



# Acton Faith Bible Church

## Constitution and Bylaws

### Constitution

#### ARTICLE I

#### NAME AND ORGANIZATION

##### Section 1 NAME

The name of this organization shall be Acton Faith Bible Church,  
~~Acton, California.~~

##### Section 2 ORGANIZATION

This church was organized on May 15, 1977.

##### Section 3 INCORPORATION

This church was incorporated under the laws of the State of California on October 17, 1978.

#### ARTICLE II

#### AFFILIATIONS

This church has no direct affiliation with any denominational organization. However, we would enjoy fellowship and cooperation with any organization of like faith and order.

# ARTICLE III

## STATEMENT OF FAITH (DOCTRINAL STATEMENT)

### Section 1 OF THE SCRIPTURES

We believe that the Holy Bible, as contained in the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, is God-breathed Scripture, written by men moved by the Holy Spirit, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without error (in the original manuscripts) in all that it affirms; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, the final authority and supreme standard by which all human conduct, doctrine, and opinions should be tried.

The infallible rule of interpretation of Scripture is the Scripture itself; and therefore, when there is a question about the true and full sense of any Scripture (which is not manifold, but one), it must be searched by other Scriptures that speak more clearly.

(2 Tim 3:16; 2 Pet 1:21; Psalm 19:7–11; Psalm 119:92–93; 2 Tim 3:15; 1 Pet 1:10–12; Rom 1:16; Prov 30:5–6; John 17:17; Rom 3:4; John 12:47–48; Rom 2:12; Phil 3:16; 1 Pet 4:11; Isa 8:20; 1 John 4:1; 1 Thess 5:21; Psalm 119:59–60; 2 Pet 1:20; Acts 15:15)

### Section 2 OF THE TRUE GOD

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love; that in the unity of God there are three persons, all infinite, without beginning, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct and harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

(Deut 6:5; Jer 10:10; John 4:24; Psalm 147:5; Isa 44:24; Heb 3:4; Ex 15:11; Isa 6:3; 1 Pet 1:15–16; Rev 4:6–8; Mark 10:30; Rev 4:11; Jer 2:11–12; Matt 28:19; John 1:1–3; John 15:26; 2 Cor 13:14; John 5:17, 10:30, 14:9, 14:23, 17:5; Acts 5:3–4; 1 Cor 2:10–11; Eph 1:3–14, 2:18; Rev 1:4–5)

### Section 3 OF THE FALL OF MAN

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

(Gen 1:27,31, 2:16; Gen 3:6–24; Rom 5:12; Rom 5:15–19; John 3:6; Psalm 51:5; Isa 53:6; Rom 3:9–18; Eph 2:1–3; Rom 1:18,32; Gal 3:10; Matt 15:19; Rom 1:20, 3:19; Gal 3:22)

### Section 4 OF THE WAY OF SALVATION

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

(Eph 2:4–5; Rom 3:24; Matt 18:11; Rom 5:10–11; 1 Tim 2:5–6; Phil 2:6–7; John 1:14; Col 2:9; Heb 4:14–15; Matt 5:17; Phil 2:8; Matt 17:5; Isa 53:4–5; Matt 20:28; Rom 3:21–26; 1 Cor 15:1–3; Heb 9:13–15; 1 John 4:10; Heb 1:3–4, 8:1; Col 3:1–4; Heb 7:25; Col 2:9; Heb 2:18, 4:16)

### Section 5 OF JUSTIFICATION

We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to those who believe in Him is Justification; that Justification includes the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; 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; by virtue of which faith His perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; 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.

(Rom 5:1, 3:21–24; Rom 5:9; Isa 53:6; Acts 10:43; Rom 5:17–19,21; Titus 3:5–7; Rom 1:16–17; Rom 4:4–5; Eph 2:8–9; Titus 3:5; Phil 3:7–9; Rom 3:28; Gal 3:10–13; Rom 3:21–26, 4:3, 6:23; Rom 5:1–2; Col 1:19–22; Rom 8:28–30; 2 Cor 5:17–19)

## Section 6 OF THE FREENESS OF SALVATION

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

(Rev 22:17; John 3:14–16; Acts 17:30–31; Rom 16:26, 1:5; Acts 6:7; 2 Thess 1:8; John 5:40; Matt 23:37; Acts 13:46; Rom 1:18–20; John 3:19; Matt 11:20–24; 2 Thess 1:8)

## Section 7 OF GRACE IN REGENERATION

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

(John 3:3–7; Titus 3:5–6; 1 Pet 1:3–5; Rom 8:9; 2 Cor 5:17; Ezek 36:26; Titus 2:11–12; Luke 19:8–10; John 3:8, 1:13; James 1:16–18; Eph 4:23–24, 6:17; 1 Pet 1:22–25; Col 3:9–11; 1 John 5:1–2; Matt 3:8–10; Eph 5:7–9, 3:14–21; Matt 7:20–25; 1 John 3:7–10; Rom 8:4–11)

## Section 8 OF REPENTANCE AND FAITH

We believe that Repentance and Faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God; whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger, and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest, and King, and relying on Him alone as the only and all-sufficient Savior.

(Mark 1:15; Acts 11:18; 1 John 5:1; Eph 2:8; John 16:8; Luke 15:17–19; Acts 2:37–38, 16:30–31; Luke 18:13–14; James 4:7–10; 2 Cor 7:11; Psalm 51; Rom 10:9–10; Acts 3:22–23; Heb 4:14; Psalm 2:6; Acts 4:12; 2 Tim 1:12)

## Section 9 OF GOD'S PURPOSE AND GRACE

We believe that Election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which He graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it encompasses all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy, and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy; that it encourages obedience by all means in the highest degree; that it may be demonstrated by its effects in all who truly believe the gospel; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.

(2 Tim 1:8–9; Eph 1:3–14; Rom 11:5–6, 8:28–30; 2 Thess 2:13–14; Acts 13:48; Matt 11:27–30; 1 Pet 1:2; Ex 33:18–19; Eph 1:11; Jer 31:3; Rom 11:28–29; Matt 20:15–16; 1 Cor 1:26–31, 3:5–7, 4:7, 15:10; Rom 3:27; Col 3:12; 1 Pet 2:9–12; 2 Tim 2:10; 1 Cor 9:22; John 6:37–40; 2 Pet 1:10; 1 Thess 1:4–10; Matt 7:21–23; Rom 8:28–30; 1 Pet 1:3–5; John 6:37; 2 Pet 1:10–11; Phil 3:12; Heb 6:11, 12:14–15)

## Section 10 OF SANCTIFICATION

We believe that Sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, the Christian is progressively conformed to his new nature in Christ, and is made a partaker of His holiness; that it is begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit,

the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means—especially the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer.

(1 Thess 4:3–5, 5:23; 2 Cor 7:1; Rom 8:29; Phil 1:6; Eph 1:4; Prov 4:18; 2 Cor 3:18; Heb 6:1; 2 Pet 1:5–8; 1 John 2:29; Rom 8:5; Phil 1:6,9–11; Eph 1:13–14; 1 John 5:4; Phil 2:12–13; Eph 4:11–12; 1 Pet 2:2; 2 Pet 3:18; 2 Cor 13:5; Luke 11:35, 9:23; Matt 26:41; Eph 6:18)

## Section 11 OF THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

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

(John 8:31; 1 John 3:9, 5:18; 1 John 2:19; Matt 13:20–21; John 6:66–70; Rom 8:28; Matt 6:30–33; Jer 32:40; Psalm 121; Luke 12:32; 1 John 4:4; Phil 1:6; Jude 24–25; John 10:28–29; 1 Pet 1:3–5)

## Section 12 OF THE HARMONY OF THE LAW AND THE GOSPEL

We believe God gave to Adam a law of universal obedience written in his heart, and a particular precept of not eating the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil; by which He bound him and all his posterity to personal, entire, exact, and perpetual obedience; promised life upon the fulfilling, and threatened death upon the breach of it.

We believe that the Law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government; that it is holy, just and good; and that the inability which the Scriptures apply to fallen men to fulfill its precepts arises entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and to restore them through the Mediator Jesus Christ to unfeigned obedience to the holy Law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible Church.

Although Christ has fulfilled the ceremonial laws of the Old Covenant in Himself, making them not binding on His church, and although the judicial laws of that covenant passed away with the theocratic nation of Israel, the moral law does forever bind all, justified persons as well as others, to the obedience thereof, and that not only in regard to the matter contained in it, but also in respect of the authority of God the Creator, who gave it; neither does Christ in the Gospel in any way dissolve, but rather much strengthen this obligation.

Although true believers are not under the law as a covenant of works, to be justified or condemned by it, yet it is of great use to them as well as to others, in that as a rule of life, informing them of the will of God and their duty, it directs and binds them to walk accordingly; discovering also the sinful pollutions of their natures, hearts, and lives, so as examining themselves by it, they may come to further conviction of, humiliation for, and hatred against, sin; together with a clearer sight of the need they have of Christ and the perfection of His obedience; it is likewise of use to the regenerate to restrain their corruption, in that it forbids sin; and the threatenings of it serve to show even what their sins deserve, and what afflictions in this life they may expect for them, although freed from the curse in its full and final terrors. The promises of it likewise show them God's approval of obedience, and what blessings they may expect from His favor. But no aspect of Christian obedience to the law, or God's blessing on that obedience to it, or the law's own encouragement to do good and refrain from evil, is to be regarded as evidence that the Christian is under the law and not under grace.

Neither are the aforementioned uses of the law contrary to the grace of the Gospel, but do sweetly comply with it, the Spirit of Christ subduing and enabling the will of man to do that freely and cheerfully which the will of God, revealed in the law, requires to be done.

(Gen 1:26–27, 2:17; Rom 2:14–15, 5:12; Gal 3:10,12; Matt 5:17–19; Luke 16:17; Rom 3:19–20, 7:12,14,22; Psalm 119; Rom 8:7–8, 1:18–32; Eph 2:1–3; John 3:19; Rom 8:2–4, 10:4; 1 Tim 1:5; Heb 8:10; Rom 13:8–10; Matt 23:3, 22:36–40; Eph 4:11–16; Rom 10:4; Matt 5:17; Col 3:16–17; Heb 9:11–10:14; Rom 13:8–10; James 2:8–12; Rom 3:31; Rom 6:14; Gal 2:16, 3:13, 4:4–5; Gal 5:14–23; 1 Cor 7:19; Rom 7:7, 3:20; James 1:23–25; Rom 7:9,14,24; Gal 3:24; James 2:11–13; Psalm 119:101, 104, 128; 1 Cor 10:6–12, 11:27–32; Lev 26:14f; Lev 26:3–13; Eph 6:2–3; Psalm 19:11; 1 Pet 3:8–13; Rom 6:12–14; Heb 12:28–29; Gal 3:21; Titus 2:11–14; Ezek 36:27; Heb 8:10)

## Section 13 OF A GOSPEL CHURCH

For the benefit of His people, and the extension of His program, God has ordained that Christians assemble themselves together in local assemblies for worship, mutual encouragement, the equipping of the saints and the celebration of Christian ordinances.

The marks by which the true church is known are these: if the pure doctrine of the gospel is preached therein; if she maintains the pure administration of the ordinances as instituted by Christ; if church discipline is exercised in the punishing of sin; in short, if all things are managed according to the pure Word of God, all things contrary thereto rejected, and Jesus Christ acknowledged as the only Head of the Church. Hereby the true Church may certainly be known, from which no man has a right to separate himself.

With respect to those who are members of the Church, they may be known by the distinguishing marks of Christians, namely, by faith, hope and love; and when they have received Jesus Christ the only Savior, they avoid sin, follow after righteousness, love the true God and their neighbor, neither turn aside to the right or left, and crucify the flesh with its works. But this is not to be understood as if there did not remain in them great infirmities; but they fight against them through the Spirit all the days of their life, continually taking their refuge in the blood, death, passion, and obedience of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom they have remission of sins through faith in Him.

(Heb 10:25; Eph 4:12; 1 Cor 10:16–17; John 10:27; Eph 2:20; Acts 17:11–12; Col 1:23; John 8:47; Matt 28:19; Luke 22:19; 1 Cor 11:23; Matt 18:15–18; 2 Thess 3:14–15; Matt 28:20; Gal 1: 6–8; Eph 1:22–23; John 10:4,5,14; Eph 1:13; John 17:20; 1 John 3:8–10,14, 4:19; Rom 6:2; Gal 5:24; Rom 7:6, 17–25; Gal 5:17; Col 1:14)

## Section 14 OF CHURCH OFFICES

A particular church, gathered and completely organized according to the mind of Christ, consists of officers and members; and the officers appointed by Christ to be chosen and set apart by the church, for the service of the whole body by orderly care and oversight of all needs **both** spiritual and material.

These offices are three: Elders or Overseers (including the Pastor) who are shepherds exercising spiritual oversight of the flock under their care, teaching and upholding God's Word faithfully, overseeing the proper use of the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper, and the administration of discipline; Deacons for the proper organization and operation of the church to the benefit of all its members, and the care of those in need; and Deaconesses, women called to serve as Deacons with particular emphasis on the needs of women.

All those who hold office must be qualified according to the standards set forth in the New Testament.

(Acts 20:17,28, 6:1–6; Phil 1:1; 1 Tim 3:1–7, 5:17; Titus 1:5–9; 1 Pet 5:1–4; 1 Tim 3:8–13; Acts 6:1–6; 1 Tim 3:11; Romans 16:1; Titus 2:3–5)

## Section 15 OF BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

We believe that Christian Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, into the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Spirit; to show forth, in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; and to serve as an act of submission to the lordship of Christ before men; and the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the Church, by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the sacrificial love of Christ, who humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross; preceded always by solemn self-examination.

(Acts 8:36–39; Matt 3:5–6; Acts 2:38, 8:12, 16:32–34, 18:8; Matt 28:19; Acts 10:47–48; Rom 6:4; Col 2:12; Acts 22:16, 2:36–41; Matt 26:26–29; Mark 14:22–25; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Cor 11:23–26; 1 Cor 11:26; Matt 26:26–29; Phil 2:8; 1 Cor 11:28)

## Section 16 OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT

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

(Rom 13:1–7; Deut 26:18; Matt 22:21; Titus 3:1; 1 Pet 2:13; 1 Tim 2:1–8; Acts 5:29; Matt 10:28; Dan 3:15–18, 6: 7–10; Acts 4:18–20; Matt 23:10; Rom 14:4, 9–13; Rev 19:16; Psalm 72:11)

## Section 17 OF THE FAMILY

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the only legitimate channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

(Gen 1:26-28, Gen 2:24; Mal 2:14; Eph 5:22-23; Gal 3:28; Psalm 51:5, 127:3-5; Exod 20:12; Eph 6:1-4)

## Section 18 OF CREATION

We acknowledge the diversity of views in the church regarding the details of the way in which the universe and all it contains came into being. However, we believe that the Bible supports the following position.

We believe the account of origins presented in the book of Genesis is a simple but factual presentation of actual events related to the origin of the earth, universe, and all living things. Specifically, we believe that all things were created in six literal days, several thousand years ago and thereby reject any form of evolution as applied to the origin of material things. Further, we believe that Adam and Eve were the first humans and were created directly by God as described in Genesis. Also, the flood of Noah's time was an actual historical event and universal in nature, covering the entire surface of the earth at that time for the purpose of judgment.

(Gen 1:1–2:8; Gen 2:21–24; Gen 6:13–8:19; Ps 95:5; Ps 148:4–5; Jer 27:5; Mark 10:6; Mark 13:19; Rom 1:20; 1 Cor 15:45; 1 Tim 2:13; II Pet 3:5–6)

## Section 19 OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that only those who through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem; while all who continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

(Psalm 1; Mal 3:18; Rom 6:16; Rom 1:17; 3:21–24, 7:6; 1 John 2:29, 3:7; Rom 6:18,22; 1 Cor 11:32; 1 John 5:19; Gal 3:10; John 3:36; Isa 57:21; Prov 11:31, 14:32, 10:24; Matt 13:47–50, 25:46; Luke 16:25–26; John 8:21–24; Luke 12:4–5, 9:23–26; John 12:25–26; Matt 7:13–14, Dan 12:2)

While we acknowledge the diversity of views in the church regarding the details of things to come, we believe that the following summary is a biblically sound and coherent theology of end time events which provide the hope and comfort God has intended for His church.

We believe in the personal, imminent return of Jesus Christ for His church, to raise dead saints to glory and rapture those alive to be with Him in heaven, delivering them from a coming period of Great tribulation. The removal of the church will allow God to once again deal with mankind through the chosen nation of Israel and to fulfill promises made to that nation in ages past, particularly in the fulfillment of the Abrahamic covenant.

Following a period of increasingly terrible judgments, Christ will return to the earth bodily in Jerusalem to destroy His enemies, bind Satan, occupy the throne of David, and establish His rule of peace on earth for a thousand years. At the end of the millennium, Satan will be released for one last demonstration of sin's utter sinfulness, but he and his host will be ~~destroyed~~destroyed, and Satan cast forever into the lake of Fire. Jesus Christ will then resurrect the great and small to the final day of judgment before the Great White Throne, and He will cast all those who rejected Him into the Lake of Fire for eternal punishment. All the righteous shall enter into an eternal state of glory in the presence of God forever.

(Titus 2:13; 1 Cor 15:51–53; 1 Thess 4:16–17; Rev 3:10; Matt 24:21; Gen 15:18–21, 17:7–8; Dan 9:24–27; Isa 65:17–25; Ezek 37:21–28; Zech 14:1–11; Luke 1:32–33; Rev 20:1–7; 2 Thess 2:7–12; Matt 25:31–46; Isa 25:6–9; Psalm 110; Rev 20:9–10; Rev 20:11–15; Rev 21:3–8; 1 Pet 3:13; Dan 12:3)

## ARTICLE IV

### OUR CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Holy Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on profession of our faith, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

#### **We engage therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit**

- to walk together in Christian love;
- to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness and comfort;
- to promote its prosperity and spirituality;
- to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrine;
- to seek to follow the spiritual teaching of Christian giving for the purpose of meeting the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor and the spread of the Gospel through all nations

#### **We also engage**

- to maintain family and personal devotions;
- to religiously educate our children in the things of the Lord Jesus Christ;
- to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances;
- to walk upright in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our behavior;
- to avoid unkind words and unrighteous anger;
- to abstain from all questionable practice and all appearances of evil;
- to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

#### **We further engage**

- to watch over one another in brotherly love;
- to remember each other in prayer;
- to aid each other in sickness and distress;
- to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech;
- to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that, when we move from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some other church, where we can carry out the Spirit of the Covenant, and principles of God's Word.

*"But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sins." – 1 John 1:17*



## ARTICLE V PURPOSE

The purpose of this church shall be:

1. The worship of Almighty God;
2. The preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the salvation of the lost;
3. The teaching and instruction of the believers and the development in them of a consistent Christian character;
4. To seek and evangelize the world at home and abroad through prayer and the faithful stewardship of our time, talents, and treasures;
5. The administration of the New Testament ordinances of Baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper.

## ARTICLE VI MEMBERSHIP

### Section 1 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

All applicants for admission to the membership of this church shall [submit a written application to, and](#) appear before, the Board of Elders or the Membership Committee of the Board of Elders ([consisting of no less than 2 Elders](#)) for consultation and the giving of their testimony and reason for their faith. No applicant shall be presented to the congregation without the recommendation of the Board of Elders. ~~or the Membership Committee of the Board of Elders.~~ The names of all applicants for membership recommended to the church for admission shall be presented to the congregation [at least](#) three weeks prior to any business meeting, and voted upon at that meeting.

### Section 2 MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

[Subject to Section 1 Above:](#)

#### A. Admission by Confession of Faith

Any person, upon the profession of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and upon acceptance of views of faith and practice as approved by this church, may be received into membership by virtue of their experience.

#### B. Admission by Letter

Any person ~~to whom the ordinance of like faith has been administrated,~~ may be received by confession of faith and by letter from another church of like faith and practice [as determined by the Board of Elders](#).

#### C. Admission by Restoration

Members of the church from whom the hand of fellowship has been withdrawn may, upon recommendation of the Board of Elders, be restored into church membership; [provided that an individual seeking restoration is not required to fill out an application unless required by the Board of Elders](#).

#### D. Associated Membership

Any students, missionaries on [furlough leave](#), or servicemen, and their families, temporarily residing in our area and wishing active participation in our church while still retaining membership in their home church, may

do so by meeting those same qualifications which are set down for regular membership. The Associated Member shall enjoy all privileges of full membership with the exception they shall not be eligible to hold an office in the church or vote.

### Section 3 RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS

Members shall:

1. Abide by the church covenant

~~2.~~ 2. Strive ~~to~~ to acquire scriptural knowledge and to constantly progress in grace and spirituality.

~~3.~~ 3. Love their ~~pastor~~ pastors and elders, pray for ~~him~~ them and uphold ~~him~~ them in ~~his~~ their ministry.

~~4.~~ 4. Love one another, pray for one another, and ~~tenderly regard~~ encourage one another to maintain the unity of the church.;

~~5.~~ 5. Bear a faithful testimony, ~~striving~~ to live an exemplary life in word and deed, and to witness to the power and grace of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

~~6.~~ 6. Attend consistently the meetings of this church as health or circumstances allow.

~~7.~~ 7. Enter into the blessings of the Christian giving of time, talent, and treasures.  
(Mal 3:7-10; 1 Cor 16:2)

~~7.—To keep the church informed of any change of address.~~

### Section 4 MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING

A member in good and regular standing is one who has lived in conformity with the Church Covenant and ; has consistently attended the worship services and business meetings of the church., ~~and has contributed to the financial support of the church as God has prospered him.~~

### Section 5 DISMISSAL OF MEMBERSHIP

#### A. Letters of Transfer

Letters of transfer, for the purpose of uniting with some other church of like faith and order, shall be granted only for members in good standing upon written request from said church, the request having been ~~considered~~ approved by the Board of Elders ~~and approved by vote of the church at a business meeting.~~ All such letters shall be addressed to a specific church.

#### B. Letters of Recommendation

A letter of recommendation may be granted to an evangelical church of another denomination upon written request of that church for a member in good standing desiring to join a Christian faith differing from this church, the request having been approved by the Board of Elders. All such letters shall be addressed to a specific church.

## ARTICLE VII OFFICERS

### Section 1 Officers of the church shall include the following:

~~Pastor -- to be called by the church and serve as a member of the Board of Elders and as an ex-officio member of all other boards~~

A. Lead Pastor - to be called by the church and serve as a member of the Board of Elders and as an ex-officio member of all other boards

~~A:~~B. Associate Pastor(s) – hired by the Board of Elders in conjunction with the Board of Deacons and is subordinate to the Lead Pastor.

~~B:~~C. Board of Elders – composed of (1) Lead Pastor (2) such Lay Elders and Associate Pastors who are ~~to~~ ~~be~~ elected by the church.:

~~C:~~D. Board of Deacons - to be elected by the church and shall consist of the following officers:

1. Chairman
2. Vice-Chairman
3. Secretary
- ~~4. Treasurer~~
5. ~~4. Financial Secretary~~ Treasurer

~~D:~~E. Board of Deaconesses - to be elected by the church and shall consist of the following officers:

1. Chairwoman
2. Vice-Chairwoman
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer

## Section 2 QUALIFICATIONS

### A. Lead Pastor

~~He shall~~He shall fulfill by the grace of God the scriptural qualifications as found in 1Timothy 3:1-7; and ~~1 Corinthians 9:16~~Titus 1:7-9. The Lead Pastor is responsible to humbly lead and oversee the ministry of the local church. He is to function as God's servant steward and seek to lead with love and courage. ~~He shall be an ordained minister who is sympathetic.~~

He shall possess a ~~Bachelor's Degree~~bachelor's degree from a college and be a graduate of a ~~fundamentalist evangelical seminary~~seminary that firmly believes and teaches the inerrancy of scripture. He shall be a member of the church and shall subscribe without reservation to the Church Covenant, Articles of Faith and the Constitution.

### B. Elders

They shall adhere to the qualifications for elder as found in 1 Timothy 3:8-13, and ~~Acts 6:2-4~~Titus 1:7-9. They shall be members of the church in good standing (Article VI, Section 4). They ~~shall be a man~~shall be who ~~professing~~has known and walked with Christians for at least ~~three~~five years, a member of the church for at least three years, and shall be twenty-five years of age or older. They must subscribe without reservation to the Church Covenant, Articles of Faith and the Constitution.

Newly ~~appointed~~elected elders will have a 1-year probationary period and must have unanimous approval of the current ~~Elder Board~~Board of Elders after that time period has completed.

### C. Board of Deacons and Board of Deaconesses

They shall adhere to the qualifications for Deacon and Deaconess as found in 1Timothy 3:8-13. They shall be members of the church in good standing (Article VI, 4). They shall be professing Christians, a member of the church for at least one year, and twenty-one years of age or older. They must subscribe without reservation to the Church Covenant, Articles of Faith, and the Constitution. They shall be dedicated and proficient in the specific area to which they have been assigned to serve.

## Board of Deaconesses

~~Same wording as for the Board of Deacons (see C. immediately above).~~

## Other Officers

~~Same wording as for the Board of Deacons (see C. immediately above).~~

# ARTICLE VIII

## TERM OF OFFICE

### Section 1 LEAD PASTOR

The Lead Pastor shall be presented to the church by an appointed Pulpit Committee pursuant to the Bylaws in Article V section 2e. The Lead Pastor shall be elected for an indefinite term.

### Section 2 ELDERS

Candidates for the office of Elder shall be ~~presented-nominated to the church~~ by an appointed Nominating Committee, affirmed by the current Board of Elders, presented to the church, and be elected to an indefinite term, according to the election rules in ARTICLE II, sec 3 of the Bylaws. To remain on the Board, he must receive at least three-fourths vote of approval-reaffirmation at the each annual Annual election Meeting. A failure to receive approval-reaffirmation makes him ineligible for this office for one year.

### Section 3 BOARD OF DEACONS

Candidates for the office of Deacon shall be nominated by an appointed Nominating Committee, affirmed by the current Board of Elders, presented to the church, and be elected to a two-year term, according to the election rules in ARTICLE II, sec 3 of the Bylaws at the Annual Meeting. Deacons may serve any number of consecutive terms. ~~presented to the church by an appointed Nominating Committee and affirmed by the Elders. They will be elected for a term of two years by the congregation at the Annual Election.~~

### Section 4 BOARD OF DEACONESSES

Candidates for the office of Deaconess shall be nominated by an appointed Nominating Committee, affirmed by the current Board of Elders, presented to the church, and be elected to a two-year term, according to the election rules in ARTICLE II, sec 3 of the Bylaws at the Annual Meeting. Deaconesses may serve any number of consecutive terms.

~~Candidates for the office of Deaconess shall be presented to the church by an appointed Nominating Committee and affirmed by the Elders. They will be elected for a term of two years by the congregation at the Annual Election.~~

### Section 5 ALL OTHER OFFICERS

~~They~~ Any other Officers shall be appointed yearly by the Board of Deacons in conjunction with the Board of Elders and ~~and confirmed by election, and~~ may continue to serve as qualifications for the office are met.

### Section 6 RESIGNATION OF OFFICERS

Resignation shall be submitted in writing to the ~~Elder Board~~ Board of Elders for consideration, and if accepted, be effective on the date specified in the resignation. The ~~Elder Board~~ Board of Elders shall promptly notify the Board of Deacons and any other board or committee on which such officer served of such resignation.

### Section 7 TERMINATION OF OFFICE

Any officer who ~~for a period of three months~~ shall fail to perform faithfully, without valid excuse, the duties pertaining to his or her office and/or fail to adhere to the Church Covenant, ~~without valid excuse,~~ may necessitate consideration for termination by the ~~Elder Board~~ Board of Elders in conjunction with the board or

committee on which such officer serves. The ~~Elder Board~~ Board of Elders shall promptly notify the Board of Deacons of the termination of any such officer ~~(other than a Deacon)~~.

#### Section 8 VACANCY OF OFFICE

Any vacancy of an elected office may be filled for the unexpired term by recommendation from the Nominating Committee or the ~~Elder Board~~ Board of Elders for appointment upon the approvals of the Board of Elders ~~Elder Board~~ and the board or committee on which such officer will serve, to be confirmed by the church through election at the next Business Meeting. The Board of Elders ~~Elder Board~~ shall promptly notify the Board of Deacons of the appointment of any such officer. ~~(other than a Deacon)~~.

## ARTICLE IX FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the church shall be from April 1 to March 31. The fiscal year can be changed, if deemed necessary by the Board of Elders and Board of Deacons, to start and/or stop on any month necessary in order to help the fiscal functionality of the church. The change must be communicated for 3 weeks to the congregation before going into affect.

## ARTICLE X MEETINGS

#### Section 1 PUBLIC WORSHIP

The church shall meet regularly Sunday morning, and any other service to be determined by the Board of Elders ~~Elder Board~~, for the worship of God and the proclamation of the Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ.

#### Section 2 THE LORD'S SUPPER

The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed the first Sunday of each month or at such times as designated by the Board of Elders.

#### Section 3 NOMINATIONS

The Annual Nominations shall be completed by the ~~second-third~~ week in ~~April~~ March, ~~as designated by the Board of Deacons~~.

#### Section 4 ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION Consider moving to April

The annual meeting of the church shall be held in the ~~second-third~~ week ~~of the month~~ of ~~May~~ April.

#### Section 5 SPECIAL MEETINGS

Special business meetings of the church may be held at any time by order of the Board of Elders ~~Elder Board~~ or Board of Deacons providing the membership is notified previous to the meeting in at least two of the following ways: a notice in the bulletin, a notification by letter or email, or an announcement made at all services for two weeks preceding the meeting.

#### ~~Section 6—CALLED MEETING~~

~~Called business meeting of the church may be held at any time by order of the Elder Board or Board of Deacons. Any item of business with exception of a legal matter or the calling or terminating of a pastor may be considered.~~

## Section 76 QUORUM

### A. Quorum

Thirty percent of the church membership, ~~sixteen years of age or older~~ shall constitute a quorum to vote on all ordinary business with a simple majority vote of the quorum required to carry a motion.

### B. Special Quorum

#### 1. Legal Matters

Thirty percent of the church membership, ~~twenty one years of age or older~~, shall constitute a special quorum to vote on all legal matters. Legal matters shall include such items of business as the constitution, and the sale, mortgaging, or purchase of real property. A three-fourths majority vote of the quorum shall be required to carry a motion.

#### 2. Calling or Termination of Pastor

When necessary to call or terminate a Pastor, thirty percent of the church membership, ~~sixteen years of age or older~~, shall constitute a quorum. A three-fourths majority vote of the quorum shall be required to carry a motion.

## ARTICLE XI PASTORAL RELATIONS

### Section 1 PULPIT COMMITTEE

When necessary to call a **Lead** Pastor, the Board of Elders shall elect a representative Pulpit Committee of nine members. It shall be the duty of this committee to take the necessary steps to secure a **Lead** Pastor. In selecting a suitable candidate, the committee shall take suggestions from the members of the church. The committee shall investigate the merits of every candidate under consideration in regard to his character, education, ministerial record, preaching ability, and family relationship in determining his suitability for the pastorate of this church. When a suitable candidate has been found, the committee shall recommend ~~him~~ **the candidate to the Board of Elders for approval. Upon approval by the Board of Elders, the Pulpit Committee shall present him** to the church for consideration. The term of office for this committee shall expire when a **Lead** Pastor has accepted the call.

### Section 2 CALLING A **LEAD** PASTOR

The call of a **Lead** Pastor shall come before the church at a special business meeting. Compliance with Article X, Section ~~7B2-6B2~~ and Article VIII, Section 1, shall be necessary to extend a call to a candidate under consideration. Only one candidate shall be presented to the church at one time. The vote shall be by written ballot.

### ~~PASTORAL RESPONSIBILITY~~

~~The Pastor shall be responsible to God and accountable to the church through the Board of Elders for the discharging of the duties of his office.~~

### Section 3 TERMINATION OF ~~PASTORATE~~ **LEAD PASTOR**

#### A. Resignation

The term of this office may be ended upon sixty (60) days notification in writing on the part of the **Lead** Pastor or the church. The **Lead** Pastor shall first present his resignation to the Board of Elders before it is presented to the church.

#### B. Dissolution of Relationship

All action to dismiss the **Lead** Pastor shall be referred to the Board of Elders for its consideration before action is taken by the church. The Board of Elders shall be required to present to the church any written petition for the dismissal of the **Lead** Pastor when signed by ~~one-tenth~~**one-quarter** of the voting membership of the church. Such action shall be taken at a special business meeting and shall be by written ballot. Compliance with Article X, Section ~~7B2~~**6B2**, shall be necessary for dismissal.

In the event the Pastor wins a vote of confidence at such an election, Elders signing such a petition mentioned above shall automatically relinquish their office.

## **ARTICLE XII DISPOSITION OF CHURCH PROPERTY**

### **Section 1 DIVISION**

In case of organic division to the church membership, the church property shall belong to those members who abide by the Church Covenant, Articles of Faith and the Constitution.

### **Section 2 DISSOLUTION**

Should conditions arise where, for any reason, the church work cannot continue, the church property shall be transferred to another organization ~~of similar faith or practice or fellowship association~~ as determined by a vote of the church **membership**.

### **Section 3 CONSOLIDATION**

Should conditions arise where a consolidation with another church of like faith be advisable, the ~~Elders-Board of Elders~~ **may be** authorized by the church to negotiate the terms of such a legal consolidation.

## **ARTICLE XIII AMENDMENTS**

Any member of the church is eligible to make recommendations for amendment to the Constitution by presenting the amendment in writing to the church for **Board of Elders** and ~~Deacon~~**Board of Deacons** consideration. If approved, the amendment may be introduced through a formal motion at the annual meeting or a special business ~~meeting, but~~**meeting but** shall not be acted upon for thirty (30) days following formal presentation to the membership. Compliance with Article X, Section ~~7B1~~**6B1** shall be necessary to amend this Constitution, provided however, that in the meantime the members have been duly informed of the proposed amendment. At no time shall any amendment be adopted that would be contrary to the Church Covenant and Statement of Faith.



# Acton Faith Bible Church

## BYLAWS

### ARTICLE I

#### MEMBERSHIP

##### Section 1 ~~PREPARATION~~APPLICATION

~~Candidates~~ Applicants for membership shall be interviewed by the ~~Pastor or his appointed representative~~ Membership Committee of the Board of Elders and shall receive spiritual instruction, and counsel in the Constitution, Articles of Faith, Church Covenant, and Bylaws of the church. Additionally, each candidate shall present his testimony before the Membership Committee of the Board of Elders.; ~~who~~ The Board of Elders ~~in turn~~ shall make recommendation to the Church for approval of those requesting church membership according to Article VI, Section 1 and 2 of the Constitution.

##### Section 2 ~~DELINQUENCY~~DEFICIENCY

- A. Members who do not fulfill the duties of membership according to Article VI, Sections 3 and 4 of the Constitution ~~shall~~ may be notified in writing by the Board of Elders ~~Board~~ of their ~~deficient~~ inactive position. If no request is made for reconsideration for continuation as a member, their name shall be removed from the church rolls. Members may remain on an ~~inactive~~ deficient status for a period of only one year.
- B. Only ~~active~~ members in good standing shall constitute the official membership of the ~~church, and~~ church and be eligible to vote and receive letters of transfer or recommendation.
- C. ~~The~~ The Pastor and Board of Elders shall review the membership roll ~~and make recommendations once a year and, at their discretion, remove names of members known to be inactive.;~~

##### Section 3 PERSONAL GRIEVANCE

In all cases of grievance between members, the persons involved shall follow God's rules as outlined in the eighteenth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew and no public complaint shall be preferred until this course shall have been pursued. In those instances where following God's rules does not lead to reconciliation, charges, when made, shall be in writing and submitted to the Board of Elders for consideration, counseling with the persons involved, and proper recommendation to the church if necessary.

##### Section 4 DISCIPLINE

~~The Pastor and~~ The Board of Elders shall constitute a committee on discipline. They shall seek to interview and counsel members violating their Christian obligations or conducting themselves in such a manner as to bring reproach upon the church and shall endeavor to restore them to the path of fellowship and Christian duty. Failure to secure satisfactory evidence of repentance shall necessitate reporting the offenders to the church for appropriate disciplinary action.



## ARTICLE II ELECTIONS

### Section 1 NOMINATIONS

Members wishing to place names in nomination for elective office may do so by submitting those names to the Nominating Committee **prior to the committee's official posting of the names of all nominees for consideration by the membership.** The Nominating Committee will then submit a list of nominees to the Board of Elders for approval. Upon approval, the Nominating Committee shall approach the nominee to submit an application and candidate questionnaire. ~~prior to the committee's official posting of the names of all nominees for consideration by the membership.~~ No name may be submitted for consideration to the Nominating Committee after its official posting has taken place.

### Section 2 POSTING OF NOMINEES

The nominating Committee shall, ~~by a special mailing to all active members~~ **email to the church membership list and written insert in the church bulletin,** officially post the names of all nominees for elective office at least three (3) weeks prior to the Annual ~~Election Meeting~~ as provided for in Article X, Section 3 of the Constitution, **for the purpose of objections being raised by the church body.**

### Section 3 BALLOTING

All elections shall be by written ballot with those nominees receiving ~~the highest number~~ **three fourths of the of votes** declared elected. All meetings for the purpose of election must comply with Article X, Section ~~7A~~ **6A** of the Constitution.

### Section 4 ABSENTEE BALLOT

Absentee voting shall be allowed when a member(s) is unable to attend the Annual ~~Election Meeting~~ due to physical incapacity, **travel outside the area,** or demands beyond the control of the member. When it becomes necessary to vote by absentee ballot, the member shall inform the Church Secretary in advance to receive a ballot and be responsible for the return of the signed ballot prior to the Annual ~~Election Meeting~~ for certification by the Church Secretary. Any absentee ballots received after the Annual ~~Election Meeting~~ shall be considered null and void. No absentee ballots shall be considered for the purpose of declaring a quorum.

## ARTICLE III OFFICERS

### Section 1 LEAD PASTOR

#### A. Duties

The **Lead** Pastor shall preach the word of God **in an expository manner,** perform all scriptural and necessary duties of his office, promote the spiritual interest, growth and evangelistic outreach of the church, develop the strength of the individual for his best possible service, and administer the ordinances of the New Testament. The **Lead** Pastor shall **be a member of the Board of Elders and be an ex-officio member** of all other boards and committees of the church and its auxiliary organizations. The **Lead** Pastor shall have liberty of the pulpit and freedom of expression on scriptural matters **consistent with the Doctrinal Statement.**

#### B. Salary

The **Lead** Pastor's salary shall be fixed at the time of his ~~call,~~ **and call and** may be changed by vote of the Board of Deacons **with advice and counsel from the Board of Elders.**

~~and confirmed by a congregational vote on the budget at the annual meeting.~~

### C. Time Off

The Lead Pastor shall be granted four (4) weeks paid vacation a year ~~and which~~ may be changed by vote of the Board of Elders. In addition, ~~when ratified by the church membership,~~ the Lead Pastor ~~shall~~ may be granted necessary time to attend ~~approved~~ conferences or retreats ~~and~~. ~~Any additional time for special meetings will be subject to with~~ the approval of the Board of Elders ~~not to exceed two weeks.~~

## Section 2 BOARD OF ELDERS

### A. Purpose

The Board of Elders shall be the ~~spiritual~~ ~~primary-elected~~ leaders of the church. They shall assist the Lead Pastor through ~~shepherding~~, supervision, evaluation, planning, and coordination of the total ministry of ~~this~~ the church, ~~welcoming congregational input but making final decisions.~~ ~~subject to the final authority of the congregation.~~

### B. Composition

The Board of Elders shall ~~consist~~ be composed of (1) the Lead Pastor (2) such Lay Elders and Associate Pastors who are elected by the church. ~~of members at large elected from the church.~~ The Board shall elect its chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary from its members. ~~Married couples may not concurrently serve as chair or treasurer of the Boards of Elders, Deacons, or Deaconesses.~~

### B. Duties

~~E:~~ The Board of Elders shall:

- ~~1. The Board of Elders shall assure~~ Further ~~that~~ the purpose of the church (Article V of the Constitution) by teaching the word of God, promoting the spiritual interest, growth and evangelistic outreach of the church, developing the strength of individuals for their best possible service, and administering the ordinances of the New Testament. ~~and the will of the congregation, both spiritual and temporal, be administered as set forth in the Constitution and these Bylaws.~~
- ~~2. Shall examine~~ Interview all candidates for membership and baptism, ~~and~~ ~~and~~ make recommendations to the church regarding membership.
- ~~3. Shall~~ Cooperate with and assist the Pastor in the visitation of church members and the care and help of the sick.
4. Oversee and provide for Biblical Counseling.
- ~~4.5. Shall be delegated the authority and a~~ Administer ~~the church~~ discipline when required and determine qualifications for restoration after counseling with those persons concerned.
- ~~5.6. Receive from~~ ~~salaried~~ staff personnel and volunteers ~~personnel~~ regular reports on their ministries in the church, offer counsel to ~~staff personnel and volunteers~~ members of the church staff, and provide for a ~~twice yearly~~ periodic review ~~(at least once a year)~~ and consultation with each ~~staff personnel and volunteer~~ staff member in relation to ~~his~~ his or her work.
- ~~6.7. Shall~~ Consult and advise ~~administer~~ with the Board of Deacons regarding the Benevolent fund and other charitable ministries, ~~jointly with the Board of Deacons.~~
- ~~8. Shall~~ Exercise oversight of the total worship program of the church consistent with the Doctrinal Statement.

Section 3 BOARD OF DEACONS

A. Purpose

The Board of Deacons shall be responsible for areas of ministry that best assist the Board of Elders and shall function within the delegated authority given to them by the Board of Elders for those areas. The Board of Deacons shall be responsible for the finances and property relating to the conduct of business of this church.

B. Composition

The Board of Deacons shall consist of members-at-large elected from the church. The number to be determined by the outgoing board. The Board shall elect its chairman, vice-chairman, treasurer, ~~financial secretary~~ and secretary from its members. Married couples may not concurrently serve as chair or treasurer of the Boards of Elders, Deacons, or Deaconesses.

C. Duties

1. Specific areas of responsibility for this board shall be such things as deemed helpful by the Board of Elders, ~~Specific areas of which may include~~ responsibility for this board shall be:

- 1. Budget
- 2. ~~Planning~~
- 3. ~~Equipment~~
- 4. ~~Expenditures~~
- 5. ~~Financial Records~~
- 6. ~~Legal Matters~~
- 7. ~~Maintenance Of All Buildings And Grounds~~
- 8. ~~Policies For Use Of All Facilities~~
- 9. ~~Salaried Personnel~~
- 10. ~~Supplies~~
- 11. All Aspects of Worship

~~and All Aspects Of Worship.~~

~~2. The Board of Deacons shall, in compliance with the laws of the State of California, designate all deacons on the Finance and Property Committee to serve as Legal Trustees and perform such corporate duties as required. With prior instructions from the church, these Trustees are authorized to buy, sell, mortgage or transfer church property, or borrow money for property purchase or improvements.~~

32. The Board of Elders and the Board of Deacons jointly shall administer the Benevolent Fund and other charitable ministries.

Section 4 OTHER OFFICERS

~~A. Board Secretary~~

~~Shall be appointed by the Board of Deacons and is responsible for keeping the minutes of all church meetings.~~

B.A. Church Secretary

Shall be appointed by the ~~by the Board of Elders in conjunction with the Board of Deacons~~ Board of Deacons and be responsible for maintenance of the church membership roll, all correspondence (including prayer chain), issuance of letters of transfer or recommendation, and other records as pertain to the office. The Board of Elders shall have oversight.

~~C. Financial Secretary~~

~~Shall be appointed by the Board of Deacons and shall keep a confidential account for each giver of record showing contributions received for each calendar year and mail a statement to giver of record as soon as possible after the first of January; shall count all offerings and turn over said monies to the Church Account.~~

~~D.B. Treasurer~~ Financial Administrator

Shall be appointed by the Board of Deacons in conjunction with the Board of Elders. and mThe Financial Administrator shall maintain a record of all monies deposited to and disbursed from each authorized fund; shall make all disbursements ~~by check~~, keeping all bills paid (funds permitting) and maintain records for audit (by state or request by the Board of Deacons) and permanent filing. Additionally, shall submit a monthly report to the Board of Deacons and prepare a complete financial report for presentation to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

C. Financial Secretary

Shall be appointed by the Board of Deacons in conjunction with the Board of Elders and shall keep a confidential account for each giver of record showing contributions received for each calendar year and deliver a statement to each giver of record by the end of January; shall count all offerings and turn over said monies to the Church account.

## Section 5 BOARD OF DEACONESSES

### A. Purpose

The Board of Deaconesses shall be responsible for areas of ministry that best assist the Board of Elders and shall function within the delegated authority given to them by the Board of Elders for those areas. The Board of Deaconesses ~~shall function under the direction of the Board of Elders and~~ shall be responsible for practical care and social ministries as noted under duties in Article III, Section 54C of the Bylaws.-

### B. Composition

The Board of Deaconesses shall consist of members-at-large elected from the church. The number to be determined by the outgoing Board of Deaconesses in conjunction with the Board of Elders. The Board shall elect its chairperson, vice-chairperson, treasurer and secretary from its members. Married couples may not concurrently serve as chair or treasurer of the Boards of Elders, Deacons, or Deaconesses.

### C. Duties

The Board of Deaconesses shall be responsible for ministries of caring, especially as regards the needs of women in the church and the community; and shall include, but not be limited to the following:

~~1.—Prayer Chain~~

1. Benevolent Care Liaison (in conjunction with the Board of Deacons)
2. Flower/Plant Ministry
3. Meals Ministry
4. Sunday Service Coffee/Snack Ministry
5. Social and Church Events
- ~~6.—Card Ministry (Get well, sympathy, etc.)~~
- ~~7-6.~~

## ARTICLE IV SALARIED PERSONNEL

### Section 1 STAFF MEMBERS

In addition to the Lead Pastor, there may be staff members engaged to carry on the ministerial work of ~~this~~ the church in areas and under conditions established at the time the staff member is called-engaged by the church. Every staff member shall be a member of the church and shall subscribe without reservation to the Church Covenant, Articles of Faith and the Constitution. The relationship of the staff to the church may be terminated upon thirty (30) days notice by either the staff member or the church. Staff members will be responsible to the Lead Pastor for the administration of their duties and will work in cooperation with the Board of Elders and the Board of Deacons ~~and the committee that is related to their area of responsibility and which establishes in writing the policies for that position. The Board of Elders shall make recommendation to the church when a staff member is to be called to a position in this church, or resigns his position or is dismissed.~~ All resignations will be submitted in writing to the Board of Elders ~~for referral to the church.~~ The Finance and Property Committee of the Board of Deacons shall establish policies of vacation and salary for all staff members.

### Section 2 OTHER EMPLOYEES

The Lead Pastor and the Board of Deacons shall have jurisdiction over the employment, supervision and discharge of all the other employees such as secretarial and custodial personnel. The Finance and Property

~~Committee of the~~ Board of Deacons in cooperation with the Board of Elders shall establish in writing the policies for that position.~~shall establish in writing the policies of these positions.~~

# ARTICLE V COMMITTEES

## Section 1 ~~STANDING~~ COMMITTEES

Standing committees shall be appointed as needed by the Board of Elders and/or Board of Deacons and the committees shall serve under the authority of the Board of Elders and/or Board of Deacons. ~~Worship and Evangelism~~

### ~~1.—Purpose~~

~~The Worship and Evangelism Committee shall be responsible for the expression of this church's life as a community of Christians who worship God, testify to a personal salvation through Jesus Christ, presentation of the Biblical ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, maintenance of fellowship one with another, and care for one another in times of need.~~

### ~~2.—Composition~~

~~This committee's membership shall be composed of one third of the members of the Board of Elders, for the purpose of maintaining continuity with the total church program, and such number of areas of responsibility. Elders serving on this committee shall be empowered to appoint additional members-at-large to this committee.~~

### ~~3.—Specific Areas of Responsibility~~

~~For this committee shall be: Baptism, Communion, Church Visitation, Personal Work, Prayer, Public Relations, Receptions, Social Coordination, Church Decoration, Tract Ministry, Ushers, and Music Ministry.~~

## ~~D.—Christian Education~~

### ~~1.—Purpose~~

~~The Christian Education Committee shall be responsible for the church's ministry of teaching and instruction of God's Holy Word, Christian doctrine, the Christian faith and otherwise prepare and train believers to serve our Lord Jesus Christ in the church and in the world.~~

### ~~2.—Composition~~

~~This committee's membership shall be composed of one third of the members of the Board of Elders for the purpose of maintaining continuity with the total church program, and such number of additional members needed to fulfill its purpose in its areas of responsibility. Elders serving on this committee shall be empowered to appoint additional members-at-large to this committee.~~

### ~~3.—Specific Areas of Responsibility~~

~~For this committee shall be: All youth and children's programs.~~

## ~~E.—Finance and Property~~

### ~~1.—Composition~~

~~This committee's membership shall be composed of one-third of the members of the Board of Deacons for the purpose of maintaining continuity with the total church program, and such number of additional members needed to fulfill its purpose in its areas of responsibility. Deacons serving on this committee shall be empowered to appoint additional members-at-large to this committee.~~

## ~~2.—Specific Areas of Responsibility~~

~~For this committee shall be: Budget Planning, Equipment, Expenditures, Financial Records, Legal Matters, Maintenance of all buildings and grounds, Policies for the use of all facilities, Salaried Personnel, Supplies, and all aspects of Stewardship.~~

~~Each year this committee shall appoint one of its Deacons to the Long Range Planning Committee. One Deacon Representative or more from this committee shall also be appointed to any active Building Committee.~~

## Section 2 SPECIAL COMMITTEES

### A. Nominating Committee

A Nominating Committee of five members shall be appointed by the Board of Deacons following the Annual Meeting comprised of two members from the Board of Elders or one member of the ~~Deacons Board~~Board of Deacons and one member of the Board of Elders ~~Board~~ and three members-at-large. The committee shall request the Board of Elders and the membership to suggest possible nominees for ~~office, but~~office but shall not be limited to those names submitted. No members-at-large of this committee shall serve consecutive terms, nor shall a husband and wife serve concurrently on this committee. ~~It shall be the duty of this committee to prepare the ballot for the Annual Election and any special election necessary to fill unexpired terms.~~

### ~~B.—Auditing Committee~~

~~An Auditing Committee of three members shall be appointed by the Board of Deacons following the Annual Meeting. It shall be the duty of this committee to secure an audit of the financial records maintained by the Treasurer and Financial Officer prior to the Annual Meeting and at other such times as requested by the Board of Deacons, and report to the church at the Annual Meeting in respect to the audit. Members of this committee shall be appointed for a term of one year.~~

### ~~C.B.~~ Long Range Planning Committee

A Long Range Planning Committee of seven members shall ~~may~~ be appointed ~~for a term of three years by~~ the Joint Board of Elders and Board of Deacons. ~~following the Annual Meeting with two members of this committee being appointed each year. The seventh member shall be a Deacon appointed from the Finance and Property Committee.~~ It shall be the duty of this committee to maintain a continuing program of research and planning to provide for the total physical needs of the church in light of its growth and changing needs, report to the Joint Board of Elders and Board of Deacons relative to its findings and make suitable recommendations concerning those findings.

### ~~D.C.~~ Building Committee

A Building committee of five members shall be appointed by the Board of Deacons as building projects demand. It shall be the duty of this committee to represent the membership in working with an architect or contractors to ~~insure~~ensure successful completion of its project and to maintain adherence to general specifications as approved by the membership. This committee shall be empowered with all ~~decision making~~decision-making authority related to its project provided that any decision does not create a major deviation from specifications approved by the membership. The term of office for this committee shall expire



upon completion of its project. ~~At least one Deacon representing the Finance and Property Committee shall serve on this Committee.~~

~~E.D.~~      Pulpit Committee

When necessary to call a **Lead** Pastor, the Board of Elders shall appoint a Pulpit Committee of nine members as outlined in Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution; comprised of the Chairman of the Board of Elders, **a simple majority of the Board of Elders and Board of Deacons** ~~three elders or deacons~~, and five members-at-large.

## **ARTICLE VI MEETING RULES**

~~At all meetings~~ Church Business meetings, ~~the church s~~ shall abide by Roberts “Rules of Order”. Meeting rules for Boards and Committees shall be as established by the Board of Elders from time to time.

## ARTICLE VII AMENDMENTS

Recommendations for amendments to the Bylaws may be made in writing by any member of the church for Board of Elders and Board of Deacons Board consideration. If approved, the amendment may be introduced and acted upon through a formal motion at the Annual Meeting or a Special Business Meeting in compliance with Article X, Section 6 and 7B1 of the Constitution, ~~provided however, that in the meantime the members have been duly informed of the proposed amendment.~~ At no time shall any amendment be adopted that would be contrary to the Church Covenant and Statement of Faith.