

**BYLAWS  
OF  
BEULAH BAPTIST CHURCH, OF DEANWOOD HEIGHTS, D. C.  
(A District of Columbia Nonprofit Corporation)**

**PREAMBLE**

WHEREAS, God has in these last days founded His Church upon Christ Jesus (Matthew 16:18; Hebrews 1:1-4; Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:23; Colossians 1:18), built it through His people (Ephesians 4:11-13), gave it power and authority (Ephesians 2:1-10), and unified it with internal structure (Acts 20:17-28; 1 Timothy 3:1-16; 1 Peter 5:1-5; Acts 6:1-6) and the Holy Ghost as the guide (John 14:26; Acts 4:31-32), that we, as the body of Christ, might present His Gospel by assisting in the implementation of the vision for the local church with the following bylaws of the Church.

**ARTICLE I  
NAME AND OFFICES**

The name of this Corporation shall be:

**Beulah Baptist Church, of Deanwood Heights, D.C.**

hereinafter referred to as the "Church" or "Beulah." The Restated Articles of Incorporation were approved by the Council of Elders on September 9, 2015 and became effective within the District of Columbia on September 14, 2015. The Church's current office is located at: 5820 Dix Street NE, Washington DC 20019. The Church may have such other offices, either within or without the State of Incorporation, as the Council of Elders may determine from time to time.

**ARTICLE II  
PURPOSE**

The Church shall be organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or any superseding section thereto. More specifically:

A. It shall be the purpose of Beulah to make disciples of Jesus Christ through Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry, and Evangelism. The Church's mission is to: Bring people to Christ for salvation, Engage them in worship, Urge them into covenant fellowship, Lead them to build Christian relationships, Advance them to Christ-like maturity, and Help them to reach their goals for ministry and in life.

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B. Since Beulah is under the law and commandments of God, those in covenant fellowship are constituted to obey the guidance and leadership of the Holy Spirit. Being in covenant fellowship does not imply corporate membership. Beulah does not have any voting members but a board of directors (aka Council of Elders). In connection therewith or incidental thereto, the Church shall have the right to do any and all things necessary for the furtherance of its purpose, all in accordance with its bylaws as the same may hereafter be modified or amended.

This Church is not organized, nor shall it be operated, for pecuniary gain or profit, and it does not contemplate the distribution of gains, profits or dividends to its members and it is organized for nonprofit purposes. The property, assets, and net income of this Church are irrevocably dedicated to charitable, religious and educational purposes. On the dissolution or winding up of this Church, its assets remaining after payment of, or provisions for payment of all debts and liabilities of the Church shall be distributed to a nonprofit fund, foundation or corporation that is organized and operated for charitable, educational and religious purposes and that has established its tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or any superseding sections.

### **ARTICLE III** **CHURCH COVENANT**

We do in the presence of Almighty God, the angels, and this assembly enter into covenant with one another, as we are here to reconfirm our faith in God through Christ and to reconfirm the works that follow our faith for the Bible says: "faith without works is dead" (James 2:26b).

A. We believe, upon the confession of our faith, we were baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit uniting us into one faith. Therefore, our words and deeds exemplify the principles of the Word of God to ensure that we do not bring reproach upon God or the body of Christ.

B. We believe that the Holy Bible was written by divinely inspired men with God as the Author. We believe that it was written without error and with salvation for its end. Therefore, we hold the Holy Bible to be the absolute truth and the final authority in all things.

C. We believe in the Triune God: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. We further believe that God the Father is the supreme Ruler and Creator of all things. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who is the only way to salvation.

D. We believe that the Holy Spirit serves as our seal until the day of Redemption. Therefore, we worship and embrace the Trinity as God in three persons.

E. We believe that as a local church we are united in Christian love for the expressed purpose of doing "it" God's way. Therefore, we keep our hearts focused on God, endeavoring to learn His perfect will.

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F. We believe, by following the vision of our Pastor, as he follows the way of God, that this church enhances its spirituality, prosperity, holiness, and high level of worship. Therefore, we willfully submit ourselves under the direction of the Pastor, as he submits himself under the direction of God.

G. We believe that it is our responsibility and duty to contribute faithfully and regularly to our storehouse (Beulah), because we are Malachi believers. Therefore, we bring our tithe which is 10% of our gross income along with a reasonable portion of our time and talents.

H. We also believe that over and above our tithes, we bring our offerings for the growth of the church, for the expansion of God's kingdom and for meeting the needs of our outreach ministries. Therefore, as joyful stewards, we give back to God what He has entrusted to us.

I. We believe that as we look beyond the walls of this Church, we dedicate our time and resources to increase, revitalize, and meet the needs of the community. Therefore, through our community outreach ministries, we have committed ourselves to clothing, feeding, educating, and enhancing the quality of life of our neighbors.

J. We believe that all relationships are to be kept undefiled by abstaining from all sexual immorality. We also believe as Scripture teaches that marriage is a covenant solely between a man and a woman. Therefore, we will reverence all of our relationships and keep our marriages holy, as our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit.

#### **ARTICLE IV** **STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS**

Beulah embraces the following statements concerning the beliefs of the Church. "But Speak thou the things which become sound doctrine" (Titus 2:1). Beulah adopts the Holy Bible as the rule in the Church's faith, practice, and methods of operation. This Statement of Fundamental Beliefs is intended simply as a basis of fellowship among us (i.e. that we all speak the same thing). No claim is made that it is comprehensive of all Biblical truth, only that it covers our needs as to these fundamental doctrines. We do not presume to say the phraseology employed in this Statement of Fundamental Beliefs is inspired or that it is the final word on Biblical truth. However, we are persuaded it is proper and consistent with the Holy Scriptures to set forth in order a declaration of those things, which are most surely believed among us.

##### **Section 1** **The Scriptures**

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; 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, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried.

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## **Section 2**

### **The True God**

We believe the Scriptures teach 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; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

## **Section 3**

### **The Fall of Man**

We believe that the Scriptures teach that Man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker; but by voluntary transgression fell from the holy and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are sinners, not by constraint but choice; 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, without defense or excuse.

## **Section 4**

### **The Way of Salvation**

We believe that the Scriptures teach that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the mediatorial offices of 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 in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Saviour.

## **Section 5**

### **Justification**

We believe the Scriptures teach that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as 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.

## **Section 6**

### **The Freeness of Salvation**

We believe that the Scriptures teach 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 cordial, penitent and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, but his own determined depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

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### **Section 7 Regeneration**

We believe that the Scriptures teach 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.

### **Section 8 Repentance and Faith**

We believe the Scriptures teach 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 Saviour.

### **Section 9 God's Purpose of Grace**

We believe the Scriptures teach 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 comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that 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 the use of means in the highest degree; that it may be ascertained 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.

### **Section 10 Sanctification**

We believe the Scriptures teach that Sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of his holiness; that it is a progressive work; 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 Healer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means especially the word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer.

### **Section 11 Perseverance of Saints**

We believe the Scriptures teach that such only are real believers as endure to 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.

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**Section 12**  
**The Law and Gospel**

We believe the Scriptures teach 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 ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts, arise entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator 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.

**Section 13**  
**A Gospel Church**

We believe the Scriptures teach that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by his laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its only scriptural officers are Bishops or Pastors, and Deacons whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

**Section 14**  
**The Christian Sabbath**

We believe the Scriptures teach that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath, and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and sinful recreations, by the devout observances of all means of grace, both private and public, and by preparation for the rest that remain for the people of God.

**Section 15**  
**Baptism and the Lord's Supper**

We believe the Scriptures teach that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, into the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Ghost; to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, with its effect, in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation; and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church, by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination.

**Section 16**  
**Civil Government**

We believe the Scriptures teach that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest 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.

**Section 17**  
**Righteous and Wicked**

We believe the Scriptures teach that there is a radical and essential difference between the

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righteous and the wicked; the righteous through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God; while all such as 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.

**Section 18**  
**Blessed Hope**

We believe Jesus is coming again to gather all His Saints to Heaven before the Great Tribulation (rapture).

**Section 19**  
**The Great Tribulation**

We believe that the Scriptures teach that after Jesus raptures the church, there will be a seven-year period of tribulation. This period is called the Great Tribulation.

**Section 20**  
**The Millennial Reign of Jesus**

We believe that our Lord Jesus Christ with His Saints will return from Heaven to rule and reign for one thousand years on the earth as the Scriptures promised.

**Section 21**  
**The World to Come**

We believe that the Scriptures teach that the end of the world is approaching; that at the last day, Christ will descend from heaven, and raise the dead from the grave for final retribution. That a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

**Section 22**  
**The Lake of Fire**

We believe those who have not accepted the redemptive work of Jesus Christ will suffer eternal separation from the Godhead. The devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, and anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life, shall be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake of fire which burns with brimstone. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

**ARTICLE V**  
**ORDINANCES AND PRACTICES**

We hold that the following ordinances and practices are in harmony with the Scriptures and are to be observed by the Church.

**Section 1**  
**Baptism**

Baptism by immersion shall be observed as commanded in the Scripture by all who have

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repented of their sins and have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of their souls and who give clear evidence of their salvation. Those who have partaken of Christ by faith in His shed blood are commanded to be water baptized by immersion into Christ. In this act of faith we participate in Christ's burial and resurrection and receive a circumcision of the heart (Romans 6).

## **Section 2**

### **The Lord's Supper**

The Lord's Supper is a memorial of the covenant made with God through the blood of Christ (Matthew 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:23-28). It is a continuation of the Passover Feast, which God commanded His covenant people to observe. Those who have made covenant with God through the blood of Christ and have been water baptized are instructed to participate. Beulah participates in the Lord's Supper as a body or family with each member in fellowship adding to the blessedness of the experience.

## **Section 3**

### **Children's Dedication**

The dedication of children is the presentation of a child to God, and therefore establishes a covenant between God and parents. God promises blessings and protection to the child whose parents are faithful to rear him/her in the services of the Lord. Such a child is made holy and is part of the covenant family of God by the faith of his/her parents until he/she reaches the age of accountability, whereupon he/she becomes responsible as an individual before God and is commanded to repent (Deuteronomy 6:4-7; Psalms 127:3; 1 Samuel 1).

## **Section 4**

### **Anointing with Oil**

Anointing oil is administered for healing and if there have been sins committed against Christ or His Body they are to be confessed. The anointing oil is then administered for both physical and spiritual restoration with the laying on of hands when required (Leviticus 8:12; Mark 6:13; James 5:14).

## **Section 5**

### **Marriage**

“Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife...”, “...For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife,...”, Each man should have his own wife, and each woman should have her own husband.”, “Finally the time came for him to marry her.”. It is our sincere belief that marriage, as ordained by God, is defined as being between one man and one woman. No other will be performed or condoned (Jeremiah 29:6; Romans 7:2; 1 Corinthians 7:2; Genesis 21:21; Genesis 29:21; 1 Corinthians 7:36, 39; Genesis 2:23-24; Ephesians 5:22-23, 25, 28-29, 31, 33).

Marriage is a covenant made between "a" man, "a" woman, and God (Genesis 2:22-24). The marriage covenant requires the married parties to be faithful, loving and helpful to each other as long as they both shall live (Mark 10:6-9). Christians are not to marry unbelievers, and are not to be joined together until after counseling with the Pastor (or his designee) concerning what God requires of them in order to be joined in Christian marriage (2 Corinthians 6:14-18).

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## **Section 6 Homegoing**

A Christian homegoing is a ceremony for celebrating and remembering the life of a person who has died in the Lord. It should be very joyous and upbeat. The Bible teaches "to be absent from the body means to be present with the Lord"; "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord"; and, we do not have to be sorrowful as those with no hope — Jesus lives (2 Corinthians 5:8; Revelations 14:13; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

## **ARTICLE VI CHRISTIAN LIFE; SCRIPTURAL CONDUCT**

### **Section 1 Personal Ethics**

"I can do anything I want to if Christ has not said no, but some of these things aren't good for me. Even if I am allowed to do them, I'll refuse to if I think they might get such a grip on me that I can't easily stop when I want to" (I Cor. 6:12 LB). "We can always 'prove' that we are right, but is the Lord convinced?" (Proverbs 16:2 LB) "And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you" (I Thess. 5:12).

### **Section 2 Obedience to Law**

"Obey the government, for God is the one who has put it there. There is no government anywhere that God has not placed in power. So those who refuse to obey the laws of the land are refusing to obey God, and punishment will follow" (Romans 13:1-2 LB). "Obey the laws, then, for two reasons: first, to keep from being punished, and second, just because you know you should. Pay your taxes too, for these same two reasons. For government workers need to be paid so that they can keep on doing God's work, serving you.

Pay everyone whatever he ought to have; pay your taxes and import duties gladly, obey those over you, and give honor and respect to all those to whom it is due. Pay all your debts except the debt of love for others - never finish paying that! For if you love them, you will be obeying all of God's laws, fulfilling all his requirements. Another reason for right living in this: you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for the coming of the Lord is nearer now than when we first believed" (Romans 13:5-8, 11 LB).

### **Section 3 Family; Household**

"Honor your father and mother, that you may have a long, good life in the land the Lord your God will give you" (Exodus 20:12). "For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?" (I Timothy 3:5) "Their wives must be thoughtful, not heavy drinkers, not gossipers, but faithful in everything they do" (I Timothy 3:11 LB). "The men you choose must be well thought of for their good lives; they must have only one wife and

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their children must love the Lord and not have a reputation for being wild or disobedient to their parents. These elders must be men of blameless lives because they are God's ministers. They must not be proud or impatient; they must not be drunkards or fighters or greedy for money" (Titus 1:6-7 LB). "That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children" (Titus 2:2-4). "You wives must submit to your husbands' leadership in the same way you submit to the Lord. For a husband is in charge of his wife in the same way Christ is in charge of his body the Church. (He gave his very life to take care of it and be its Savior!) So you wives must willingly obey your husbands in everything, just as the Church obeys Christ. And you husbands, how the same kind of love to your wives as Christ showed to the Church when he died for her, to make her holy and clean, washed by baptism and God's Word: so that he could give her to himself as a glorious Church without a single spot or wrinkle or any other blemish, being holy and without a single fault. That is how husbands should treat their wives, loving them as parts of themselves. For since a man and his wife are now one, a man is really doing himself a favor and loving himself when he loves his wife. No one hates his own body but lovingly cares for it, just as Christ cares for his body the Church, of which we are parts. (That the husband and wife are one body is proved by the Scripture which says, "A Man must leave his father and mother when he marries, so the two shall be one.") So again, I say, a man must love his wife as a part of himself: and the wife must see to it that she deeply respects her husband - obeying, praising and honoring him. Children, obey your parents; this is the right thing to do because God has placed them in authority over you. Honor your father and mother. This is the first of God's Ten Commandments that ends with a promise. And this is the promise: that if you honor your father and mother, yours will be a long life, full of blessing. And now a word to you parents. Don't keep on scolding and nagging your children, making them angry and resentful. Rather bring them up with the loving discipline the Lord himself approves, with suggestions and godly advice" (Ephesians 5:22-31, 33-6:4 LB).

#### **Section 4 Control**

"...For a man is a slave to whatever controls him" (II Peter 2:19 LB). "Even if we believe that it makes no difference to the Lord whether we do these things, still we cannot just go ahead and do them to please ourselves; for we must bear the burden of being considerate of the doubts and fears of others - of those who feel these things are wrong. Let's please the other fellow, not ourselves, and do what is for his good and thus build him up in the Lord" (Romans 15:2-3 LB).

#### **Section 5 Adultery; Immorality**

"Thou shalt not commit adultery" (Ex. 20:14). "...try hard to live without sinning; and be at peace with everyone so that he will be pleased with you when he returns" (II Peter 2:14 LB). "You shall not commit adultery. But I say: Anyone who even looks at a woman with lust in his eye has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Matthew 5:27-28 LB). "...Don't fool yourselves. Those who live immoral lives, who are idol worshipers, adulterers or homosexuals will have no share in his Kingdom ..." (I Cor. 6:9 LB). "But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such a one no not to eat" (I Cor. 5:11 LB).

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## **Section 6 Drunkenness; Drugs**

"This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious and won't obey; he is a worthless drunkard. Then the men of the city shall stone him to death. In this way you shall put away this evil from among you, and all the young men will hear about what happened and will be afraid" (Deuteronomy 21:20-21 LB). "...envy, murder, drunkenness, wild parties, and all that sort of thing. Let me tell you again as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:21 LB). "Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the Kingdom of God" (I Cor. 6:10 LB). "Don't drink too much wine, for many evils lie along that path; be filled instead with the Holy Spirit, and controlled by Him" (Ephesians 5:18 LB). "For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty; and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags" (Proverbs 23:21).

## **Section 7 Smoking**

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy, for the temple of God is holy, which temple are ye" (I Cor. 3:16-17). "Haven't you yet learned that your body is the home of the Holy Spirit God gave you, and that He lives within you? Your body does not belong to you. For God has bought you with a great price. So use every part of your body to give glory back to God, because He owns it" (I Cor. 6:19).

## **Section 8 Homosexuality**

"You shall not lie with a man as with a woman; it is an abomination" (Leviticus 18:22). "For this reason God allowed their shameful passions to control them. Their women have exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. Likewise, their men have given up natural sexual relations with women and burn with lust for each other. Men commit indecent acts with men, so they experience among themselves the punishment they deserve for their perversion. And because they thought it was worthless to acknowledge God, God allowed their own immoral minds to control them. So they do these indecent things. Their lives are filled with all kinds of sexual sins, wickedness, and greed. They are mean. They are filled with envy, murder, quarreling, deceit, and viciousness. They are gossips..." (Romans 1:26-29). "Don't you know that those doing such things have no share in the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who live immoral lives, who are idol worshippers, adulterers or homosexuals will have no share in his Kingdom..." (I Cor. 6:9-10).

## **Section 9 Gender Identity and Reassignment**

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:27 ESV). "A woman shall not wear a man's garment, nor shall a man put on a woman's cloak, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord your God" (Deuteronomy 22:5 ESV). "Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit

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the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality” (1 Corinthians 6:9 ESV).

**Section 10**  
**Lawsuits Among Believers**

“If any of you has a dispute with another, do you dare to take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the Lord’s people? 2 Or do you not know that the Lord’s people will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? 3 Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! 4 Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, do you ask for a ruling from those whose way of life is scorned in the church? 5 I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers? 6 But instead, one brother takes another to court—and this in front of unbelievers! 7 The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? 8 Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers and sisters.” (1 Corinthians 6:1-7 NIV).

**ARTICLE VII**  
**AFFILIATION**

While maintaining its inherent rights to sovereignty in the conduct of its own affairs, Beulah shall seek to maintain voluntarily cooperative fellowship with other ministries, fellowships, and groups that are deemed mutually benevolent and beneficial to the vision and purpose of the Church.

**ARTICLE VIII**  
**PREROGATIVES**

**Section 1**

The Church shall have the right to govern itself according to the standards of the New Testament Scriptures, "...endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace untill we all come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).

**Section 2**

Beulah shall implement its New Testament Christianity commissioned by the further prerogatives:

- a. To provide a ministry dedicated to the furthering of the Kingdom of God in obedience to the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ by preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ both in the United States and abroad throughout the world as the Lord leads.

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- b. To establish and maintain such departments, institutions and services for the propagation of the Gospel and its work embraced by the purposes of the Church.
- c. To examine candidates for the ministry, and to license and ordain those who shall have been approved for the Christian ministry by the Pastor according to standards set forth by the New Testament as accepted by the Church.
- d. To examine candidates and appoint missionaries and to endorse and support missionary programs according to standards set forth by the New Testament.
- e. To establish ministries, ministry schools, missions, Christian camps, Christian centers, radio and television programs and stations, both at home and abroad, and Christian academic institutions, to standards set forth by the New Testament.
- f. To designate its own officers, appoint committees, to arrange for its own meetings, and to govern itself in accordance with these bylaws.
- g. To uncompromisingly minister the Word of God to the faithful.
- h. To conduct a local ministry by the direction of the Lord Jesus Christ and under the leadership of the Holy Spirit in accordance with all the provisions as set forth in the Holy Bible.
- i. The Pastor or his designee of the Church shall have the right to determine who may attend ministry meetings and functions, because this ministry is not a public institution and its property is not a public place (Matt. 16:18; Col. 1:12-18; Acts 5:29).
- j. The Church maintains that it has a divine mandate to practice its religion as dictated by God. Scripture states explicitly that Jesus Christ is the head of the church. In Christ all ethnic, social and cultural distinctions blend together harmoniously to enrich His love in the church. We therefore will extend our Christian love to `whosoever will'. Therefore, we categorically reject any and all claims by the state (civil government) to headship or sovereignty over the Church. When earthly governments overstep their boundaries by seeking to restrict, hamper, or limit the Church's obedience to Christ, we must and will obey God rather than man (Acts 5:29).
- k. Scripture teaches that all tithes and offerings "belong to the Lord" and are "holy to the Lord". Therefore, the Church is tax immune. Attempts by civil government to tax the Church or its property, or tax the gifts of God's people to God or to claim the right to grant a revocable tax exemption are attempts by the state to usurp the sovereignty of Christ. The civil government that seeks to tax the Church or gifts to the Church is literally and specifically robbing that which has been rendered unto God. Such taxation violates the parameter of the authority of civil government as outlined in Scripture (Mal.3:8-10) (Nehemiah 13:11).

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### Section 3

In connection therewith, or incidental thereto, the Church shall have the right to purchase or acquire gifts, bequest or otherwise, either directly or as trustees, and to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of any real estate or chattels as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purposes; all in accordance with the bylaws as the same may be hereafter modified or amended.

### Section 4

The vision of Beulah is encompassed in the following:

- a. To provide a ministry dedicated to the furthering of the Kingdom of God in obedience to the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ both in the United States and abroad throughout the world
- b. To send forth home and foreign missionaries to the spreading of the Gospel and in extending the Gospel of God throughout the world.
- c. To print, publish, distribute and sell books, magazines and other literature in connection with the purposes of the Church; to sell, record and reproduce tapes, compact disks, and radio and television programs in connection with the purposes of the Church. To produce and distribute radio and television programs.
- d. To establish, maintain and conduct seminars for the instruction of children and adults for religious instruction.
- e. To conduct Christian retreats, tours, seminars, camps, and to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the various media.
- f. To ordain ministers and Christian workers to the edification and the unity of the Body of Christ.
- g. To establish an apostolic mission providing for church planting, establishing spiritual covering for an authority over members of the five-fold ministry and groups seeking association in the fellowship, and setting qualified men and women as recognized by God in the office given them by God (Ephesians 4:11).
- h. To carry on charitable work for the poor and lost.
- i. Establishment of a Bible Training School or School of Ministerial Leadership and Training for the preparation of ministers who minister to the body of Christ and to ordain and license ministers and commission Christian workers to the edification and the unity of the body of Christ.
- j. To establish, maintain and conduct Bible training seminars, either alone or in conjunction with others for the instruction of adults, training of adults, and training of students to become pastors, evangelist, missionaries and concerned lay church leaders.

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- k. To propagate the Word of the Gospel through seminars, radio, television, establishment of church literature, and other forms of mass media for the purpose of educating the individual in the Word of God.
- l. To establish churches, ministries and organizations that fulfill the purposes of the Church.
- m. To assist various Christian organizations and churches in the promotion of Christian education and missionary activities.

### **Section 5**

The values of Beulah are rooted in the following:

- a. Love. To demonstrate to all people, in a winsome way, the love of Christ in word and deed. [This will cause us to be a loving, friendly, kind, giving church committed to reaching out to people and sustaining human needs.]
- b. Stewardship. To cheerfully give of our resources to the edifying of the Body of Christ. [This would include our time, talent, and tithes and offerings.]
- c. Unity. To be united in purpose and committed to be doers of the Word together.
- d. Community Involvement/Development. To effectively— through communication and visibility in the community— maintain awareness of the needs around us, and the divine and human resources available to us.
- e. Education. To promote the Word of God, in each area of ministry, as the fundamental and authoritative foundation for all Christian living.
- f. Leadership Development. To develop and enhance the gifts of each member by having seminars, workshops and discussions entailing God's ultimate purpose for our lives.
- g. Prayer. To engage in and encourage serious and regular prayer as a means of growing in the grace of God and invoking the activity of God in our midst.
- h. Worship. To emphasize both public worship and private worship as a way of life.
- i. Commitment. To stress the importance of not giving up or in to the pressures and upsets of life.

## **ARTICLE IX** **COVENANT FELLOWSHIP**

Beulah is a sovereign and Bible-based spiritual body under the leadership of Jesus Christ and guidance of the Council of Elders (Ephesian 1:22; 5:23; Colossians 1:18; Acts 20:28) The

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Church is committed to the concept of "Covenant Fellowship."

Any individual who accepts the inspiration of the Scriptures in theory and in practice, and is received, subject in each case to successfully completing the necessary orientation classes and documentation, and receiving the right hand of fellowship is then considered in covenant fellowship with Beulah.

## **Section 1 Responsibilities and Rights of Covenant Fellowship**

### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

- a. Covenant Fellowship is responsible for allowing the statutes of the Bible to rule supreme in our congregation (2 Timothy 3:15-17).
- b. Covenant Fellowship is responsible for living a life of faith and growing into spiritually mature Christians (Romans 1:17; Proverbs 4:18).
- c. Covenant Fellowship is responsible for the unity of the Church (Ephesians 4:3).
- d. Covenant Fellowship is responsible for submitting to the established authority of the Church (I Peter 5:1-5; Acts 20:17-28; Hebrews 13:17).
- e. Covenant Fellowship is responsible for being active in worship services, Bible studies, support groups, etc. (Hebrews 10:25).
- f. Covenant Fellowship is responsible for the means of ministry by tithes (Malachi 3:10).
- g. Covenant Fellowship is responsible for — in addition to the means — the growth of ministry by offerings (Malachi 3:8).
- h. Covenant Fellowship is responsible for adhering to the five-fold purpose, mission, vision, covenant, beliefs, policies, and values of the Church, as set forth in the bylaws (Proverbs 29:18; Habakkuk 2:2).

### **RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES**

- a. Covenant Fellowship has the right to learn of the goodness of Jesus Christ in a warm, friendly environment.
- b. Covenant Fellowship has the right to exercise their opinions and suggestions (1 Corinthians 14:40; Ecclesiastes 3:1 & 7).
- c. Covenant Fellowship has the privilege to serve on various ministries according to their qualifications/capabilities and as appointed.
- d. Covenant Fellowship has the privilege to be appointed to Ministry Facilitator positions according to their qualifications/capabilities and as appointed.
- e. Covenant Fellowship has the privilege to be appointed to Church Staff positions according to their qualifications/capabilities and as appointed.
- f. Covenant Fellowship has the right to host their wedding ceremonies at Beulah (per guidelines).
- g. Covenant Fellowship has the right to receive burials at Beulah (per guidelines).
- h. The family members of those in Covenant Fellowship have the right to receive burials at Beulah (per guidelines).
- i. Covenant Fellowship has the right to have their child(ren) dedicated to the Lord at Beulah (per guidelines).

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## **Section 2**

### **Dissolution of Covenant Fellowship**

The Pastor, with the advice of the Council of Elders, may withdraw covenant fellowship from any person that is spiritually deemed to be inconsistent with the beliefs, principles, and articles of the Church.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **CHURCH SERVICES AND MEETINGS**

#### **Section 1**

##### **Worship Services**

The Church shall meet regularly, each Sunday and other such times as may be announced, in person or virtually, as determined by the Pastor.

#### **Section 2**

##### **Regular Business Meetings**

- a. The Council of Elders shall have its annual meeting on the first Wednesday of December.
- b. The Council of Elders shall have at least two meetings *open to the Covenant Fellowship* per year. This type of meeting will be held on a fifth Sunday. The meeting day may be changed by the Pastor following notice as provided in this Article X.
- c. Regular meetings can be held in-person, by telephone, or virtually.

#### **Section 3**

##### **Special Business Meetings**

Special business meetings may be called by the Chief Elder (or the Senior Elder, if Chief Elder office is vacant). Special meetings can be held in-person, by telephone, or virtually.

#### **Section 4**

##### **Notices**

Notices for all *closed* Council of Elders meetings (regular or special) should be at least one day before the meeting day. Notices for all open Council of Elders meetings (regular or special) should be at least one week before the meeting day.

Notices may be given in several different forms: text, email, social media, telephone, mail, print, or orally at worship services. Text, email and social media notices are considered written notices. The person in charge of determining the form of giving notice is the Chief Elder (or the Senior Elder, if Chief Elder office is vacant). Notice must be by at least one form but

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could be several. Written notice is not required. However, written records shall be kept of the date, time and manner of issuance of all notices, including any notice that is not in writing.

### **Section 5 Quorum**

No decision or action shall be made by the Council of Elders without a Quorum consisting of a simple majority of the members of the Council.

### **Section 6 Waiver of Notice**

Whenever any notice is required to be given, a waiver thereof in writing signed by the person or persons entitled to such notice, whether before or after the time stated therein, shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice.

## **ARTICLE XI MANAGEMENT OF CHURCH AFFAIRS**

Beulah shall be guided by the Holy Spirit of God. The Pastor of the Church, with the advice of the Council of Elders, is the ecclesiastical authority of the Church and is authorized to administer final judgment on all matters concerning the organization as a whole (Acts 20:28; Jeremiah 3:15; 1 Corinthians 9:14; Romans 10:14-15). "Any disputes that arise over the interpretation of these bylaws shall be deferred to the Pastor of the Church."

### **Section 1 Council of Elders (or "the Council")**

- a. Definition: The Council shall comprise the senior leadership of the Church, sitting as the council of governance, with the Pastor of the Church being the Chief Elder (Chair) and the chair of the Deacons Ministry being the Senior Elder (Vice Chair).
- b. Qualifications: Elders shall be appointed to the Council according to qualifications in Article XI Section 2 (b).
- c. Authority: The Council shall sit, in conjunction with the Pastor, as a council of governance with oversight of the operation of the Church, making decisions pertaining to all church matters, both spiritual and temporal, giving policy direction and governance in all aspects of the Church operation.
- d. Responsibilities: The Council shall act as the Board of Directors of the Church in all legal matters and shall perform such duties as required by civil law. The Council shall also act on behalf of the Church in making purchases or securing loans to accomplish the business of the Church. The Senior Elder shall be the moderator of all meetings of the Church in the absence of the Pastor, unless otherwise directed.

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- e. Number: The Council of Elders shall have no less than three (3) members and may be increased, as needed, by the Chair, but to no more than five (5).
- f. How Obtained. See Article XI, Section 2 (f).

## **Section 2 Elders**

- a. Definition. A member of the senior leadership of the Church, serving on the council of governance of the Church (Council of Elders), with the Pastor being the Chief Elder of the Council (Chair), and the Chairman of the Deacon Ministry being the Senior Elder (Vice-Chair).
- b. Qualifications. An Elder shall be a mature Christian, recognized as being in good standing with the Church, as demonstrated by a full embrace of the teachings of this ministry through tithes and offerings, faithful support of the ministry and through regular participation in the teachings of the ministry.
- c. Authority. Elders serve as members of the Council of Elders of this church.
- d. Duties and Responsibilities. Full and faithful participation in the Council of Elders.
- e. Tenure. One-year term with no limit on the number of terms, at the pleasure of the Pastor.
- f. How Obtained. Elders shall be named by the Chief Elder, with the advice of the Council of Elders.
- g. Vacancy. When the office of Senior Elder is vacant, the position shall remain vacant until the Pastor appoints a new Chairman of the Deacons Ministry.
- h. How Terminated. Term may be ended by resignation, death, by resolve of the Pastor, or by recommendation of the Council.

## **ARTICLE XII OFFICERS**

### **Section 1 Pastor**

Definition. The Pastor is the shepherd of the Covenant Fellowship by appointment of God, and the free and voluntary, God led, act of the Church. The Pastor is, by appointment and direction of God, set in place to rule over the Covenant Fellowship, providing spiritual nourishment and guidance, and Godly direction and management. He shall serve as overseer, leader, advisor, and teacher. He has complete charge of the pulpit and all services and functions held in the Church facilities, and in the name of the Church. He may perform weddings, officiate at funerals and other services; or appoint and/or approve other ministers or officers to do so.

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He shall be the Chief Elder of the Church. He is responsible for the oversight and supervision of all interests of the Church, and of all its work, both spiritual and temporal. He shall establish requirements for leadership in the Church and develop and guide the direction of the Church and its ministries. Scriptural guidance shall be the final authority.

He shall preside at all meetings of the Church, except as herein provided. He shall also chair the Council.

- b. Tenure. The call shall be indefinite and effective immediately unless otherwise stated.
- c. Resignation. The Pastor may terminate his services by submitting a resignation, giving ninety (90) days' notice, unless otherwise agreed.
- d. Termination. Termination of service shall follow the terms of agreement on file.
- e. Death. In the event of the untimely death of the Pastor and a successor has been named, the Church will enter 60 days of mourning. Whereas the successor will perform religious duties of the Pastor but will not exercise the rights of authority until he has been installed. In the event of the untimely death of the Pastor and a successor has not been named, see Article XII, Section 2 (f).
- f. Pulpit Vacancy. When a vacancy occurs in the pulpit, the Council will unanimously appoint a committee. The committee shall compile a list of qualified candidates and investigate each candidate thoroughly. After meditation and prayer, the committee shall select the best three qualified candidates and will make its recommendations to the Council of Elders. The Council of Elders shall hold an open meeting for the express purpose of giving a call, after an announcement of such meeting has been made to the covenant fellowship at least four Sundays in succession prior to the meeting.

## Section 2

### **Deacons and Deaconesses (or "the Diakonos Ministry")**

- a. Definition. The Diakonos Ministry shall assist the Pastor by serving the needs of the covenant fellowship (Acts 6:1-3; Romans 16:1).
- b. Authority. The Diakonos Ministry is a ministry of servants created to assist the Pastor and serve the covenant fellowship (Acts 6:1-7; Roman 16:1). The Deacons and Deaconesses are selected by the Council of Elders and appointed by the Pastor (Acts 6:3).
- c. Qualifications. The qualifications for Deacons and Deaconesses shall be as set forth in the Scriptures (I Tim. 3:8-13).
- d. Duties and Responsibilities. The Diakonos Ministry shall assist the Pastor in his pastoral responsibilities to ensure the spiritual well-being of the covenant fellowship. With the Pastor, they are to consider and formulate plans for the constant effort and progress of the

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covenant fellowship in all things pertaining to the saving of souls, the development of Christians to maturity, and the extension and growth of the Kingdom of God.

By proper organization and methods among themselves, Deacons and Deaconesses are to establish and maintain fellowship relations and inspire kinship amongst the covenant fellowship. They are to seek to know the physical needs, and the moral and spiritual struggles of the covenant fellowship; to serve the whole covenant fellowship in relief, encouragement, and development of all who are in need.

- e. How Obtained. Deacons and Deaconesses shall be recommended by the Council of Elders and appointed by the Pastor (Acts 6:1-7).
- f. The Chairman of the Deacon Ministry shall be named by the Pastor. He will provide the leadership of the Deacons in their duties as specified. The Chairman of the Deacon Ministry shall also serve as Senior Elder. When the Chairman of the Deacon Ministry is vacant, the Assistant Chairman shall, in order, assume all duties of the Chairman except the position with the Council of Elders. The Chairman of Deacons has the prerogative to appoint whomever he feels comfortable to serve as his assistant(s) to accomplish the duties of the office.
- g. The Chairman of the Deaconess Ministry shall be named by the Pastor. She will provide the leadership of the Deaconesses in their duties as specified. When the Chairman of the Deaconess Ministry is vacant, the Assistant Chairman shall, in order, assume all duties of the Chairman. The Chairman of Deaconesses has the prerogative to appoint whomever she feels comfortable to serve as her assistant(s) to accomplish the duties of the office.
- h. Tenure. Tenure shall be indefinite.
- i. How Terminated. Deacons and Deaconesses may resign their office, or they may be subject to removal upon action by the Pastor.
- j. Standard. Deacons and Deaconesses should always maintain the highest integrity. Not only during the selection process but also throughout their tenure. They should be in good standing with the Church, spiritually. They shall be spiritually mature Christians.

### **Section 3 Corporate Secretary**

The Corporate Secretary shall be a member of the Council of Elders. In the absence of the Corporate Secretary, any office of the Church may serve as the Assistant at the pleasure of the Chief Elder. The Corporate Secretary shall be responsible for the recording and maintenance of all official corporate minutes, and communications and written official reports.

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**Section 6  
Administrator**

The Administrator shall be appointed by the Pastor, with the advice of the Council of Elders. The Administrator shall be responsible for overseeing the day-to-day administrative and operational functions of the Church.

**Section 7  
Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall be appointed by the Pastor, with the advice of the Council of Elders. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the receipt, care, and disbursement of funds.

**ARTICLE XIII  
COMMITTEES**

**Section 1  
All Committees**

- a. Chair. The Chair of all committees shall be appointed by the Pastor/Chief Elder and serve at the pleasure of the Pastor/Chief Elder.
- b. Tenure. Committee members shall be appointed by the Pastor, with the advice of the Council of Elders.
- c. Number of Committee Members. The number of members shall be as required and as determined by the Pastor/ Chief Elder.
- d. How Terminated. Members serve at the pleasure of the Pastor/ Chief Elder. Termination may be by resignation, death or removal by the Pastor/ Chief Elder.

**Section 2  
Administrative Committee**

The Administrative Committee shall serve as the support team of the Administrator. The committee shall be responsible for assisting the Administrator in fulfilling the necessary duties of the Administrator.

**Section 3  
Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee shall serve as the support team of the Treasurer. The committee shall be responsible for assisting the Treasurer in fulfilling the necessary duties of the Treasurer.

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## **ARTICLE XIV** **MINISTERS**

### **Section 1** **Ordination and Licensing**

The Council of Elders may ordain and/or license a person as minister of the Gospel after first examining the applicant's background, moral, and religious character, and what previous Bible course and/or independent study applicant has received. Final determination shall be within the absolute discretion of the Council of Elders.

### **Section 2** **Application**

Application for ordination and/or licensing as a minister of the Gospel shall be on the form provided by the Council of Elders. An applicant's application shall be either approved or denied. Those applicants who are approved shall receive a certificate evidencing their approval.

## **ARTICLE XV** **INDEMNIFICATION, INSURANCE AND LIABILITY** **OF COUNCIL OF ELDERS, CHURCH PASTOR,** **OFFICERS, AND OTHER PERSONS**

### **Section 1**

The Church shall advance necessary funds or indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of the Church) by reason of the fact that the person is or was the Church's pastor, an elder or officer of the Church, or is or was serving at the request of the Church as an elder or officer of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees as determined by the Council), judgments, fines and amounts paid in any settlement approved by the Council actually and reasonably incurred by the person in connection with such threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding. The termination of any action, suit or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent, shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner which he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Church, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had reasonable cause to believe that his conduct was unlawful.

### **Section 2**

The Church shall advance funds or indemnify any person who is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action or suit by or in the right of the Church to procure a judgment in its favor by reason of the fact that he is or was a pastor, elder, or officer of the Church, or is or was serving at the request of the Church as a elder, officer or representative of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise against expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees as determined by the Council), judgments, fines

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and amounts paid in any settlement approved by the Council, actually and reasonably incurred by the person in connection with such threatened, pending or completed action or suit by or in the right of the Church.

### **Section 3**

Indemnification under Sections 1 and 2 of this Article shall be automatic and shall not require any determination that indemnification is proper, except that no indemnification shall be made in any case where the act or failure to act giving rise to the claim for indemnification is determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to have constituted willful misconduct or recklessness.

### **Section 4**

Reasonable expenses (as determined by the Council) incurred in defending a civil or criminal action, suit or proceeding of the kind described in Sections 1 and 2 of this Article shall be paid by the Church in advance of the final disposition of such action, suit or proceeding upon receipt of an undertaking, by or on behalf of the person who may be entitled to indemnification under those Sections, to repay such amount unless it shall ultimately be determined that he is entitled to be indemnified by the Church.

### **Section 5**

The Church (acting through Council) may, at the discretion of and to the extent and for such persons as determined by the Council of Elders of the Church, (i) indemnify any person who neither is nor was the Church's pastor, an elder or officer of the Church but who is or was a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (and whether brought by or in the right of the Church), by reason of the fact that the person is or was a representative of the Church, against expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement, actually and reasonably incurred by the person in connection with such threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding; and (ii) pay such expenses in advance of the final disposition of such action, suit or proceeding, upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of such person to repay such amount if it shall ultimately be determined by a court of competent jurisdiction that such person is not entitled to be indemnified by the Church.

### **Section 6**

Any right to indemnification provided in this Article shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be a pastor, elder or officer of the Church but whose claim to indemnification is based on actions occurring prior to the date of such cessation, and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of such a person.

### **Section 7**

Nothing herein contained shall be construed as limiting the power or obligation of the Church to indemnify any person in accordance with applicable state law provisions as amended from time to time or in accordance with any similar law adopted in lieu thereof.

### **Section 8**

The Church shall also indemnify any person against expenses (including reasonable attorney's fees as determined by the Council), actually and reasonably incurred by him in

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enforcing any right to indemnification under this Article, under the Church's state nonprofit corporation law as amended from time to time or under any similar law adopted in lieu thereof.

### **Section 9**

Any person who shall serve as the Church's Pastor/Chair, an elder, officer, employee or agent of the Church or who shall serve at the request of the Church, as an elder, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, joint partnership, joint venture trust or other enterprise shall be deemed to do so with knowledge of and in reliance upon the rights of indemnification provided in this Article, under applicable District of Columbia law indemnification provisions as amended from time to time and in or under any similar law adopted in lieu thereof.

## **INSURANCE**

### **Section 10**

The Church shall have the power to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was the Church's Pastor/Chair, an elder, officer, employee or agent of the Church or is or was serving at the request of the Church as an elder, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise against any liability asserted against him and incurred by him in any such capacity, or arising out of his status as such, whether or not the Church would have the power to indemnify him against such liability.

## **LIABILITY OF OFFICERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS**

### **Section 11**

To the fullest extent permitted by applicable state law, as now in effect and as amended from time to time, the Church's Pastor/Chair, or an elder or officer of the Church shall not be personally, liable for monetary damages for any action taken in good faith, or failure, in good faith, to take any action.

## **ARTICLE XVI** **COUNCIL OF ELDERS LIABILITY**

### **Section 1**

An elder of the Church shall stand in a fiduciary relationship to the Church and shall perform his duties as an elder, including his duties as a member of any committee of the Council upon which he may serve, in good faith, in a manner he reasonably believes to be in the best interests of the Church, and with such care, including reasonable inquiry, skill and diligence, as a person of ordinary prudence would use under similar circumstances. In performing his duties, a director or committee member shall be entitled to rely in good faith on information, opinions, reports or statements, including financial statements and other financial data, in each case prepared by any of the following:

- a. One or more officers or employees of the Church whom the director reasonably believes to be reliable and competent in the matters presented.
- b. Counsel, public accountants or other persons as to matters which the director reasonably believes to be reliable and competent in the matters presented.

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- c. A committee of the Council of Elders upon which he does not serve, duly designated in accordance with law, as to matters within its designated authority, which the director reasonably believes to merit confidence.

### **Section 2**

The Church's Pastor/Chair or elder shall not be considered to be acting in good faith if he has knowledge concerning the matter in question that would cause his reliance to be unwarranted.

### **Section 3**

In discharging the duties of their respective positions, the Pastor/Chair, the Council of Elders, committees of the Council of Elders and the individual Council members thereof may, in considering the best interests of the Church, consider the effects of any action upon employees, suppliers and customers of the Church and upon communities in which offices or other establishments of the Church are located, and all other pertinent factors. The consideration of those factors shall not constitute a violation of this section.

### **Section 4**

Absent breach of fiduciary duty, lack of good faith or self-dealing, actions taken as the Church's Pastor/Chair, elder or officer, or any failure to take any action shall be presumed to be in the best interests of the Church. The Church's Pastor/Chair, elder or officer of the Church shall not be personally liable for monetary damages as such for any action taken, or any failure to take any action, unless:

- a. The Pastor/Chair, officer or director has breached or failed to perform the duties of his office under this section or under the specific provisions of any employment agreement with the Church.
- b. The breach or failure to perform constitutes self-dealing, willful misconduct or recklessness.

### **Section 5**

The provisions of this section shall not apply to:

- a. The responsibility or liability of the Church's Pastor/Chair, officer or director pursuant to any criminal statute.
- b. The liability of the Church's Pastor/Chair, officer or director for the payment of taxes pursuant to local, state or federal law.

## **ARTICLE XVII** **INTERESTED COUNCIL MEMBERS**

### **Section 1**

No contract or transaction between the Church and its Pastor/Chair or one or more of its Council members or officers, or between the Church and any other corporation in which its Board members or officers are also Council members or officers or have a financial interest shall be void or voidable solely for such reason, or solely because the Pastor/Chair or elder or

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officer is present as or participates in the meeting of the Board which authorizes the contract or transaction, or solely because his or their votes are counted for such purpose, if:

- a. The material facts as to his interest and as to the contract or transaction are disclosed or known to the Council of Elders and the Chairman of the Council in good faith authorizes the contract or transaction.
- b. The contract or transaction is fair as to the Church as of the time it is authorized, approved or ratified, by the Chairman of the Council of Elders.

### **Section 2**

Interested Board members may be counted in determining the presence of a quorum at a meeting of the Board of Elders which authorizes a contract or transaction in the preceding section.

## **ARTICLE XVIII** **CONTRACTS, CHECKS, DEPOSITS AND FUNDS**

### **Section 1** **Contracts**

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

### **Section 2** **Checks, Drafts, or Orders**

All checks, drafts, or orders for the payment of money, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the Church shall be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents of the Church, and in such manner as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Council of Elders. In the absence of such determination by the Council of Elders, such instruments may be signed by either the treasurer or the Pastor of the Church.

### **Section 3** **Finances**

The Church shall be financed according to the Scriptural method of tithes and offerings of those in Covenant Fellowship; donations by family and friends of the Church; and, by organizations in partnership with the Church.

### **Section 4** **Deposits**

All funds of the Church shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the Church in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as the Council of Elders may select.

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**Section 5  
Property**

All property, real or chattel, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred, or conveyed in the name of the Church.

**Section 6  
Gifts**

The Council of Elders may accept on behalf of the Church any contribution, gift, bequest or devise for any purpose of the Church (Mal. 3:10; Luke 6:38; I Cor. 16:1; and II Cor. 9:6-8).

**ARTICLE XIX  
BOOKS AND RECORDS**

The Church shall keep correct and complete books and records of account and shall also keep minutes of the proceedings of its Council of Elders, and shall keep at the principal office a record giving the names and addresses of the Council of Elders members entitled to vote. All books and records of the Church may be inspected by any member of the Council of Elders or his agent for any proper purpose at any reasonable time.

**ARTICLE XX  
FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year of the Church shall be the calendar year.

**ARTICLE XXI  
DISSOLUTION**

**Section 1**

Upon the dissolution of the Church, the Council of Elders shall, after the payment of all the liabilities of the Church, dispose of all of the assets of the Church exclusively for the purposes of the Church in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for the purposes of the Church in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious or scientific purposes as shall qualify as an exempt corporation or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (or of the corresponding provisions of any future United States Revenue Law) as the Council of Elders shall determine.

**Section 2**

No part of the net earnings of the Church shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, officers, trustees, or any person except that the Church shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered, and to make payments in the furtherance of the Church. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the Articles of Incorporation

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or these Bylaws of the Church, the Church shall not carry on any activity not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax, under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, (or by the corresponding section of any future Revenue Code of the United States of America) or (b) by a corporation, contributions of which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (or the corresponding section of any future United States Revenue Law).

**ARTICLE XXII**  
**SEAL**

The Council of Elders shall adopt a corporate seal, which shall be as set forth below. The signature of the Chief Elder (Chair) of this corporation, duly attested to by the Secretary, may be used in lieu of a seal.

**ARTICLE XXIII**  
**AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS**

These Bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed, and new bylaws may be adopted, by a two-thirds' (2/3) majority of the members of the Council of Elders at any regular or special business meeting called by the Chief Elder/Pastor. They cannot be amended without the written approval of Chief Elder/Pastor.

**Amended on March 16, 2021 by the Council of Elders**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Marcus E. Turner**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Russell E. Moore**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Franklin Sutton**

**Signed Copy on File**