



LIFE CHURCH DFW
REACH - LOVE - LIFE

THE LIFE CHURCH-DFW, INC

BYLAWS

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS it is the express purpose of God our Heavenly Father to call out of the world a saved people who shall contribute to the body of Christ. This Church is built and established on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the Chief Cornerstone.

WHEREAS the Members of the Body of Christ are enjoined to assemble themselves together for worship, fellowship, counsel, instruction in the Word of God, the work of the ministry and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices provided for in the New Testament.

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED: That we recognize ourselves as a body of Christian believers working together for the common purpose of spreading the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and that under the laws of the State of Texas we may exercise all the rights and privileges granted to religious bodies.

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of corporation is The Life Church-DFW, further referred to in these Bylaws as the “Church”. From time to time the Board of Trustees may determine to refer to The Life Church-DFW by such other name, as given authority according to Article IX Section 2.

ARTICLE II

MISSION STATEMENT

The Life Church-DFW exists to Reach and to Love people to Life in Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE III PRINCIPAL OFFICE

The principal office for business transactions of the Church is 2560 King Arthur Blvd., Suite 124-55, Lewisville, Texas 75056.

The board of Trustees have full power to change the principal office from one location to another. The Secretary of the Board of Trustees, or Church secretary shall record any change in the location of the principal office.

ARTICLE IV NONPROFIT STATUS

The Church is a nonprofit corporation under the laws of the state of Texas and is organized under the Texas Business Organization Code, as amended (the "Code"). Federal tax exemption is granted under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3).

ARTICLE V PURPOSE

The Life Church-DFW, Inc. was formed to support public worship and to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through such ministries as may be determined by the church. The specific purpose for which the corporation is initially organized is to establish and oversee places of worship, conduct the work of evangelism, create departments necessary to support missionary activities and to license and oversee ministers of the gospel and to also engage in activities which are necessary, suitable or convenient for the accomplishment of that purpose, or which are incidental thereto or connected therewith which are consistent with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The purposes for which this corporation is organized are exclusively charitable, scientific, literary, and educational within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the Corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law.

This corporation will not perform activities not permitted to be carried by:

(a) a corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law, or

(b) a corporation which receives contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or any other Corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law. Scriptural basis for our purposes includes: (Acts 2:42, 46, Hebrews 10:25, Matthew 28:19- 20, Mark 16:15-16, Acts 6:1-7, 1 Thessalonians 5:12).

ARTICLE VI POWERS AND RESTRICTIONS

Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws and to carry out the above-stated purposes, the Church shall have all those powers set forth in the Code, as it now exists or as it may hereafter be amended. Moreover, the Church shall have all implied powers necessary and proper to carry out its express powers. The powers of the Church to promote the purposes set out above are limited and restricted in the following manner:

The Church shall not pay dividends and no part of the net earnings of the Church shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its organizers, officers or other private persons, except that the Church shall be authorized and empowered to make payments and distributions (including reasonable compensation for services rendered to or for the Church) in furtherance of its purposes as set forth in the Certificate of Formation or these Bylaws. No substantial part of the activities of the Church shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Church shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publication or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the Certificate of Formation or these Bylaws, the Church shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by (i) a corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws, or (ii) a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws.

In the event this Church is in any one year a “private foundation” as defined by Section 509(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws, it shall be required to distribute its income for such taxable year at such time and in such manner as not to subject the foundation to taxation under Section 4942 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws; and further shall be prohibited from: (a) any act of “self-dealing” as defined in Section 4941(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws; (b) retaining any “excess business holdings” as defined by Section 4943(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws; (c) making any investments in such manner as to subject the foundation to taxation under Section 4944 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws; or (d) making taxable expenditures as defined in Section 4945(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or corresponding provisions of any subsequent federal tax laws.

The Church shall not accept any gift or grant if the gift or grant contains major conditions which would restrict or violate any of the Church’s religious, charitable, or educational purposes or if the gift or grant would require serving a private as opposed to a public interest.

ARTICLE VII AFFILIATIONS

The Church operates as an autonomous entity, independent of denominational control. However, the Church may participate and voluntarily affiliate with other churches or in conventions as approved by the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE VIII TENETS OF FAITH

At the center of Christian faith and practice stands the belief that God has spoken to the world through the Holy Bible and in the person and work of Jesus Christ. The Bible is the inspired, inerrant, and sufficient Word of God and is thus the ultimate authority for life, faith, and morals. Though the various theological statements of the Church reflect succinct summaries of biblical boundaries, it is the Bible itself to which we are in ultimate submission.

Membership carries with it the implicit understanding that the Board of Elders once formed shall function as the interpretive authority on biblical meaning and application for the purpose of Church doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline. Until such time of the formation of the Board of Elders, the Board of Trustees will function in its place as to the aforementioned. The Pastor/President of the board shall function as the chief interpretive authority as a member of the Board of Elders and the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE VIII SECTION 1 BASIC BELIEF STATEMENTS

We Believe:

- **THE SCRIPTURES:** We believe the Bible to be the Divine Word of God written by holy men of old as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. We accept the Old and New Testaments as our guide in matters pertaining to Christian living and Doctrine. The Bible reveals the salvation plan of God and the end time judgments to come. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20- 21; Rom 1:16; Philippians 3:16)
- **THE GODHEAD:** We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; each coeternal in being, coincidental in nature, coequal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthews 28:19; John 14:10, 26; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Mark 12:29; 1 John 5:5-8)
 - **GOD THE FATHER:** He is the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, Creator of all that is seen and unseen.

- JESUS CHRIST: The only begotten Son of God, true God of true God, Light of Light; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit, He was born of a Virgin, and became man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate, He suffered, died, and was buried. On the third day He rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.
- HOLY SPIRIT: The Lord and Giver of Life, proceeds from the Father and Son. With the Father and Son, the Holy Spirit is worshipped and glorified. convicting the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment, he is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling, and sealing them unto the day of redemption.

Scriptural Reference: (John 4:24, John 10:30, Matthews 28:19, 2 Corinthians 13:14 and Psalms 145:5, Ephesians 1:13-14; Ephesians 4:30; John 16:8-11; Romans 8:9)

- DISPENSATIONS: We believe that the Scriptures interpreted in their natural, literal sense reveal divinely determined dispensations or order of life which define man's responsibilities in successive ages. These dispensations are not ways of salvation, but rather are divinely ordered stewardships by which God directs man according to His purpose. Three of these dispensations; the law, the church, and the kingdom are the subject of detailed revelation in Scripture (Genesis 1:28; 1 Corinthians 9:17; 2 Corinthians 3:9-18; Galatians 3:13-25; Ephesians 3:2-10; Rev 20:2-6)
- THE NEW BIRTH: We believe that man was created in a state of innocence but because of the fall of Adam, sin was imputed to all mankind, and all human beings are born with a sinful nature. We also believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins, becoming a substitutionary sacrifice and that all who repent and believe on Him may be saved. We believe that salvation is a gift of God brought to man by Grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. (Ephesians 1:7, 2:8-9; John 3:16; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Philippians 2:6-7)
- SALVATION: We believe that salvation is a gift from God brought to man by Grace and received through personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of sins and the redemption of man back to God. We believe the Calvary experience also brought forth a new covenant of Grace. (John 1:12; Ephesians 1:7, 8-10; Col 1:14; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Peter 1:18-19)
- PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS: We believe the Scriptures teach that such only are real believers as endure until the end; that their preserving attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special providence from God watches over their welfare; and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. (John 8:31; 1 John 2:19; Romans 8:38-39; Philippians 1:6)

- **ETERNAL LIFE:** We believe that the just shall experience everlasting joy and life in the presence of God and that the unjust shall experience everlasting torment and separation from God. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. At death, the souls of the redeemed are absent from the body and present with the Lord. In a conscious state the redeemed of the Lord await resurrection, when spirit, soul and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord. (John 3:16; John 5:28-29, Daniel 12:2, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, Rev 20:11-15; Philippians 3:21)

ARTICLE VIII

SECTION 2

STATEMENT ON THE CHURCH

It is the biblical position that the church is the body of Christ of which He is the Head. The True church consists of those who have been "Born Again", accepting the provisions which Christ has made for our salvation. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the general assembly and the church of the firstborn, which are in heaven. (Ephesians 1:22; 2:19-22; Hebrews 12:23)

We believe that the local church, which is the body the bride of Christ, is made up of born-again people. We also believe that the essence of the church is not only clearly defined in the New Testament, but the church has autonomy and freedom from external authority or control.

We believe the Members of the Church are associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word. Officers' qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus. We believe that all Christians should strive to be servants of Christ above all. (1 Corinthians 1:1-13, 11:2, 12:12-14; Ephesians 1:22-23; 1 Tim 3:1-13; Acts 13:1-4; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Acts 2:41-42; Matthews 28:20, Mark 10:35-45, Romans 8:29)

ARTICLE VIII

SECTION 3

STATEMENT ON ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH

Ordinance: an ordinance is an authoritative decree or law. They are considered voluntary acts of believers as an exhibit of faith and obedience.

- **WATER BAPTISM:** We believe in water baptism by immersion in the name of The Father, Son and Holy Spirit as commanded by Christ and carried out for an example by the Apostles in the Book of Acts. We believe the ordinance of water baptism shall be administered to all those who have repented of their sins and who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ to save their souls. We further believe that water baptism is a display of

faith and obedience and not a part of the act of salvation. (Matthew 28:19; Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12)

- **THE LORD'S SUPPER:** The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed regularly by the Church. The Lord' Supper, consisting of the elements, bread, and fruit of the vine, is the symbol expressing our sharing in a memorial to His suffering and death, and prophecy of His Second Coming, and is enjoined to all believers until He comes. (John 6:48; Matthews 28:19; Luke 22:19-20; 2 Peter 1:4; 1 Corinthians 11:25)

ARTICLE VIII

SECTION 4

STATEMENT ON SANCTIFICATION

It is our biblical position that the doctrine of sanctification is the definite, yet progressive work of grace. Sanctification is the will of God for all believers and should be faithfully pursued by walking in obedience to God's Word. This work is begun at the point of salvation and is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. (Philippians 2:12; 1 John 2:29; 1 Peter 1:15-16; Hebrews 12:14)

ARTICLE VIII

SECTION 5

STATEMENT ON MARRIAGE AND SEXUALITY

It is the biblical position that marriage involves the union of one man and one woman in permanent sacred fidelity. Though various cultures and customs have evolving definitions of marriage, it is God alone who has ultimate authority to prescribe and describe the marital relationship. (Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:1-9, Mark 10:1-12)

Furthermore, sexual intimacy is only properly exercised and pursued within the confines of this marital relationship. Sexual immorality, defined as any sexual activity outside of the boundaries of the sacred marital relationship between one man and one woman, is clearly and expressly prohibited by the Lord. (Matthew 15:19, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 1 Thessalonians 4:3, Hebrews 13:4)

Consequently, the Church regards all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography or even lustful intent toward such, as sinful and ultimately unsatisfying. Moreover, the Church also regards as sinful the intent or desire to surgically alter one's biological sex to a different sex. Since the body is a creation of God, the Church holds sexual identity to be biologically determined, and associated gender norms are to be observed as appropriate to biblical standards. Disagreement with one's biological sex only leads to spiritual confusion and emotional chaos. (Genesis 1:27, Romans 1:26-32, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

To preserve the function and integrity of the Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical example to the Church Members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the Church in any capacity or united to the Church in membership should abide by and agree to this “Statement on Marriage and Sexuality” and conduct themselves accordingly.

Though sinful sexual expression is egregious (as is all sin), the gospel provides redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Ephesians 2:1-10, Titus 3:3-7)

Furthermore, there is a difference between temptation and unrepented sin. Jesus was tempted in all ways as we are, yet He never sinned. Members, employees, volunteers, and attendees of the Church wrestling with all manner of sexual temptation will find a Church ready to point them to Jesus and join with them to fight for their obedience to Christ. Jesus called the weary and heavy-laden to Himself. As a church desiring to follow Christ fully, the Church will be a safe place for men and women fighting sexual temptations of all kinds. For those fighting temptation and repenting of sin, the Church will provide love, care, and direction. (Matthew 11:28-30, 1 Corinthians 10:13, Hebrews 2:17-18, Hebrews 4:14-16)

The Church’s Statement on Marriage and Sexuality does not provide grounds for bigotry, bullying or hate, as we fully believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity regardless of his or her lifestyle. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated as sinful and are not in accordance with the Scriptures nor the doctrines of the Church.

ARTICLE VIII

SECTION 6

STATEMENT ON ABORTION

We affirm Scripture in its claim that God determines the life of a person before conception takes place. We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of an unborn human life. The scripture declares that life is in the blood and therefore, abortion is putting an end to life that God has given. Furthermore, any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, population control, mental well-being of the mother are contrary to God’s instruction. (Job 3:16; Leviticus 17:11; Psalms 139:14-16; Jeremiah 1:5, 20:15-18)

The Church’s Statement on Abortion does not provide grounds for bigotry, bullying or hate, as we fully believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, and respect. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated as sinful and are not in accordance with the Scriptures nor the doctrines of the Church. The Churches role will be to support families or individuals that are wrestling with the decision to abort an unborn child and assist them in finding resources for prenatal care and postnatal care and child placement if needed.

ARTICLE IX
MEMBERSHIP
SECTION 1
REQUIREMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

REQUIREMENTS: Membership within the Church is first determined by one becoming a genuine follower of Jesus Christ through having responded by faith by the drawing of the Holy Spirit to the message of the gospel. In addition, Members shall have gone through “New Members Orientation” and Members shall have signed a Membership Expectation Form. The Orientation and Expectation Form will be amended or restated from time to time and Members are encouraged to participate in the Orientation and review the Expectation form at their discretion.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Membership within a local church carries both privileges and responsibilities. Members of the Church are held accountable to the responsibilities of general Christian obligations comprehensively though not exhaustively outlined within the Expectations of Church Membership. These responsibilities include praying for and pursuing both corporate health and individual holiness.

In signing the Expectations of Church Membership, Members attest that they have completed the membership process as instructed, read the Expectations of Church Membership, and are willingly agreeing:

- to submit to the authority of the Scriptures as the final arbiter on all issues (Psalm 119; 2 Timothy 3:14- 17; 2 Peter 1:19-21).
- to pursue the Lord Jesus Christ through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship and practice of spiritual disciplines (Luke 18:1; Acts 17:11; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Ephesians 5:1-21; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22).
- to follow the command and example of Jesus by participating in the ordinances prescribed to His Church:
 - by being baptized after conversion.
 - by regularly remembering and celebrating the person and work of Christ through communion.
- to steward the resources God has given each Member, including time, talents, spiritual gifts, and finances. This stewardship includes regular financial giving, service and participation in community that is sacrificial, cheerful and voluntary (Matthew 25:14-30; Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 1 Peter 4:10-11).
- by God’s grace through the power of the Holy Spirit, to walk in holiness in all areas of life as an act of worship to Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:13-16, 4:1-3). Members should strive to put certain attitudes and actions to death while stirring and stimulating love and good deeds through the Spirit.
- to refrain from such activities that the Scriptures would deem foolish (Romans 14:14-23).

- to take seriously the responsibility of Christian freedom, especially actions or situations that could present a stumbling block to another (1 Corinthians 8:1-13).
- to submit to the discipline of God through His Holy Spirit by:
 - following the biblical procedures for church discipline where sin is evident in another, the hope of such discipline being repentance and restoration.
 - receiving righteous and loving discipline as explained in Article XIII of these Bylaws when approached biblically by fellow believers (Psalm 141:5; Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; Hebrews 12:5-11).
- to do the following when the Member sins:
 - confess the sin to God and to fellow believers.
 - repent and seek help to put the sin to death (Romans 8:13; Colossians 3:5; James 5:16; 1 John 1:6-10).
- to submit to appointed leaders of the Church and diligently strive for unity and peace within the Church (Ephesians 4:1-3; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:5).
- to do the following should I leave the Church for righteous reasons:
 - to notify the appropriate Church personnel.
 - to seek another church with which I can carry out my biblical responsibilities as a believer.

ARTICLE IX

SECTION 2

MEMBERSHIP VOTING

The Members of the Church shall vote on the matters of (a) Regular Board of Trustee Election; (b) merger or dissolution of the Church; (c) any proposed change to these Bylaws that would reduce, revoke, or otherwise attenuate a right granted to the Members in the then-current Bylaws; and (d) other actions deemed major and extraordinary by the Board of Trustees. For votes on actions deemed major and extraordinary, not required by the Bylaws but voluntarily initiated by the Board of Trustees pursuant to this Section, such votes may, in the sole discretion of the Board of Trustees, be restricted to a subset of Church Members.

The time, place and nature of upcoming votes will be communicated to the Church at least twenty-one (21) days in advance and Church Members shall have an opportunity to submit questions, comments, and concerns, which will be considered by the Board of Trustees on a case-by-case basis. Voting shall take place during public worship services or a special business meeting, which may be convened in person or held by means of a suitable electronic communications system, including but not limited to conference telephone, videoconferencing technology, or the Internet; or by mail, facsimile transmission, or electronic message; or by any combination of these methods. Only Church Members shall be permitted to vote on any matter under this section of the Church By-Laws. A simple majority, defined as a result greater than 50% when the number of affirmative votes are divided by the number of total votes cast, shall constitute a passing vote. Voting results shall be communicated to Church Members not later than thirty (30) days following such vote.

ARTICLE IX

SECTION 3

MEMBERSHIP TERMINATION

Membership may be terminated in the following ways:

1. Death.
2. Transfer: Any member in good standing who wishes to affiliate with another church will be granted a Letter of Recommendation upon request by the church with which he (she) desires to associate. The letter will be forwarded upon recommendations of the Board of Trustees.
3. Differing Doctrine: Propagation of doctrines and practices contrary to the Tenets of Faith, which cause discord, dissension, and division in the church. (Romans 16:17-18; Galatians 1:8-9; Titus 3:9-11; 2 Thessalonians 3:6)
4. Inactivity: Any member absent from the services without reasonable excuse for a period of three (3) months shall be placed upon the inactive roll.
5. When a person's membership has been terminated or suspended, where possible, in a spirit of love the Church may look to endeavor to reinstate membership. In certain situations, as determined by the Board of Trustees, reinstatement may involve certain restrictions.

ARTICLE X

CHURCH DISCIPLINE

Church discipline is a necessary mark of a healthy church and shall be applied in cases of sexual misconduct, gossip, divisiveness, dishonesty, and various other expressions of sin. In accordance with the biblical pattern generally outlined in Matthew 18:15-17. A person who evidences such sin will be confronted in an initial one-on-one meeting, followed by escalating engagement by ministerial and pastoral staff.

Where the steps of discipline are exhausted in cases of unrepentant and/or habitual sin, the Board of Elders will consider removing a person from membership with the hope of eventual reconciliation and restoration. This removal may or may not include a prohibition to attend Church services and events, depending on the circumstances. In addition, it might include public disclosure of removal from membership and the circumstances leading to this decision to the corporate membership of the Church. Those so disciplined will in turn be restored to fellowship where the Board of Elders have determined that appropriate repentance has occurred.

The process of discipline within the Church is to be explained more fully in the Church's discipline guidelines. Such resource will provide additional explanation but shall not be incorporated into these Bylaws by reference, nor shall it replace the text of this section of the Bylaws. In the event of any disagreement of the linked document with these Bylaws, the Bylaws

shall prevail. Until such time the document is available the Bylaws serve as the guide for discipline.

ARTICLE XI DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Members shall refrain from filing lawsuits against the Church and other believers and submit to Christian Alternative Dispute Resolution. In keeping with biblical direction all formal disputes, other than those which are subject to the jurisdiction of the Board of Elders in Article X of these Bylaws, which may arise between any Member of the Church and the Church itself, or between any Member of the Church and any Trustee or Elder, employee, volunteer, agent, or other Member of this Church, shall be resolved by mediation, and if not resolved by mediation, then by binding arbitration under the procedures and supervision of the Rules of Procedure for Christian Conciliation, Institute for Christian Conciliation, or similar faith-based mediation and arbitration group. In the event that the Institute for Christian Conciliation ceases to exist during the course of this Agreement, arbitration under this section shall be conducted according to the rules of the American Arbitration Association. Judgment upon an arbitration award may be entered in any court otherwise having jurisdiction. The parties each agree to bear their own costs related to any mediation or arbitration proceeding including payment of their own attorneys' fees. Either party may file a motion seeking temporary injunctive relief from a court of competent jurisdiction in order to maintain the status quo until the underlying dispute or claim can be submitted for mediation or arbitration. (Ephesians 4:31-32, 1 Corinthians 6:1-8)

If a dispute may result in an award of monetary damages that could be paid under a Church insurance policy, then use of the conciliation, mediation, and arbitration procedure is conditioned on acceptance of the procedure by the liability insurer of the Church and the insurer's agreement to honor any mediation, conciliation, or arbitration award up to any applicable policy limits. The mediation, conciliation, and arbitration process is not a substitute for any disciplinary process set forth in these Bylaws, and shall in no way affect the authority of the Church to investigate reports of misconduct, to conduct hearings, or to administer discipline of Members.

ARTICLE XI CHURCH DISRUPTIONS

Any person deemed by a member of the Board of Trustees or Elder Board to pose a physical or psychological threat to any person or to the Church, or to be causing, about to cause, or capable of causing disruption to the religious services and activities of the Church, shall be considered a trespasser on Church property and may be ejected summarily. No Church employee, Trustee or

Elder shall incur any liability for acting in good faith in the interests of the Church pursuant to this section.

ARTICLE XII
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SECTION 1
DEFINITION AND POWERS

The overall policy, oversight, control, direction, management of the ministry, operations and finances of the church shall be placed in the authority of the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees are designated as the directors of this corporation as the term is defined and used in the Texas Nonprofit Corporation Act. Subject to the provisions and limitations of the Texas Nonprofit Corporation Act, any limitations in the Articles of Incorporation and these Bylaws, all corporate powers shall be exercised by or under the direction of the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees are also responsible for being obedient to the Scriptures in the doctrine of the Church and establishing the overall vision of the Church.

ARTICLE XII
SECTION 2
QUALIFICATIONS

The Board of Trustees may consist of men and women that exhibit Christian character in accordance with 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. Board of Trustees must also be Members who fully subscribe to the Church's Articles of Faith and are actively involved in the ministry of the church. The Board of Trustees may at any time create, alter, amend, repeal, or restate resolutions establishing additional qualifications outside of those listed in the above scriptures.

ARTICLE XII
SECTION 3
DUTIES

The duties of the Board of Trustees shall include, but not be limited to, leading the Church to fulfill the purposes of the Church.

The Board of Trustees, as a group, shall supervise all employees of the Church. The Board of Trustees may delegate supervisory responsibility as deemed appropriate to ministerial leaders. The Board of Trustees may delegate to Church employees any and all duties and responsibilities the Board of Trustees deem reasonable, subject to the rights, if any, of the person under contract of employment.

Trustees votes on any matter may be communicated to the church at the sole discretion of the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE XII
SECTION 4
SELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE

Once a person is elected to the Board of Trustees, they are expected to serve in this capacity for a minimum of 3 years, but no more than five years per turn. Trustees may be immediately re-elected for successive terms of service.

If the Board of Trustees determines that a Trustee needs an extended Sabbath because of a legitimate need (e.g., illness or tragedy), then such Trustee may transition to being an active but nonvoting Trustee for a period of time to be determined by the Board of Trustees.

To resign from the Board of Trustees, a Trustee shall notify, in writing, the Officers of the Church who are also members of the Board of Trustees. Such Officers shall determine the most fruitful and edifying way to notify the remaining Trustees and the Church Members. A vacancy in the Board of Trustees due to resignation or removal shall be filled by the remaining Board of Trustee Members within a period of 60 days.

ARTICLE XII
SECTION 5
TRUSTEE REMOVAL

Any Trustee may be removed from the Board of Trustees for valid cause. Discipline of Trustee Members must be consistent with the standards set forth in these Bylaws. The Board of Trustees will determine the specific procedure for removal of a Trustee. This procedure may be altered, amended, repealed or restated by a resolution of the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees shall have the sole authority to remove a Trustee.

A written notice of the proposed removal of any Trustee shall be given to such Trustee at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting at which an action to effectuate such removal is to be taken to ensure that the Trustee is given a reasonable opportunity to defend himself. The Trustee shall have the opportunity to answer the charges in the presence of accusers but shall not be present during the discussion and vote of removal. Such removal shall take place only upon and after a passing vote of the Board of Trustees. The Trustee Member under consideration for removal shall not have voting rights while such removal is considered.

ARTICLE XII
SECTION 6
BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETINGS

Regular meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be held in a location that the Board of Trustees deem from time to time.

Any meeting may be held by conference telephone or similar communication equipment, if all the Trustees participating in the meeting can hear one another. All Trustees participating telephonically shall be deemed present at such meetings.

ARTICLE XII
SECTION 7
DEFINITION OF QUORUM AND PASSING VOTE

Section 7: Definition of Quorum and Passing Vote

A proper quorum is defined as seventy-five percent (75%) of the Trustees. A quorum is required for voting matters.

A passing vote must be equal to or greater than seventy-five percent (75%) of the Trustees present. Voting by proxy is prohibited.

ARTICLE XIII
SECTION 1
BOARD OF TRUSTEE OFFICERS

Officers of the Church shall be Members of the Board of Trustees. The Officers shall consist of a President/Pastor, Vice President/Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and such other officers as deemed necessary by the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE XIII
SECTION 2
BOARD OF TRUSTEE OFFICER ELECTION

The Officers of the Church shall be elected by a passing vote of the Board of Trustees and shall serve terms of at least two (2) years, if they remain a member of the Board of Trustees. Officers may be re-elected.

ARTICLE XIII
SECTION 3
BOARD OF TRUSTEE OFFICER REMOVAL

Any Officer may be removed from office for valid cause. A written notice of proposed removal of any Officer shall be given to such Officer by the Secretary, or by a Trustee appointed by the President or Vice President at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting at which an action to effectuate such removal is to be taken, to ensure that the Officer is given reasonable opportunity to defend himself. The Officer shall have the opportunity to answer the charges in the presence of accusers but shall not be present during the discussion and vote of removal. Such removal shall take place only upon and after a passing vote of the Trustees. The Officer under consideration for removal shall not have voting rights while such removal is considered.

Vacancies in the Officers of the Church by reason of death, resignation or otherwise, shall be filled by election of the Board of Trustees as soon as is reasonably possible. Until such time, a Trustee may be appointed by the remaining Trustees to serve in such a vacancy.

ARTICLE XIII
SECTION 4
BOARD OF TRUSTEE OFFICER DUTIES

(a) President/Pastor

The President/Pastor shall perform such duties as are incumbent upon such Officer, including making certain that all orders and resolutions of the Board of Trustees are carried into effect. The President/Pastor is vested by the active members with the authority to officially represent the members of the church in all matters relating to the church, and his actions shall be binding upon the church. In this official capacity, the Pastor/President is accountable and amenable to the active members only.

(b) Vice President/Chairperson

The Chair shall have oversight of the Board of Trustee meetings as defined in Section 6. The Vice President/Chairperson's duties shall include, without limitation: establishing meetings, setting the agenda, and presiding over the meetings. The Vice President/Chairperson shall carry out the duties of the President/Pastor specific to the Board of Trustees in the event that the President/Pastor is unable or unwilling.

(c) Secretary

The Board of Trustees Secretary shall record or cause to be recorded electronically and physically the Church minutes of all meetings of the Board of Trustees and all votes taken at

such meetings. The Secretary shall have charge of the official records and seal of the Church and shall perform such other duties as are incident to the office of Secretary and as may be assigned by the Board of Trustees or the President, under whose supervision the Secretary shall be.

(d) Treasurer

The Treasurer shall serve as the overseer of the financial operations of the Church. Paid Church staff members shall be accountable to the Treasurer for management of the financial aspects of the Church. The Treasurer shall perform such other duties and have other responsibilities as may be assigned to him from time to time by the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE XIV ECCLESIASTICAL POWER

The Pastor of the Church shall be the highest authority as it relates to doctrine, faith, and discipline in the Church. The President/Pastor shall have the final word regarding any issue or vote before the Board of Trustees that may affect the doctrine of the Church in practice or conviction. The President/Pastor shall have the power to veto a Board vote if he believes that the passage of such item will cause the Church to be or operate in contradiction to the doctrines of belief of the church as he interprets them.

If on any occasion the Pastor/President vetoes a vote that was passed by the Board, the President/Pastor shall have until the next Board Meeting to present in writing how such passage violates the church doctrine or belief. (1st and 2nd Timothy; Titus; Ephesians 2:11-15; Jeremiah 3:15, 17:16, 23:1-2)

ARTICLE XV ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD SECTION 1 APPOINTMENT OF ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

The Accountability Board is a mediator and/or liaison group of three (3) to five (5) men and/or women of God who are adept in the Scriptures and love the Lord God. This outside Board is important to the church and the President/Pastor in that it helps to minimize strife, stress, and conflict between the President/Pastor and the Church, while at the same time resolving issues according to the Word of God to ensure a state of harmony in the church.

This Accountability Board should not include any family members, but again men and women who love the Lord and who seek to restore the President/Pastor. All members of the Accountability Board are to be appointed and confirmed by vote, by the Board of Trustees.

Complaints and accusations may be brought to the Accountability Board after a majority vote of the Board of Trustees, of course, excluding the President/Pastor. These complaints can include

embezzlement, sexual immorality, lying, guile, and the President/Pastor not operating in the best interest of the church.

ARTICLE XV
ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD
SECTION 2
RESPONSIBILITY OF PASTORAL ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

The Accountability Board has the responsibility to present the complaints to the President/Pastor and provide wise counsel and restoration according to the Word of God. If the President/Pastor refuses to repent and/or make restitution then the Accountability Board will vote accordingly. The vote of this Board must be unanimous and final. (Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Timothy 5:17-25; Romans 16:17-19)

ARTICLE XVI
REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF PRESIDENT/PASTOR

REMOVAL: There must be a just cause to remove the President/Pastor. Proven cases of apostasy, embezzlement, sexual impurity, compulsive lying, and not acting in the interest of the church are just causes. The Pastor will be given needed time and opportunity to repent and make restitution when applicable (Galatians 6:1- 2). The goal is not the removal but the restoration of the President/Pastor when possible. If necessary, the President/Pastor may be placed on paid sabbatical leave to recover from his transgression. The length of the sabbatical, and if paid, is to be determined by the Board of Trustees and shall not exceed six (6) months. (Matthew 18:15-20, 1 Tim 5:17-20; 2 Tim 4:11)

The removal of the President/Pastor should be the last resort. If the Pastor can truly repent and make restitution, the church shall forgive him and the Accountability Board shall restore him to his ministry (Psalms 51, Luke 22:21- 34, Genesis 9:20-24, Hebrews 11:7, James 5:19-20). However, if the President/Pastor refuses to repent and make restitution he shall be dismissed by the recommendation of a unanimous Accountability Board vote. All voting on the matter must be by secret ballot, and under the supervision of a Board of Trustees.

REPLACEMENT: If the Church needs a President/Pastor due to sudden death, resignation, or a vacancy of the office for any reason, an interim Pastor shall be named by the Board of Trustees within a period of thirty (30) days. Efforts to find a permanent replacement for the President/Pastor shall begin within thirty (30) days, with an attempt to fill the office within 120 days. Inability to fill the position within the set amount of time shall be extended based upon vote by the Board of Trustees. The Vice-President/Chairperson of the Board of Trustees shall preside at these meetings. The Accountability Board can be used as consultants by the Board of Trustee vote.

In the event of a deadlock that would be detrimental to the church, the Accountability Board may cast the deciding vote concerning the replacement of the President/Pastor. The successor shall then assume all authority of the President/Pastor.

ARTICLE XVII PASTORAL COMPENSATION

The President/Pastor will serve the church for an indefinite period. The compensation shall be determined from time to time by the vote of the Board of Trustees providing, in which the Pastor shall abstain from voting on matters related to his compensation. The Board of Trustees shall also be responsible for allotting a set amount of funds in the church's annual budget for necessities connected with the Pastor's work. He shall be paid a salary as long as the Board of Trustees agree to the same.

If at any time the Church shall become dissatisfied with the services of the President/Pastor, the active members will be polled, and the Board of Trustees will make a recommendation to the Accountability Board for consideration based upon the poll and/or the vote of the Board of Trustees itself. If the Accountability Board rules against the Pastor and the Board of Trustees concur, the Church, at that time shall pay the President/Pastor two month's salary/housing in advance or his services shall continue until such time as the Church shall meet this requirement.

If, at any time, the President/Pastor shall become dissatisfied or for any other reason desire to resign, the President/Pastor shall conduct all Pastoral responsibilities for two (2) months, unless the Church relieves the President/Pastor of these responsibilities.

If the President/Pastor should die while in service of the Church, the Church shall give the widow his full salary for no less than six (6) months, and thereafter at the discretion of the Board of Trustees. The church will assist with the funeral expenses at the discretion of the Board.

ARTICLE XVIII FINANCES SECTION 1 HANDLING OF FUNDS

All funds received for all purposes shall pass through the hands of the Board of Trustees Treasurer and/or Assistant Treasurer and be properly recorded in the books of the church. The Board of Trustees must select a system of accounting that will adequately provide for the handling of all funds. Handling of the funds should be done by a Board of Trustee appointed Finance Committee. The Finance Committee should consist of a minimum of five people. Three people must be present when Church funds are handled.

**ARTICLE XVIII
FINANCES
SECTION 2
DEPOSITORY**

The Board of Trustees will designate the depository or depositories in which funds of the church may be deposited and against which demand for withdrawal may be made. The Board of Trustees shall designate officials of the church whose signatures will be required to withdraw funds, endorse notes, endorse drafts, execute mortgages and deeds, serve as guarantors, and otherwise, by their signatures pledge the assets of the church against its obligations.

**ARTICLE XVIII
FINANCES
SECTION 3
BUDGET**

The church budget will run on the calendar year 1 January through 31 December.

The Board of Trustees shall establish and or adopt an annual budget submitted by a subcommittee made up of Board of Trustee Members, including the Board of Trustee Treasurer. The budget should be submitted and approved by October 31st each year with budgetary guidelines for the upcoming calendar year. The approved budget will operate on projected income from membership contributions, fundraisers, and community entities. Deposits shall be made in a timely manner by the Board of Trustee Treasurer, or a Board of Trustee approved designee.

The Annual Church Budget shall serve as a guide for the expenditure funds in all areas of the Church's Ministries. Expenditures more than the budget by the ministries must be submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval and amendment of the budget. The expenditures of funds for budgeted items which exceed the budget amount may be approved by the Board of Trustees if these expenditures are consistent with needs and Church Mission.

**ARTICLE XVIII
FINANCES
SECTION 4
ANNUAL REPORTING**

SECTION 3: ANNUAL REPORTS: The President/Pastor, Vice President/Chair and/or the Treasurer of the Board of Trustees shall present annually to the Board of Trustees and the Membership a report of the following:

1. The assets and liabilities, including investment funds of the Church as of the end of the immediately preceding fiscal year.
2. The principal changes in assets and liabilities including investment funds during the immediately previous year.
3. The revenue or receipts of the Church for the previous year, including separate data for each investment fund held by or for the Church.
4. The expenses or disbursements for the preceding year, including separate information for each investment fund by or for the Church.
5. The appropriate member statements / receipts of contributions to the Church for the previous year.
6. The annual report shall be filed with the minutes of the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees.

**ARTICLE XVIII
FINANCES
SECTION 5
AUDIT**

An external audit shall be done in July of each year by a Board of Trustee selected CPA that has no direct membership or business tie to the Church. All reports will be submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval.

**ARTICLE IXX
INSURANCE**

The Church may purchase and maintain insurance, at its expense, to protect itself and any director, officer, employee or agent of the Church or who, while a director, officer, employee or agent of the Church, is or was a director, officer, partner, trustee, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise against any expense, liability or loss, whether or not the Church would have the power to indemnify such person against such expense, liability or loss under the Texas Business Organizations Code.

**ARTICLE XX
PRIVACY STATEMENT**

The Church shall diligently watch to keep private all records concerning polity, doctrine, counseling, and information on membership. This Church must not disclose any records that may compromise information about a member's attendance, membership status, giving and counseling records. Further, no request shall ever be released to any government authority without due process and a valid subpoena delivered by the proper government agency.

ARTICLE XXI DISSOLUTION

The date of commencement of corporate existence shall be when these articles have been filed with the Department of State and approved by it and the respective filing fee has been paid. The term for which the corporation is to exist shall be perpetual. This corporation is organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code.

In the event of dissolution of the corporation, no part of the corporation's earnings or assets shall inure to the benefit of any of its members; the residual assets of the corporation shall be distributed to one or more organizations which themselves are exempt as organizations described in Sections 501(c)(3) and 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue code of 1986, or corresponding sections of any prior or future law, or to the federal, state or local government for exclusive public purpose.

ARTICLE XXII BYLAW AMMENDMENTS

The Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed and new Bylaws may be adopted by a two-thirds ($2/3$) majority vote of the Board of Trustees of the Church at any regular or special combined meeting of the Board of Trustees. At least fourteen (14) days written notice of a meeting called for the purpose of altering amending, or repealing the church's Bylaws or Articles of Incorporation shall be given to each Board member.