



First Evangelical Church of San Gabriel Valley

聖迦米羅省基督教會

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BYLAWS OF FIRST EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

(REVISED 11/23/03)

ARTICLE I – LOCATION OF OFFICE

The name of this corporation is First Evangelical Church of San Gabriel Valley, hereinafter referred to as “Church.” It is a California nonprofit corporation with its principal office in the County of Los Angeles, California.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE AND VISION

Section 1. Purpose

The purpose of the Church is to manifest the Kingdom of God in North America and around the world. The people, mission, and ministry of the Church should incarnate the values and truth of the Kingdom of God through a biblically based, balanced, and holistic approach. Evangelism, edification, equipping and expansion are crucial components of the Church’s function.

Section 2. Vision

God has called us to become a loving family in Christ pursuing to extend His kingdom by pervasively impacting communities in Southern California and beyond through transformed lifestyle, outreach, church planting, and worldwide ministry employing culturally-relevant, innovative, and holistic means.

ARTICLE III – STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Church adopts the following as its Statement of Faith:

- A. We believe in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament as the inspired Word of God and completely inerrant in their original writings. They are the ultimate and final authority in faith and Christian living.
- B. We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And the Father is the Almighty God who created and sustains the whole universe through the Son and in the Holy Spirit.
- C. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He was begotten of the Holy Spirit and was born of the Virgin Mary. He is true God and true man. He was crucified, died and buried for the atonement of sin. He rose again from the dead on the third day, and ascended bodily into heaven as our Priest and Advocate. He will return bodily to earth.
- D. We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the triune Godhead. He is the Comforter who guides and inspires us to accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. He leads and enlightens us in understanding God’s Word and He also guides and inspires our daily walk with God.
- E. We believe that humankind was created in the image of God. Humankind sinned and fell, thereby incurring not only physical death but also that spiritual death which is separation from God. All humankind is born with a sinful nature.
- F. We believe that all who repent of their sins and receive by faith Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are born of the Holy Spirit and thereby become the children of God.
- G. We believe that the local church is the gathering of the redeemed believers on the earth in a certain locality and is a part of the universal church of God. We believe in the principle of separation of Church and State, guaranteeing an individual’s freedom to choose one’s own faith.

- H. We believe that every redeemed believer is commissioned to witness and make disciples both locally and worldwide.
- I. We believe that every redeemed believer is to be light and salt of the earth. Thus, he/she should lead a life that demonstrates, upholds, and aids the welfare and justice of society.
- J. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the believer and of the non-believer, and in the everlasting blessedness of the believer and the everlasting conscious punishment of the non-believer.

ARTICLE IV – AFFILIATION

The Church shall be an independent evangelical church, and shall not be a member of, or belong to, any other church of denomination, other than the First Evangelical Church Association (FECA).

ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Qualifications

Qualifications for active membership of this Church are as follows. A member must

- A. Be a Christian and be baptized by a church in line with the Statement of Faith (Article III);
- B. Commit to the Purpose and Vision of this Church (Article II), and subscribe to the Statement of Faith (Article III);
- C. Have attended this Church on a regular basis for at least six (6) months (this requirement may be waived by the Board of Deacons);
- D. Be eighteen (18) years of age or older;
- E. Not be a member of another church in Southern California;
- F. Apply for membership or reinstatement; and complete a membership class; and
- G. Be accepted by the Board of Deacons.

Section 2. Member Rights

A. Voting Rights

Those members who have met the requirements of active membership are voting members. Annual review of the membership rolls shall be made by the Board of Deacons to determine voting membership.

B. Other Rights

Members who have met the requirements of active membership may enjoy any and all other rights and privileges accorded to the members of the Church as specified in the Policies and Procedures Manual.

Section 3. Responsibilities

Members are responsible for:

- A. Regular attendance at Church activities and exercising spiritual gifts in various ministries of the Church;
- B. Financial support of the Church and the ministries through tithing;
- C. Maintaining a biblical standard of Christian living (see Appendix I) and being an active Christian witness in their daily lives; and
- D. Building the membership of the Church through winning others to Christ.

Section 4. Inactive Status/Withdrawal

Any member who has not regularly participated in any Church activities (such as worship, fellowship, Christian education, etc.) within ten (10) consecutive months or has not attended the annual meeting for two consecutive years or has become a member of another church in Southern California shall, with the approval of the Board of Deacons, be put on the inactive membership list. Each such person who has been placed on the inactive membership list shall be notified by the Board of Deacons at his/her last known address as it appears on the membership roll of the Church. Inactive members shall have no member privileges.

Any members may withdraw from membership in the Church by delivering to, in person or by mail, the Board of Deacons at the Church's office (Article I), a written request for withdrawal. The withdrawal becomes effective upon receipt of the request by the Board of Deacons.

Section 5. Discipline and Dismissal

Member(s) who is (are) not adhering to the Statement of Faith (Article III) or conduct of Christian living (Appendix I) shall be subject to discipline and possibly dismissal according to Matthew 18:15-18. If said member(s) refuses to heed the warning and correction of the Board of Elders, he/she may be dismissed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board of Elders. Written notice of dismissal shall be given to such member(s) of the Church by the Secretary of the Board of Elders.

Section 6. Reinstatement

A. Inactive Members

Members who have been placed on the inactive list may be reinstated to active status by demonstrating acceptable change of attendance at Church activities, upon recommendation of the Congregational Pastor and approval by the Board of Deacons.

B. Withdrawn Members

Persons who have withdrawn from the Church may be restored to membership upon meeting the admission requirements for new members (ARTICLE V, Section 1.)

C. Dismissed Members

Persons who have been dismissed from the Church may be restored to membership by showing genuine fruits of repentance, reviewed and restored to the Church body with the approval of the Board of Elders, and by meeting the admission requirements for new members.

Section 7. Delegates to the First Evangelical Church Association (FECA)

The members shall elect delegates representing the Church to the FECA. Qualifications, rights, and terms of the delegates shall be determined as that set by the FECA bylaws.

All members of the Board of Elders are automatically delegates. Other pastors can also be elected as delegates. The number of delegates is determined by the number of members in each congregation. The nomination process is subject to each Congregational Pastor. The delegate to membership ratio should be one (1) delegate per ten (10) members (any number above the multiples of ten (10) may qualify for one (1) additional delegate). The delegates are elected during the annual business meeting. Elected delegates shall take office at the first FECA meeting of the calendar year following their confirmation and shall serve until their term has expired.

ARTICLE VI – BUSINESS MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

Section 1. Business Meetings of Members

A. Annual Meeting

Annual meeting of the members for the election of Lay Elders, Deacons, and FECA Delegates and for the transaction of other business, shall be held before the end of each year. The exact date, time, and place shall be designated by the Board of Elders.

B. Special Meetings

Special meetings of members may be called at any time by the Board of Elders, and/or shall be called upon receipt of the written petition of twenty (20) percent or more of the voting members filed with the Board of Elders.

C. Notice of Meetings

Notice of each meeting giving the time and place of the meeting and the specific business to be considered, shall be mailed to each member at his/her address as it appears on the membership roll of the Church at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

D. Voting

Voting shall be by ballot (or as otherwise determined by voice vote of the voting members at each meeting at which votes are taken), with eligibility of voters established by reference to the current active membership roll. A

majority vote of those voting members present and voting at a meeting at which a quorum, as hereinafter defined, is present shall be required for official action, unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws.

E. Quorum

A quorum shall consist of fifty (50) percent or more of the active members shown in the current membership roll.

F. Conduct of Meetings

- A. Meetings of members shall be presided over by the Chairperson of the Board of Elders.
- B. The order of business for annual meeting shall be as follows:
 - 1. Reading and approval of the minutes of the previous meeting;
 - 2. Report of the Chairperson of the Board of Elders;
 - 3. Report of the Chairperson of the Board of Deacons;
 - 4. Presentation of the proposed Church budget for the next fiscal year;
 - 5. Old Business;
 - 6. New Business;
 - 7. Report of the Nominating Committee;
 - 8. Election of Lay Elders;
 - 9. Election of Deacons;
 - 10. Election of FECA Delegates;
 - 11. Adjournment.
- C. Meetings of members shall otherwise be governed by Robert's Rules of Order as such rules may be revised from time to time, insofar as such rules are not inconsistent or in conflict with these Bylaws, with the Articles of Incorporation of this corporation, or with the laws of the land.

ARTICLE VII – BOARD OF ELDERS

Section 1. Number and Title

The Board of Elders shall have at least seven (7) but no more than eleven (11) members and shall consist of the Senior Pastor, Congregational Pastors and Lay Elders elected from the active Church membership. The number of pastoral members shall be fewer than the number of Lay Elders on the Board. It is desired, but not required that each congregation has representation on this Board.

The Chairperson of the Board of Deacons shall serve on the Board of Elders as an ex officio member.

Section 2. Qualifications, Election, Term of Office, and Compensation of Lay Elders

As Spiritual Fathers of the church, an Elder shall have the moral and spiritual qualities as described in 1 Timothy 3:1-7. In addition, any lay persons who has been an active member of the Church for at least five years in good standing, is actively engaged in the ministry of the Church, and fulfills the requirements in Appendix II, is qualified to be nominated to serve as an Elder.

Candidates for Lay Elders shall be nominated by the existing Board of Elders. The nominees are to be approved by the two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Joint Board (Board of Elders and Board of Deacons), and confirmed by a simple majority vote of the active Church members present at the Church's annual meeting.

Voting by proxy and cumulative voting shall not be authorized. Lay Elders shall take office at the first Board of Elders meeting of the calendar year following their confirmation and shall serve until their successors are qualified, confirmed, and elected. Each Lay Elder shall serve a three (3) year term and can be re-elected at the end of his/her term through procedure delineated within this Section. Lay Elder(s) who has served at least one (1) term shall be permitted to take a one (1) year maximum sabbatical within his/her term of service. During the sabbatical leave, the position shall be filled following the vacancy policy delineated in Section 4 of this Article. After the Elder returns from sabbatical, he/she must resume service on the Board of Elders.

Lay Elders shall serve without financial compensation.

Section 3. Duties and Powers

- A. The Board of Elders represents the spiritual leadership of the Church and is also responsible for all legal and financial matters. Its duties include, but are not limited to, the following:

Spiritual Aspect:

1. To lead the church faithfully to fulfill her vision and mission;
2. To uphold doctrinal orthodoxy;
3. To exercise church discipline and restoration;
4. To approve new or discontinue any existing ministries which involve cross-congregational coordination; and
5. To develop, review, and execute the long-term strategic plan of the Church.

Legal and Financial Aspect:

1. To safe keep all Church properties;
2. To safe keep all Church legal documents;
3. To ensure that all Church documents are kept in accordance with Article XI;
4. To ascertain that the Church is in compliance with all appropriate laws of the United States and the State of California;
5. To determine that the Church operates on a sound financial basis;
6. To execute documents of a legal and financial nature on behalf of the Church;
7. To review, approve, and oversee the Church budget;
8. With the two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Joint Board, to borrow money and to make and issue notes, bonds, and other negotiable and transferable instruments, mortgages, deeds of trust and trust instruments, and to do every act necessary to effect the same;
9. With the two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Joint Board, to select and designate such bank or trust company, as it may deem advisable as official depository for the funds of the Church, and to order and prescribe the manner in which such funds shall be deposited and/or withdrawn;
10. To set Church policies and procedures and ensure their implementation;
11. to classify all church employees as pastoral staff or non-pastoral staff; and
12. The Secretary of the Board of Elders shall issue annual reports for the various ministries of the Church.

- B. All Lay Elders, together with the Chairperson of the Board of Deacons, shall form the Personnel Committee. The Personnel committee is accountable to the Joint Board and is vested with the power and authority to perform the following duties:
1. To recruit, interview, and make recommendation as deemed appropriate of the employment of Senior Pastor to Joint Board for approval as pursuant to Article IX, Section 1 and oversee the evaluation, renewal, removal, dismissal, and resignation of the Senior Pastor as pursuant to Article IX, Section 2;
 2. Upon recommendation of the Senior Pastor, oversees the employment, evaluation, promotion, renewal, removal, dismissal, and resignation of all other church employees; and
 3. To approve the compensation and fringe benefits of all Church employees.

Section 4. Vacancies

Vacancies on the Board of Elders shall be filled for the remainder of the non-expired term upon the recommendation from the Senior Pastor and confirmation by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the remaining Joint Board.

Section 5. Termination

Any Lay Elder may be removed from the Board of Elders by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the remaining Joint Board if

- A. Failing to meet the qualifications under which he/she was elected, or
- B. Failing to attend two (2) consecutive meetings of the Board of Elders without Chairperson's prior approval.

Section 6. Meetings

The Board of Elders shall hold meetings as often as necessary to discharge its responsibilities, but at least four (4) times in each calendar year. A quorum shall consist of over sixty (60) percent of the Board members. Meetings shall be called by the Chairperson of the Board of Elders. Notice of meetings shall be given to members no later than ten (10) days before the date of the meeting. Only upon the agreement by all members is the Waiver of notice permitted.

Section 7. Church Officers

The Church's Senior Pastor shall serve as Chairperson of the Board of Elders. The Board of Elders shall elect its Secretary and Treasurer from among the Lay Elders. The Board shall also elect any such other Church officers from the Lay Elders as may be required by the Board of Elders.

In the event of the absence of the Chairperson, the order to serve as an acting Chairperson shall be the Secretary, the Treasurer, and other members of this Board.

Section 8. Specific Duties of Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer

- A. The Chairperson shall:
 - 1. Preside all meetings of the Board of Elders; and
 - 2. Oversee the execution of Elders' duties and responsibilities.

- B. The Secretary shall:
 - 1. Keep an accurate record of all legal documents;
 - 2. Keep an accurate minutes record of all church-level business meetings (Membership, Board of Elders, Board of Deacons, Personnel Committee, and Pastoral Staff);
 - 3. Be responsible for posting of notices, notifying members by mail of all Membership meetings and agenda, calling for vote; and
 - 4. Perform such other duties as may be imposed by law, or the Articles of Incorporation or by these Bylaws, or as may be prescribed from time to time by the Board of Elders.

- C. The Treasurer shall:
 - 1. Oversee and work with the Finance Deacon(s) to receive and safely keep all money and other property of the Church entrusted to his/her care, and in conjunction with the Finance Deacon(s) to disburse the same under the direction of the Board of Elders;
 - 2. Render financial statement at the Membership meeting and at such other times as may be requested by the Chairperson of the Board of Elders;
 - 3. Keep a complete account of the finances of the Church on books, which shall remain the property of the Church;
 - 4. Furnish contribution receipts to donors; and
 - 5. Perform such other duties as may be imposed by law, by the Articles of Incorporation, or by these Bylaws, or as may from time to time be prescribed by the Board of Elders.

ARTICLE VIII – BOARD OF DEACONS

Section 1. Number and Title

The Church shall have five (5) or more Deacons and/or Deaconesses, hereinafter referred to as "Deacons" and collectively shall be known as the Board of Deacons. A Chairperson shall be elected annually among the Deacons. An acting chairperson may be appointed from among the Deacons in the absence of the Chairperson.

Section 2. Qualifications, Election, Term of Office, and Compensation of Deacons

Any Church member for at least two (2) years who possesses the qualities described in 1 Timothy 3:8-13, Titus 1:5-9, and Appendix III, and is in good standing actively engaged in the ministry of the Church, shall be eligible to be elected as a Deacon of the Church.

The incumbent Board of Deacons with input from the Pastoral Elders shall nominate candidates. The nominees are to be approved by the Board of Elders and confirmed by a simple majority vote of the active Church members present at the Church's membership meeting.

Voting by proxy and cumulative voting shall not be authorized. It is the objective to strive for proportionate representation according to the adult worshipers in each congregation.

Elected Deacons shall take office at the first Board of Deacons meeting of the calendar year following their election and serve until their successors are qualified and elected. Each Deacon shall serve a two (2) year term and can be re-elected at the end of his/her term through procedure delineated within this Section.

Deacons shall serve without financial compensation.

Section 3. Duties and Powers

The Board of Deacons shall assist the Board of Elders in all administrative operations, any spiritual affairs that arise as part of its duties or are assigned by the Board of Elders, and they shall have general charge of the following responsibilities:

- A. Implement policies and procedures set forth by the Board of Elders;
- B. Make rules and regulations not inconsistent with the Bylaws and policies and procedures set by the Board of Elders for the achievement of the Church's objectives;
- C. Establish or approve the forming of Ad Hoc committees as needed;

- D. Formulate, prepare, and recommend the annual budget of the Church and request budget revisions as needed;
- E. Handle disbursements of Church funds;
- F. Approve membership applications and update the membership roll of the Church. Maintain the membership roll of all members of the Church together with the names and addresses of all active members, and keep records of all members, active and inactive, together with the fact and date of termination, if any, of the membership of any such member; and
- G. With the recommendation of the Personnel Committee and in conjunction with the Board of Elders, to approve the appointment, renewal, removal, and dismissal of the Senior Pastor.

Section 4. Vacancies

Vacancies on the Board of Deacons may be filled by nomination from the remaining Deacons with input from Pastoral Elders and approved by the Board of Elders.

Section 5. Termination

Any deacons may be removed from the Board of Deacons by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the remaining Joint Board if

- A. Failing to meet the qualifications under which he/she was elected, or
- B. Failing to attend two (2) consecutive meetings of the Board of Deacons without Chairperson's prior approval.

Section 6. Meetings

The Board of Deacons shall hold no less than six (6) regular meetings per year at such time and place as may from time to time be designated by resolution of the Board. A quorum shall consist of over sixty (60) percent of the Board members. A special meeting shall be called at the request of the Senior Pastor, the Board of Elders, the Chairperson of the Board of Deacons or no less than one-third (1/3) of the Board members.

ARTICLE IX – SENIOR PASTOR

Section 1. Appointment

The Senior Pastor shall be recruited and interviewed by the Personnel Committee. Upon the recommendation of the Personnel Committee, a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote from the Joint Board is required to appoint the Senior Pastor.

Section 2. Terms, Renewal, Resignation, Removal and Dismissal

- A. Terms for the Senior Pastor's initial employment are for three (3) years and may be renewed for subsequent five (5) year terms. There are no limitations of the number of renewals.
- B. Upon the recommendation of the Personnel Committee, the renewal of employment for Senior Pastor requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Joint Board excluding Senior Pastor. The Senior Pastor shall be notified of the decision of renewal or non-renewal at least one hundred and eighty (180) days before the expiration of term. In the event of non-renewal, the term of employment will automatically expire at the end of the term.
- C. The Senior Pastor may resign by filing a written notice of resignation with the Personnel Committee, either in person or by mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the principal office of the Church. Such resignation shall become effective at the date approved by the Personnel Committee, but not to exceed a period of ninety (90) days from the day such letter of resignation is received.
- D. Upon the recommendation of the Personnel Committee, the removal of and dismissal of employment for Senior Pastor requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Joint Board excluding Senior Pastor.
- E. In the absence of the Senior Pastor, upon the recommendation of the Personnel Committee the Joint Board shall make decision on delegation of his responsibilities among the appropriate personnel.

Section 3. Duties and Responsibilities

The Church's Senior Pastor shall:

- A. Provide a unified vision and direction for the whole church;
- B. Supervise and mentor pastoral staff and all other church employees. The Senior Pastor can delegate certain aspects of this responsibility to others with the approval of the Personnel Committee;
- C. Adhere to the Bylaws, policies and procedures of the Church as set by the Board of Elders;
- D. Serve as Chairperson of the Board of Elders;
- E. Be responsible for the promotion and advancement of the spiritual welfare of the Church;

- F. Recommend the employment, evaluation, promotion, renewal, removal, dismissal, and resignation of all church employees except his or her own to the Personnel Committee; and
- G. Be responsible for all other matters delegated to him/her from time to time by the Board of Elders.

ARTICLE X – CONGREGATIONAL PASTOR

Section 1. Appointment

Upon the recommendation of the Senior Pastor, the Congregational Pastor shall be appointed by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Personnel Committee and Pastoral Elders. Each congregation shall have only one (1) Congregational Pastor.

Section 2. Terms, Renewal, Resignation, Removal and Dismissal

- A. Terms for the Congregational Pastor's initial employment are for three (3) years and may be renewed for subsequent five (5) year terms. There are no limitations of the number of renewals.
- B. Upon the recommendation of the Senior Pastor, a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote from the Lay Elders of the Board of Elders in conjunction with the Board of Deacons present may renew the employment of the Congregational Pastor. The date of renewal shall be at least 180 days before the expiration of a term. In the event of non-renewal, the term of employment will automatically expire at the end of the term.
- C. The Congregational Pastor may resign by filing a written notice of resignation with the Senior Pastor either in person or by mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the principal office of the Church. Such resignation shall become effective at the date approved by the Personnel Committee, but not to exceed a period of ninety (90) days from the day such letter of resignation is received.
- D. Upon the recommendation of the Senior Pastor, a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote from the Lay Elders of the Board of Elders in conjunction with the Board of Deacons present may remove or dismiss the Congregational Pastor.

Section 3. Duties and Responsibilities

The Congregational Pastor:

- A. Shall provide vision and direction for his or her congregation in accordance with Senior Pastor's vision and direction of the whole church;
- B. Shall provide shepherding and equipping for his or her congregational leaders;
- C. Shall adhere to the Bylaws, policies and procedures of the Church as set by the Board of Elders;
- D. Shall be responsible for the promotion and advancement of the spiritual welfare of his or her congregation;
- E. Shall be a member of the Board of Elders; and
- F. Shall be responsible for all other matters delegated to him/her from time to time by the Senior Pastor.

ARTICLE XI – CHURCH RECORDS, REPORTS, AND SEAL

Section 1. Minutes of Meetings

The Church shall keep at its principal office, or at such other place as the Board of Elders may order, a minute book containing the records of all meetings of the Board of Elders, Board of Deacons, Personnel Committee, Pastoral Staff, and of all Membership meetings, with time, place of holding, and names of those present whether regular or special.

Section 2. Books of Accounts

The Church shall keep and maintain adequate and correct accounts of its properties and business transactions, including accounts of its assets, liabilities, receipts, disbursements, gains, and losses.

Section 3. Inspection of Records

The minutes of meetings of Board of Elders, Board of Deacons, Personnel Committee, and Pastoral Staff shall be open to inspection on a written request of any active member at any reasonable time, for a purpose reasonably related to the interests of the church. Such request shall be made to the respective chairperson. Requests to review sensitive membership records and confidential material shall be approved by the respective Board or Committee.

The book of accounts shall at all reasonable times be open to inspection by any member of the Board of Elders. Elders shall have the right at any reasonable time to inspect all books, records, documents of every kind, and the physical properties of the Church with a simple majority approval of the Board of Elders.

Section 4. Annual Report and Financial Statement

The Board of Elders shall prepare and submit to the active members a written annual report including a financial statement. Such report shall summarize the Church's activities for the current year and activities projected for the forthcoming year. The financial statement shall consist of a balance sheet as of the close of business of the Church's preceding fiscal year and the most up to date financial report for the current fiscal year, containing a summary of receipts and disbursements, prepared in such manner and form as required by sound accounting practices, and approved by the Board of Elders.

Section 5. Corporate Seal

The Board of Elders shall provide a corporate seal. Such seal shall be affixed to all corporate instruments, but failure to affix it shall not affect the validity of any such instrument.

ARTICLE XII – FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Church shall be the calendar year.

ARTICLE XIII – BYLAWS

Section 1. Effective Date of the Bylaws

These Bylaws shall become effective immediately on their adoption. Amendments to these Bylaws shall become effective immediately on their adoption, unless the members in adopting them provide that they are to become effective at a later date. The latest version of these Bylaws shall supersede all prior versions.

Section 2. Amendments

- A. Subject to the limitation contained in the Articles of Incorporation, and to any provisions of law applicable to the amendment to Bylaws of nonprofit corporations, these Bylaws or any part of them, may be altered, amended, or repealed and new Bylaws adopted at any membership meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the active members present and voting, provided the amendment is first proposed in the manner set forth in Paragraph (B) hereof, and provided the notice of the meeting referred to in said paragraph mailed to the membership sets forth the proposed amendments in full.
- B. Amendments to these Bylaws may be: 1) proposed and approved by the Joint Board; or 2) proposed by the petition of at least twenty (20) percent of active members and presented to the Board of Elders' meeting not less than sixty (60) days before the membership meeting at which the proposed amendment is to be presented. The Board of Elders must submit the proposed amendment to the members at the next membership meeting at which a quorum is present, except that if such meeting is a special meeting the Board may defer presentation to the following annual meeting. The proposed amendment must, however, be voted on at the meeting at which it is presented.

Section 3. Certification and Inspection

The original, or a copy, of the Bylaws as amended or otherwise altered to update, certified by the Secretary of the Board of Elders, shall be recorded and kept in a book in the principal office of the Church, and such book shall be open to inspection by the active members during office hours.

ARTICLE XIV – DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution of this Church, the Board of Elders shall cause the assets herein to be distributed to another Church with purposes similar to those identified in Article II of these Bylaws.

Adopted:

Secretary, Board of Elders

APPENDIX I – CHRISTIAN LIFE; SCRIPTURAL CONDUCT

Personal Ethics. "I can do anything I want to if Christ has not said no, but some of these things aren't good for me. Even if I am allowed to do them, I'll refuse to if I think they might get such a grip on me that I can't easily stop when I want to" (I Cor. 6:12 LB). "We can always 'prove' that we are right, but is the Lord convinced?" (Proverbs 16:2 LB) "And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you" (I Thessalonians 5:12).

Obedience to Law. "Obey the government, for God is the one who has put it there. There is no government anywhere that God has not placed in power. So those who refuse to obey the laws of the land are refusing to obey God, and punishment will follow" (Romans 13:1-2 LB). "Obey the laws, then, for two reasons: first, to keep from being punished, and second, just because you know you should. Pay your taxes too, for these same two reasons. For government workers need to be paid so that they can keep on doing God's work, serving you. Pay everyone whatever he ought to have; pay your taxes and import duties gladly, obey those over you, and give honor and respect to all those to whom it is due. Pay all your debts except the debt of love for others - never finish paying that! For if you love them, you will be obeying all of God's laws, fulfilling all his requirements. Another reason for right living in this: you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for the coming of the Lord is nearer now than when we first believed" (Romans 13:5-8, 11 LB).

Family; Household. "Honor your father and mother, that you may have a long, good life in the land the Lord your God will give you" (Exodus 20:12). "For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?" (I Timothy 3:5) "Their wives must be thoughtful, not heavy drinkers, not gossipers, but faithful in everything they do" (I Timothy 3:11 LB). "The men you choose must be well thought of for their good lives; they must have only one wife and their children must love the Lord and not have a reputation for being wild or disobedient to their parents. These elders must be men of blameless lives because they are God's ministers. They must not be proud or impatient; they must not be drunkards or fighters or greedy for money" (Titus 1:6-7 LB). "That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children" (Titus 2:2-4). "You wives must submit to your husbands' leadership in the same way you submit to the Lord. For a husband is in charge of his wife in the same way Christ is in charge of his body the Church. (He gave his very life to take care of it and be its Savior!) So you wives must willingly obey your husbands in everything, just as the Church obeys Christ. And you husbands, show the same kind of love to your wives as Christ showed to the Church when he died for her, to make her holy and clean, washed by baptism and God's Word: so that he could give her to himself as a glorious Church without a single spot or wrinkle or any other blemish, being holy and without a single fault. That is how husbands should treat their wives, loving them as parts of themselves. For since a man and his wife are now one, a man is really doing himself a favor and loving himself when he loves his wife. No one hates his own body but lovingly cares for it, just as Christ cares for his body the Church, of which we are parts. (That the husband and wife are one body is proved by the Scripture which says, "A Man must leave his father and mother when he marries, so the two shall be one.") So again, I say, a man must love his wife as a part of himself: and the wife must see to it that she deeply respects her husband - obeying, praising and honoring him. Children, obey your parents; this is the right thing to do because God has placed them in authority over you. Honor your father and mother. This is the first of God's Ten Commandments that ends with a promise. And this is the promise: that if you honor your father and mother, yours will be a long life, full of blessing. And now a word to you parents. Don't keep on scolding and nagging your children, making them angry and resentful. Rather bring them up with the loving discipline the Lord himself approves, with suggestions and godly advice" (Ephesians 5:22-31, 33-6:4 LB).

Control. "...For a man is a slave to whatever controls him" (II Peter 2:19 LB). "Even if we believe that it makes no difference to the Lord whether we do these things, still we cannot just go ahead and do them to please ourselves; for we must bear the burden of being considerate of the doubts and fears of others - of those who feel these things are wrong. Let's please the other fellow, not ourselves, and do what is for his good and thus build him up in the Lord" (Romans 15:2-3 LB).

Adultery; Immorality. "Thou shalt not commit adultery" (Exodus 20:14). "...try hard to live without sinning; and be at peace with everyone so that he will be pleased with you when he returns" (II Peter 2:14 LB). "You shall not commit adultery. But I say: Anyone who even looks at a woman with lust in his eye has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Matthew 5:27-28 LB). "...Don't fool yourselves. Those who live immoral lives, who are idol worshipers, adulterers or homosexuals will have no share in his Kingdom ..." (I Cor. 6:9 LB). "But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat" (I Cor. 5:11 LB).

Drunkenness; Drugs. "This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious and won't obey; he is a worthless drunkard. Then the men of the city shall stone him to death. In this way you shall put away this evil from among you, and all the young men will hear about what happened and will be afraid" (Deuteronomy 21:20-21 LB). "...envy, murder, drunkenness, wild parties, and all that sort of thing. Let me tell you again as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:21 LB). "Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor

revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God" (I Cor. 6:10 LB). "Don't drink too much wine, for many evils lie along that path; be filled instead with the Holy Spirit, and controlled by Him" (Ephesians 5:18 LB). "For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty; and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags" (Proverbs 23:21).

Smoking. "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy, for the temple of God is holy, which temple are ye" (I Cor. 3:16-17). "Haven't you yet learned that your body is the home of the Holy Spirit God gave you, and that He lives within you? Your body does not belong to you. For God has bought you with a great price. So use every part of your body to give glory back to God, because He owns it" (I Cor. 6:19).

Homosexuality. "You shall not lie with a man as with a woman; it is an abomination" (Leviticus 18:22). "...God let go of them and let them do all these evil things, so that even their women turned against God's natural plan for them and indulged in sex sin with each other. And the men, instead of having a normal sex relationship with women, burned with lust for each other, men doing shameful things with other men and, as a result, getting paid within their own souls with the penalty they so richly deserved. So it was that when they have God up and would not even acknowledge him, God gave them up to doing everything their evil minds could think of. Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness and sin" (Romans 1:26-29). "Don't you know that those doing such things have no share in the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who live immoral lives, who are idol worshippers, adulterers or homosexuals will have no share in his Kingdom..." (I Cor. 6:9-10).

APPENDIX II – FUNCTIONAL QUALIFICATIONS OF ELDERS

Relation to God

Holding firmly to scriptural truths. They must hold fast to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. (1 Timothy 3:9). He must have a firm grasp of the word that is trustworthy in accordance with the teaching, so that he may be able to preach with sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict it. (Titus 1:9).

Upright and Holy. But he must be hospitable, a lover of goodness, prudent, upright, devout, and self-controlled. (Titus 1:8).

Able to teach. Now a bishop must be above reproach, married only once, temperate, sensible, respectable, hospitable, an apt teacher (1 Timothy 3:2). Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. (1 Timothy 5:17). He must have a firm grasp of the word that is trustworthy in accordance with the teaching, so that he may be able to preach with sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict it. (Titus 1:9).

Filled with the Spirit. Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task. (Acts 6:3).

Above reproach. Now a bishop must be above reproach, married only once, temperate, sensible, respectable, hospitable, an apt teacher (1 Timothy 3:2). They must hold fast to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. (1 Timothy 3:9). Someone who is blameless, married only once, whose children are believers, not accused of debauchery and not rebellious. (Titus 1:6).

Not a new convert. He must not be a recent convert, or he may be puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. (1 Timothy 3:6).

Loving what is good. But he must be hospitable, a lover of goodness, prudent, upright, devout, and self-controlled. (Titus 1:8).

Relation to Others

Respectable. Now a bishop must be above reproach, married only once, temperate, sensible, respectable, hospitable, an apt teacher (1 Timothy 3:2). Deacons likewise must be serious, not double-tongued, not indulging in much wine, not greedy for money; (1 Timothy 3:8).

Hospitable. Now a bishop must be above reproach, married only once, temperate, sensible, respectable, hospitable, an apt teacher (1 Timothy 3:2). Deacons likewise must be serious, not double-tongued, not indulging in much wine, not greedy for money; (1 Timothy 3:8).

Not quarrelsome. Not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, and not a lover of money. (1 Timothy 3:3).

Not violent but gentle. Not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, and not a lover of money. (1 Timothy 3:3). For a bishop, as God's steward, must be blameless; he must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or addicted to wine or violent or greedy for gain. (Titus 1:7).

Good reputation with outsiders. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace and the snare of the devil. (1 Timothy 3:7).

Not overbearing. For a bishop, as God's steward, must be blameless; he must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or addicted to wine or violent or greedy for gain. (Titus 1:7).

Not a pursuer of dishonest gain. Deacons likewise must be serious, not double-tongued, not indulging in much wine, not greedy for money; (1 Timothy 3:8). For a bishop, as God's steward, must be blameless; he must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or addicted to wine or violent or greedy for gain. (Titus 1:7).

Submission to spiritual authority. Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls and will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with sighing--for that would be harmful to you. (Hebrews 13:17).

Relation to Self

Disciplined. But he must be hospitable, a lover of goodness, prudent, upright, devout, and self-controlled. (Titus 1:8).

Temperate. Now a bishop must be above reproach, married only once, temperate, sensible, respectable, hospitable, an apt teacher (1 Timothy 3:2). Deacons likewise must be serious, not double-tongued, not indulging in much wine, not greedy for money; (1 Timothy 3:8). For a bishop, as God's steward, must be blameless; he must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or addicted to wine or violent or greedy for gain. (Titus 1:7).

Not a lover of money. Not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, and not a lover of money. (1 Timothy 3:3).

Integrity. May integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for you. (Psalms 25:21).

Self-controlled. Now a bishop must be above reproach, married only once, temperate, sensible, respectable, hospitable, an apt teacher (1 Timothy 3:2). But he must be hospitable, a lover of goodness, prudent, upright, devout, and self-controlled. (Titus 1:8).

Not quick-tempered. For a bishop, as God's steward, must be blameless; he must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or addicted to wine or violent or greedy for gain. (Titus 1:7).

Not given to drunkenness. Not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, and not a lover of money. (1 Timothy 3:3). Deacons likewise must be serious, not double-tongued, not indulging in much wine, not greedy for money; (1 Timothy 3:8). For a bishop, as God's steward, must be blameless; he must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or addicted to wine or violent or greedy for gain. (Titus 1:7).

Wisdom. Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task. (Acts 6:3).

Relation to Family

Having one wife. Now a bishop must be above reproach, married only once, temperate, sensible, respectable, hospitable, an apt teacher (1 Timothy 3:2). Let deacons only be married once, and let them manage their children and their households well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and great boldness in the faith that is in Christ Jesus. (1 Timothy 3:12).

Managing family well. He must manage his own household well, keeping his children submissive and respectful in every way. (1 Timothy 3:4). Let deacons only be married once, and let them manage their children and their households well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and great boldness in the faith that is in Christ Jesus. (1 Timothy 3:12). Someone who is blameless, married only once, whose children are believers, not accused of debauchery and not rebellious. (Titus 1:6).

Having obedient children. He must manage his own household well, keeping his children submissive and respectful in every way -- for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how can he take care of God's church? (1 Timothy 3:4-5). Let deacons be married only once, and let them manage their children and their households well. (1 Timothy 3:12). Someone who is blameless, married only once, whose children are believers, not accused of debauchery and not rebellious. (Titus 1:6).

APPENDIX III – FUNCTIONAL QUALIFICATIONS OF DEACONS

Relation to God

Holding firmly to scriptural truths. They must hold fast to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. (1 Timothy 3:9). He must have a firm grasp of the word that is trustworthy in accordance with the teaching, so that he may be able to preach with sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict it. (Titus 1:9).

Tested. And let them first be tested; then if they prove themselves blameless, let them serve as deacons. (1 Timothy 3:10).

Above reproach. Now a bishop must be above reproach, married only once, temperate, sensible, respectable, hospitable, an apt teacher (1 Timothy 3:2). They must hold fast to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. (1 Timothy 3:9). Someone who is blameless, married only once, whose children are believers, not accused of debauchery and not rebellious. (Titus 1:6).

Filled with the Spirit. Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task. (Acts 6:3).

Relation to Others

Respectable. Now a bishop must be above reproach, married only once, temperate, sensible, respectable, hospitable, an apt teacher (1 Timothy 3:2). Deacons likewise must be serious, not double-tongued, not indulging in much wine, not greedy for money; (1 Timothy 3:8).

Sincere. Deacons likewise must be serious, not double-tongued, not indulging in much wine, not greedy for money; (1 Timothy 3:8).

Not a pursuer of dishonest gain. Deacons likewise must be serious, not double-tongued, not indulging in much wine, not greedy for money; (1 Timothy 3:8). For a bishop, as God's steward, must be blameless; he must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or addicted to wine or violent or greedy for gain. (Titus 1:7).

Submission to spiritual authority. Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls and will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with sighing--for that would be harmful to you. (Hebrews 13:17).

Relation to Self

Temperate. Now a bishop must be above reproach, married only once, temperate, sensible, respectable, hospitable, an apt teacher (1 Timothy 3:2). Deacons likewise must be serious, not double-tongued, not indulging in much wine, not greedy for money; (1 Timothy 3:8). For a bishop, as God's steward, must be blameless; he must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or addicted to wine or violent or greedy for gain. (Titus 1:7).

Integrity. May integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for you. (Psalms 25:21).

Not given to drunkenness. Not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, and not a lover of money. (1 Timothy 3:3). Deacons likewise must be serious, not double-tongued, not indulging in much wine, not greedy for money; (1 Timothy 3:8). For a bishop, as God's steward, must be blameless; he must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or addicted to wine or violent or greedy for gain. (Titus 1:7).

Wisdom. Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task. (Acts 6:3).

Relation to Family

Having one wife. Now a bishop must be above reproach, married only once, temperate, sensible, respectable, hospitable, an apt teacher (1 Timothy 3:2). Let deacons only be married once, and let them manage their children and their households well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and great boldness in the faith that is in Christ Jesus. (1 Timothy 3:12).

Managing family well. He must manage his own household well, keeping his children submissive and respectful in every way. (1 Timothy 3:4). Let deacons only be married once, and let them manage their children and their households well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and great boldness in the faith that is

in Christ Jesus. (1 Timothy 3:12). Someone who is blameless, married only once, whose children are believers, not accused of debauchery and not rebellious. (Titus 1:6).