



### **Article 1**

#### ***Name and Location of Offices***

The name of this Corporation is Smithville Bible Church Inc. (sometimes hereinafter referred to as “the church” or “SBC”). It is a Missouri nonprofit religious corporation with its principal offices in Smithville, MO. Elder meetings, Business meetings and Corporate gatherings will be held at 411 NW 179th St. Smithville, MO 64089.

### **Article 2**

#### ***Purpose***

Smithville Bible Church (SBC) is organized exclusively for religious purposes (including charitable purposes common to a pastoral church ministry as defined by Scripture). Our commission is summarized in Matthew 28:18-20.

### **Article 3**

#### ***Statement of Faith (Essentials and Distinctives)***

Smithville Bible Church believes that the Holy Bible, as the inspired, infallible, and inerrant Word of God, speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind. It alone is and will be the sole and final source of all that we believe, including faith, doctrine, purpose, structure and function of the church.

#### **ESSENTIALS:**

##### **THE DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES**

We believe that the entirety of the Bible is fully inspired in every word and equally inspired in all parts as originally written. We believe that God communicated His Word through Spirit-controlled men so that the Scriptures are without error or contradiction and are therefore authoritative in all they teach. We believe the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament and the twenty-seven books of the New Testament constitute the completed canon of Scripture, are the only absolute authority for Christian faith and practice and are sufficient for life and godliness.

2 Tim 3:16; Acts 1:16; Psa 119:160; John 14:26; 2 Pet 1:20-21; Psa 119:140; John 17:17; Pro 30:5-6; Rev 22:18-19; Matt 4:4; Psa 19:7-14; 2 Pet 1:3

##### **WE BELIEVE IN A HIGH VIEW OF GOD**

We believe God is absolutely sovereign in all things. The church is established and exists for His glory alone. God is directing and working all things after the counsel of His own will.

Psalm 22:28; 33:6-9; 115:3; Daniel 4:34-35; Isaiah 40:17-18; Romans 9:13-29; Revelation 4:11

##### **THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRIUNE GOD**

We believe in one true God, the creator and sustainer of all things, eternally existing in three distinct yet fully divine persons. In the unity of the Godhead, the Father, Son, and Spirit are one in essence, equal in power and glory, execute distinct yet harmonious functions and are therefore equally deserving of worship and obedience. We believe that God is self-existent, infinite, unchangeable, and perfect in all His attributes.

Deut 6:4; Isa 45:5-7; 1 Cor 8:4; Gen 1:1; Exo 3:14; John 1:1; Matt 28:19; 2 Cor 13:14; Rom 11:33-36; Mal 3:6; Rom 1:20; Jer 10:10

### **1) GOD THE FATHER**

We believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal spirit who is perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. He is fully omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent. We believe that God the Father orders and accomplishes all things according to His own will and for His own glory as the absolute sovereign ruler over His creation, but does not author or approve of sin. As Creator, He is Father to all men, having created them in His image, but is spiritual Father only to believers, saving from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

Psa 145:8-9; 1 Cor 8:6; Eph 4:6; 1 Chr 29:11; Hab 1:13; John 4:24; Isa 5:15-16; Isa 6:3; Rev 4:8; Titus 1:2; Psa 139:1-6; Psa 139:7; Eph 1:11; Rom 16:25-27; Psa 103:19; Rom 11:36; Gen 1:1-31; Eph 3:9; Eph 3:14-19; Rom 8:14; 2 Cor 6:18; John 8:38-47

### **2) GOD THE SON**

We believe that Jesus Christ is the coequal and coeternal second person in the Godhead who was involved in creation with the Father and the Holy Spirit. We believe that He willingly took upon Himself human flesh through the miracle of the virgin birth and now has two natures inseparably united in one divine person without confusion, mixture, separation, or division. We believe that Jesus lived a sinless life in perfect and complete obedience to the Father, willingly died a substitutionary death for sinful man, was buried and rose bodily the third day. We believe that Jesus ascended to heaven where He now sits at the Father's right hand and serves as the only Mediator between God and man. We believe that Jesus will personally return in power and glory to the earth.

John 1:1-3; John 10:30; John 14:10; Col 1:15-17; John 1:14; Matt 1:20-25; Isa 7:13-14; Phil 2:5-8; Heb 4:15; 1 Cor 15:3-4; Rom 5:6; 1 Pet 2:4; Act 1:9; Heb 9:24; 1 John 2:1; Rev 20

### **3) GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT**

We believe the Holy Spirit is the eternal third person in the Godhead who is equal to and one with the Father and the Son. We believe the Holy Spirit was involved in creation, is the author of Scripture, and the agent of the new birth. We believe that at the moment of conversion every believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit, is baptized by the Spirit into the Body of Christ and is sealed by the Spirit unto the day of redemption. We believe the Holy Spirit sanctifies believers by directing, empowering, interceding and enabling them with spiritual gifts to edify the church.

Gen 1:2; John 14:15-17; Matt 28:19; John 14:26; John 16:8-11; 2 Thess 2:13; 1 Pet 1:2; 1 Cor 6:19; 1 Cor 12:13; Rom 8:13-17; 1 John 2:20; 1 John 2:27; Acts 1:8; Eph 1:13-14; Rom 12:6-8; Rom 8:26; Gal 5:22-23; Eph 5:18; 1 Cor 12:4-6

### **THE DOCTRINE OF SALVATION**

We believe that salvation is the work of God in which He rescues and redeems sinners from their eternal fate as children of wrath and grants them eternal life as His own beloved children.

We believe that mankind was directly and immediately created by God in His image, free of sin and therefore able to glorify God, enjoy His fellowship and accomplish His purpose in the world. However, through disobedience to the revealed will of God, the first man, Adam, incurred the penalty of spiritual and physical death and became subject to the wrath of God. We believe Adam's sin is transmitted to all men of all ages, rendering all people guilty and hopelessly lost.

We believe salvation is accomplished by God's grace through the finished, redemptive work of Jesus Christ on the cross in which He satisfied the Father's wrath against sin by paying its penalty in full. We believe that salvation includes; regeneration, which is the instantaneous supernatural work of the Holy Spirit by which spiritual life is given and; justification, which is the act of God by which He declares righteous all who, through faith in Jesus Christ, repent of their sins and confess Jesus as Lord.

We believe that salvation includes forgiveness of all past, present and future sins and that all who are redeemed possess eternal life and are secure in Christ, forever kept by God's power. We believe the message of salvation is communicated through the Gospel which is the good news that God, through the perfect life, atoning death and bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, rescues sinners from eternal judgment and gives them peace with Him forever for the glory of His name.

Eph 2:1-3; Eph 1:7; John 3:3-7; Titus 3:5; 1 Cor 12:3; 1 Pet 1:3-5; Isa 43:7; Col 1:16; Rev 4:11; 1 John 1:8; Titus 3:3; Rom 3:10; Gen 2:16-17; Gen 3:1-19; Rom 3:23; Rom 6:23; 1 Tim 2:13-14; John 3:36; John 1:12; 1 Pet 2:24; 1 Cor 1:30; 2 Cor 5:21; Rom 3:26; Rom 1:16-17; 1 Cor 15:1-4; Eph 2:8-10; 1 Pet 1:18-19; Col 2:13-14; John 5:24; John 6:37-40; Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; Rom 2:4; 2 Cor 7:10; 2 Cor 4:5; Rom 10:8-10; Phil 2:11; John 10:27-30; Rom 5:9-10; Rom 8:1; Rom 8:31-39; Eph 4:30; Heb 7:25; Heb 13:5; Jude 24-25

### **THE DOCTRINE OF THE FUTURE**

We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal joy of the righteous with Christ and the endless suffering of the wicked in hell.

Matt 16:27; Mark 14:62; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; Phil 3:20; 1 Thess 4:15; 2 Tim 4:1; Titus 2:13; 1 Cor 4:5; 1 Cor 15; 2 Thess 1:7-10; Rev 20:4-6; Rev 20:11-15

### **DISTINCTIVES:**

#### **CREATION**

We teach that the six-day account of creation in Genesis is to be accepted literally and not allegorically or figuratively. We teach that the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, were created directly by God, in His image and did not develop from lower to higher forms. We teach that all living creatures were made directly by God according to their kinds and were not produced by an evolutionary process.

Gen 1:1; Exo 20:11; Acts 4:24; Heb 11:3; John 1:3; Rev 10:6; Rom 1:20; Acts 17:23-26; Col 1:16-17; Gen 2:7, 21-23; Gen 1:11; Gen 1:24

#### **GENDER, MARRIAGE AND SEXUALITY**

We teach that God designed specific gender distinctions between men and women and that these distinctions are set at birth. Therefore, changing or disguising one's gender transgresses God's design. We teach that marriage was instituted by God as an exclusive, lifelong, covenantal union between one man and one woman. We teach that God designed sexual intimacy to be reserved for marriage and that any form of sexual intimacy outside the marriage relationship is sinful and offensive to God.

Matt 15:19; Matt 19:4; Rom 1:21-27; Num 23:19; Psa 145:17; Isa 46:9-10; Gen 2:24; Mark 10:7; 1 Cor 6:9-20; Eph 5:31; Heb 13:4

#### **ELECTION**

We teach that election is the act of God by which, before the foundation of the world, He chose in Christ those whom He graciously regenerates and saves. We teach that sovereign election does not contradict or negate the responsibility of man to repent and believe and that all men, including the elect, are lost until they individually and personally exercise saving faith in Jesus Christ. We teach that the unmerited favor that God grants to totally depraved sinners is not related to any initiative on their own part or to God's anticipation of what they might do by their own will, but is solely of God's sovereign grace and mercy. We teach that God exercises His sovereignty in election in harmony with His other attributes, especially His omniscience, justice, holiness, wisdom, grace, and love performing His will in a manner consistent with His character as God. We teach that election does not minimize a believer's responsibility to evangelize or pray for the salvation of the lost but rather encourages it.

John 3:1-8; Rom 8:28-30; Eph 1:4-11; 2 Thess 2:13; 2 Tim 2:10; 1 Pet 1:1-2; Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; Acts 3:19; Acts 11:18; Rom 2:4; 2 Cor 7:10; Isa 55:6-7; Eze 18:32; 33:11; John 5:36-45; 1 Cor 12:3; 2 Cor 4:5; Col 2:6; John 3:14-19; John 3:36; Acts 16:30-31; Rom 10:8-10; Rom 9:10-18; Titus 3:4-7; Rom 11:33-36; Matt 11:25-28; 2 Tim 1:9; Rom 10:14

**THE CHURCH**

We teach that at salvation believers in Jesus Christ are immediately placed by the Holy Spirit into one united spiritual body called the Church. The Church was established by Jesus Christ and is composed of all believers in Christ called out of the world between the day of Pentecost and Christ's future coming for His bride. The Church is manifested through local churches of baptized believers associated together by the fellowship of the Gospel. We teach that Jesus Christ is the head of the church and that the designated officers serving under Christ are elders (also called overseers and pastors) and deacons, whose qualifications and duties are defined by Scripture. We teach that each local church is free to govern itself without any external authority, control or interference from any individual or organization. We teach that the two ordinances of the church are baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper, both of which are intended only for believers. We teach that the mission of the church is to glorify God by being and making disciples, which includes ministries of evangelism, biblical instruction and fellowship.

1 Cor 12:12-13; Matt 16:18; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:47; 1 Thess 4:13-18; 1 John 1:3; Eph 2:19-22; 1 Cor 15:51-52; 1 Cor 11:3; Eph 1:22-23; Col 1:18; Col 1:24; 2 Cor 11:2; Eph 5:23-32; Acts 20:28; Eph 4:11-16; 1 Tim 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Pet 5:1-5; Acts 2:41-42; Matt 28:19-20; 1 Cor 11:23-24; 2 Tim 2:2; 2 Tim 2:15-17

**WE BELIEVE IN SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY**

We teach that God himself has established order in every area of our lives, and the church is no exception. God in scripture has clearly given us the structure of authority for the church. Christ is the head of the church and He mediates His rule through the shepherding of godly elders (pastors). These elders (pastors), having a high view of God and scripture, being devoted to the preaching, teaching and practicing of sound doctrine, and being examples of personal holiness before the congregation, are responsible to lead the church. The Bible teaches that the congregation is accountable to the elders (pastors) and that the elders (pastors) are accountable to God. Therefore, for the purposes of church doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline all decision-making authority is vested in the elders (pastors), who shepherd the church.

Colossians 1:18; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Acts 15:6-21; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Timothy 5:17

**SANCTIFICATION**

We teach that sanctification is the work of the Holy Spirit in every believer to set him apart from sin, to produce spiritual maturity in his life and to make him more like Jesus Christ. We teach that this work takes place initially at salvation as believers are set apart from sin positionally, continues throughout salvation as believers are set apart from sin practically and is a necessary evidence of true conversion. While eradication of sin in the believer is not possible in this life, the Holy Spirit does enable victory over sin. We teach that through obedience to the Scriptures and the empowering of the Holy Spirit, believers are not to live unto themselves but to live set apart unto Jesus Christ for the glory of God.

1 Cor 1:2; 1 Cor 1:30; 1 Cor 6:11; John 17:17; John 17:19; 1 Thess 5:23; 2 Thess 2:13; Heb 2:11; Heb 10:10; Heb 10:14; Heb 13:12; 2 Cor 3:18; 1 Thess 4:3-4; Acts 20:32; 1 Pet 1:2; Gal 5:16-25; Eph 4:22-24; Phil 3:12; Col 3:9-10; 1 Pet 1:14-16; 1 John 3:5-9; 2 Thess 1:11-12; Rom 6:1-22; Rom 12:1-2; 1 Cor 5:9-13

**WE BELIEVE IN PERSONAL HOLINESS**

We teach that though we are in the world, we are not of the world. We are accountable to God and to each other for what we do and how we live, for we have been bought and are not our own. We belong to Christ. Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 6:18-20; 2 Corinthians 7:1; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Ephesians 5:3-12

**SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

We teach that spiritual gifts are God-given capacities for service that every believer receives at salvation to edify the church for the glory of God. These gifts include both temporary sign gifts (gifts of miracles, healings, tongues and interpretation of tongues) and permanent speaking and serving gifts (gifts of teaching, prophecy, exhortation, utterance of knowledge, utterance of wisdom, ministry, giving, administration, mercy, faith, and discernment). We teach that during the apostolic era, sign gifts were

given to confirm the authenticity of the apostles' message during the formation of the church. With the passing of the apostolic era, the establishment of the church and the completion of the Scriptures, the miraculous sign gifts are no longer necessary. Scripture alone now functions as the sole test of authenticity of a man's message.

1 Pet 4:10-11; 1 Cor 12:1-7; 1 Cor 12:11; Rom 12:6-8; Eph 4:7-12; Heb 2:4; 2 Cor 12:12; Acts 19:11-12; Eph 2:20; 1 Cor 14:22

### **ANGELS**

We teach that angels are immortal spirit-beings who have great, but limited, power and exist for God's purposes. We teach that Satan was an angel who rebelled against God and took numerous angels with him when he fell. Satan is the god of this age and the author of sin. He was defeated by Christ on the cross and is destined to eternal condemnation in the lake of fire along with all of his followers. We teach that Satan's power, although great, is incomparably inferior to God's power and that he can be resisted by Christians.

2 Kings 6:8-23; 2 Kings 19:35; Dan 8:15-18; Matt 22:29-30; Luke 2:9-14; Luke 22:41-43; Heb 1:6-7; Eze 28:11-19; 2 Pet 2:4; Jude 6; Isa 14:12-15; 2 Cor 4:4; Heb 2:14; James 2:19; Matt 25:41; Eph 6:11-12; James 4:7; Rev 20:10

### **LAST THINGS**

We teach that every person experiences at death a separation of soul and body. Believers immediately experience conscious blessing with Christ, and unbelievers immediately experience conscious punishment apart from Christ. Those future places are called heaven and hell respectively. We teach the imminent, personal appearance of Jesus Christ to catch away His Church prior to a seven-year tribulation on earth. This appearance of Jesus Christ initiates the resurrection of believers in which the soul and body of every believer will be reunited and glorified in Christ and will appear before Him to be rewarded for their work. We teach that at the end of the tribulation, Jesus Christ will physically return with His saints to establish His Kingdom on earth for one thousand years, fulfilling his promise to restore the nation Israel both spiritually and physically.

We teach that after the thousand-year reign of Christ, the soul of every unbeliever will be reunited with their resurrected body and will appear before the Great White Throne Judgment, after which they shall be cast into the Lake of Fire forever. The elements of creation will then be dissolved and replaced with a new heaven and earth, unaffected by sin, and Jesus will deliver the kingdom to the Father and reign forever. All who have been redeemed will live eternally with Him.

John 3:16; Phil 1:21-24; Rev 6:9-11; Luke 23:43; 2 Cor 5:5-8; Luke 16:19-31; 1 Thess 4:13-18; Phil 3:21; 1 Cor 3:11-15; 2 Cor 5:10; 2 Thess 2:1-2; Titus 2:13; Matt 25:31; 2 Thess 1:6-12; Rev 20:1-7; Isa 65:17-25; Eze 37:21-28; Zech 8:1-17 Deut 28:28-68; Matt 25:46; Rev 20:12-15; Rev 21:1-27; Rev 22:1-21; 2 Pet 3:10; 1 Cor 15:28

### **Additionally we would hold to distinctives laid out in the following statements that address particular doctrines of concern:**

The statement on defending Inerrancy and the teaching that the Bible is the infallible word of God (Chicago Statement) can be found here: <https://defendinginerrancy.com/>

The statement on Biblical Sexuality (Nashville Statement) can be found here: <https://cbmw.org/nashville-statement>

The statement on Social Justice and the Gospel (Dallas Statement) can be found here: <https://statementonsocialjustice.com>

The statement on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood (Danvers Statement) and those God ordained role distinctions can be found here: <https://cbmw.org/about/danvers-statement/> (Added 12.19.23)

## **Article 4** **Corporate Directors**

### **Section 1. Corporate Directors**

The Corporate Directors, if any, on file with the Missouri Corporations Secretary of State, shall consist of a Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer.

The office of the Chairman of the Board of Elders shall be held by a non-paid lay elder.

The Corporation's Secretary shall be appointed by the Board of Elders. The office of Secretary may be, but is not required to be, held by the Secretary of the Board of Elders.

The Corporation's Treasurer shall be appointed by the Board of Elders and shall be responsible for the financial accounting in the church as described more fully in Article 7.

## **Article 5** **Church Membership**

### **Section 1. Purpose of the Fellowship**

Those individuals who applied for church membership and have been duly accepted shall constitute a spiritual body, united for the spiritual purposes set forth in these Bylaws. Active members in good standing of North Lake Church and Emmanuel Bible Church on 12/31/23 will be considered members of Smithville Bible Church as of 01/01/24. Each member will be asked to sign the membership covenant of Smithville Bible Church dated 01/01/24.

### **Section 2. Active Membership**

Church membership in Smithville Bible Church shall be open to all persons who give credible testimony of conversion to Christ and who have undergone believer's baptism. After a pattern of inactivity and neglecting the biblical charge to not forsake the assembly together of ourselves found in Hebrews 10:25, members will be contacted and placed on inactive status, if no extenuating circumstances exist. While this may happen sooner at the discretion of the elders, after the six month mark of inactivity members will be notified and will automatically be placed on inactive status.

### **Section 3. Membership Privileges**

Church membership shall not vest anyone with any voting or proprietary rights in the Corporation, but shall only entitle the church member to participate in a meeting of church members on those matters that the Board of Elders chooses to submit to the church membership for participation or voting and affirmation. In such cases, meeting attendance privileges are restricted to church members who are in good standing, who are not under any disciplinary action, and who have regularly attended over the preceding year.

The Board of Elders, at its sole discretion, may choose to exclude any person from any church meeting if the elders deem it advisable for the orderly conduct of the meeting. Membership shall not be assignable (gifted, transferred or passed down) by any church member, nor shall that membership vest to any personal representative, heir, or devisee.

#### **Section 4. Applications for Membership**

Anyone wishing to apply for membership shall notify an elder or any individual designated by the Board of Elders to facilitate membership inquiries. Applicants shall be given an application for membership, along with a copy of the church's Statement of Faith and the Bylaws. Membership may be extended to persons beginning at 16 years of age, though voting rights will be withheld until the age of 18. To be received into membership, applicants shall (1) provide credible testimony of their conversion to Christ; (2) have undergone believer's baptism; and (3) agree in writing that they will (a) support and abide by the Statement of Faith and the Bylaws and (b) manifest biblical submission to the elders.

#### **Section 5. Denial of Membership**

If, upon review of an application for membership the Board of Elders, in its sole discretion, determines that the applicant should not be received into membership, membership shall be denied. The decision made by the Board shall be final and there shall be no appeal to any legal, secular, or ecclesiastical authority. Applicants may address issues identified by the Board of Elders and reapply at a designated time by the Board of Elders.

#### **Section 6. Admission of Applicants**

Applicants admitted to membership upon elder approval by vote, shall present themselves at a worship service designated by the Board of Elders, at which service such applicants shall publicly affirm their membership commitment and be publicly acknowledged and received as church members.

#### **Section 7. Responsibilities of Members**

Church members shall regularly attend the scheduled worship services of the church, support the church financially as their means allow, pray for the leadership and ministries of the church, exercise their spiritual gifts for the mutual benefit of all the church body, cultivate biblical godliness in their homes and private lives, and manifest biblical submission to the elders.

#### **Section 8. Church Discipline**

Church discipline is a biblical process designed to address unrepentant sin which becomes known in the church body.

- (a) The threefold purpose of church discipline is to (1) glorify God by maintaining purity in the local church (1 Corinthians 5:6), (2) edify believers by deterring sin (1 Timothy 5:20), and (3) call the offending believer to repent and return to a biblical standard of doctrine and conduct (Galatians 6:1).
- (b) Members of this church (and other professing Christians who regularly attend this church) who contradict the Statement of Faith or engage in unrepentant sin as determined by the Board of Elders, shall be subject to church discipline according to Matthew 18:15-18.
  - (a) In keeping with Matthew 18:15-17 and Galatians 6:1-2, church members who have knowledge of another member's contradiction of the Statement of Faith or unrepentant sin may warn the individual in private and seek his or her repentance and restoration.
  - (b) If the erring individual does not heed this warning, then the warning church member may go to the erring individual accompanied by one or two other members and again seek his repentance and restoration. The accompanying members shall serve as witnesses to the discussion. These first and second warnings should be separated over time.
  - (c) If the erring individual still refuses to heed this warning, then the matter may be brought to the attention of the Board of Elders (or a duly appointed elder or committee of elders) at the sole discretion of the Board. If, in their sole discretion, the elders determine that there is corroborating evidence that the erring individual is contradicting the Statement of Faith or is otherwise sinning and refusing to repent, the elders may inform the church at a regularly scheduled worship service in order that the church may call the erring individual to repentance.

- (d) If the erring individual demonstrates repentance, then notice to that effect may be given at a regularly scheduled worship service. If, however, the erring individual does not repent in response to the church in its collective call to repentance, then the elders may publicly dismiss the individual from membership and/or the fellowship of the church at a regularly scheduled worship service.
  - (e) The erring individual may be restored to membership only upon demonstration of repentance, received at sole discretion of the Board of Elders, and upon such conditions as the Board of Elders in its sole discretion determines acceptable. The decision made by the Board shall be final, and there shall be no appeal to any legal, secular, or ecclesiastical authority.
- (c) Nothing in the foregoing, if there are extenuating circumstances that prevent pursuing the first steps or safety concerns warrant expedition, shall restrict the discretion of the elders to proceed directly to the third stage of church discipline (i.e., informing the church at a regularly scheduled worship service so that the church may call the erring individual to repentance) or to the fourth stage of church discipline (i.e., the dismissal from membership and/or the fellowship of the church), if in the sole discretion of the Board of Elders the issue is:
- (a) public and has the potential to bring reproach on the gospel or
  - (b) the disciplined party has disseminated doctrine which contradicts the Statement of Faith in disregard of the direction of the elders.
- (d) Individuals whom the Board of Elders deem guilty of factious and divisive conduct may also be subject to dismissal from membership and/or the fellowship of the church in accordance with Titus 3:10–11. The approach to such individuals shall be handled according to the sole discretion of the Board of Elders. The decision made by the Board shall be final and there shall be no appeal to any legal, secular, or ecclesiastical authority.
- (e) The members of this church, those applying for membership in the church, and all other individuals who regularly attend or fellowship with this church, agree that there shall be no appeal to any court because of dismissal from the church or because of statements made in the course of church discipline.
- (f) The elders grant church membership only on the condition that the individual forfeits and waives the right to resign from membership if he or she is approached by the elders regarding a matter subject to church discipline. Resignations from membership are possible only by church members who are in good standing and who are not under the process of church discipline.
- (g) Separate and apart from the process of church discipline, and at the sole discretion of the elders (or an individual appointed by the elders), any individual, including a church member, may be notified that he or she is not to be present on church premises for such a period of time as is deemed necessary for the physical or spiritual well-being of others on the church premises. Such required absence may, but need not, be concurrent with church discipline of that person.

### **Section 9. Special Meetings**

Special meetings of church members may be called at any time by the Pastor-Teacher, the Chairman of the Board of Elders, or by two-thirds of the members of the Board of Elders.

### **Section 10. Notice of Meetings**

Notice of special meetings shall be given from the pulpit at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting and shall also be published in the regular church bulletin on the Sunday immediately preceding the meeting.



**Section 11. Quorum**

At all meetings of church members, one third of the membership is required for a quorum for the transaction of business.

**Section 12. Voting Rights**

Church members do not constitute a body with authority over the Board of Elders. Independent of the Board Elders, church members cannot conduct a binding vote of any kind on any doctrinal, pastoral, operational, or financial matter of the church, nor pass resolutions binding upon the church. All such authority resides in the Board of Elders on advisement from the board of Deacons and acting Treasurer(s). Church members shall have an opportunity to vote on the sale, purchase or transfer of church real estate or its disposal based on a recommendation from the Board of Elders and Deacons. Additionally, Church members shall have an opportunity to vote with regard to a presentation of a new Pastor-Teacher, changes to the bylaws, changes to the statement of faith, fiscal year budget, new elders, new deacons, and budgetary needs of \$1000 or more that exceed approved fiscal budget. Membership will vote on one nominee appointed by the Board of Elders, based on input from search committee, as a prospective Pastor-Teacher. Pastor-Teacher nominees must receive a 75% yes vote to be affirmed by SBC membership.

**Article 6**  
***Elders***

**Section 1. Powers**

All the activities and affairs of the Corporation shall be exercised by or under the direction of the Board of Elders, which is responsible for shepherding and having oversight of the flock. The Elders will make genuine effort to communicate their desires and direction and seek input from the congregation before significant decisions are made that affect the entire congregation. All decisions prejudice to such general powers, but subject to these same limitations, it is hereby expressly declared that the Board shall have the following powers in addition to the other powers enumerated by these Bylaws:

- (a) To select or remove the Corporate Directors; to select and remove all officers, agents, pastors, and employees and prescribe such duties for them consistent with the Scriptures, civil authority, the Articles of Incorporation, or these Bylaws; and fix the terms of their offices and their compensation.
- (b) To make such disbursements from the funds and properties of the Corporation as are required to fulfill the purposes of this Corporation, to conduct, manage, and control the activities and affairs of the Corporation, and to make such rules and regulations as they may deem best for the operation of the Corporation.
- (c) To adopt, make and use a corporate seal, and to alter the form of such seal from time to time as they may deem best.
- (d) To establish policies and practices for the church consistent with the purposes of this Corporation.
- (e) To assist the Pastor-Teacher in the administration of the ordinances of baptism and communion.
- (f) To borrow money and incur indebtedness for the purposes of the Corporation and to cause to be executed and delivered, in the corporate name, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, deeds of trust, mortgages, pledges, hypothecations, or other evidences of debt and securities.
- (g) To apply any financial proceeds from church collections or activities to further the purposes of the Corporation.

**Section 2. Number of Elders**

The number of elders at any given time shall be determined by the existing Board of Elders. If possible, lay elders will outnumber paid elders and will be seen as the ideal.

**Section 3. Nomination, Selection, Tenure and Off-sight Oversight**

The Board of Elders may identify perspective elders, with the input of church membership to help verify a calling of the Spirit (Acts 20:28). Membership will be given sufficient notice to inform the current elders of any concern or biblical disqualification they may be aware of. If there are no sufficient reasons to not move forward the elder nominee will be considered an elder. Newly appointed elders shall assume office at a time determined by the existing Board of Elders. Elders shall serve for one-year terms without limitation on the number of consecutive terms, provided they maintain the biblical qualifications for the office as described in the next section.

The elders may appoint a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Elder Board in their sole discretion, with duties to be defined from time-to-time by the elders.

**Section 4. Qualifications**

The office of elder is limited to men who are active members of the church and possess the biblical qualifications described in 1 Timothy 3:1–7 and Titus 1:5–9.

**Section 5. Resignation**

An elder may resign by giving written notice to the Pastor-Teacher or the Chairman of the Board.

**Section 6. Removal of Elders**

An elder may be removed from office if he is found to be physically or mentally incapacitated or biblically disqualified after investigation by the elders. If an elder is removed because of sin that is deemed sufficient to disqualify him from shepherding, the remaining elders may rebuke him publicly if the remaining elders deem such action to be biblically warranted. (1 Tim. 5:19-20)

**Section 7. Regular Elder Meetings**

Regular meetings of the Board of Elders shall be held at such times and places as determined by the Board. At its sole discretion, the Board of Elders may at any time designate a portion of a regular meeting to be open to church members for observance or participation.

**Section 8. Special Elder Meetings**

Special meetings of the Board of Elders may be called at any time by the Pastor-Teacher, Chairman, or by two-thirds of the members of the Board of Elders.

**Section 9. Notice of Special Elder Meetings**

Special meetings of the Board shall occur with a minimum notice of forty-eight (48) hours given personally by telephone, text, email, or similar means of communication. Notice may be waived with consent of all the current elders.

**Section 10. Quorum**

Except as otherwise provided herein, a majority of the elders currently serving shall constitute a quorum. The act or decision done or made by the elders present at a regular or special meeting duly held at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board of Elders.

**Section 11. Participation in Meetings by Conference Telephone**

Members of the Board may participate in a meeting through use of conference telephone or similar communications equipment so long as all members participating in such meeting can hear one another.

**Section 12. Adjournment**

A majority of the elders present may adjourn any elders' meeting to another time and place. Notice of the time and place of holding an adjourned meeting should be given to absent elders if the time and place is fixed at the meeting adjourned.

**Section 13. Rights of Inspection**

Every elder shall have the right, upon reasonable notice, to review all books, records, and documents and to inspect the physical properties of the Corporation of which such person is an elder, for a purpose reasonably related to such person's interest as an elder.

**Section 14. Decisions of the Board of Elders**

Decisions of the elders shall be reached after prayerful consideration by unanimous consensus in a spirit of humility, with each elder regarding one another before himself.

**Section 15. Committees**

Committees of the Board may be appointed by resolution of the Board. Committees shall be composed of two or more members of the Board and shall have such powers of the Board as may be expressly delegated to it by resolution of the Board of Elders.

**Section 16. Fees and Compensation**

Elders shall not receive any stated or fixed salary for their services, except for pastors serving as paid staff. However, nothing herein contained shall be construed to preclude elders from serving in any other capacity and receiving compensation in that capacity.

**Article 7**  
***Other Offices***

**Section 1. Deacons**

The Board of Elders may, at its sole discretion, appoint biblically-qualified deacons to assist the elders in the administrative, operational, or pastoral care of the church.

**Section 2. Election**

Any church officers shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Elders. Each officer shall hold his office until he shall resign, be removed, or become otherwise disqualified to serve, or until his successor shall be elected and qualified.

**Section 3. Subordinate Officers**

The Board of Elders may appoint, and may empower the Chairman to appoint, such other officers as the business of the Corporation may require, each of whom shall hold office for such period, have such authority, and perform such duties as are provided in the Bylaws, or as the Board of Elders may from time to time determine.

**Section 4. Removal and Resignation**

Any officer may be removed upon disqualification as determined by the Board of Elders. Any officer may resign at any time without prejudice to the rights, if any, of the Corporation under any contract to which the officer is a party, by giving written notice to the Pastor-Teacher or the Chairman of the Board of Elders.

Any such resignation shall take effect at the date of the receipt of such notice, or at any later time specified therein.

### **Section 5. Vacancies**

A vacancy in any office because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or any other cause shall be filled in the manner prescribed in the Bylaws for regular election or appointment to such office, provided that such vacancies shall be filled as they occur, and are not required to be filled on an annual basis.

In the event there are no willing or qualified Elders to serve on the Board with the Pastor-Teacher, a spiritually mature man from SBC as well as an off-site Pastoral Counsel of an Elder-Qualified man or men will be assigned. The purpose of this temporary assignment is to provide accountability and general oversight for the Pastor-Teacher until qualified elders are raised up. *See description given on SBC document: "Off Site Pastoral Counsel." This Document is available upon request of the elders. Those appointed should be in agreement with SBC's statement of Faith from Article 3.*

The current Elder Board, when actively in place, will designate the pastoral counsel that should be activated in the absence of the Elder Board. This man or group of men will remain in effect whether inactive or activated when needed as dictated above.

### **Section 6. Inability to Act**

In the case of absence or inability to act of any Corporate Director, officer of the Corporation, or any person herein authorized to act on behalf of the Corporation, the Board of Elders may from time to time delegate the powers or duties of such person to any other officer or person whom the Board may select.

### **Section 7. Chairman of the Board of Elders**

The Chairman of the Board of Elders shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Elders, which are to be conducted according to scriptural principles. He shall be an ex officio member of all the standing committees, if any, and shall have powers and duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Elders or the Bylaws.

### **Section 8. Secretary of the Board of Elders**

The Secretary of the Board of Elders shall be responsible keep minutes of all meetings of the Board of Elders. The Secretary of the Board of Elders shall give, or cause to be given, notice of all meetings of the Board and any committees thereof required by these Bylaws or by law to be given, shall keep the seal of the Corporation in safe custody, and shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as prescribed by the Board. The Secretary of the Board of Elders shall be responsible to keep, or cause to be kept, a church membership register showing the names of church members and preferred contact information. These task may be delegated to others in attendance who may or may not be members of the elder board.

### **Section 9. Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall ensure the stewardship of the physical and financial resources of the Corporation. The Treasurer shall ensure that all financial activities and transactions are consistent with these Bylaws and are above reproach in the eyes of the Board of Elders, the church membership, and civil authority.

The Treasurer shall keep and maintain, or cause to be kept and maintained, adequate and correct accounts of the properties and business transactions of the Corporation. The books of account shall at all reasonable times be open to inspection by any elder. The Treasurer shall deposit, or cause to be deposited, all monies and other valuables in the name and to the credit of the Corporation with such depositories as may be designated by the Board of Elders. He shall disburse, or cause to be disbursed, the funds of the Corporation as may be ordered by the Board of Elders, shall render, or cause to be rendered, to the Chairman and the elders, whenever they request it, an account of all the transactions and

of the financial condition of the Corporation, and shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Elders. He shall make, or cause to be made, regular financial reports that accurately reflect the financial condition of the Corporation. These tasks may be delegated to others in attendance who may or may not be members of the elder board.

## **Article 8**

### ***Ordination, Licensing, and Commissioning***

#### **Section 1. Ordination**

Ordination refers to the unanimous recognition by the Board of Elders of a man's call to the ministry, preparation as a shepherd, and qualification to serve. Ordination shall be conferred for life, so long as the man continues to manifest the qualifications of the office. It is limited to those who have adequate training for ministry and are regularly preaching the Word at the time of their ordination.

## **Article 9**

### ***The Pastor-Teacher***

#### **Section 1. Election**

The Pastor-Teacher shall be selected and confirmed by the Board of Elders at its sole discretion. He shall remain in office an indefinite period of time subject to the following reservations: the elders reserve the right to dismiss the Pastor-Teacher upon giving him a minimum one month's written notice of its intention to dismiss. The Pastor-Teacher must give a minimum one month's notice if he intends to resign. The time limit of a Pastor-Teacher's resignation or dismissal is subject to a lesser time if by mutual agreement between the Pastor-Teacher and the remaining elders.

#### **Section 2. Duties**

The Pastor-Teacher shall be a member of the Board of Elders and accountable to the Board. The Pastor-Teacher shall arrange for and conduct all public and regular services of the church and shall be responsible for general oversight of the spiritual welfare of the church. If there is not a Pastor-Teacher currently serving, the Board of Elders shall be responsible to arrange for the public and regular services of the church.

## **Article 10**

### ***Other Provisions***

#### **Section 1. Endorsement of Documents, Contracts**

The Board of Elders, except as in the Bylaws otherwise provided, may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents, to enter into any contract in the name of and on behalf of the Corporation. Such authority may be general or confined to specific instances. Unless so authorized by the Board of Elders, no officer, agent or employee shall have any power or authority to bind the Corporation by any contract or agreement, or to pledge its credit, or to render it liable for any purpose or to any amount.

#### **Section 2. Instruments in Writing**

All checks, drafts, demands for money and notes of the Corporation and all written contracts of the Corporation shall be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents, as the Board of Elders may from time to time by resolution designate. A minimum requirement of two (2) signatures must be obtained for the aforementioned documents. Paid Elders to include Pastor-Teachers should not sign or authorize these transactions.

**Section 3. Amendments**

These Bylaws may be amended and new and additional Bylaws may be made from time to time by the Board of Elders in the exercise of the power granted by these Bylaws and presented to the congregation for input and affirmation. Any proposed amendments to the Bylaws shall be introduced at a regularly scheduled elders' meeting for consideration and discussion. To facilitate notice and deliberation, amendments may not be brought to a vote of the elders at the same meeting in which they are introduced.

**Section 4. Record of Amendments**

Whenever an amendment or new Bylaw is adopted, it shall be copied in the book of minutes with the original Bylaws, in the appropriate place. If any Bylaw is repealed, the fact of repeal with the date of the meeting at which the repeal was enacted or written assent was filed shall be stated in said book.

**Article 11*****Receipt, Investment, and Disbursement of Funds*****Section 1.**

The Corporation shall receive all monies or other properties transferred to it for the purposes for which the Corporation was formed (as shown by the Articles of Incorporation). However, nothing contained herein shall require the Board of Elders to accept or receive any money or property of any kind if it shall determine in its discretion that receipt of such money or property is contrary to the expressed purposes of the Corporation as shown by said Articles.

**Section 2.**

The Corporation shall hold, manage, and disburse any funds or properties received by it from any source in a manner that is consistent with the expressed purposes of this Corporation.

**Article 12*****Corporate Records and Reports*****Section 1. Records**

The Corporation shall maintain adequate and correct accounts, books, and records of its business and properties. All such books, records, and accounts shall be kept at its principal place of business.

**Section 2. Fiscal Year of the Corporation**

The fiscal year of the Corporation shall begin on **January 1** and end on **December 31** of each calendar year.

**Article 13*****Dissolution***

Upon dissolution of this Corporation, the Board of Elders shall cause the assets herein to be distributed to another Corporation with purposes similar to that identified in Article 2 of these Bylaws and Article 2 of the Articles of Incorporation as amended.