**The 2nd Amended Constitution and Bylaws of
Christ Community Church**

**A Non-Profit Corporation in the State of Texas**

**ARTICLE I**

**NAME**

The name of this non-profit organization is Christ Community Church, also known as C3, and will be referred to as ‘the Church’ throughout this document.

**ARTICLE II**

**PURPOSE**

**Non-Profit Purpose:** The Church is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and/or scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

**Specific Purpose:** The Church exists to glorify God by making followers of Jesus Christ who are growing and multiplying. To carry out this purpose the church will hold weekly worship services, preach the Word of God as found in the Holy Bible, administer the sacraments/ordinances, education and training, carry out church discipline, engage in missions work and acts of service in the community and throughout the world, and take other actions that facilitate the proclamation of the Gospel and service to the community.

**ARTICLE III**

**STATEMENT OF FAITH**

**The Scriptures:**We believe that “all Scripture is God-breathed (verbally inspired by God) and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16-17). We believe that the Scriptures (66 books of the Old and New Testaments) are infallible and therefore serve as our final authority for faith and life. (2 Peter 1:20-21; Prov. 30:5; Heb. 4:12)

**The Triune God:** We believe in ONE (Deut. 6:4; Eph. 4:6) Triune God (2 Cor. 13:14; Matt. 28:19) who has eternally existed in three persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus) and God the Spirit. We believe that “through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made” (John 1:3). And we believe that “from Him and through Him and to Him are all things” (Rom. 11:36). We further believe that God is all wise (Psalm 147:5; James 1:5; Prov. 2:6), all knowing (Psalm 139:1-6; 1 John 3:20), all powerful (Rev. 19:6; Col. 1:17; Jer. 32:27), all good (Mark 10:18; James 1:17), and all loving (1 John 4:8; Eph. 2:4-7).

**God the Father:** We believe that God the Father reigns with providential care over His creation, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His will through grace. (Gen. 1:1; Ex. 15; Psalm 19:1-3; Eph. 1:11; Rom. 8:28) We believe that God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ (John 1:12). He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men (Eph. 4:6). The Father sends to Son into the world to save it (John 3:16).

**God the Son (Jesus):** We believe in Jesus Christ as the promised Messiah, the only begotten Son of God, the sole Mediator between God and man, and the visible image of the invisible God. We believe that He became man without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man. We believe that He accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. We believe that Jesus ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of our Advocate. (John 1:1-2; Luke 1:35; Col. 1:15; Rom. 3:24; 1 Peter 2:24; Eph. 1:7; 1 Peter 1:3-5; Acts 1:9-10; Heb. 7:25; Heb. 9:24; Rom 8:34; 1 John 2:1-2)

**God the Spirit:** We believe in the Holy Spirit of God as the Divine Person who brings conviction of sin to the world and as the Holy Minister responsible for the regeneration, sanctification and preservation of the saints. We believe that He is the indwelling Guide and Counselor in all believers, guiding them into all truth as the Father wills. (John 16:8-11; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; Rom. 8:9; Eph. 1:13-14; John 14:16, 26)

**Man:** We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but through Adam’s sin he fell, inherited sin and became totally depraved and unable in himself to remedy his lost condition. (Gen. 1:26-27; Rom. 3:22-23; Eph. 2:1-3, 12)

**Salvation:** We believe that salvation is a free gift from God given by grace and received through faith in Jesus Christ apart from any human merit or deed. (Eph. 2:8-9; John 1:12; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Eph. 1:7)

**The Church:** We believe that the Church is the spiritual Body and espoused Bride of Christ. We believe it is made up of redeemed people with Jesus Christ as the Head. The Church is God’s ordained messenger and vehicle for the Gospel, through which God saves His people. We believe that Jesus Christ instituted two sacraments in the New Testament, which the Church should embrace and practice: Baptism and Communion (the Lord's Supper). (Eph. 5:25-27; 2 Cor. 11:2; Matt. 28:19; 1 Cor. 11:23-26)

**The Return of Christ:** We believe in the literal, physical Second Coming of Christ for His children, which is our “blessed hope”. (1 Thess. 1:10; 1 Thess. 4:13-18)

**Marriage:** We believe that marriage is a Divinely ordained institution finding its definition in God’s Creation Ordinances (Gen. 1:27-28; 2:18; 21-24) as between one man and one woman and that marriage is a common grace given by God for the facilitation of procreation and mutual support between husband and wife. Further, we believe that marriage is intended to be a picture of the relationship between Jesus Christ, the bridegroom, and his Holy Church, the bride (Ephesians 5:24-27; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Revelation 19:7-9, 21:1-10). Additionally, we believe that homosexuality is a practice that greatly displeases God and is a corruption of his ordained order in creation and is rebellion against God’s design (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Romans 1:26-28; Jude 1:5-8; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Corinthians 7:2). Accordingly, the Church will only perform weddings between genetically opposite sex couples who have made a credible profession of faith in Jesus Christ and who submit to pre-marital counseling with a pastor at the Church. The Church reserves the right to refuse to marry anyone it deems should not be married as determined by the Board of Elders. Nevertheless, because marriage is a common grace, the Church may occasionally allow its facilities to be used for the conduct of weddings between genetically opposite sex non-believers who wish to use the facility for such purpose.

**ARTICLE IV**

**AFFILIATION**

The Church is autonomous in origin and structure and can affiliate with like-minded organizations and denominations at the determination of the Elders.

The Church is currently affiliated with the Acts 29 Network and the Texas Baptists.

**ARTICLE V**

**GOVERNANCE**

**Section A. Board of Elders**. The senior leadership of the Church shall be vested in a governing board of male Elders/pastors, hereinafter referred to as the Board of Elders or the Eldership. The Eldership is composed of both paid and unpaid Elders/pastors who follow the leading of Jesus who is the Head and chief Shepherd of the Church (1 Peter 5:1–4). To be considered as an Elder, a man must have been called by God into leadership at the Church (Acts 20:28) and be a man of the highest Christian character according to the qualifications of Scripture (1 Timothy 3:1–7; Titus 1:5–9). The Board of Elders shall be the Board of Directors for purposes of the Texas Non-Profit Corporation. At no time shall the Eldership consist of less than three Elders.

**Section B. Lead Elder**. The Lead Pastor will also serve as the Lead Elder or Chairman of the Board of Elders. The Lead Elder will function as the first among equals. It is the duty of the Lead Elder to help lead the Board of Elders and the rest of the church in effectively obeying God’s leading as revealed in Scripture.

**Section C. Authority of Elders**. – Selection as an Elder pursuant to Article VI below confers the authority to govern the affairs of the church, preach, administer the ordinances prescribed in Sacred Scripture, marry, and enjoy all the rights and privileges accorded to licensed or ordained ministers under secular law.

**Section D. Prohibited Transactions**. – No loan shall be made from the church to any Elder. Any Elder who assents to the making of such a loan shall be jointly and severally liable for its repayment.

**ARTICLE VI**

**ELDERSHIP**

**Section A. Requirements & Selection**. – The requirements of becoming an Elder shall be as follows:

1. The candidate for Eldership must be male and at least twenty-five (25) years of age.
2. The candidate must be a Member in good standing at the Church who has demonstrated the calling, character, and competency of an Elder.
3. The candidate must make his desire to become an Elder known to one of the Elders and be interviewed by the Lead Elder for approval.
4. The candidate’s nomination must be approved by the Eldership without objection from anyone on the Board of Elders.
5. If accepted as an Elder nominee, the candidate will then undergo a period of training and testing.
6. The candidate’s training will include whatever is deemed necessary by the Eldership to enhance the candidate’s understanding of an Elder’s responsibilities as outlined in Scripture and to demonstrate a clear competency of the candidate to lead the Church.
7. Upon completing his training and testing process, the candidate must be unanimously approved by the Eldership to be introduced to the church membership as a candidate for ordination as an Elder.
8. If the candidate is approved as a candidate for ordination and introduced to the church membership, the Members of the Church will be notified that he has met the criteria of an Elder. Anyone in or out of the church having a concern regarding the candidate’s qualifications to lead as an Elder will have at least one week to notify the Elders. The Eldership will promptly investigate the matter to determine if there is any reason to disqualify the candidate. Any investigation will conclude by a vote of the Eldership to conclude the matter.
9. If no objection is raised to the candidate by a Member or after an investigation into any matter is concluded, an official final vote of the Eldership will be taken and, if there are no objections to his installation from any Elder, the candidate will be put before the Members at a duly called Family Meeting for affirmation. A 2/3 affirmation vote of the Members present at the meeting is required to install a new Elder. Upon affirmation by the Members, the Elder candidate will be installed by the laying on of hands, after which he shall be considered an ordained and licensed minister of the gospel.
10. Selection as an Elder does not result in contract rights as an employee. All employees are “at will” and the employment relationship may be terminated without regard to such person continuing to serve as an Elder.

**Section B. The Eldership Service—Duration, Resignation, Removal**.

1. All Elders will initially serve on the Board of Elders as a Governing Elder. Unless specified in these Bylaws, all references to “Board of Elders”, Elder Board, “Elder” or “Eldership” will refer to the Governing Elders of the Church.
2. Non-vocational Elders will serve three (3) year terms on the Board of Elders as a Governing Elder and are required to take a one (1) year sabbatical from the Board of Elders after their term has concluded.
3. Vocational Elders will serve indefinitely so long as they serve on staff at the Church. However, all vocational Elders are required to take a three (3) month sabbatical every sixth year of their service to the Church. At the beginning of the sixth year of service, the vocational Elder will present a Sabbatical plan to the Elders for approval.
4. Elders who have completed their term as Elder will remain a Shepherding Elder of the Church unless they resign their Eldership or are removed pursuant to these Bylaws. Shepherding Elders will not serve on the Board of Elders and will have no authority to govern the Church. However, Shepherding Elders will remain ordained and licensed ministers and are able continue perform sacerdotal duties as ministers of the Gospel, including teaching, preaching, leading communion, baptism, and performing marriage and funeral services, under the supervision of the Board of Elders. In addition, Shepherding Elders may return to service on the Board of Elders without complying with Article VI(A)(1)-(8).
5. In the event there are ever less than three (3) Governing Elders serving, for any reason, the remaining Governing Elders may appoint a Governing Elder from amongst the Shepherding Elders without obtaining approval of the membership. However, a Governing Elder selected according to this subsection may only serve for a six (6) month term before being brought to the membership for approval.
6. If the Elders determine that a Governing Elder needs an extended Sabbath for a season because of a legitimate need (e.g., illness, tragedy, or extended service), then that Elder can transition to Shepherding Elder role for a set period of time as determined by the Eldership.
7. To resign from the Eldership an Elder must notify the Lead Elder in writing of his intention to resign.
8. An Elder who senses God’s call to leave Christ Community Church to help plant a Christ Community Church sponsored church plant should make his desire known to the Lead Elder. If the Eldership confirm his calling, the Elder will be sent out with blessing to help lead another church.
9. Any credible charge of moral impropriety, divisive behavior, doctrinal error, or disqualifying conduct made against an Elder shall be investigated by the Eldership or by a committee designated by the Eldership. During the investigation, the Elder in question shall not be allowed to vote on any church matters and shall be placed on temporary leave as an Elder. If the Eldership finds credible evidence of wrongdoing, the Elder in question shall be tried by the Elders according to the criteria of Scripture (e.g., James 3:1; 1 Timothy 5:19–21). A super majority vote of the remaining Elders is necessary in order to find an Elder guilty of the charges. If such a verdict is rendered by the remaining Elders, the consequences for such a finding shall be determined by the remaining Elders, with any action (up to and including removal) requiring another three-fourths vote of the remaining Elders. In such instance, the Members of Christ Community Church shall be notified in writing of the process and results.

**Section C. Duties of Elders**. The duties of the Eldership, among other things, are: (1) to provide spiritual leadership and direction to the Church; (2) to oversee and manage all operations of the Church – this includes, but is not limited to, overseeing the finances of the Church, establishing policy, philosophy of ministry, and structural matters related to the function of the Church, and the selection of Pastors, officers, and Deacons,; (3) to guard the purity of doctrine in the Church; (4) to provide the teaching of the fundamentals of faith and practice; (5) to visit and pray for the sick; (6) to carry out church discipline within the context of the requirements of Matthew 18; (7) to provide for widows; (8) to interpret these Bylaws; (9) to establish sub-committees of the Church with the authority to advise the Eldership, (10) to create on behalf of the Church other entities owned by the Church for the purpose of carrying out or facilitation of the Church’s Non-Profit or Specific Purposes as defined in Article II, (11) and to manage the termination, wind-up, and dissolution of the Church if authorized to do so by an act of the Eldership or as required by law.

**Section D. Compensation of Elders.** Elders, as such, shall not receive any stated salary for their services, but by resolution of the Eldership a fixed sum and expenses of attendance, if any, may be allowed for attendance at any meeting of the Board of Elders. An Elder shall not be precluded from serving the Church in any other capacity and receiving compensation for such services.

**Section E. Action by Elders Without Meeting.** Any action required by the Texas Business Organizations Code to be taken at a meeting of the Elders, or any action which may be taken at a meeting of the Eldership or any committee, may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing, setting forth the action to be taken, shall be signed by all the Eldership entitled to vote with respect to the subject matter thereof, or all of the members of the committee, as the case may be. Such consent shall have the same force and effect as a unanimous vote.

If the The Church's Certificate of Formation so provides, any action required by the Texas Business Organizations Code to be taken at a meeting of the Eldership or any action that may be taken at a meeting of the Eldership of any committee may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing, setting forth the action to be taken, is signed by a sufficient number of Eldership or committee members as would be necessary to take that action at a meeting at which all of the Eldership or members of the committee were present and voted.

Each written consent shall bear the date of signature of each Elder or committee member who signs the consent. A written consent signed by less than all of the Eldership or committee members is not effective to take the action that is the subject of the consent unless, within sixty (60) days after the date of the earliest dated consent delivered to the Church in the manner required by this section, a consent or consents signed by the required number of Elders or committee members is delivered to the Church at its registered office, registered agent, principal place of business, transfer agent, registrar, exchange agent, or an officer or agent of the Church having custody of the books in which proceedings of meetings of Elders or committees are recorded. Delivery shall be by hand or certified or registered mail, return receipt requested. Delivery to the Church’s principal place of business shall be addressed to the Lead Pastor or Executive Pastor of the Church.

Prompt notice of the taking of any action by Eldership or a committee without a meeting by less than unanimous written consent shall be given to all Eldership or committee members who did not consent in writing to the action.

If any action by Eldership or a committee is taken by written consent signed by less than all of the Eldership or committee members, any articles or documents filed with the Secretary of State as a result of the taking of the action shall state, in lieu of any statement required by this Act concerning any vote of the Eldership or committee members, that written consent has been given in accordance with the provisions of section 6.202 of the Texas Business Organizations Code and that any written notice required by such section has been given.

A telegram, telex, cablegram, or similar transmission by a Elder or member of a committee or a photographic, photostatic, facsimile, or similar reproduction of a writing signed by a Elder or member of a committee shall be regarded as signed by the Elder or member of a committee for purposes of this section.

**Section F. Committees of the Board of Elders.** The Eldership, by resolution adopted by a majority of the Elders in office, may designate and appoint one or more committees, each of which shall consist of two or more Governing Elders and/or Shepherding Elders, which committees, to the extent provided in said resolution, shall have and exercise the authority of the Eldership in the management of the Church, except that no such committee shall have the authority of the Eldership in reference to amending, altering or repealing the Bylaws; electing, appointing or removing any member of any such committee or any Elder or officer of the Church; amending or restating the Certificate of Formation; adopting a plan of merger or adopting a plan of consolidation with another church; authorizing the sale, lease, exchange or mortgage of all or substantially all of the property and assets of the Church; authorizing the voluntary dissolution of the Church or revoking proceedings therefore; adopting a plan for the distribution of the assets of the Church; or amending, altering or repealing any resolution of the Eldership which by its terms provides that it shall not be amended, altered or repealed by such committee. The designation and appointment of any such committee and the delegation of authority to such committee shall not operate to relieve the Eldership, or any individual Elder, of any responsibility imposed by law upon the Eldership or upon any individual Elder.

Other committees not having and exercising the authority of the Eldership in the management of the Church may be appointed in such manner as may be designated by a resolution adopted by a majority of the Elders present at a meeting at which a quorum is present. Except as otherwise provided in such resolution, members of each such committee shall be Members of the Church, and the Lead Pastor of the Church shall appoint the members thereof. Any member thereof may be removed by the person or persons authorized to appoint such member whenever in their judgment the best interests of the Church shall be served by such removal.

Each member of a committee shall continue as such until the next annual meeting of the Members of the Church and until a successor is appointed, unless the committee shall be sooner terminated, or unless such member be removed from such committee, or unless such member cease to qualify as a member thereof.

One member of each committee shall be appointed chairman by the person or persons authorized to appoint the members thereof.

Vacancies in the membership of any committee may be filled by appointments made in the same manner as provided in the case of the original appointments.

Unless otherwise provided in the resolution of the Eldership designating a committee, a majority of the whole committee shall constitute a quorum and the act of a majority of the members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the committee.

Each committee may adopt rules for its own government not inconsistent with these Bylaws or with rules adopted by the Eldership.

**ARTICLE VII**

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

**Section A. Purpose.** The purpose of the conflict of interest policy is to protect the Church’s interest when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of a pastor or Elder of the Church or might result in a possible excess benefit transaction. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state and federal laws governing conflict of interest applicable to nonprofit and charitable corporations.

**Section B. Definitions.** Interested Person. Any Elder, pastor, or member of a committee with governing board delegated powers, who has a direct or indirect financial interest, as defined below, is an interested person.

Financial Interest. A person has a financial interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment, or family:

A. An ownership or investment interest in any entity with which the Church has a transaction or arrangement,

* B. A compensation arrangement with the Church or with any entity or individual with which the Church has a transaction or arrangement, or
* C. A potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which the Church is negotiating a transaction or arrangement.

Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are not insubstantial.

A financial interest is not necessarily a conflict of interest. A person who has a financial interest may have a conflict of interest only if the Eldership decides that a conflict of interest exists.

**Section C. Procedures.** Duty to Disclose. In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, an interested person must disclose the existence of the financial interest and be given the opportunity to disclose all material facts to the Eldership and members of committees with governing board delegated powers considering the proposed transaction or arrangement.

Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest Exists. After disclosure of the financial interest and all material facts, and after any discussion with the interested person, he/she shall leave the Eldership or committee meeting while the determination of a conflict of interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining board or committee members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists.

Procedures for Addressing the Conflict of Interest. An interested person may make a presentation at the governing board or committee meeting, but after the presentation, he/she shall leave the meeting during the discussion of, and the vote on, the transaction or arrangement involving the possible conflict of interest.

The Lead Elder or chairperson of the Eldership or committee shall, if appropriate, appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement. After exercising due diligence, the Eldership or committee shall determine whether the Church can obtain with reasonable efforts a more advantageous transaction or arrangement from a person or entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest. If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably possible under circumstances not producing a conflict of interest, the Eldership or committee shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested Elders whether the transaction or arrangement is in the Church’s best interest, for its own benefit, and whether it is fair and reasonable. In conformity with the above determination it shall make its decision as to whether to enter into the transaction or arrangement.

* **Violations of the Conflicts of Interest Policy.** If the Eldership or committee has reasonable cause to believe a member has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, it shall inform the member of the basis for such belief and afford the member an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose.
	+ If, after hearing the member’s response and after making further investigation as warranted by the circumstances, the Eldership or committee determines the member has failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take appropriate disciplinary and corrective action.
* **Section D. Record of Proceedings.** The minutes of the Board of Elders and all committees with board delegated powers shall contain:
* A. The names of the persons who disclosed or otherwise were found to have a financial interest in connection with an actual or possible conflict of interest, the nature of the financial interest, any action taken to determine whether a conflict of interest was present, and the governing board’s or committee’s decision as to whether a conflict of interest in fact existed.
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B. The names of the persons who were present for discussions and votes relating to the transaction or arrangement, the content of the discussion, including any alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement, and a record of any votes taken in connection with the proceedings.

**Section E. Compensation.** A voting member of the Eldership who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Church for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member’s compensation. A voting member of any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Church for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member’s compensation.

* No voting member of the Eldership or any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Church, either individually or collectively, is prohibited from providing information to any committee regarding compensation.
* **Section F. Statement of Affirmation.** Each Elder, pastor and member of a committee with Eldership delegated powers shall sign a statement which affirms such person:

A. Has received a copy of the conflicts of interest policy,

* B. Has read and understands the policy,

C. Has agreed to comply with the policy, and

* D. Understands the Church is charitable and religious in nature and in order to maintain its federal tax exemption it must engage primarily in activities that accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes.

**Section G. Periodic Review.** To ensure the Church operates in a manner consistent with charitable and religious purposes and does not engage in activities that could jeopardize its tax-exempt status, periodic reviews shall be conducted. The periodic reviews shall, at a minimum, include the following subjects:

* A. Whether compensation arrangements and benefits are reasonable, based on competent survey information, and the result of arm’s length bargaining, and
* B. Whether partnerships, joint ventures, and arrangements with management conform to the Church’s written policies, are properly recorded, reflect reasonable investment or payments for goods and services, further charitable purposes and do not result in inurement, impermissible private benefit or in an excess benefit transaction.

**Section H. Use of Outside Experts.** When conducting the periodic reviews as provided for in this Article, the Church may, but need not, use outside advisors. If outside experts are used, their use shall not relieve the Eldership of its responsibility for ensuring periodic reviews are conducted.

**ARTICLE VIII**

**CHURCH OFFICERS & DEACONS**

**Section A. Church Officers**. Pastors will be selected by the Eldership to conduct the daily operations of the Church under the supervision of the Eldership. The following offices are established to operate the Church:

1. **Lead Pastor** – The Lead Pastor will be the shepherd of the Church and will be an Elder of the Church. Accordingly, the Lead Pastor must at all times be duly qualified to serve as an Elder of the Church. The qualifications of the Lead Pastor are as follows: (1) the candidate should be a graduate of a conservative evangelical seminary or graduate school, or have equivalent knowledge, skills, and experience – in the latter situation, the candidate will be strongly encouraged to pursue theological education to further his knowledge and skills for the ministry; (2) the candidate must submit to an evaluation of his spiritual, ministry, and emotional qualifications, the criteria of which shall be determined by the Eldership; (3) the candidate must agree with the Church’s doctrinal statement, purpose, and Bylaws; (4) the candidate must also satisfy the qualifications for an Elder as set forth in these Bylaws. The primary duties of the Lead Pastor are (1) to carry out the principal teaching responsibilities for the Church, including specifically the weekend service; (2) provide oversight regarding the direction and flow of the weekend service; (3) to be the principal spiritual shepherd of the Church; (4) to serve as an Elder and as a liaison between the Eldership and the staff; (5) to serve as the Chairman of the Board of Elders; and (6) to serve as the Church’s chief operating officer with power to contract on behalf of the Church.
2. **Executive/Associate Pastors** – The Board of Elders may also establish from time to time various executive or associate pastoral positions as needed with such duties as delegated by the Eldership to those positions as the Elders deem necessary.

**Section B. Deacons**. The Board of Elders may from time to time ask the Members to affirm certain Members of the Church to be Deacons. In order to qualify as a Deacon, a person must fulfill the qualifications set out in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-6. Their principal responsibilities are to assist the Eldership with whatever matters are specifically delegated to them by the Eldership.

**Section C. Removal of Officers and Deacons**. Any Deacon or officer of the Church may be removed by vote of the Elders where a supermajority of the Eldership vote to removes the officer or Deacon.

**ARTICLE IX**

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Section A. General Provision**. The Church shall have Members who satisfy requirements for membership established by the Eldership. Notwithstanding any other requirement imposed by the Eldership, Members must indicate they have believed the Gospel for their personal salvation, attend a “membership class”, and sign a membership covenant. The children of Members who have been baptized and professed faith in Christ will also be considered Members of the Church until they have reached the age of 18, at which time they must attend a “membership class”, and sign a membership covenant. It is the goal of the church to faithfully represent locally what Scripture says is true of Jesus’ church universally. Our practice of covenant membership reflects the biblical truth that God always has a people walking with him together, not simply individuals who believe things privately. Membership is the outflow of scriptural teaching which calls us members of one body in the gospel (Romans 12:3-8). As a church we are called submit to and pray for biblical leadership (Hebrews 13:17) and live life with mutual accountability to God and one another. Membership is not legalistic. It does not convey any special privileges or stature to the believer. Membership is an acknowledgement that Christ exhorts us to love one another in the sphere of mutual accountability and to make take the Gospel to all nations as a community. Membership also is not exclusive. The Church does not base its fellowship or scope of ministry on a written roll.

**Section B. Membership Voting Rights**. Members over the age of eighteen (18) are entitled to one vote per Member on all questions brought before the Members, as determined by the Board of Elders or these Bylaws.

Required Member Vote. Following the approval of the Elders currently serving on the Board of Elders, the Elders will submit, and the Members must vote to approve or reject, the following items:

1. Approving Members to the Board of Elders and Deacons of the Church;

2. Approving the hiring of Vocational Pastors for the Church;

3. Approving the annual budget of the Church[[1]](#footnote-1);

4. Approving the incurrence of debt for borrowed money over $50,000.00;

5. Approving any transactions regarding the purchase or sale of real property;

4. Amending the Bylaws; and

5. Accepting, rejecting, or otherwise disposing of any matter submitted to the membership of the Church by the Board of Elders.

Unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws, the required vote to approve by the Members is a two-thirds (2/3s) affirmative vote of the Members present and voting at a properly called meeting at which a quorum is present. All Member votes shall be by written ballots.

Quorum. A Quorum of the Members will be defined as 20% of the Church Membership currently on the member roles of the Church.

**Section C. Transfer or Termination of Membership**. Any Member may request that his or her membership be terminated or transferred to another church. In the event that termination of membership is requested, the Lead Pastor will remove the requesting Member from the rolls of the Church. If the Member is requesting transfer of membership and if the Member is in good standing, the Lead Pastor will send a letter recommending membership to any church affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention and/or Acts 29. The Board of Elders may terminate the membership of any individual for the following reasons: (1) to carry out church discipline within the context of Matthew 18 or (2) to remove inactive Members from the Church membership rolls. However, no Members shall be removed from the Church membership rolls on the account of inactivity without 30-days notice of the intention to remove the Member from the Church membership rolls during which time the non-active Member can request that they be retained on the Church membership rolls.

The Board of Elders will determine the inactivity of a Member based on its sole discretion. Notice to any Member the Eldership deems inactive will be effective if it is in writing and delivered via mail or via email to the most recent contact information available for the Member.

**ARTICLE X**

**CONTRACTS & FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY**

**Section A. Contracts.** The Board of Elders may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents of the Church, in addition to the officers so authorized by these Bylaws, to enter into any contract or to execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Church, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

**Section B. Church Finances**. The Eldership is responsible for issues of funding, property rights, stewardship, oversight, possible audits, controls, authorization to enter contracts, and all other matters pertaining to the finances of the Church. The Board of Elders will develop guidelines for all of these areas and amend the Bylaws accordingly.

**Section C. Checks, Drafts, or Orders for Payment**. All checks, drafts, or orders for the payment of money, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the Church will be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents of the Church and in such manner as from time to time may be determined by resolution of the Board of Elders. In the absence of such determination by the Board of Elders the Lead Pastor or an Executive/Associate Pastor of the Church must sign such instruments.

**Section D. Deposits**. All funds of the Church must be deposited from time to time to the credit of the Church in such banks, trust companies, or other depositaries as the Board of Elders may select.

**Section E. Gifts**. The Board of Elders may accept on behalf of the Church any contribution, gift, bequest, or devise for the general purposes, or for any special purpose, of the Church.

**ARTICLE XI**

**MEETINGS**

**Section A. Annual Meeting**. The Church shall have an annual meeting to be scheduled by the Lead Pastor on a Sunday in January each year. The Lead Pastor will present to the Church body the goals, initiatives, and state of the Church.

**Section B. Elder Meetings**. The Eldership shall meet not less than once per month to conduct the business of the Church except by unanimous consent of all of the Elders. Each Elder is entitled to reasonable notice of the time and place of all meetings held by the Board of Elders. Elders may attend and conduct business at meetings in person or through telephonic means. Meeting minutes will be kept at all meetings of the Board of Elders where business is conducted. Decisions of the Board of Elders may be by unanimous consent or by majority vote of the Elders present and eligible to vote at a meeting unless otherwise requiring a supermajority by these Bylaws. Decisions made by unanimous consent will be recorded in a resolution of unanimous consent and signed by each of the Elders or in the minutes of a duly constituted meeting of the Board of Elders and signed by the Lead Pastor and one other Elder.

**Section C. Waiver of Notice.** Whenever any notice must be given under the Texas Business Organizations Code or under the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws of this Church, a waiver of such notice, in writing signed by the person or persons entitled to such notice, whether before or after the time stated therein, will be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice.

**ARTICLE XII**

**INDEMNIFICATION**

The Church shall provide indemnification insurance for its Board and/or Church officers/pastors and the Board shall select the amount and limits of such insurance policy. Subject to any limitations the Board decides to impose in this Article, the Church shall indemnify a member of the Board and/or any Church officer/pastor who was, is, or may be named a defendant or respondent in any proceeding as a result of his actions or omissions within the scope of his official capacity in the Church.

**ARTICLE XIII**

**AMENDMENTS**

The Bylaws of the Church may be amended, repealed, added to, or new Bylaws adopted by the Board of Elders. Any amendment, repeal, addition, or new adoption of Bylaws will be effected by an affirmative vote of a supermajority of the Eldership followed by a 2/3 vote of the membership.

**ARTICLE XIV**

**BOOKS AND RECORDS**

The Church will keep correct and complete books and records of account and will also keep minutes of the proceedings of its Members, Board of Elders, and committees having authority of the Board, and will keep at the registered or principal office a record that contains the names and addresses of the Members and Elders. All books and records of the Church may be inspected by any Member, or his or her agent or attorney, for any proper purpose, at any reasonable time. However, the Board has the right to restrict access to any information deemed by the Board of Elders to be sensitive or that contains information relating to the privacy of its Members and staff.

**ARTICLE XV**

**POSITION STATEMENTS**

From time to time, as needed, the Board of Elders may issue position statements of particular matters of faith and practice. Such papers will be signed by the entire Board and will constitute the official position of the Church on such matters.

**ARTICLE XVI.**

**FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year of the Church will begin on the first day of January and end on the last day of December of each year.

**ARTICLE XVII.**

**DISSOLUTION**

Upon the dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

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SIGNATURES TO FOLLOW

Adopted May \_\_\_\_, 2020 by unanimous vote of the Board of Elders.

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Seth Thornton Brent Stanfield

Lead Pastor (Chairman) Elder

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Scott Patterson

Elder

1. Failure to approve an annual budget will result in the budget remaining the same as the last year the Church budget was approved. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)