

BYLAWS

(NAME OF CHURCH)

Preamble

Whereas we, being an incorporate body of people of like precious faith, believing in the Lord Jesus Christ individually for eternal life through His vicarious death and the power of His resurrection; believing the Bible to be God's Word and the revelation of His will to man and accepting it as our all-sufficient rule for faith and conduct; and believing that Christian fellowship, mutual edification and evangelical effort, in and through, the form and body of local churches is God's ordained order for His people and that those of each local church are enjoined to assemble themselves together for worship, fellowship, counsel, and instruction in the Word of God, and the work of the ministry; and for the exercising of those mutual gifts and offices provided for in the New Testament; and that the local church is charged by the Word of God to walk in the light of that Word by the Spirit in all godly fear and love; and believing that these things are essential to obtaining the Christian goal, "Be ye therefore perfect even as your Father in heaven is perfect"; and further, believing that God has called us, anointing us to emphasize the fullness of the Gospel in and through the Baptism with the Holy Ghost (which is our distinctive testimony) according to the Scriptures. (Acts 1:4, 5; 2:4, 39; 10:44-47; 19:2, 6)

Therefore we have accepted the following Statement of Fundamental Truths and have adopted the Constitution which do herein appear. We shall seek, by the grace of God, to be governed by the Constitution as are herein set forth and will also seek to teach and propagate the doctrines as are contained in the Statement of Fundamental Truths.

For the purpose of establishing and maintaining a place for the worship of the one true God; to provide for Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith, irrespective of social position or worldly possessions; for the propagation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ both in home and foreign lands, this church shall be governed by the following Constitution: **KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENT:** That, we, the undersigned have this day voluntarily associated ourselves together for the purpose of forming a corporation under the Laws of the State of (Name State), and we hereby certify:

ARTICLE I

Name

As stated in the Articles of Incorporation, the name of the corporate church shall be (Name of Church).

ARTICLE II

Purposes and Powers

THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THIS CORPORATION IS FORMED ARE:

(1) To establish a Biblical Christian Church with a School of the Bible department and with missionary, literature, educational and all other departments it may deem useful to propagate and practice the full Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and for its service to the community.

(2) It is one purpose of this local church corporation to earnestly seek and promote the unity of God's people in the Scriptural manner of Godly love, respect and faithful voluntary cooperation with liberty. To that end it shall associate and cooperate freely with other churches and with church organizations.

(3) To act as Trustee under any trust incidental to the principal objects of the corporation and to receive, hold, administer and expend funds and property subject to such trust.

(4) To enter into, make, perform and carry out contracts of every kind for any lawful purpose without limit as to amount and with any person, firm, association or corporation; to draw, make, accept, endorse, discount, issue and execute promissory notes, warrants and other negotiable or transferable interests.

(5) To take, purchase or otherwise acquire; to own, hold, occupy, use and enjoy, manage, improve, develop and work; to grant, sell, exchange, let, demise and otherwise dispose of real estate, buildings and improvements and every right, interest and estate therein without limit as to the amount thereof and wheresoever the same may be situated; to erect, construct, alter and repair buildings; to assume any and every kind of contract, agreement and obligation by or with any person, firm, corporation or association, or any Federal, state or other Government for the erection, construction, alteration, repair, renewal, equipment, improvement, development, use, enjoyment, leasing, management or control of any buildings, improvements or structures of any kind wherever the same may be situated.

(6) To purchase or otherwise acquire, to own, hold, use and enjoy, to sell, assign and transfer, exchange or otherwise dispose of, deal in or deal with personal property of every kind and description without limit as to the amount thereof and wheresoever the same may be situated.

(7) To borrow and to loan money and to give and to receive evidence of indebtedness and security thereof; to draw, make, accept, endorse, execute, and issue promissory notes, warrants, and other debentures of the corporation, or otherwise to make guarantees of every kind and secure any or all obligations of the corporation by mortgage, trust deed or otherwise.

(8) To do all other acts necessary or expedient for the administration of the affairs and attainment of the purposes of the corporation and to have and exercise all the powers now or hereafter conferred by the Laws of the State of (Name State), upon non-profit corporations.

ARTICLE III

A Non-Profit Corporation

This corporation is organized pursuant to the General Non-Profit Corporation Law of the State of (Name State); the property of this corporation is irrevocably dedicated to religious and charitable purposes, and upon liquidation, dissolution, or abandonment, shall not inure to the benefit of any private person except a fund, foundation, or corporation organized and operated for religious or charitable purposes and as designated in Article X of this Constitution.

ARTICLE IV

Membership

Section 1. Eligibility. Membership in (Name of Church) shall be eligible to all those who give evidence of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and who voluntarily subscribe to the tenets of faith and agree to be governed by the Constitution herein set forth, and who further agree to answer all questions by the Board of Deacons.

Section 2. Charter Members. All those who meet the Scriptural standards of membership whose names appear on the original membership roll of (Name of Church) shall be known as Charter Members.

Section 3. Legal Membership. All Charter Members along with those names which shall be added from time to time which constitute the legal voting membership of (Name of Church) provided they are sixteen years of age or over, that they regularly attend the means of grace and take part in the service, that they are living consistent Christian lives and are in agreement with our distinctive testimony and are living faithfully to the standards as set forth in the membership application.

Section 4. Inactive Membership. Enrolled members who shall without good cause absent themselves from the service of (Name of Church) for a period of three consecutive months or more shall be placed upon the Inactive Membership roster. If a member ceases to contribute of their means to (Name of Church), if they shall be under charges for misconduct, or if they have

fallen under condemnation through sinful or worldly practices, they shall be considered as Inactive Members immediately and shall lose their voting privileges until they are restored by the action of the Board of Directors and the Board of Deacons.

Section 5. Associates Membership. All persons who regularly attend (Name of Church), who give testimony and evidence of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who would like to be considered a definite part of the fellowship of (Name of Church) will be known as Associate Members. Associate Members will not have the power to cast a vote in the legal business meetings of (Name of Church), however, they shall be considered as an intimate part of the church's program.

Section 6. The Standard of Membership. The standard of membership of (Name of Church) shall be: (A) Evidence of a genuine experience in regeneration (the new birth). (John 1:12, 13; 3:3-8; I Peter 1:18-25) (B) Evidence of a consistent Christian life. (Romans 6:4; 8:1-4; 13:13, 14; Ephesians 4:17-32; 5:1, 2, 15; I John 1:6,7) (C) To fully subscribe to the tenets of faith as set forth in this Constitution. (D) Willingness to contribute regularly to the support of the church according to his or her ability. Application form for legal members is hereto attached.

Section 7. Reception of Members. Persons desiring to become legal members of (Name of Church) shall make the fact known to the Pastor who shall examine the application according to the standard of membership.

The Pastor shall present the names of those who apply for membership with his recommendation to the Board of Deacons who shall act upon said recommendation and render a final decision. All persons who shall meet the membership requirements and have been passed on favorably shall be received publicly at any of the regular services and their names shall be inscribed on the roster of (Name of Church).

Section 8. Discipline. Any member of (Name of Church) who shall willfully absent himself from the regular services for a period of three consecutive months, or who shall be under charges, shall be temporarily suspended from active voting membership pending investigation and final decision in his case.

Unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the tenets of faith held by (Name of Church) shall be considered sufficient grounds upon which any person may be disqualified as a member. (Matthew 18:15-18; Romans 16:17, 18; I Corinthians 5:11; Galatians 1:8, 9; Titus 3:1-15) Any departure from the tenets of faith will be decided upon by the Pastor and the Board of Deacons and their decision of the matter shall be absolute and final. The incumbent shall have no further recourse.

Section 9. Withdrawal or Transfer. Members in good standing, who may wish to sever their relationship with (Name of Church) or who may desire to be transferred to some other congregation, may apply to the Secretary for a letter, which shall be granted on the approval of the Pastor and the Board of Deacons, said letter to be signed by the Pastor and the Secretary of (Name of Church).

Section 10. Revision of Membership Roll. The Pastor and the Board of Deacons shall be authorized to revise the membership roll of (Name of Church) annually, and to remove from the list of active members all names of those who may have become deceased during the year, together with the names of those who may have withdrawn from the fellowship, or who may have fallen into sin and whose lives may have become inconsistent with the standards and teachings of (Name of Church). If a name is removed for any cause, the one whose name is removed shall be notified of the action of the Pastor and the Board of Deacons through the Secretary. Appeal can be made to a meeting of the Board of Directors and the Board of Deacons and their decision shall be absolute and final.

ARTICLE V

Officers

The officers of (Name of Church) shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer. These three officers shall be the Elders of (Name of Church). The pastor shall be considered the President of the Corporation.

Pastor and President

Section 1. Term of Office. The Pastor is the President of the Corporation. He is also an Elder. He shall hold this office until his death or until he resigns.

Section 2. Vacancy of Pastorate. The vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of the local church Corporation.

Section 3. Duties of Pastor. The Pastor shall be considered the spiritual overseer of the church and shall direct all the church activities. He shall preside at all business meetings of the church and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and departments.

Vice-President

The Vice-President of the Corporation shall also be an Elder. He shall be elected by the local church membership at the annual meeting.

Secretary-Treasurer

The Secretary-Treasurer of the Corporation shall also be an Elder. He shall be elected by the local church membership at the annual meeting.

Directors

The Board of Elders shall also fill the office of Directors of the Corporation.

Board of Elders

The Board of Elders shall be elected at the Annual Business Meeting. There shall not be less than three (3) and no more than nine (9). They are to be called upon to fill the pulpit, to pray for the sick, and they shall serve as Elders for one year but not limited to one year.

Requirements. An Elder must be a Spirit-filled man. An Elder must be a member of (Name of Church) for at least one full year before his election to office.

Board of Deacons

The Board of Deacons shall be elected at the Annual Business Meeting of (Name of Church). There shall never be less than four members on the Board of Deacons. They shall serve for a period of one year. The Board of Deacons shall be elected to act in conjunction with and to aid the Pastor in all matters of (Name of Church) in its spiritual life, ministry and ordinances. They shall act in the examination of applications for membership and also in the administration in the discipline of the church. Four members shall be elected at the first Annual Business Meeting of (Name of Church) and thereafter as many as are deemed necessary by the Pastor to serve on the Board of Deacons. No Deacons can succeed himself more than two (2) consecutive years.

Requirements. A Deacon must be a Spirit-filled man. A Deacon must be a member of (Name of Church) for at least one full year before his election to office.

Board of Ushers

A Board of Ushers shall be installed in the Annual Business Meeting of (Name of Church). The Pastor and President of (Name of Church) shall appoint a chairman to act as the head of the Board of Ushers. The duties of the Board of Ushers shall be as follows: (A) To see that the church is always in order for services; (B) To assist the Pastor in every way possible during the process of meetings; (C) To prepare for the comfort of everyone in attendance; (D) To maintain order and discipline throughout the church. The Pastor, Board of Deacons, and the appointed chairman of the Board of Ushers shall appoint members to serve on the Board of

Ushers. They shall be appointed to serve for one year. These men may succeed themselves indefinitely.

Communion Board

The Board of Deacons and the Board of Elders shall act as the Communion Board. One man shall be appointed to serve as Chairman of the Communion Board. It shall be his duty to make arrangements for the preparation and serving of communion when the communion service is announced by the Pastor.

Vacancy of Offices

The Pastor and President of the Corporation shall have the authority to declare any office vacant. This action must be ratified by the joint board of Elders and the Board of Deacons. Grounds for such action shall be:

- (1) Failure to cooperate with the church's program and ministry;
- (2) Unscriptural conduct;
- (3) Doctrinal departure from the tenets of faith;
- (4) For any good and sufficient cause.

Any incumbent under charges shall have opportunity for a fair and impartial hearing before the joint meeting of the Board of Directors and the Board of Deacons. The action of these combined Boards shall be considered final and the incumbent may have no further recourse.

ARTICLE VI

Meetings

Section 1. Meetings for Worship. Meetings for public worship shall be held on each Lord's Day and during the week as may be provided for under the direction of the Pastor.

Section 2. Annual Business Meeting. There shall be an Annual Business Meeting of (Name of Church). This business meeting shall be held in July each year. This meeting shall be conducted in the auditorium of (Name of Church). Officers shall be installed and all reports shall be read at the Annual Business Meeting.

Section 3. Special Business Meetings. Special business meetings of the legal members may be called by the Pastor or by written petition of three-fourths (3/4) of the legal membership.

Section 4. Notice of Business Meetings. Written notice of the date and place of the Annual Business Meeting and of any special business meetings shall be sent by regular mail to all active members at least ten (10) days and not more than thirty (30) days prior to such meeting. In addition, the Pastor shall announce such meeting at the worship services of (Name of Church) at least ten (10) days prior to such meeting.

Section 5. Quorum. No record of any special or regular business meetings of (Name of Church) shall be made unless one-fifth (1/5) or more legal members are present to constitute a quorum.

Section 6. Order of Business. The regular order of business for the Annual Business Meeting of (Name of Church) shall be as follows:

1. Devotional
2. Reading of the previous minutes by the Secretary
3. Report of Treasurer
4. Report of Committees
5. Unfinished Business
6. Installation of Officers
7. New Business
8. Adjournment

This order of business may be altered or suspended at any meeting by a majority vote of the members present. The usual parliamentary rules as laid down in "Robert's Rules of Order" shall govern all debates when not in conflict with this Constitution.

ARTICLE VII

Finances

(1) All funds needed for the maintenance of (Name of Church) shall be provided by the voluntary contributions, tithes, and offerings of the members and friends of the corporation.

(2) The Pastor shall be supported according to his needs, either by free-will offerings or by stated allowance as shall be decided upon by the Board of Elders in its regular business sessions. It is expected that every member shall decide before God what he or she can and will give cheerfully to the support of the Lord's work at home and in the foreign field. (Malachi 3:10; I Corinthians 16:1, 2; Romans 12:8)

(3) All offerings shall be counted by at least two members.

(4) Deposits must be made by (Name of Church) promptly in a local bank.

(5) A separate account will be established for (Name of Church).

(6) Checks will be used for payment of all invoices.

(7) Monthly reports will be furnished to the Board of Elders and Deacons.

ARTICLE VIII

Departments and Committees

The church shall provide for the establishment of a School of the Bible Department, young people's work, relief committees, home and foreign missionary committees, and any other departments or committees as the needs of the work may require. These committees and departments shall be subordinate to the church and shall contribute to the harmony and development of the whole. They shall be under the general supervision of the Board of Elders. The pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all committees or departments and shall determine when the need for such committees and departments must be organized.

ARTICLE IX

Property

Section 1. The Board of Elders of (Name of Church) shall have power to carry out all of the purposes and powers set forth in Article II. The President and the Secretary-Treasurer's signature shall be sufficient certificate for negotiating any and all of the provided powers in said Articles.

ARTICLE X

Amendment

This Constitution may be amended or changed by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the membership of the church in attendance at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, provided due notice of such proposed change shall have been made at all the services on at least two Sundays preceding the time of such meeting.

Signed _____

Date _____