

**FULL GOSPEL CHURCHES INTERNATIONAL  
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF**

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**(NAME & ADDRESS OF CHURCH)**

**ARTICLE I – CHURCH COVENANT**

**SECTION I –**

**Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God in the organization of the local church, we most solemnly and joyfully enter into this covenant with one another as the Body of Christ. We engage 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 through faithfully assembling ourselves together; and to give it a sacred preeminence over all institutions of human origin.**

**We also engage to contribute regularly and cheerfully to general financial support of the Church and for missionary work; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior.**

**We further engage to be faithful in our engagements, and to avoid all backbiting and discord; to endeavor to keep the unity of the spirit; to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to visit each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy and courtesy; to be slow to take offense, and always ready for reconciliation.**

**We will earnestly endeavor to carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God’s Word.**

**ARTICLE II. NAME AND LOCATION**

**Section I.**

**The name of this church shall be:**

\_\_\_\_\_ ,

**The place of worship shall be at: \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ ,**

**unless and until otherwise voted on by the members in a regular or special meeting.**

### **ARTICLE III. DOCTRINAL BELIEF**

#### **Section I.**

**The following basic Full Gospel Truths shall be subscribed to by every member, officer, and minister of this church.**

- 1. The Bible is the inspired Word of God, written by holy men of God as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. (II Peter 1:21)**
- 2. In the beginning was God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. These three agree as One. (Gen. 1:1, 26, John 1:1-5)**
- 3. God (the Father) gave His only begotten Son (Jesus Christ) to come into the world, to be born of a virgin, live a perfect life, and die to bear the sins of the world. (John 3:16; Matt. 1:18-25)**
- 4. Through belief in Jesus Christ, confession of sins and repentance to God, restitution to man, and prayer unto God, men may be forgiven of past sins (justified or saved); and through complete consecration, cleansed of sin and its effects. Water baptism (by immersion into Jesus Christ in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost) is necessary in obedience to the command of God; it is a witness to the world of one's conversion to Christianity. ( I John 1:9; Romans 5:1-2; Acts 2:38; I Peter 3:21; Matt. 5:23-24 )**
- 5. Those who do not believe and obey God's Word are presently under condemnation of God; their failure to accept Christ as their Savior under death and live for Him until death will result in their being cast into the lake of fire (hell). (Rev. 20:15; John 3:18; Mark 9:42-48)**
- 6. Those who have been truly saved should take Holy Communion. ( I Cor. 11:23-30)**
- 7. Healing of the body is an act of the Spirit of God, through the atonement of Christ, and may be received by faith. Christians who are sick should call the elders of the church. ( James 5:13-16; Mark 16:17-18)**

**8. Believers are to be encouraged to be baptized with the Holy Ghost and fire ( filled with the Spirit ) through waiting on God in prayer and through the laying on of hands; persons so baptized will speak with tongues ( other languages than their own ) and manifest other gifts of the Spirit according to the Spirit's choosing. ( Acts 2:4; Acts 8:17; I Cor. 12; I Tim 4:14; Eph. 4:11-13 )**

**9. Support of the ministry and church is to be accomplished through tithing (giving 10% of their income to the work of God) and giving of offerings. It is best to bring these funds into the Church for distribution. ( Neh. 13:10-14; Matt. 23:23; Mal. 3:10 )**

**10. God is choosing for Himself a Church ( a spotless group of Christians from all denominations and nationalities ); we should therefore recognize and have fellowship with other Christians wherever we find them. ( I Cor. 12:13; I John 5:1 )**

**11. Jesus Christ is coming back to earth; first in the air to catch away His Bride ( saints ) later returning to earth in bodily form with His saints to set up His rule for 1,000 years, binding Satan in the bottomless pit meantime. ( Rev. 20:1-6 )**

**12. Every individual will stand before God to be judged according to what he has done in his lifetime. ( Rev. 20:12 )**

#### **ARTICLE IV. VOTING PRIVILEGE**

##### **Section I .**

**Those who make this their church home, who are eighteen and over who have been genuinely converted, regularly attended the services of this church, as members and who support this church regularly with their finances, and who subscribe to the constitution and by-laws of this church shall have voting privileges. Needing to be present three services prior to each business meeting. Unless having an excused absence.**

## **ARTICLE V. BUSINESS MEETING**

### **Section I.**

**Regular business meetings of the church shall be held annually on the fourth Sunday night in the month of January of each year. It shall be the duty of the Pastor to announce special business meetings at his and the board's request. They shall be announced two weeks prior to the meeting by the Pastor. Each active member eighteen years of age and over shall have one vote. Decision shall be made by a simple majority.**

## **ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES**

### **Section I.**

**The Pastor shall be selected by a 75% vote of the eligible voters voting at a regular or special business meeting. Should the Pastor resign or be dismissed he shall have the privilege to remain one month after the date of notice of his resignation or dismissal, except in the case of dismissal for misconduct. The Pastor shall have spiritual oversight of the church.**

### **Section II.**

**Assistants and other staff members shall be appointed upon the recommendation of the Pastor and approval of the board. Appointee's must be members of this church.**

### **Section III.**

**The church Treasurer/Secretary shall be appointed by the Pastor and the church board. He/She shall keep the following in one or more well bound books; Names of contributors; amount of their contributions; annual statement of income and expenses of the church. At the end of each calendar year, he/she shall furnish contributors with a receipt for the total amount of their contributions during the year. He/She shall receive all funds coming into the church and Sunday School and deposit them in the name of the church. An accurate record of all income and disbursements of the church shall be kept. All of these books of record**

shall be considered the property of the church and when the book is no longer used, it shall be left at the church in a proper place.

#### **Section IV.**

**The board shall consist of the deacons and the trustees with the Pastor presiding over the board. Each board member shall serve a two-year term. Qualifications For Deacons:**

- 1. Must be a member and be at least 21 years of age.**
- 2. Must be genuinely converted.**
- 3. Must attend services faithfully and regularly.**
- 4. Supports church financially. (tithes and offerings)**
- 5. Lives up to the qualifications in Acts 6:3; I Tim. 3:8-13**
- 6. Subscribe to the constitution and by-laws of this church.**

**Trustees shall be appointed by the Pastors and Deacons. Qualifications the same as deacons except (5) husband of one wife. Any vacancy that occurs may be filled by appointment of the Pastor and Church Board until the next annual business meeting.**

#### **Section V.**

**Sunday School Superintendent shall be appointed by the Pastor and approved by the Church Board. He shall preside over the Sunday School and promote growth.**

#### **Section VI.**

**Sunday School Teachers shall be appointed by the Superintendent and approved by the Board. Teachers should commit to the office for at least one year and be members in good standing. It shall be the duty of these teachers to teach and instruct the members of his/her class in the Word of God to the best of his/her ability in a spiritual manner, within doctrinal beliefs of the church, to encourage by the Word and example to all members of the class; to be present regularly and on time, to give tithes and offerings to the church, to be saved and to seek deeper spirituality continually, to promote the social well-being of the members of the class, and to cooperate with the Pastor, the Superintendent and**

**other teachers in helping plan and promote special programs of the Sunday School .**

**Section VII.**

**Other officers or workers may be selected in a normal manner as may be considered to be needed by the Pastor and Board.**

**Section VIII.**

**All normal and routine business shall be conducted by the Pastor and Board, but matters of unusual and important business, such as the encumbrance of debt or disposal of real property shall be referred to the membership at a regular or special business meeting.**

**ARTICLE VII . OWNERSHIP**

**Section I.**

**This church will remain locally governed and locally owned independent Full Gospel Church presently in charter with Full Gospel Churches International.**

**ARTICLE VIII . AMENDMENT**

**Section I.**

**This constitution and by-laws supersedes all previous by-laws which may have been adopted by this church prior to this time. It may be amended only at the annual church business meeting and affirmed by a vote of 2/3 of the ballots cast by eligible voters.**

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**We the undersigned hereby certify that we approve of this constitution and by-laws with the approval of a majority vote of the active members on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.**

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**Pastor**

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**Secretary**