section 11.03----Ordination Procedure**

- (A) The authority to ordain ministers has its source in the local church. This church may, upon recommendation of the Senior Pastor, choose to ordain one of its own; and in so doing this church may also seek an association to approve the ordination too.



**(B) General ordination procedures:**

1. The candidate usually will be licensed for a period of time prior to ordination, often at least a year (or as the local church prescribes). In some areas, license is issued by the local church directly; in others, it is issued by the association upon the request of the local church.
2. Before ordination, the candidate is examined by a committee of ministers appointed by the association for that purpose; unless, the local church feels the need to perform the ordination itself.
3. This committee usually makes a recommendation directly to the association, and the body votes whether to ordain. Usually, a request for ordination must also be received from the local church of which the candidate is a member. (In some areas, the association's "ordination council" makes recommendation back to the local church, which then proceeds to ordain.)
4. The ministers of the association usually administer the actual ordination ceremony when the association has voted approval.
5. The actual ceremony generally includes the "presentation" of the Bible and a formal "charge." In many places, a sermon by a brother minister is preached. The service usually concludes with the "laying on of hands" and a prayer of consecration.

**(C) General ordination requirements:**

1. Examinations generally include sufficient materials to determine a reasonable acquaintance with the Bible, Christian doctrine, and teachings.
2. Some associations require some type of ministerial educational preparation, or at least manifestation of a desire for self-improvement and study.
3. All areas recognize the necessity of a definite conviction on the part of the candidate that he is divinely "called" to the ministry.
4. Some areas have certain specific requirements about special items of conduct; all areas require consistent Christian conduct and character.
5. Many associations require that the candidate already be involved in some specific ministry, usually either as a pastor or evangelist.

**(D) General transferring credentials requirement:**

1. He is examined by the local association's ordaining committee, though usually not so closely as the new ordination candidate.
2. He is required to present a letter of good standing from the association of which he was last a member. (Associations should exercise great care in granting such letters of standing; an unqualified letter should *not* be granted if there are any questions about the minister's reliability.) In general, no association should receive a minister into full ministerial standing who cannot secure a letter of good standing because he has been dis-fellowshipped or had his credentials revoked or who is in the process of being disciplined by another association. In no case should his credentials be ratified without consultation with the association, which disciplined him.
3. His ordination credentials may then be "ratified" by the association upon recommendation of the ordaining council.

**(E) A minister from another doctrinal belief, will be examined closely; then be subject to a procedure similar to that outlined herein.**

## **Section 11.04 --- Pastor Relationships**

The minister has unique relationships to many persons. As a *divinely called* preacher, he is subject foremost to the Lord and His Word. This relationship qualifies all the others.

- (A) *To his church.* This church recognizes their responsibility to support their pastor(s) financially as it is able; and will periodically review its contributions. The church membership should view the pastor not only as an under-shepherd; but as a close friend and brother in the Lord; and the pastor should cherish the flock God has given.
- (B) *To the association.* When the minister becomes pastor of a given local church, it is his responsibility to obtain good standing with any association of which the church is a member.
- (C) *To fellow-ministers.* Many areas maintain “minister associations” organized for the fellowship and cooperation of the ministers in the area. The pastor should make himself known and available as he is able.

## **ARTICLE 12 COMMITTEES**

### **Section 12.01—Standing Committees**

The Pastor(s) (or the board of deacons and the board of trustees, if the office of pastor is vacant) shall appoint standing committees and, except when otherwise specifically provided in these bylaws, shall determine the membership of each standing committee. In addition to the discipline committee, the Pastor(s) may appoint other standing committees, as he deems appropriate. It is the responsibility of each board or committee to select a chairperson, co-chairperson, and a clerk each year from its own members; and submit to the clerk a record of each meeting.

### **Section 12.02—Special Committees**

The Pastor(s), the board of deacons, and board of trustees, at their discretion, may create special committees to provide advice and information regarding matters submitted to the committee by the aforementioned for consideration. The special committees shall have no authority to act on behalf of the corporation, unless properly given by the body. The members of these committees shall be chosen by a majority vote and shall serve solely at the pleasure of the appointees. These special committees shall be subject to the control and direction of the appointees at all times. It is the responsibility of each board or committee to select a chairperson, co-chairperson, and a clerk each year from its own members; and submit to the clerk a record of each meeting.

### **Section 12.03—Nominating Committees**

- (A) This committee shall nominate officers for the church.
- (B) The committee shall be made up of at least one (1) Pastor, two (2) Pastor appointments, and two (2) members at-large nominated from the floor. Once the four (4) members are decided they will be brought to the floor for a confirmation vote.

### **Section 12.04— Recommending Board**

- (A) This committee shall seek solutions for church goals and plan for the future.
- (B) The committee shall be made up of the Pastors, Deacons, Trustees, and up to three (3) members at-large nominated from the floor. Once the members are nominated they will be brought to the floor for a confirmation vote.

### **Section 12.05 ---Christian Education Board**

- (A) This board shall serve under the leadership of the Christian Education Board Director.

- (B) Duties of this board shall be for the oversight of all teaching and training material for this church.
- (C) Constant evaluation will be made to ensure that the Word of God is being presented and taught properly.
- (D) This board will have 3 or more members as allowed, plus the Pastor(s).

## **ARTICLE 13 DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTIONS**

From time to time, this church, in the exercise of its religious, educational, and charitable purposes, may establish various funds to accomplish specific goals. While contributors are free to suggest uses for their contributions, all suggestions shall be deemed advisory rather than mandatory in nature. All contributions (other than normal tithes) made to pre-existing specific funds shall remain in said fund unless the voting body deems otherwise. No fiduciary obligation shall be created by any designated contribution made to the church other than to use the contribution for the general furtherance of any of the purposes stated in Section 1.02. All donations, of any kind, become property of the church to be used as needed.

## **ARTICLE 14 BINDING ARBITRATION**

It will be up to the leadership of this church whether or not arbitration is in order; and the leadership will decide whether or not to follow these guidelines as stated hereafter, or to institute new guidelines as needed. Since this church also functions as a non-profit corporation in the State of Tennessee, we feel it necessary to have some guidelines in place. The church may use arbitration, but there is no guarantee that this church will use said arbitration; and it shall be completely discretionary, and may be started or stopped at anytime

### **Section 14.01—Submission To Arbitration**

Believing that lawsuits between believers are prohibited by Scripture, all members of this church agree to submit to binding arbitration any matters which cannot otherwise be resolved, and expressly waive any and all rights in law and equity to bringing any civil disagreement before a court of law, except that judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof.

### **Section 14.02—Notice Of Arbitration**

In the event of any dispute, claim, question, or disagreement arising out of or relating to these bylaws or any other church matter, the parties shall use their best efforts to settle such disputes, claims, questions, or disagreement as befits Christians. To this effect, they shall consult and negotiate with each other in good faith and, recognizing their mutual interests not to disgrace the name of Christ, seek to reach a just and equitable solution. If they do not reach such solution within a period of sixty (60) days, then upon notice by either party to the other, disputes, claims, questions, or differences shall be finally settled by arbitration.

### **Section 14.03—Limitations On Arbitration Decisions**

- (A) Should any dispute involve matters of church discipline, the arbitrators shall be limited to determining whether the procedures for church discipline as outlined under Section 3.04, were followed.
- (B) Should any dispute involve the removal from office of the pastor or any church officer, the arbitrators shall be limited to determining whether the procedures set forth in Section 3.04 were followed.

### **Section 14.04—Arbitration Procedures**

The procedures for arbitration shall be as adopted by the Pastor(s) and the body.

#### **1—SCOPE OF ARBITRATION**

The parties must, prior to the selection of arbitrators, agree to the scope of the matters to be considered by the arbitrators. In doing so the parties must conduct themselves with the utmost courtesy as befits believers in Jesus Christ. If the parties cannot agree upon the scope of the dispute for arbitration, the scope shall be determined by the arbitrators.

#### **2—SUBMISSION TO ARBITRATION**

- (A) The parties, as Christians, believing that lawsuits between Christians are prohibited by Scripture, and having agreed, according to Article 12 of the church bylaws, to submit disputes to binding arbitration, and to waive any legal right to take the dispute to a court of law, will refer and submit any and all disputes, differences, and controversies whatsoever within the agreed scope of arbitration to a panel of three arbitrators, to be selected as follows:
  - 1. All arbitrators must be born-again Christians of good reputation in the community and who affirm the church's Statement of Faith in its entirety.
  - 2. Each party shall submit a list of three proposed arbitrators to the other party, and the other party will choose one of the three proposed arbitrators to serve on the panel.
  - 3. The third arbitrator will be selected by mutual agreement of the other two arbitrators.
  - 4. In selecting the arbitrators, each party shall act in good faith in choosing Christian arbitrators who have no prior knowledge of the facts leading up to the dispute, are not related to or close friends with the selecting party, and who will act impartially and with fundamental fairness.
  - 5. No arbitrator may be an attorney.
  - 6. No arbitrator may be employed or ever have been employed by, or under the authority of, either party or any other arbitrator.
  - 7. The arbitrators will be selected as soon as possible but no later than 30 days after the parties have agreed to the scope of the arbitration.
  - 8. The arbitration will be held at a neutral site agreed to by the arbitrators.
- (B) The arbitrators shall, subject to the provisions of these procedures, arbitrate the dispute according to the terms of these procedures, the Bible as interpreted by the church's Statement of Faith, and any applicable church documents.
- (C) Each party may be represented by counsel throughout the process at the party's own expense. Discovery will be allowed as needed, as determined in the discretion of the arbitrators. Formal rules of evidence shall not apply.

#### **3—TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ARBITRATION**

- (A) The arbitrators shall have full power to make such regulations and to give such orders and directions, as they shall deem expedient in respect to a determination of the matters and differences referred to them.
- (B) The arbitrators shall hold the arbitration hearing as soon as possible, but no later than thirty (30) days after the selection of the third arbitrator.
- (C) There shall be no stenographic record of the proceedings, and all proceedings shall be closed to the media and any other individuals not directly involved in the proceedings.
- (D) Normally, the hearing shall be completed within three (3) hours. The length of the hearing, however, may be extended by the arbitrators in their discretion or an additional hearing may be scheduled by the arbitrators to be held promptly.
- (E) There will be no post-hearing briefs.
- (F) The arbitrators are to make and publish their award, in writing, signed by each of them concerning the matters referred, to be delivered to the parties no later than 48 hours from the conclusion of the hearing, unless otherwise agreed by the parties. The arbitrators may, in their discretion, furnish an opinion.

#### **4—CONDUCT AND RULES OF HEARING**

- (A) The arbitrators may, in their absolute discretion, receive and consider any evidence they deem relevant to the dispute, whether written or oral, without regard to any formal rules of evidence.
- (B) The parties and their respective witnesses must, when required by the arbitrators, attend and submit to examination and cross-examination under oath as to all or any of the matters referred to in the proceedings and to produce and deposit with the arbitrators all or any evidence within their possession or control concerning such matters.
- (C) If a party defaults in any respect referred to in Subsection 4.2, above, the arbitrators may proceed with the arbitration in their discretion as if no such evidence were in existence, insofar as it may be favorable to the party in default.
- (D) All presentations shall be controlled by the arbitrators. Any disputes regarding procedure shall be decided solely by the arbitrators.

#### **5—DUTIES OF ARBITRATORS**

- (A) The arbitrators are to receive all evidence, prayerfully consider such evidence in an impartial manner, and render a decision which, based upon Scriptural principles, is fair to all parties.
- (B) The arbitrators have full power to order mutual releases to be executed by the parties, and either of the parties failing, such orders shall have the effect of a release, and may be duly acknowledged as such.
- (C) In the event that either party or a witness for either party shall fail to attend the arbitration hearing, after such written notice to such party as the arbitrators shall deem reasonable, the arbitrators may proceed in the absence of such party or witnesses without further notice.

#### **6—DECISION OF ARBITRATORS**

- (A) It is preferred that the arbitrators reach a unanimous decision, but if a unanimous decision cannot be obtained, a majority decision will be accepted. The written decision of a majority of the arbitrators shall be final and binding on all parties, and judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrators may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof. There is no appeal from the decision of the arbitrators.
- (B) The decision of the arbitrators is to be kept confidential by all parties for a period of one year. For purposes of these procedures, the church membership may be informed of the decision if the church or any church pastors, officers, trustees, employees, or board members were a party to the proceeding.

(C) Should any party commence legal proceedings against another party with respect to the agreed scope of the dispute or the binding decision of the arbitrators, with the exception of an action to enforce the decision of the arbitrators, that party shall pay to the other party all expenses of said proceedings, including reasonable attorneys' fees. In the event it becomes necessary for one party to commence legal proceedings to enforce the decision of the arbitrators, the non-prevailing party must bear all of the costs of said proceedings, including reasonable attorneys' fees.

#### **7—PARTIES TO COOPERATE**

No party shall unreasonably delay or otherwise prevent or impede the arbitration proceedings. No party will involve the news media in the dispute in any way. No party shall publicize the dispute in any way to anyone not a party to the proceedings, except as permitted by the arbitrators and except that a party may disclose the proceedings of this arbitration to his or her spouse, legal counsel, accountants, insurance carrier, and as otherwise required by law.

#### **8—COSTS AND EXPENSES**

Each party shall pay his or her own costs and expenses related to presenting the party's case to the arbitrators. The costs of the arbitration, including any fees for the arbitrators is to be shared equally by both parties.

#### **9—COMMANDMENTS**

These Procedures for Arbitration may be revised or amended by the leadership if deemed necessary, and detailed actions will be presented to the body.

## **ARTICLE 15 INDEMNIFICATION**

### **Section 15.01—Actions Subject To Indemnification**

It will be up to the leadership of this church and approval by the body, whether or not to indemnify; and the leadership will decide whether or not to follow these guidelines as stated hereafter, or to institute new guidelines as needed. The church may indemnify (but there is no guarantee that this church will stand by, or back anyone, or any member, at any time in legal matters; and any or all indemnification shall be completely discretionary and may be started or stopped at anytime) any person who was, or is, a party, or is threatened to be made a party, to any threatened, pending, or completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative, including all appeals (other than an action by, or in the right of the church, in the course of Biblical discipline) by reason of the fact that the person is, or was, a pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent of the church, against expenses, including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement, actually, and reasonably, incurred by said person in connection with the action, suit, or proceeding; and if that person acted in good faith, and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed, to the best interests of the church, and with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit, or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or on a plea of "*nolo contendere*" or its equivalent, shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith, and in a manner that he reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed, to the best interests of the church and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe that said person's conduct was unlawful.

### **Section 15.02—Expenses Subject To Indemnification**

To the extent that a pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit, or proceeding referred to in this Article, or in defense of any claim, issue, or matter in that action, suit, or proceeding, he or she may (*but not certain to*) be indemnified against expenses, including attorneys' fees, actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with the action, suit, or proceeding.

### **Section 15.03—Limitations Of Indemnification**

Any indemnification made under this Article, may be made by the church only as authorized in the specific case on a determination that indemnification of the pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent is proper in the circumstances because he has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in Section 1 of this Article. The determination shall be made (a) by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of the pastor and deacons who were not and are not parties to or threatened with the action, suit, or proceeding; (b) if the described quorum is not obtainable or if a majority vote of a quorum of disinterested deacons so directs, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion; or (c) by a majority vote of the members of the church.

### **Section 15.04—Timing Of Indemnification**

Expenses of each person seeking indemnification under this Article, may be paid by the church as they are incurred, in advance of the final disposition of the action, suit, or proceeding, as authorized by the board of deacons in the specific case, on receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent to repay the amount if it is ultimately determined that he or she is not qualified to be indemnified by the church.

### **Section 15.05—Extent Of Indemnification**

The indemnification provided by this Article shall be deemed to be discretionary unless otherwise required as a matter of law or under any agreement or provided by insurance purchased by the church, both as to action of each person seeking indemnification under this Article in his official capacity and as to action in another capacity while holding that office, and may continue as to a person who has ceased to be a pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent and may inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors, and administrators of that person.

### **Section 15.06—Insurance**

The church may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent of the church against any liability asserted against him and incurred by him in that capacity, or arising out of his status in that capacity, whether or not the church would have the power to indemnify him against liability under the provisions of this Article.

## **ARTICLE 16 EMERGENCY RELIEF**

### **Section 16.01 --- Purpose**

- (A) In times of need or despair, our church body, at its discretion, may help those seeking or needing assistance.
- (B) The body may be called upon to offer a monetary offering, provide food, clothing, shelter, or any combination thereof.

- (C) The priority to those receiving aid will be towards the household of faith first, then as the church is able.
- (D) Before any aid is given to those outside of this church, the church may first seek to acquire adequate information from those seeking assistance; such as in the form of a questionnaire to ensure that those individuals have first exhausted all available avenues of governmental assistance.

### **Section 16.02 --- Powers**

- (A) The body can always vote to approve cash gifts from the church treasury; as long as it does not endanger the ability of the church to function.
- (B) The amounts given are based on a case by case decision; but caution should be used in directly giving money.
- (C) While this church may seek to help with food, clothing, etc., it should avoid paying rent or utility bills.
- (D) In extreme cases, lodging may be provided at a local Hotel/Motel; but due to liability concerns, a church credit card should not be used; nor should the church be the listed as security for the stay.
- (E) This church shall not go in debt for, or sign any loans, or promissory notes, for any person or persons, seeking assistance.

### **Section 16.03 --- Extent**

- (A) During any time that multiple people are in need simultaneously, this body shall look to the following guideline when determining the order of those who need help:
  1. Church members.
  2. Those attending this church.
  3. The immediate families of our church attendees.
  4. Christians in our community.
  5. All others who need help.
- (B) Beside the ongoing spiritual guidance; this church will seek to help those in need by whatever means available to this church, as long as it does not hinder the church's ability to function; and as long as it does not promote dependant behavior on those receiving assistance.

## **ARTICLE 17 DISSOLUTION**

### **Section 17.01 – Guidelines of Dissolution**

- (A) Upon the dissolution of (or the winding up of) this corporation, the Membership (and/or any committee or board selected by the membership to carry out said function), of said corporation shall distribute any remaining assets (after attempting to satisfy all creditors, outstanding loans, debts, or obligations) to one (1) or more nonprofit entities (exempt within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended or supplemented), as it so deems.
- (B) Priority for possible distributions, should be given to one (1) of the following, but not limited to; home or international missions, Bible colleges, churches, etc.



## **Section 17.02 – Remaining Assets**

- (A) Remaining assets not so disposed of, shall be disposed by the District Court of the county in which the principal office of said corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes in the following or the aforementioned.

## **ARTICLE 18 AMENDMENTS**

These bylaws may be revised, or amended, by a two-thirds majority vote of the quorum present and voting at any regular church administration meeting; provided that said revision or amendment, has been submitted in writing, announced from the pulpit on at least two separate occasions during regularly scheduled services, and given at least 14 days notice before the vote is taken. The changing of this document should not be taken lightly; and all changes should be prayerfully considered by the church's leadership before presenting it unto the voting Body.

## **ARTICLE 19 MISCELLANEOUS**

- (A) Only God can foresee circumstances that may arise through the course of time, and as such, it is difficult for mortal finite thinking people to create a set of governing papers to be all-inclusive. We, as a Body of Believers, shall first and foremost rely on God Almighty to be our unwavering, inerrant, guide in all decisions.
- (B) No one has been forced to believe as we do, or to join us in worship; we believe that mankind is a free will agent and is responsible for their own personal decisions; and as such, if any person, or persons, are not happy, content, satisfied, or disagree with our beliefs or the handling of church business; said person, or persons, are always free to leave; knowing that all previous donations of any kind belong to the church and are not returnable.
- (C) This church has an original charter known as the Articles of Incorporation, and will also refer to them as needed, but the leadership will look first to this document when needed.
- (D) Each local congregation of believers is the only visible form of the “church” founded by the direct authority of Scripture. Therefore, this church recognizes that it possesses sole authority over itself as dictated by God; and as such, this church is an independent and self-governing body; with full authority to transact its business; disperse monies; buy and sell real property; choose its pastor(s) and officers; receive, discipline, and dismiss members; hold free title to all its properties; and conduct all its internal affairs. Only those who are truly born-again, are members of the universal and invisible church - known as the Body of Christ; and it is only those, that should be members of this church.
- (G) There shall be no use of this church, its building, or any of its property, that is not in compliance with its Biblical beliefs, and the Statement of Faith contained herein.

## ARTICLE 20 ADOPTION

- (A) The original bylaws were adopted December 11, 2005, by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present and voting at a duly called meeting of the church in which a quorum was present.
- (B) These bylaws amended/adopted on this day of January 17, 2016, supersede any other bylaws of this church to date. They were adopted unanimously, with no opposition.
- (C) Please attach a copy of the minutes of this meeting to this document.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Moderator

Witnesses:

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