



CHRIST FAMILY CHURCH CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

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1 PREAMBLE

2
3 SINCE IT PLEASED ALMIGHTY GOD, by his Holy Spirit, to call certain of his servants to unite
4 here under the name Christ Family Church of Oakwood, Georgia (CFC) for the worship of
5 God and the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ, we, the members of Christ Family Church,
6 do hereby organize ourselves and adopt this Constitution as our articles of governance, to
7 be interpreted at all times to reflect the character of and to bring glory to Jesus Christ, as
8 revealed in the Holy Bible and articulated in the Statement of Faith and Covenant of this
9 church.

10
11 ARTICLE I - NAME

12
13 This Corporation shall be known as Christ Family Church Oakwood, Inc. This corporation is
14 organized as a church exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes within
15 the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the
16 corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue Law), and is also organized
17 pursuant to the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Laws.

18
19
20 ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

21
22 Christ Family Church exists to glorify God by experiencing, proclaiming, and displaying the
23 supremacy of Jesus Christ in all things to all peoples.

24
25
26 ARTICLE III - AFFILIATIONS

27 **Section 1.**

28
29 CFC maintains the right to govern its own affairs in accordance with Scripture and is
30 independent of any denominational control. Recognizing, however, the benefits of
31 cooperation with other churches and world missions, CFC voluntarily affiliates with the
32 Southern Baptist Convention, the Chattahoochee Baptist Association, and the Christ Family
33 Collective. Historical theological convictions and voluntary contributions to doctrinally
34 approved missions maintain these affiliations. These affiliations may also be supported by
35 sending messengers to annual conventions for voting the doctrinal, ethical, and procedural
36 positions that are representative of CFC. It is our desire to support those ministries, which
37 the Church believes are doctrinally, morally, and ethically sound for the purpose of
38 accomplishing common endeavors as a means of expressing love and unity. Our affiliations,
39 however, do not in any way hinder us from associating ourselves with any other groups of
40 churches or mission endeavors. The extent of support of any organization shall be/is
41 voluntary.

ARTICLE IV - STATEMENT OF FAITH

I. Of the Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men, divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction (1); that it has God for its author, salvation for its end (2), and truth without any mixture of error for its matter (3); that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us (4); and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union (5), and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried (6).

II. Of The True God

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is JEHOVAH, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and earth (7); inexpressibly glorious in holiness (8), and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love (9); that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (10); equal in every divine perfection (11), and executing distinct and harmonious offices in the great work of redemption (12).

III. Of The Fall Of Man

We believe that man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker (13); but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state (14); in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners (15), not by constraint, but choice (16); being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin (17), without defense or excuse (18).

IV. Of The Way Of Salvation

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace (19), through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God (20); who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon him our nature, yet without sin (21); honored the divine law by His personal obedience (22), and by His death made a full atonement for our sins (23); that having risen from the death, he is now enthroned in heaven (24); and, uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, he is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all- sufficient Savior (25).

V. Of Justification

We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ (26) secures to such as believe in him is justification (27); that justification includes the pardon of sin (28), and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness (29); that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood (30); by virtue of which faith His perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God (31); that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity (32).

VI. Of The Freeness Of Salvation

We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel (33); that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent, and obedient faith (34); and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel (35); which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation (36).

1 **VII. Of Grace In Regeneration**

2 We believe that, in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again (37); that
3 regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind (38); that it is effected in a
4 manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with divine
5 truth (39), so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel (40); and that its proper
6 evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, and faith, and newness of life (41).
7

8 **VIII. Of Repentance And Faith**

9 We believe that repentance and faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces,
10 wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God (42); whereby being deeply
11 convinced of our guilt, danger, and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ (43),
12 we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy (44); at
13 the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest, and King, and
14 relying on him alone as the only and all sufficient Savior (45).
15

16 **IX. Of God's Purpose Of Grace**

17 We believe that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which he graciously
18 regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners (46); that being perfectly consistent with the free
19 agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end (47); that it is a
20 most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy, and
21 unchangeable (48); that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, love, prayer,
22 praise, trust in God, and active imitation of His free mercy (49); that it encourages the use of
23 means in the highest degree (50); that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly
24 believe the gospel (51); that it is the foundation of Christian assurance (52); and that to
25 ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence (53).
26

27 **X. Of Sanctification**

28 We believe that sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are
29 made partakers of His holiness (54); that it is a progressive work (55); that it is begun in
30 regeneration (56); and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and
31 power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed
32 means--especially the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer
33 (57).
34

35 **XI. Of The Perseverance Of Saints**

36 We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end (58); that their
37 persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from
38 superficial professors (59); that a special Providence watches over their welfare (60); and
39 they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation (61).
40

41 **XII. Of The Harmony Of The Law And The Gospel**

42 We believe that the Law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral
43 government (62); that it is holy, just, and good (63); and that the inability which the
44 Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts arises entirely from their love of sin
45 (64); to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned
46 obedience to the holy Law, is one great end of the gospel, and of the means of grace
47 connected with the establishment of the visible Church (65).
48
49
50

1 **XIII. Of A Gospel Church**

2 We believe that a visible Church of Christ is a congregation of believers (66), associated by
3 covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel (67); observing the ordinances of Christ
4 (68); governed by His laws (69), and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in
5 them by His Word (70); that its only scriptural officers are Elders, or Pastors, and Deacons
6 (71), whose qualifications, claims, and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and
7 Titus.

8
9 **XIV. Of Baptism And The Lord's Supper**

10 We believe that Christian Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer (72), into the
11 name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Spirit (73); to show forth, in a solemn and beautiful
12 emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin
13 and resurrection to a new life (74); that it is important to a Church relation; and to the
14 Lord's Supper (75), in which the members of the Church are to commemorate together the
15 dying love of Christ (76); preceded always by solemn self- examination (77).

16
17 **XV. Of The Christian Sabbath**

18 We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath; and, as
19 circumstance permits along with a guidance of conscience, it is to be kept sacred to religious
20 purposes by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public; and
21 by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God (97).

22
23 **XVI. Of The Family**

24 We believe that marriage is the lifelong uniting of one man and one woman in covenant
25 commitment; that the husband and wife are of equal worth before God, being both created
26 in the image of God and, in equal measure (78), dependent on His grace; and that marriage
27 is God's unique revelation of the union between Christ and His church (79). As such, a
28 husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church, to provide for, protect, and pastor his
29 family, following Christ's example of leadership as He shepherds the church (80); a wife is
30 to submit herself, by the grace given her, to her husband's leadership, even as the church
31 willingly submits to the headship of Christ (81). Children are to honor and obey their
32 parents, as is pleasing to the Lord (82).

33
34 **XVII. Of Civil Government**

35 We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good order
36 of human society (84); and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored
37 and obeyed (85); except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ (86) who
38 is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth (87).

39
40 **XVIII. Of The Righteous And The Wicked**

41 We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the
42 wicked (88); that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and
43 sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem (89); while all such as
44 continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse (90); and
45 this distinction holds among men both in and after death (91).

46
47 **XIX. Of The World To Come**

48 We believe that the end of the world is approaching (92); that at the last day Christ will
49 descend from heaven (93), and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution (94); that a
50 solemn separation will then take place (95); that the wicked will be adjudged to endless

1 punishment, and the righteous to endless joy (96); and that this judgment will fix forever
2 the final state of men on principles of righteousness.

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22 3:16; Revelation 1:10.
23
24

ARTICLE V - DISTINCTIVES

Missional

We focus our times together on building up believers and encouraging one another to take the Good News of salvation into the community, region, and world.

InterGenerational

We place high value on the health of families, and believe that husbands are to be the spiritual leaders of their households; our corporate meetings are multi-generational to allow and encourage families to function and grow together according to this model.

Covenant Membership

Covenant membership involves all members' commitment to be subject to one another for the sake of the integrity and spiritual growth of the Church. It is both a solemn and joyful matter—a deep agreement between regenerated believers that welcomes discipline for the sake of the greater good of sanctification.

Expositional Preaching

Since “all Scripture is inspired by God, useful for teaching...”, we, in our corporate presentation of Bible texts, will deal exegetically with each passage, taking as our main point for the sermon the main point of the text and attending to each issue presented in the main Bible text.

Plurality Leadership

Elders/Pastors and Deacons are the scripturally mandated positions of leadership in the Church. Qualified leaders act as arbiters of the democratically selected goals and values of

1 the body; thus, the church is led by the Spirit, guided by multiple elders/pastors, and
2 assisted by deacons.

3 4 **Gospel-Centered Counseling**

5 We acknowledge the Bible as the chief authority on healthy, fulfilled living. As such, pastoral
6 counseling is first and foremost the application of Biblical truth to guide us through our
7 struggles.

8 9 10 ARTICLE VI - ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

11
12 We teach that the Holy Spirit is a divine Person, eternal, underived, possessing all the
13 attributes of personality and deity, including intellect (1 Corinthians 2:10-13), emotions
14 (Ephesians 4:30), will (1 Corinthians 12:11), eternity (Hebrews 9:14), omnipresence
15 (Psalm 139:7-10), omniscience (Isaiah 40:13-14), omnipotence (Romans 15:13), and
16 truthfulness (John 16:13). In all the divine attributes He is coequal and consubstantial with
17 the Father and the Son (Matthew 28:19; Acts 5:3-4; 28:25-26; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; 2
18 Corinthians 13:14; Jeremiah 31:31-34 with Hebrews 10:15-17).

19 We teach that it is the work of the Holy Spirit to execute the divine will with relation to all
20 mankind. We recognize His sovereign activity in creation (Genesis 1:2), the incarnation
21 (Matthew 1:18), the written revelation (2 Peter 1:20-21), and the work of salvation (John
22 3:5-7).

23 We teach that the work of the Holy Spirit in this age began at Pentecost, when He came from
24 the Father as promised by Christ (John 14:16-17; 15:26) to initiate and complete the
25 building of the Body of Christ, which is His church (1 Corinthians 12:13). The broad scope of
26 His divine activity includes convicting the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment;
27 glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ and transforming believers into the image of Christ (John
28 16:7-9; Acts 1:5; 2:4; Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 2:22).

29 We teach that the Holy Spirit is the supernatural and sovereign Agent in regeneration,
30 baptizing all believers into the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13). The Holy Spirit also
31 indwells, sanctifies, instructs, empowers them for service, and seals them unto the day of
32 redemption (Romans 8:9; 2 Corinthians 3:6; Ephesians 1:13).

33 We teach that the Holy Spirit is the divine Teacher, who guided the apostles and prophets
34 into all truth as they committed to writing God's revelation, the Bible (2 Peter 1:19-21).
35 Every believer possesses the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit from the moment of
36 salvation, and it is the duty of all those born of the Spirit to be filled with (controlled by) the
37 Spirit (John 16:13; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 5:18; 1 John 2:20, 27).

38 We teach that the Holy Spirit administers spiritual gifts to the church. The Holy Spirit
39 glorifies neither Himself nor His gifts by ostentatious displays, but He does glorify Christ by
40 implementing His work of redeeming the lost and building up believers in the most holy
41 faith (John 16:13-14; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 2 Corinthians 3:18).

42 We teach, in this respect, that God the Holy Spirit is sovereign in the bestowing of all His
43 gifts for the perfecting of the saints today, and that speaking in tongues and the working of
44 sign miracles in the beginning days of the church were for the purpose of pointing to and
45 authenticating the apostles as revealers of divine truth, and were never intended to be
46 characteristic of the lives of believers (1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 13:8-10; 2 Corinthians 12:12;

1 Ephesians 4:7-12; Hebrews 2:1-4). (This article is adapted from Grace Community Church,
2 Sun Valley CA).

3
4
5 ARTICLE VII - CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

6
7 **Section 1. Corporate Members**

8
9 The Corporation shall have no members. Any action which would otherwise require
10 approval by a majority of all members shall only require approval of the Board of Directors.
11 All rights which would be otherwise vest in the members shall be vest in the Board of
12 Directors.

13
14 **Section 2. Members of the Church**

15
16 Nothing contained in Section 1 of this Article shall be construed to limit the right of the
17 Corporation to refer to persons associated with the Corporation as ‘church members’ even
18 though such persons are not members of the Corporation, and no such reference in or
19 outside of these Bylaws shall constitute anyone being a member, within the meaning of
20 Article 6 of Chapter 3 of Title 14 of the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Law.

21
22
23 ARTICLE VIII - MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

24
25 “Having, as we trust, been brought by Divine Grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus
26 Christ and to give up ourselves to Him, and having been baptized upon our profession of
27 faith, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, relying on
28 His gracious aid, solemnly and joyfully enter in to this covenant with each other.

29
30 We will, individually and mutually, pursue Christian maturity in the Lord Jesus Christ
31 through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship and practice of other spiritual disciplines.

32
33 We will work and pray for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, and we will submit to
34 the leadership of the church, and to the authority of the Scriptures as the final arbiter on all
35 issues.

36
37 We will walk together in brotherly love, as becomes the members of a Christian church;
38 exercise an affectionate care and watchfulness over each other and faithfully admonish and
39 entreat one another as occasion may require.

40
41 We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together nor neglect to pray for others and
42 ourselves, therefore; we will regularly participate in the life of CFC by participating in
43 congregational meetings, engaging in a community group and small group discipleship, and
44 serving those within and outside of this church.

45
46 We will endeavor to bring up such as may at anytime be under our care, in the nurture and
47 admonition of the Lord, and, by a pure and loving example, to seek the salvation of our
48 family and friends.

1 We will rejoice at each other's happiness and endeavor, with tenderness and sympathy, to
2 bear each other's burdens and sorrows.

3
4 We will seek to live carefully in the world, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, and, to
5 walk in holiness in all areas of life as an act of worship to Jesus Christ.

6
7 As an individual, I will practice complete chastity unless married and, if married, complete
8 fidelity within heterosexual and monogamous marriage. Complete chastity and fidelity
9 means, among other things, that regardless of my marital status, I will pursue purity and
10 abstain from sexually immoral practices such as adultery, homosexuality, premarital sex,
11 and pornography.

12
13 As an individual, when I sin; I will confess my sin to God and to fellow believers, repent, and
14 when needed, will seek help/counsel from the church.

15
16 We will work together for the continuance of a faithful evangelical ministry in this church,
17 as we sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines. We will contribute
18 cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief
19 of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

20
21 We will protect Christ Family Church and, by association, the Gospel of Jesus Christ; by
22 giving due attention in the admittance of new members by examining them for signs of a
23 true work of grace in their lives, and bringing any concerns of a lack thereof to the Elders of
24 CFC.

25
26 We will, when we move from this place, as soon as possible unite with some other church
27 where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

28
29 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy
30 Spirit be with us all. Amen."

31
32 I affirm the Christ Family Church Statement of Faith of 2016.

33
34 I desire to be a member of Christ Family Church

35
36 I affirm the Christ Family Church Membership Covenant and accept the responsibilities
37 therein and will fulfill them by the Lord's grace, for His name's sake, and for the good of His
38 Church.

39 40 41 ARTICLE IX - CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

42 43 **Section 1. Qualifications**

44
45 To qualify for membership in this church, a person must be a believer in Jesus Christ who
46 gives evidence of regeneration, who has been baptized, in obedience to Christ, following his
47 or her regeneration, and who wholeheartedly believes in the Christian faith as revealed in
48 the Bible. Each member must agree to submit to the teaching of scripture as expressed in
49 the Statement of Faith and must promise to keep the commitments expressed in the

1 Membership Covenant. The Elders shall ultimately be responsible for determining each
2 person's qualification for membership but that responsibility shall also be extended to the
3 active Members of CFC in accordance with the Membership Covenant. CFC will pay careful
4 attention in the admission of new members, that there be a clear work of grace in the life of
5 a prospective new member.
6

7 **Section 2. Becoming a Member**

8

- 9 a) A person desiring membership in Christ Family Church should first advise an Elder of
10 his/her desire to become a member.
11 i. No one shall automatically/necessarily become a member by mere
12 transfer of letter or statement, and those desiring to transfer who have a
13 letter or statement, must still go through the new member requirements.
14 However, members in good standing of a Christ Family Collective church
15 may go through an abridged version of the membership process as
16 determined by the Elders.
17 ii. No one shall become a member of this church who is under the
18 discipline of another congregation until such matters are resolved.
- 19 b) Once an Elder is advised of a person's desire to become a member, an Elder shall hand
20 the prospective member a Membership Application Packet.
21 i. Said packet shall be composed of:
22 1. A printed copy of the CFC Constitution & Bylaws
23 2. A bio and info sheet to be filled out and turned in
- 24 c) At the earliest convenience of the Eldership, the prospective member will be advised of
25 a date when the CFC101 Prospective Membership Class will be held.
26 i. The prospective member will be advised to prepare for the class by
27 reading through and becoming as familiar with the Constitution &
28 Bylaws as they can.
29 1. Of primary importance, the prospective member should study
30 through the Statement of Faith, the Church Covenant, and the
31 Church Membership process.
32 i. As a prerequisite to membership, each applicant
33 shall assent to the Statement of Faith and
34 subscribe to the Constitution & Bylaws
- 35 d) Only after satisfactorily completing the requirements prescribed in Section 1, and
36 subsections a, b, and c of Section 2 of Article VI, at the earliest convenience of the
37 prospective member, in agreement with the Pastor for Preaching & Teaching, the
38 prospective member shall present themselves before a number of the Membership of
39 CFC to share their testimony and understanding of the gospel.
40 i. The "number of the Membership" shall be equal to or greater than 75%
41 of the Membership at the time.
42 ii. The gathering for the purpose of this subsection may be held in any
43 setting as long as the "number of the Membership" requirements are met.
44 iii. Members may ask questions in an examining fashion to help determine
45 whether or not a true work of grace is evident in the life of the
46 prospective member, however, every such event should be treated as a
47 time of encouragement in hearing the Lord's work in the lives of others.
48 Any concerns pertaining to a person's testimony should be brought to
49 the attention of an Elder.

- 1 e) It is the desire of CFC that no prospective member, who meets all other qualifications
2 for membership otherwise, be prevented from becoming a member due to an
3 uncontrollable or unmanageable fear of speaking in front of people which would
4 prevent them from completing subsection (d) of this article. Therefore, such a person
5 who cannot, honestly and in good faith, bring themselves to share their testimony
6 verbally in front of a number of the membership, shall:
7 i. Type out their full testimony and email it to an Elder
8 1. The Elders shall then email out the testimony to 100% of the
9 Membership
10 2. All Members shall then have two weeks from the date of receipt
11 to read and inspect said testimony and return the testimony to
12 an Elder, printed or emailed; affirming that they have read it
13 completely, and attach any questions or concerns that they have.
14 3. Upon receiving at least 75% returns, an Elder shall then schedule
15 a one to one meeting with the prospective member, where the
16 prospective member shall verbally share their testimony and be
17 examined for a work of grace in their lives by the Elder. In the
18 case that the prospective member is a female, this meeting shall
19 be conducted by an Elder and his prospective wife.
- 20 f) Once all requirements have been met, an email with the name of the prospective
21 member shall be sent out by the Pastor for Preaching & Teaching to the membership for
22 a vote.
23 i. The email shall clearly state that the prospective member has met all the
24 pre-requisites for membership
25 ii. The members receiving the email shall reply within a week with a vote
26 of yes (accept as a new member) or no (do not accept as a new member).
27 1. Any member voting no shall, along with that reply, give a full and
28 detailed explanation as to why they do not believe the person
29 should be accepted as a member.
30 iii. A unanimous vote of the active membership shall be required for
31 acceptance of a new member.
32 iv. If a prospective member is not accepted by a unanimous vote, the
33 prospective member will be advised of the results and be allowed to re-
34 apply for membership after a period of three months.
35 1. Any prospective member re-applying according to this
36 subsection, shall be required to go through all the steps of the
37 Membership process, or as determined by an Elder.
- 38 g) A prospective member who is accepted by the voting process as a new member shall be
39 introduced as such at the next Sunday morning gathering of the church. The new
40 member, or an Elder, will be asked to read the Membership Covenant to the
41 congregation, and the new member shall verbally affirm the last three personal
42 affirmations in the Membership Covenant and sign/date said covenant.
43 1. Once the covenant is signed, the prospective member shall be
44 thenceforth considered a member.
45

46 **Section 3. Member's Directory**

47
48 An up to date directory of all the members shall be kept by the Pastor for Preaching &
49 Teaching or his designee and distributed to all the members.

- 50 a) The Directory will be kept in any format as agreeable to the Elders.

- b) The Directory will be re-distributed to all the active members each time it is updated.
 - i. The Directory shall be updated after every time a new member is added or removed from the membership, or a member's information has changed.
- c) The Directory shall include the following:
 - i. Name, phone number, email, and picture of each member.

Section 4. Meetings of the Membership

- a) Meetings shall be held each Lord's Day, and may also be held throughout the week as the church determines.
- b) There shall be a regular members' business meeting at least every quarter, at some time apart from the Sunday morning service, and at a time acceptable to the membership. The Elders shall see that the stated meetings of the church are regularly held and that responsible members submit the required reports and documentation to the church.
- c) Special members' business meetings may be called as requested by the Elders, or at the written request, submitted to the Elders, of ten percent of the membership. In the event of a written request from the members, the Elders shall call a special meeting to be held within one month of their receipt of the request.
- d) There shall be an annual members' business meeting, at which a budget shall be approved by the membership no more than three nor less than one month prior to the start of the fiscal year. The fiscal year will commence on January 1.
- e) An Elder shall preside as moderator at all members' meetings of the church. The date, time, and purpose of any regular or special meeting shall be announced in at least two public services of the church preceding the meeting. Provided all constitutional provisions for notification have been met, a quorum shall be understood to be met by those members present.
- f) Any Elder, after unanimous agreement with all the Elders, may call for an emergency meeting of the membership body for the purpose of calling for a vote on an urgent matter. Said meeting shall be called, by minimum requirement; by sending an email to the entire membership body which details the location, time, date, and purpose for the meeting. The meeting shall be held no earlier than three hours from the time the email is sent. A quorum shall be understood to be met by those members present at the time of the emergency meeting.
- g) Meetings shall be conducted according to Democratic Rules of Order. On any matter that is brought to vote, a two-thirds vote, hereafter considered a "majority vote," is needed for it to pass (unless this constitution specifies otherwise). Abstentions will not be considered as votes cast. Only votes cast by members present at the time of the meeting will be counted.
- h) Resolutions adopted by the Elders shall be reported to the church at members' meetings and may be reversed by the church by a majority vote of the members present.

Section 5. Non-Disciplinary Removal from Active Membership

Dismissal or removal from the membership of CFC shall be made, by the Elders and after due counsel, for the following reasons:

- a) Transfer of Letter- Any member in good standing may request that a letter of membership be transferred to another fellowship of like faith and practice. No letter will be granted for one who is under the corrective discipline of this church until such matters are

1 resolved. No letter will be granted for a member who wishes to transfer to another church
2 which, based on the judgment of the Elders, is not loyal to Christ and His Word.

3 b) Non-Letter Transfer- Any member who unites with another church without request for a
4 letter of recommendation will be dropped from the membership after counsel with both the
5 individual and with the receiving church (if it is possible for this counsel to occur).

6 c) Physical Death- When a member dies his/her name will be removed from the
7 membership roll.

8 9 **Section 6. Reapplication for Membership**

10
11 If a former member chooses to apply for membership, and they previously left the church in
12 good standing and have been faithful in their present church, then they shall not be required
13 to go through the steps set forth in Section 2, subsections a-e, of this Article. They will,
14 however, be required to meet with an Elder in order to be updated and instructed as to the
15 doctrine, policy, and direction of the church. Steps f-g will still be required prior to re-
16 instatement of former membership.

17 18 19 ARTICLE X - ON CHURCH DISCIPLINE

20 21 **Section 1.**

22
23 Any member consistently neglectful of his or her duties or guilty of conduct by which the
24 name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be dishonored, and so opposing the welfare of the church,
25 shall be subject to the admonition of the Elders and the discipline of the church, according
26 to the instructions of our Lord in Matthew 18: 15-17 and the example of scripture.

27 a) Church discipline, then, should ordinarily be contemplated after individual private
28 admonition has failed. Church discipline can include admonition by the Elders or
29 congregation, suspension from communion for a definite period, deposition from office,
30 and excommunication (see Matthew 18: 15-17; 2 Thessalonians 3: 14-15; 1 Timothy 5:
31 19-20; 1 Corinthians 5: 4-5).

32 i. The purpose of such discipline should be for the repentance,
33 reconciliation, and spiritual growth of the individual disciplined (see
34 Proverbs 15: 5; 29: 15; I Corinthians 4: 14; Ephesians 6: 4; I Timothy 3:
35 4-5; Hebrews 12: 1-11; Psalm 119: 115; 141: 5; Proverbs 17: 10; 25: 12;
36 27: 5; Ecclesiastes 7: 5; Matthew 7: 26-27; 18: 15-17; Luke 17: 3; Acts 2:
37 40; I Corinthians 5: 5; Galatians 6: 1-5; II Thessalonians 3: 6, 14-15; I
38 Timothy 1: 20; Titus 1:13-14; James 1: 22);

39 ii. For the instruction in righteousness and good of other Christians, as an
40 example to them (see Proverbs 13: 20; Romans 15: 14; I Corinthians 5:
41 11; 15: 33; Colossians 3: 16; I Thessalonians 5: 14 [note this is written to
42 the whole church, not just to leaders]; I Timothy 5: 20; Titus 1: 11;
43 Hebrews 10: 24-25);

44 iii. For the purity of the church as a whole (see I Corinthians 5: 6-7; II
45 Corinthians 13: 10; Ephesians 5: 27; II John 10; Jude 24; Revelation 21:
46 2);

47 iv. For the good of our corporate witness to non-Christians (see Proverbs
48 28: 7; Matthew 5: 13-16; John 13: 35; Acts 5: 1-14; Ephesians 5: 11; I
49 Timothy 3: 7; II Peter 2: 2; I John 3: 10); and

- 1 v. Supremely for the glory of God by reflecting His holy character (see
2 Deuteronomy 5: 11; I Kings 11: 2; II Chronicles 19: 2; Ezra 6: 21;
3 Nehemiah 9: 2; Isaiah 52: 11; Ezekiel 36: 20; Matthew 5: 16; John 15: 8;
4 18: 17, 25; Romans 2: 24; 15: 5-6; II Corinthians 6: 14-7: 1; Ephesians
5 1:4; 5: 27; I Peter 2: 12).

6 7 **Section 2. Disciplinary Removal from Membership**

8
9 A person may be dropped from the membership for any of the following reasons under an
10 action of Church Discipline:

11 a) Inactivity/Inappropriate Absenteeism

- 12 i. It is the responsibility of each church member to be faithful in
13 attendance and participation in the meetings and ministries of the
14 congregation, unless hindered by illness or other providential
15 circumstances. To be lax or indifferent toward faithful participation in
16 church life will indicate a need for admonition (Hebrews 10:24-25).
17 ii. It is the responsibility of the Elders to oversee member's regularity of
18 participation and to examine the possible reasons for inactivity. If
19 inactivity is consistent without adequate reason, the Elders shall seek to
20 reclaim to fellowship those who have absented themselves. The other
21 members of the church will also seek to restore the inactive one to active
22 participation in the church. If there is not an appropriate response from
23 the individual, then the Elders, after prayer and counsel, will ultimately
24 remove that person from official membership
25 iii. A member of this church who, willfully and without plausible
26 reason, demonstrates a lack of commitment to the attendance of the
27 services of CFC for a period of three months shall be removed from the
28 membership. Notice will be given to the individual and to the church of
29 such action. The Elders will give oversight to this process and determine
30 what constitutes lack of faithfulness regarding church membership. If
31 there is renewed commitment to faithful church attendance then, after
32 counsel, the former member shall be returned to active membership in
33 accordance with the membership guidelines.

34 b) Continuous Sinful Conduct and/or Erroneous Teaching When a member continues to
35 knowingly ignore the doctrines of Scripture in daily walk or teaching, so that his/her life or
36 erroneous teaching hinders the peace of the church or its testimony, the Elders may
37 recommend the withdrawal of fellowship and/or termination of membership of the
38 offending member. This shall be done following the guidelines in Matthew 18:15-20; I
39 Corinthians 5:3-5,13, and other relevant passages of Scripture. The Elders will communicate
40 such a decision to the congregation.

41 42 43 **Section 3. Restoration to Church Membership**

44
45 The goal of all discipline is a holy walk under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and obedience to
46 His Word. The right to exclude persons or the withdrawal of fellowship is in harmony with
47 the teachings of the Bible and is balanced by the call to restore such persons who have given
48 satisfactory evidence of repentance (II Corinthians 2:6-11). When a person gives such
49 evidence, the Elders shall notify the congregation that the person has been restored to full
50 fellowship.

ARTICLE XI - ON MARRIAGE

Section 1.

Christ Family Church will sanction or authorize official participation only in Christian marriages, as opposed to civil marriage ceremonies found and available throughout society. As is clear in Holy Scripture, and in the traditional covenants and statements of our faith, the Lord God designed marriage to be the union of one man and one woman for life. Our sincerely held faith convicts us that Christian marriage is intended for a man and a woman to glorify God together in reflecting the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world through the marriage relationship and to provide an example of faithful obedience as the man and the woman seek to follow God’s will together in covenant relationship.

Section 2.

Consistent with the Creator’s design and purpose of marriage, only those proposed marriage ceremonies which could be considered Christian marriages consistent with His revealed design and purpose will be sanctioned by CFC.

Section 3.

Elders and other officers of CFC will not be authorized to perform or officiate any marriage or civil union ceremony of any nature other than those recognized under this Article to be a Christian marriage.

Section 4.

No facility or property owned by (or under lease by) this body may be utilized for any non-Christian marriage or for any marriage or union ceremony where all parties involved are non-members of CFC.

ARTICLE XII - CORPORATE OFFICERS

Section 1.

In compliance with the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Laws, Christ Family Church shall have a Board of Directors (hereto also referred to as, The Board of Elders). The Board of Directors shall be the legal representatives of the corporation. All property of the church or corporation, both real and personal, is vested in the congregation, but is held in the name of the corporation. All transfers of titles, signature of notes, mortgages, deeds and all legal papers of every character to the signed on behalf of the corporation, shall be executed by the Board of Directors and shall be signed by the CEO and as many directors as required. No notes, deed or mortgages of any character shall be signed by anyone, on behalf of the corporation, until such action has been properly authorized and approved by the Board. No contract of purchase or sale of the real property of the corporation shall be binding unless duly authorized by the Board in accordance with the Bylaws.

1 **Section 2. The Board of Directors**
2

3 For purposes of the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Laws, the Elders of the Church shall be
4 considered the directors who constitute the Board of Directors (Board of Elders). Since we
5 affirm that the Biblical model for church leadership is that of a Congregationalist polity led
6 by a plurality of qualified, called, men; the corporate titles used in this article should be
7 understood as used for the purpose of compliance with the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation
8 Laws only, and not misconstrued as the church’s polity.
9

10 **Section 3. Officers**

11
12 The Corporate Officers shall be a Chief Executive Officer (CEO), a Chief Operations Officer
13 (COO), and a Chief Financial Officer (CFO).
14

15 **Section 4. The CEO**

16
17 The Pastor for Preaching & Teaching shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation
18 and shall, subject to the control of the Board of Elders, have general supervision, direction,
19 and control of the activities and officers of Christ Family Church. He shall preside at all
20 meetings of the Board of Elders, which are to be conducted according to the scriptural
21 principles such as set forth in Philippians 2:2–8. He shall be an ex officio member of all the
22 standing committees, if any, and shall have powers and duties as may be prescribed by the
23 Board of Elders or the Bylaws.
24

25 **Section 5. The COO**

26
27 The Chief Operating Officer (aka Secretary) shall keep, or cause to be kept, a book of
28 minutes at the principal office, or such other place as the Board of Elders may order, of all
29 meetings of church members, the Board and its committees, with the time and place of
30 holding, whether regular or special, and if special, how authorized, the notice thereof given,
31 the names of those present at the meetings, the Board and committees’ meetings, and the
32 proceedings thereof. The COO shall keep, or cause to be kept, at the principal office in the
33 State of Georgia the original and a copy of the Corporation’s Articles and Bylaws, as
34 amended to date. The COO shall give, or cause to be given, notice of all meetings of the
35 Board and any committees thereof required by these Bylaws or by law to be given, shall
36 keep the seal of the Corporation, if any, in safe custody, and shall have such other powers
37 and perform such other duties as prescribed by the Board. The COO shall keep, or cause to
38 be kept at the principal office of the Corporation, a church membership register, or a
39 duplicated membership register, showing the names of church members and their
40 addresses.
41

42 **Section 6. The CFO**

43
44 The CFO shall ensure the stewardship of the physical and financial resources of the
45 Corporation, “taking precaution that no one should discredit us in our administration...for
46 we have regard for what is honorable, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight
47 of men” (2 Corinthians 8:20–21). He may select “[people] of good reputation, full of the
48 Spirit and of wisdom” (Acts 6:3) to implement and accomplish this responsibility. The CFO
49 shall ensure that all financial activities and transactions are consistent with any and all
50 Articles of these Bylaws as well as all sections of the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Law.

1 The CFO shall keep and maintain, or cause to be kept and maintained, adequate and correct
2 accounts of the properties and business transactions of the Corporation. The books of
3 account shall at all reasonable times be open to inspection by any Elder as provided in the
4 Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Law. The CFO shall deposit, or cause to be deposited, all
5 monies and other valuables in the name and to the credit of the Corporation with such
6 depositories as may be designated by the Board of Elders. He shall disburse, or cause to be
7 disbursed, the funds of the Corporation as may be ordered by the Board of Elders, shall
8 render, or cause to be rendered, to the CEO and the Elders, whenever they request it, an
9 account of all the transactions and of the financial condition of the Corporation, and shall
10 have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board
11 of Elders. He shall make, or cause to be made, the financial reports at each regular Board
12 meeting and at any meetings of church members where such financial reports are to be
13 provided.

14 **Section 7. Elections**

15
16 The officers of the Corporation shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Elders. Each
17 officer shall hold his office until he shall resign, be removed, or become otherwise
18 disqualified to serve.

- 19 a) The COO and CFO shall be those who are named as such in the Articles of Incorporation
20 and shall hold their office until they resign, are removed, or become otherwise
21 disqualified to serve.
22

23 **Section 8. Removal and Resignation**

24
25 Any officer may be removed upon disqualification and removal as an Elder per Section 3 of
26 Article XIV, of these Bylaws. In accordance with the provisions of O.C.G.A. 14-3-807 of the
27 Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Law, any officer may resign at any time by giving written
28 notice to the Board of Elders, or to the CEO, or to the COO of the Corporation. Any such
29 resignation shall take effect at the date of the receipt of such notice or at any later time
30 specified therein; and, unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such
31 resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.
32
33

34 **ARTICLE XIII - CHURCH OFFICERS**

35 **Section 1.**

36
37 The Biblical offices in the church are Elders and Deacons. In addition, our church recognizes
38 the administrative positions under this constitution of Clerk and Treasurer. All officers must
39 be members of this church prior to assuming their responsibilities.
40

41 **Section 2. Elders**

- 42
43 a) The Elders shall be comprised of not less than three men who satisfy the qualifications
44 for the office of Elder set forth in I Timothy 3: 1-7 and Titus 1: 6-9. No elder shall hold
45 the office of Deacon during his tenure.
46
47 b) Subject to the will of the congregation, the Elders shall oversee the ministry and
48 resources of the church. In keeping with the principles set forth in Acts 6: 1-6 and I
49

1 Peter 5: 1-4, the Elders shall devote their time to prayer, the ministry of the Word (by
2 teaching and encouraging sound doctrine), and shepherding the Church body.
3

- 4 c) The church shall recognize men gifted and willing to serve in this calling in accordance
5 with the constitutional provisions on elections. These men shall be received as gifts of
6 Christ to His Church and set apart as Elders.
7
- 8 d) The quantity of Elders shall be as many as are qualified and needed to carry out the
9 ministry of Elders in the church. The Elder body shall determine that number.
10
- 11 e) The term of office for an Elder shall be as long as he is qualified, capable, and desirous of
12 fulfilling the duties of an Elder.
13
- 14 f) All Elders are Pastors and are equal in authority and rule.
15
- 16 g) Meetings of the Elder body shall be held on a regular basis as determined by the Elders.
17 Any Elder may call special meetings of the Elder body as needed, but all Elders must be
18 informed about the meeting and the subject matter to be discussed in advance. All major
19 decisions require all Elders to be informed and included in the decision whether by
20 physical presence, phone, or submitted letter.
21
- 22 h) The Elders shall take particular responsibility to examine and instruct prospective
23 members, examine and recommend all prospective candidates for offices and positions,
24 oversee the work of the Deacons and appointed church agents and committees, oversee
25 and manage the church's budget, conduct worship services, administer the ordinances
26 of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, equip the membership for the work of the ministry,
27 encourage sound doctrine and practice, admonish and correct error, oversee the
28 process of church discipline, coordinate and promote the ministries of the church, and
29 mobilize the church for world missions. The elders are further to ensure that all who
30 minister the Word, spoken or sung, to the congregation, including guests and outside
31 speakers, share our fundamental convictions.
32
- 33 i) The Elders may establish ministry positions or committees to assist them in fulfilling
34 their responsibilities. The Elders may also propose funding for new paid staff positions.
35 The membership shall approve all candidates to fill the positions of paid Elders. The
36 scope and approval of job descriptions for any staff position shall reside in the hands of
37 those with hiring authority for that position.
38
- 39 j) The Elders shall have primary responsibility for the employment, supervision, and
40 evaluation of staff members. This responsibility may, on a case-by-case basis, be
41 delegated to another staff member.
42
- 43 k) Each year the Elders, after consultation with the deacons, and the membership, shall
44 present to the church an itemized budget. This budget shall be presented for discussion
45 at a specially called budget meeting and called up for a vote at the following members'
46 meeting. No money shall be solicited by or on behalf of the church or any of its
47 ministries without the approval of the Elders.
48

49 **Section 3. Deacons**

50

- 1 a) The office of deacon is described in 1 Tim. 3:8-13 (cf. Acts 6:1-7). The church shall
2 recognize, in accordance with the constitutional provisions on elections, people who are
3 giving of themselves in service to the church, who possess gifts of ministry, and who are
4 called to further service and care for the church's members. The number of deacons
5 shall be determined by the needs of the ministry and the call and qualifications of
6 individuals in the church. These members shall be received as gifts of Christ to His
7 Church and set apart as deacons.
8
- 9 b) Deacons shall advise and assist the elders in any service that shall support and promote
10 the ministry of the Word, new and existing ministries of the church body, and the care of
11 the members of the congregation. The deacons may be organized in the most fitting way
12 to accomplish the mission of the church. Thus, the ministry of deacons may involve
13 several diaconal committees; there is no requirement that the deacons meet as a
14 committee of the whole.
15
- 16 c) The responsibilities of deacons do not include preaching, teaching, or spiritual oversight,
17 which are the responsibilities of the elders, or financial control of the church. Deacons
18 exercise a ministry of service, not a ministry of spiritual leadership. Although they may
19 teach and preach in contexts in which they are not infringing upon the oversight duties
20 of elders (Acts 6-7:53; Titus 2:3), the responsibilities of deacons include the following:
21 i. The ministry of mercy is a particular responsibility of deacons. They
22 shall see that the sick, the sorrowing, the aged, and the infirm receive
23 comfort.
24 ii. Deacons shall attend to the accommodations for public worship.
25 iii. Deacons shall attend to the normal care and maintenance of church
26 properties.
27 iv. Deacons of finance shall assist in the budget management of the church.
28 v. At the elders' recommendation, the church may recognize deacons to
29 serve in other specific capacities as needs arise in the church.
30

31 **Section 4 . Ordination, Licensing, and Commissioning**

32

- 33 a) Ordination refers to the unanimous recognition by the Church Membership of a man's
34 call to the ministry, preparation as a shepherd, and qualification to serve. Ordination
35 shall be conferred for life, so long as the man continues to manifest the qualifications of
36 the office. A formal ordination service shall occur at the soonest Lord's Day possible for
37 the newly-installed officer(s), at which time the new officer(s) shall be set apart by
38 prayer and the laying on of hands as seen in the example in Acts 14:23.
39
- 40 b) Licensing shall be a term synonymous with Ordination. Its aim is to allow a man to
41 perform the ecclesiastical duties and functions of the church.
42
- 43 c) When local-church certification is required for ministry or where ordination would
44 otherwise be unnecessary or inappropriate, a person may be commissioned by the
45 Elders to minister. This commissioning continues as long as the opportunity to minister
46 remains in effect and as long as the person maintains the qualifications for ministry, or
47 until the Elders in its sole discretion revokes the commissioning.
48

49 **Section 5. Elder's Covenant**

50

1 “Having, as I trust, been brought by Divine Grace to repent of my sins and believe in the
2 Lord Jesus Christ and to surrender myself to Him, having been baptized upon my profession
3 of faith in Jesus Christ, and having a God-given aspiration to serve the church as an elder,
4 relying on His gracious aid and upon my calling to this office by this local church, I do
5 solemnly and joyfully enter into this covenant with the members of Christ Family Church:
6

7 As a leader of Christ Family Church, to be an exemplary church member in accordance with
8 the Christ Family Church Membership Covenant.
9

10 Recognizing that the task of shepherding God’s people is both a great privilege and a serious
11 responsibility which will yield for me a stricter judgment, to always live a life above
12 reproach and to discipline myself unto maturity of the faith lest after preaching to others, I
13 myself should become disqualified.
14

15 As a teacher of the Faith and a leader in this local congregation, to hold firmly to the
16 unshakable truth of the Holy Scriptures and be ever-increasing in my Biblical knowledge, so
17 that I may encourage others with sound doctrine and lovingly refute those who oppose it.
18

19 To remain, as I am now, a one-woman man.
20

21 To manage my household well, as pleases the Lord, by spiritually strengthening and leading
22 my family, never earning a reputation of being quarrelsome, violent, a lover of money, or a
23 drunkard, but to be known for being gentle and self-controlled in all things.
24

25 To model with my leadership the very character of Christ, never lording over those
26 entrusted to me, but leading as a humble servant.
27

28 To pray regularly for the members of Christ Family Church and regard the ministry of the
29 Word and of prayer to be my primary responsibilities to the body.
30

31 Submitting myself to my fellow Elders for accountability, to exercise with them an
32 affectionate care and watchfulness over one another, striving always to maintain unity,
33 peace, and love among us.
34

35 To be hospitable and to maintain a good reputation with those outside the church while
36 living in such a way that by my conduct at home, at work, and in the community, others may
37 be able to discern that I am a follower of Jesus Christ.
38

39 If ever, in my honest estimation, I fail in keeping with the Biblically-mandated requirements
40 for holding the office of Elder, to confess it to my fellow Elders and seek guidance and
41 council for the sake of the health of my soul, the well-being of the church, and the glory of
42 Christ.
43

44 In upholding these covenant promises, may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of
45 God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with me for His own glory. Amen.
46

47 I, the undersigned, affirm the Christ Family Church Statement of Faith of 2016;
48

49 I do humbly desire the office of Elder, and I attest that, by grace, I meet the Biblical
50 requirements for Eldership as set forth in 1 Timothy and Titus; and I promise to abide by

1 the promises contained in the Christ Family Church Eldership Covenant and accept the
2 inherent responsibilities defined therein by the Lord's grace, for His name's sake, and for
3 the good of His Church."
4

5 6 ARTICLE XIV - THE PASTOR FOR PREACHING & TEACHING

7 8 **Section 1.**

- 9
- 10 a) The Pastor for Preaching & Teaching shall be an elder. He shall perform the duties of an
11 elder described in Section 2. of Article XII and shall be recognized by the church for the
12 pastoral ministry of preaching and teaching.
 - 13 b) The Pastor for Preaching & Teaching is the teaching pastor of the church. He is
14 responsible for the equipping, oversight, and spiritual welfare of the entire congregation.
15 As such; he shall arrange for and conduct all public and regular services of the church.
 - 16 c) He shall serve as the chairman, moderator, and spokesman for the elder body to the
17 church. He shall prepare the agenda for the elder meetings as well.
 - 18 d) He shall remain in office an indefinite period of time subject to the following
19 reservations: the Membership reserves the right to dismiss him upon giving him one
20 month's written notice of their intention to dismiss in accordance with Section 3 of
21 Article XIV of these bylaws. The Pastor for Preaching & Teaching must give one month's
22 notice if he intends to resign. The time limit of a Pastor's resignation or dismissal is
23 subject to a lesser time if both he and the church, by mutual agreement, provide
24 otherwise.
25
26
27

28 29 **Section 2. Duties of the Pastor for Preaching & Teaching**

30 The duties and responsibilities of the Pastor for Preaching & Teaching are as follows:

- 31 a) To pray (Acts 6:4).
- 32 b) To prepare for and preach the Word on the Lord's day or cause for said duties to be
33 covered by his designee. (Acts 6:4, I Tim 4:13, Ii Tim 4:2, Titus 1:5).
- 34 c) To see to the proper administration of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.
- 35 d) To protect the church from false doctrine (I Tim 4:16, Titus 1:9).
- 36 e) To see to the administration, oversight, and care of all church staff (Acts 20:34).
- 37 f) To see to the oversight and care of church members.
- 38 g) To lead in the selection of all church staff in accordance with the selection process
39 established in these by-laws.
40
41
42

43 In the absence or incapacity of the Pastor for Preaching & Teaching, other Elders shall
44 assume responsibility for his duties, any of which can be delegated.
45

46 **Section 3. Authority to Delegate**

47 The Pastor for Preaching & Teaching may, at his discretion, delegate any task pertaining to
48 the administration and oversight of the church. Delegation may be done through individuals
49

1 or councils. In the event of the delegation of a task, those individuals or councils shall be
2 directly responsible to the Pastor for Preaching & Teaching, and the Pastor for Preaching &
3 Teaching shall remain responsible for the task. This provision is added with the following
4 tasks in mind, but is not limited to this list.
5

- 6 1) The selection of pastoral and non-pastoral staff.
- 7 2) The creation and oversight of new church programs or ministries.
- 8 3) The review of ongoing and new church program possibilities and ministries.
- 9

10 ARTICLE XV - ELECTION & RELIEF OF OFFICERS

11 **Section 1. Principles**

12 The processes for elections and officer relief shall be interpreted and carried out with the
13 following principles:
14

- 15 a) Substantial prayer, both individually and corporately, should be an integral part of the
16 election/relief process;
- 17 b) Recommendations should proceed with the support of the elders;
- 18 c) All candidates should be treated with the grace, kindness, and honesty appropriate in
19 evaluating fellow members;
- 20 d) The election/relief process shall express that spirit of mutual trust, openness, and loving
21 consideration that is appropriate within the body of our Lord Jesus Christ.
22

23 **Section 2. Election of Officers**

- 24 a) The election of officers shall be held at a members' meeting of the church. Names of
25 nominees to serve as elders or deacons shall be presented by the Elders at a previous
26 members' meeting (providing that previous meeting occurred at least eight weeks
27 prior), and the election shall proceed as directed by the moderating Elder.
- 28 b) The Elders should seek recommendations and involvement from the general
29 membership in the nomination process. Any member with reason to believe that a
30 nominated candidate is unqualified for an office should express such concern to the
31 elders. Members intending to speak in opposition to a candidate should express their
32 objection to the elders as far in advance as possible before the relevant church members'
33 meeting.
- 34 c) The moderator shall declare elected all men receiving a three-fourths majority of all
35 votes cast for the office of Elder. For all other offices, the moderator shall declare elected
36 all persons receiving a two-thirds majority of all votes cast; abstentions will not be
37 considered as votes cast.
- 38 d) The persons elected shall assume their respective offices upon election, unless another
39 date has been specifically designated.
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2 **Section 3. Relief of Officers**
3

- 4 a) An officer may remove his/herself from office at any time, and such action is to be
5 deemed appropriate in all cases when the officer becomes incapable of fulfilling their
6 duties.
7 b) Any case in which Church Discipline of an Officer is necessary shall be treated in
8 accordance to Article IX and the requirements of 1 Timothy 5:19-21.
9 c) Any Officer removed from the membership by a process of Church Discipline, shall be
10 considered removed from their respective appointed office.
11 d) The Membership reserves the right to dismiss any Officer from office after giving a
12 majority vote in the affirmative at any regular or special member's meeting.
13 e) Dismissal of any salaried Officer in which said dismissal is not from a case of Church
14 Discipline in accordance with Article IX, should be given with a month's notice of said
15 dismissal.
16
17

18 **ARTICLE XVI - INDEMNIFICATION**

19
20 **Section 1 – Mandatory Indemnification**
21

22 If a legal claim or criminal allegation is made against a person because he or she is or was an
23 officer, employee, or agent of the church, the church shall provide indemnification against
24 liability and costs incurred in defending against the claim if the elders determine that the
25 person acted (a) in good faith, (b) with the care an ordinarily prudent person in a similar
26 position would exercise under similar circumstances, and (c) in a manner the person
27 reasonably believed to be in the best interest of the church, and the person had no
28 reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful.
29

30 **Section 2 – Permissive Indemnification**
31

32 At the discretion of the elders, the church also may indemnify any person who acted in good
33 faith and reasonably believed that his or her conduct was in the church's best interest and
34 not unlawful.
35

36 **Section 3 – Procedure**
37

38 If a quorum of the elders is not available for an indemnification determination because of
39 the number of elders seeking indemnification, the requisite determination may be made by
40 the membership or by special legal counsel appointed by the membership.
41

42 **ARTICLE XVII - DISPUTE RESOLUTION**
43

44 Believing that the Bible commands Christians to make every effort to live at peace and to
45 resolve disputes with each other in private or within the Christian Church (see, e.g.,
46 Matthew 18: 15–20, I Corinthians 6: 1–8), the church shall require its members to resolve
47 conflict among themselves according to biblically based principles, without reliance on the
48 secular courts. Consistent with its call to peacemaking, the church shall encourage the use of

1 biblically based principles to resolve disputes between itself and those outside the church,
2 whether Christian or pagan and whether individuals or corporate entities.

3
4
5 ARTICLE XVIII - AMENDMENTS
6

7 **Section 1 – Amendments to the Church Constitution & Bylaws**
8

9 Changes to this Church Constitution may be made at any called meeting of the church
10 membership, provided that copies of each amendment have been presented in writing at
11 the previous two public services of the church preceding the meeting. Amendments shall be
12 considered adopted and in immediate effect if and when two-thirds of the members present
13 and voting at the business meeting at which the vote is taken vote in its favor.
14

15
16 ARTICLE XIX - ADOPTION
17

18 This constitution and bylaws shall be considered adopted and in immediate effect if and
19 when two-thirds of the members present and voting at the business meeting at which the
20 vote is taken shall vote in its favor.
21

22 This constitution abolishes, supersedes, and takes the place of any constitution, rules,
23 bylaws, and amendments that preceded it.
24

25 A copy of this constitution and bylaws shall at all times be kept in the church office. All
26 amendments and revisions shall, after passage by the vote of the church, be prepared by a
27 deacon, incorporated in the constitution and bylaws, and made available to church
28 members upon request.
29

30
31
32 ARTICLE XX - DISSOLUTION
33

34 Upon the dissolution of the organization, after paying or adequately providing for the debts
35 and obligations of the corporation, the remaining assets shall be distributed to one or more
36 exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or
37 corresponding section of any future federal tax code, with preference given to another
38 institution or church of like faith and practice. Selection of such purposes or organizations
39 shall be made by, and the funds caused to be distributed by, the Elders. Any such assets not
40 disposed of shall be disposed of by the appropriate courts of the county in which the
41 principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for the purposes or to such
42 organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and
43 operated exclusively for such purposes.
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