

**Constitution and Bylaws**

**Carnation Bible Church  
Carnation, Washington**

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# **Constitution**

## **Article 1. Name**

The name of this organization, a corporation, shall be the Carnation Bible Church of Carnation, Washington ("this church").

## **Article 2. Purpose**

The goal of this church is expressed in our Mission Statement: "*Our mission is:*

- (1) to be profoundly satisfied by God,*
- (2) to love God always as the highest good (thinking as He thinks, loving what He loves, willing what He wills, feeling as He feels, valuing what He values and relating as He relates),*
- (3) to love others, and*
- (4) to participate in the mission of bringing people to new life and maturity in Christ."*

This church shall maintain affiliation, through a covenant relationship, with the Northwest Conservative Baptist Association. In addition it will seek to cooperate with other churches of like faith and practice for the purposes of helping people come to Jesus Christ, follow Jesus Christ, and serve Jesus Christ.

## **Article 3. Membership**

Membership in this church is open to all who evidence membership in the body of Christ, the universal church, being subsequently baptized by immersion, and who also affirm belief in our Doctrinal Statement and a willingness to be bound by this Constitution and its Bylaws. *(The Elder Board may waive the requirement for baptism by immersion under special circumstances, e.g., health or safety concerns.)*

## **Article 4. Officers**

The Scriptural officers of this church are the Elders. The Scripture shall determine their qualifications and the Bylaws shall determine their election, term, and succession. The Elders shall appoint to the various forms of service indicated by their titles and as defined in the Bylaws such other officers as are deemed advisable.

## **Article 5. Authority and Government**

In authority and government:

- This church is a self governing body, independent of all other church bodies.
- The elder led form of government shall be the basis for the government of this church. The membership vests in the Elders the responsibility of leadership in order to implement the goal of this church.

## **Article 6. Meetings**

Meetings for worship, prayer, praise, fellowship, business, and special purposes shall be held as set forth in the Bylaws.

### **Article 7. Dissolution of this Church**

In the event of the dissolution of this church, the property of this church will be distributed as follows: all property, real or personal, owned by this church is hereby irrevocably dedicated to evangelical Christian use, and upon liquidation, dissolution, or abandonment of this church will not inure to the benefit of any private person except through a fund, foundation, or corporation organized and operated for evangelical religious purposes determined by CB Northwest.

### **Article 8. Amendments**

The constitution, bylaws, and doctrinal statement may only be amended by a three-fourths vote of members present and voting at any business meeting provided:

- The intention to propose an amendment has been announced at a previous quarterly business meeting and the detailed proposal has been made available for at least two weeks preceding the meeting;
- The proposed amendment does not conflict with the Articles of Incorporation of this church.
- A quorum as specified in Article G.3 of the Bylaws is present.

## **Bylaws**

### **Article A. Membership**

#### **Section 1. Qualification of Members**

- a. Members of this church shall be those who:
  - Are born again through personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and have been baptized as believers;
  - Agree to abide by the Doctrinal Statement;
  - Growing in a manner consistent with the Standard for Character and Conduct as described in Attachment A; and
  - Enter into the covenant.

#### **Section 2. Privileges of the Members**

- a. Active members of at least 18 years of age may act and vote in the transactions of the church and may hold an elected office.
- b. Elders and ministry leaders shall pray regularly for each member of the body.

#### **Section 3. Discipline of Members**

- a. Member discipline, including causes for and procedures to be followed, is addressed in the Policy Manual.
- b. Members whose conduct or beliefs are contrary to biblical principles or disruptive to true fellowship shall be dealt with according to the scriptural procedures delineated in the Policy Manual for the sake of restoration.
- c. A member may be restored to full fellowship at any time by an expression of repentance and a request for forgiveness in the presence of the largest group concerned with his/her offense.

#### **Section 4. Classification of Members**

- a. Members shall be classified as:
  - Active Members
  - Non resident Members (i.e. those unable to attend worship because their current residence is too distant from the church)
  - Inactive Members (those unable to attend worship because e.g., their current health condition prohibits them from attending)
  - Under Discipline (according to the procedures of the Policy Manual)
  - Removal Pending (i.e., those who have not attended for a period of time and are in the process of having their commitment to membership evaluated).
- b. Except for the regular publishing of the list of Active Members, the membership status of any individual shall be a private matter between the individual and the Elders.
- c. Former members who have been removed in accordance with the procedures of the Policy Manual are no longer members and are not referred to as such.

#### **Section 5. Dismissal of Members**

- a. Members may only be dismissed from this body under these conditions:
  - By letter of transfer to a church of like faith.
  - By death.
  - By unwillingness to repent of sin and submit to church discipline.
  - By letter of resignation.

- b. If the church has no current address, phone number, or other working contact method for a member, no other member knows how to reach the missing member, and no transfer request has been received within six months, the member may be dropped from the roll.

## **Article B. Leadership – Officers**

### **Section 1. Listing of Officers**

- a. The elected officers of this church shall be the Elders (including the Senior and Associate Pastors).
- b. The Elders may appoint other officers at their discretion.

### **Section 2. Qualifications of Officers**

- a. The Elders shall meet the biblical qualifications of I Timothy 3:2-13, Titus 1:6-9, and 1 Peter 5:1-3 for their offices.
- b. Elders shall hold doctrinal positions in keeping with the faith and practice of the church.
- c. Except as specified in Article C, Elders shall have been members of the church for at least the previous 6 months at the time of their election and shall maintain their membership in good standing throughout their term of service.
- d. All other positions shall be filled by the Elders or their designees based on the criteria below. Specific qualifications and duties for those positions shall be in writing and approved by appropriate ministry leaders. Criteria:
  - Level of impact on others spiritually, doctrinally, etc
  - Level of modeling for younger believers;
  - Level of visibility representing the body; and
  - Level of authority over others, ministry, funds, etc.
  - Level of commitment to the covenant community.

## **Article C. Leadership – Elected Officers**

### **Section 1. Senior Pastor**

- a. The Senior Pastor shall be the leader, teacher, shepherd, an Elder amongst Elders, and guide of the church and shall perform all of the scriptural and necessary duties of the pastoral office. He shall be an ex officio member of all the committees and auxiliary organizations of the church. The terms of call and job description shall be determined by the Elders.
- b. He shall hold doctrinal positions in keeping with the faith and practice of this church.
- c. He shall have formal training and/or practical experience sufficient to equip him for his assigned responsibilities.
- d. The Senior Pastor shall be called for an indefinite period of time by the church upon the recommendation of the Elders. Election shall be by written ballot at any regular or special business meeting of the church, provided public notice is given from the pulpit two Sundays preceding.
  - i. Quorum and voting requirements shall be as specified in Article G.3.
- e. The initial salary, allowances, and benefits will be determined by the Elders in accordance with the Wage, Compensation, and Benefits Policy.
- f. The Senior Pastor and his spouse will automatically become members of the church upon their acceptance of the position, arrival, and signing the Covenant.
- g. The pastor may resign upon 30 days written notice, or sooner by mutual consent.
- h. Any action to terminate shall be presented to the church by the Elders at a special business meeting called for that purpose. Notice of such meeting shall be given from the pulpit on at least

two consecutive Sundays preceding the meeting, except in the case of gross moral, civil, or criminal misconduct, in which case termination from staff will be immediate. The individual will be encouraged to remain in the body for restoration according to the Policy Manual.

- i. Accusations against the pastor shall be handled in accordance with 1 Timothy 5:19,20.
  - ii. Quorum and voting requirements shall be as specified in Article G.3..
- i. When a vacancy occurs, the Elders shall appoint a Search Committee and shall make temporary provision during the vacancy of the pulpit.

## **Section 2. Associate Pastors**

- a. Each associate pastor shall supervise, develop, promote, and administer his designated program area in cooperation with the Senior Pastor, other staff, and the Elders. He shall be administratively responsible to the Senior Pastor and shall be an ex officio member of the committees and auxiliary organizations involved in his area of ministry.
- b. Associate Pastors shall be called for an indefinite period of time by the church upon the recommendation of the Elders. Election shall be by written ballot at any regular or special business meeting of the church, provided public notice is given from the pulpit two Sundays preceding.
  - i. Quorum and voting requirements shall be as specified in Article G.3.
- c. The pastoral staff members shall hold doctrinal positions in keeping with the faith and practice of this church.
- d. They shall have formal training and/or practical experience sufficient to equip them for their assigned responsibilities.
- e. The initial salary, allowances, and benefits will be determined by the Elders in accordance with the Wage, Compensation, and Benefits Policy.
- f. Associate Pastors and their spouses will automatically become members of the church upon their acceptance of the position, arrival, and signing the Covenant.
- g. The pastor may resign upon 30 days written notice, or sooner by mutual consent.
- h. Any action to terminate shall be by the Elders.
  - i. In the case of termination because of e.g. financial constraints, change of ministry direction, or poor performance of duties, the pastor shall be given 30 days notice,
  - ii. In the case of gross moral, civil, or criminal misconduct termination from staff will be immediate. The individual will be encouraged to remain in the body for restoration according to the Policy Manual.
- i. Accusations against a pastoral or ministry staff member shall be handled in accordance with 1 Timothy 5:19,20.
- j. When a vacancy occurs, the Elders shall appoint a Search Committee if they determine that the role is still needed.

## **Section 3. Elders**

### *a. Election of the Elders*

- i. Elders shall be elected for a term of two years, and may be re-elected to successive terms without limit.
- ii. When the Elders have identified an Elder candidate at any time during the year, he may be confirmed at any church business meeting. The nominee shall be presented to the congregation by the Elders at least three weeks prior to the business meeting at which he is scheduled to be confirmed. The initial term of office is to the second annual business meeting following his confirmation.

### *b. Composition and Organization*

- i. There shall be as many Elders as are qualified and willing to serve.
- ii. The Senior Pastor and Associate Pastors are ex officio Elders.

iii. The Elders shall select a chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary for themselves.

*c. Chairman of the Elders*

- i. The chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Elders. In his absence, if the Chair has not appointed a temporary chairman, those present shall elect a temporary chairman to preside.
- ii. The Elders shall designate one of their number to serve as moderator at church business meetings.
- iii. The Elders shall designate a registered agent of the corporation.

*d. Meetings of the Elders*

- i. The objective for all Elder decisions shall be to seek the mind of God, and thus they shall strive for Holy Spirit inspired unity in decision making.
- ii. The Elders shall hold regularly scheduled meetings.
- iii. Special meetings may be called by the Pastor, the chairman of the Elders, or by a majority of the Elders.
- iv. Any Elder failing to attend two consecutive regularly scheduled meetings without good cause (as determined by the other Elders) may be removed from office.
- v. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the Elders.
- vi. Elder meetings, with the exception of executive sessions to deal with issues involving personal privacy or legal issues, shall be open to all interested parties. Input from visitors to the meeting may be accepted at the discretion of the Chair.

*e. Duties of the Elders*

- i. The Elders shall assist the Pastor and ministry staff in fulfilling the duties conferred on them by the constitution. These duties include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - Prayer for the overall ministry of the church.
  - Prayer for the spiritual growth of the people of the church.
  - Serving as examples of godliness to the people of the church and the community at large.
  - Overseeing the spiritual life of the congregation.
  - Providing for the pastoral care of the church.
  - Developing and submitting goals, policies and plans for the ongoing life and ministry of the church to the congregation.
  - Supervising the church membership including the admission of new members and the discipline or removal of existing members.
  - Reviewing, evaluating, and encouraging the ministry of the Senior Pastor.
  - Developing, training, and deploying ministry teams to assist the church to fulfill its purpose, vision, and core values.
  - Reviewing periodically the church's constitution and bylaws for any needed improvements and changes.

## **Article D. Leadership – Appointed Officers**

### **Section 1. Ministry Staff and Ministers in Training (Interns)**

- a. Each ministry staff or intern shall supervise, develop, promote, and administer his/her designated program area in cooperation with the Pastor, other staff, and the Elders. He/she shall be administratively responsible to the Pastor and shall be an ex officio member of the committees and auxiliary organizations involved in his/her area of ministry.
- b. The ministry staff or intern shall hold doctrinal positions in keeping with the faith and practice of this church.
- c. Ministry Staff shall have formal training and/or practical experience sufficient to equip them for their assigned responsibilities.



- d. Ministers in Training (Interns) shall receive training and practical experience sufficient to equip them for their assigned responsibilities under the guidance of a mentor.
- e. The appointment shall be made by the Elders and the initial salary, allowances, and benefits will be determined by the Elders in accordance with the Wage, Compensation, and Benefits Policy.
- f. Ministry Staff and their spouses will automatically become members of the church upon their acceptance of the position, arrival, and signing the Covenant. Ministers in Training with an indefinite term of appointment (or a fixed term of greater than 6 months) and their spouses will automatically become members of the church upon their acceptance of the position, arrival, and signing the Covenant. Ministers in Training with a fixed term of appointment of less than 6 months may, if they deem it personally desirable, apply for membership in accordance with Article A.
- g. The ministry relationship may be resigned upon 30 days written notice, or sooner by mutual consent.
- h. Any action to terminate shall be by the Elders.
  - i. In the case of termination because of e.g. financial constraints, change of ministry direction, or poor performance of duties, the staff member shall be given 30 days notice,
  - ii. In the case of gross moral, civil, or criminal misconduct termination from staff will be immediate. The individual will be encouraged to remain in the body for restoration according to the Policy Manual.
- i. Accusations against a pastoral or ministry staff member shall be handled in accordance with 1 Timothy 5:19,20.

#### **Section 2. Deacons/Deaconesses**

- a. Deacons (1 Tim 3:12) and Deaconesses (Romans 16:1) may be appointed by the Elders as needed to assist the Elders in ministry.
- b. The Deacons/Deaconesses are to assist the Elders in carrying out the general shepherding needs of the church. The specific duties of Deacons and Deaconesses shall be determined by the Elders.

#### **Section 3. Records and Correspondence**

- a. The Elders shall appoint individuals to maintain accurate minutes of all business transacted by the church, including the reception and dismissal of members of the church.
- b. The Elders or their designees shall request letters of transfer and issue letters of dismissal as authorized by the church.
- c. The Elders or their designees shall conduct necessary official correspondence.
- d. The Elders or their designees shall preserve and properly file all minutes, reports, letters, and other documents and maintain current lists of active members, inactive members, members pending removal, and excommunicated members.

#### **Section 4. Church Treasurer**

- a. The Treasurer shall be appointed by the Elders for a term of two years, and may be reappointed to successive terms without limit.
- b. The Treasurer shall pay by an auditable method authorized expenditures and valid bills for goods and services rendered. Authorization of expenditures shall be in accordance with policies determined by the Elders.
- c. If any fund goes into a deficit status the Treasurer shall inform the Elders and the deficit shall be rectified as soon as possible.
- d. The Treasurer or a designated Elder shall present monthly reports to the Elders and a report of receipts and disbursements to the church at its regular business meetings, showing the actual financial condition of all funds of the church.
- e. The Treasurer shall present the books to be audited annually by individuals selected by the Elders.

- f. If the Treasurer is not a member of the Elder board, he/she shall be responsible to a designated Elder.

#### **Section 5. Financial Secretary**

- a. The Financial Secretary is appointed by the Elders.
- b. The Financial Secretary shall receive all offerings of the church in accordance with a counting procedure established by the Elders, depositing the money in the designated bank account.
- c. The Financial Secretary shall keep an itemized record of amounts received for respective funds each week.
- d. The Financial Secretary shall keep a record for each contributor, showing contributions by fund for a period of time sufficient to meet all legal needs of the church and its donors.
- e. The Financial Secretary shall be responsible to the Church Treasurer.

#### **Section 6. Additional Staff positions**

- a. The Elders may, from time to time, establish additional staff positions such as Church Secretary, Maintenance Manager, or other roles that the Elders deem necessary or appropriate given ministry needs and financial capability.
- b. The Elders shall prepare a job description, including reporting structure, salary range, benefits offered, etc., for each position established.

### **Article E. Leadership -- Committees**

Requirements for and operational rules for committees shall be found in the Policy Manual

### **Article F. Auxiliary Organizations**

*(this section applies to e.g. coffee shops, bookstores)*

#### **Section 1. Officers**

- a. All officers of auxiliary organizations shall be active members of this church and shall be appointed by their respective organizations.

#### **Section 2. Bylaws**

- a. The bylaws of any auxiliary organizations shall be consistent with these bylaws.

#### **Section 3. Meetings**

- a. Meetings of auxiliary organizations shall not conflict with meetings of the church and shall be under the guidance of the Elders.

#### **Section 4. Approval**

- a. All auxiliary organizations of the church must be approved by the Elders.

### **Article G. Meetings**

#### **Section 1. For Worship**

- a. Sunday will be set aside as the day of worship. This shall not preclude the church from meeting on other days for worship.
- b. The Lord's Supper shall be observed on a regular basis (e.g., monthly).
- c. Worship services are open to all who wish to participate in an orderly manner.

## **Section 2. For Business**

- a. The annual meeting of the church shall be held on the second Sunday of the last month of the fiscal year.
- b. The church shall convene for quarterly business meetings on the second Sunday of the last month of each fiscal quarter. The Elders may cancel any regularly scheduled quarterly meeting at which there is no business to conduct.
- c. Special meetings may be called at any time at the request of the Elders or by written petition signed by 25% of the active members of the church. Special meetings shall be scheduled in a timely manner by the chairman of the Elders and will be chaired by an Elder selected for the business at hand. The agenda shall be posted for two weeks in advance of the meeting. In accordance with Washington state law, written notification of special meetings will be delivered to members not less than 10 days or more than 50 days prior to the meeting.
- d. Business meetings shall be chaired by an Elder or a designee selected by the Elders.
- e. Business and special meetings, with the exception of disciplinary actions, shall be open to all interested parties. Input from nonmembers may be accepted at the discretion of the moderator. Only active members may vote. Meetings for disciplinary issues are limited to members only.

## **Section 3. Quorum and Voting**

- a. For the purposes of all business meetings a quorum shall be defined as the presence of at least two-thirds of the Elders and all other active members who are present.
- b. Members must be present at a business meeting to vote; proxy voting and absentee ballots will not be allowed.
- c. The Elder Board may make use of congregational meetings and votes to confirm the mind of God and the leading of the Holy Spirit. Consensus should be the goal of all such meetings and voting should only be used as a tool to determine the degree of consensus within the body.<sup>1</sup> Matters brought to the congregation for their confirmation may be divided into Weighty Matters and other matters. For Weighty Matters the Elders shall seek at least a three-fourths affirmative vote (written ballot) of the active members present at the meeting.<sup>2</sup> For all other matters the Elders may choose to accept voice votes or other less formal means to confirm general consensus of the active members present.
  - i. Weighty Matters should include at least:
    - Amendments to the Doctrinal Statement
    - Amendments to the Constitution
    - Amendments to the Bylaws
    - The Calling of a Pastor
    - The Confirmation of an Elder

## **Section 4. Rules of Order**

- a. The leadership of the church shall do everything they can to lead the church into unity and oneness of mind. With that in mind:
  - i. The business of the church shall be conducted in a manner appropriate to the body of Christ. Regular parliamentary procedure shall be followed until such time as it is evident that neither the Holy Spirit is directing nor Christian grace is manifest. At such time, any member aware of the loss of the Spirit control may call this to the attention of the body. Regardless of what

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<sup>1</sup> Consensus does not mean unanimity, though unanimity is a desirable goal. A single individual or small minority should not be allowed to prevent the body from moving forward under the leadership of the Elders.

<sup>2</sup> The Elders may choose to set the requirement higher (e.g., 90%) to demonstrate greater consensus among the active members if they deem it appropriate to do so.

is before the body, following a season of prayer, the floor shall be cleared and a new effort made to be led of God in an orderly manner concerning the business at hand.

- b. In conformance with Article 5 of the Constitution, the agenda for business meetings shall be set by the Elders. Members who desire to introduce business to be considered at a meeting shall make a request to the Elders, and the Elders shall make a recommendation to the business meeting after consideration and prayer. If the Elders neglect or refuse to deal with the matter, then the member or members concerned may make a motion from the floor to introduce the business. The meetings shall be conducted in an orderly manner that reflects the headship of Christ.

## **Article H. Licensure and Ordination**

### **Section 1. Licensure**

- a. Any male member, who in the judgment of the church, gives evidence by his Christian life, zeal, aptness to teach, and biblical qualifications that he is called of God to the work of the ministry, after having preached in the hearing of the church, may be given license for a term of one year, subject to renewal, to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, provided that a majority of the members present and voting at any regular meeting agree.

### **Section 2. Ordination**

- a. If the church, upon a majority vote of the members present and voting at a regularly called meeting, decides that a male member possesses the scriptural qualifications and training necessary for ordination to the Gospel ministry, they shall institute the process leading to ordination. A process such as that described in the CB Northwest Ordination Policy and Procedure shall be followed.

## **Article I. Fiscal Policy**

- a. The fiscal year shall begin March 1st and end the last day of February.
- b. Authorized signers of church checks shall be appointed by the Elders. Signing of blank checks is not permitted.
- c. The church books shall be kept in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, except that it shall not be necessary to keep records of book value and depreciation for fixed assets. Such assets may be written off to expenses when purchased.
- d. Proper records shall be kept of any loans to the church, either on the church books or by using the services of a bank or title company.
- e. The church shall maintain a General Fund to which all contributions will be credited unless designated otherwise. This fund will be used to meet all regular church expenses. Other funds shall be established as required to meet needs decided by the Elders. Funds shall not be established without such approval. Money shall be credited to these funds when so designated by the contributor or the Elders. Such designations shall not obligate the church to use the funds in the manner specified, but shall be regarded as suggestions which the church will honor where possible. If it is necessary to re-allocate funds, the congregation and individual donors, if possible, will be informed of the proposed action and reasons for it.
- f. The different church funds shall be properly segregated in the books, but these funds may be commingled in the church bank accounts. If any fund goes into a deficit status the treasurer shall inform the Elders and the deficit shall be rectified as soon as possible.
- g. The church shall establish an annual budget for the General Fund and such other funds as the Elders shall recommend. The Elders shall inform the church when significant departures from the budget occur or are foreseen, and shall propose corrective action.

- h. Any Member may examine the church books, except for the contribution records of others, upon reasonable notice.

### **Article J. Amendments**

- a. These Bylaws and any Attachments to them may be repealed or amended at the annual meeting, or any other business meeting of the church, by a majority of the members present and voting, providing that the proposed amendment is in writing and notice has been submitted to the church at least two weeks previous to the meeting. Quorum and voting requirements shall be as specified in Article G.3. No provision of the Bylaws shall be amended or adopted which shall conflict with, or void, any provision of the Articles of Incorporation or Constitution.

### **Attachment A: Standard for Character and Conduct**

In the area of moral/ethical or spiritual development, we recognize the freedom of each individual to develop under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. However, it must also be noted that each member should be growing in a manner that is consistent with the biblical pattern for a disciple of Jesus Christ, and that he is viewed by the community as a representative of this church and of Christ Himself (2 Cor. 5:20). Thus, it is essential that each exemplify a spirit controlled life in public and in private, conforming to the highest standards of conduct.

It should be noted that the standards of behavior for the believer are based on the Bible and are divided into at least four categories:

- 1. Those things that are commanded for every believer**
- 2. Those things that are expressly forbidden by the Scripture**
- 3. Those things that are seen to be inconsistent with a Christian lifestyle based on biblical principles.**
- 4. In the church of the living God it is fitting to submit to each other and to the whole, just as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit submit to each other and to the whole. It is not fitting to step out of a covenant relationship when things are not as one wants them to be.**

In other areas, each believer needs to be sensitive to the manner in which the Holy Spirit would apply appropriate passages of Scripture to his life.

As we have entered into a covenant relationship with each other, then, we ought to have a growing desire, by the aid of the Holy Spirit:

- To strive for advancement in God's knowledge (2 Pet. 3:18), holiness (1 Pet. 1:16), and spiritual growth (Eph. 5:14,21);
- To support the church in its worship, teaching, discipline, government, and observance of the ordinances, which are believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper (Heb. 10:25; 1 Cor. 11; Matt. 28:19);
- To submit to those who have oversight of the body (Heb. 13:17);
- To participate cheerfully and regularly in the financial support of the ministry and the obligations of the church (1 Cor. 9:13,14; 2 Chron. 31:1-6);
- To walk together and to watch over one another in Christian love (1 John 3:14);
- To uphold one another in prayer and to aid each other during sickness and distress (Eph. 6:18; James 2:15,16);
- To cultivate a fellowship of Christian sympathy, slowness in taking offense, and readiness in seeking reconciliation (Eph. 4:31,32);
- To maintain family and private prayer and study in the Scripture and to train our children to revere and seek His will for their lives through instructing and encouraging them in the Scriptures (Eph. 6:1-4; Prov. 22:6);
- To seek the salvation of family, relatives, and acquaintances; and to actively participate in the church's ministry of spreading the Gospel through all the nations (Matt. 28:18-20);
- To walk uprightly within our world as a Christian example (Eph.4:17-32);
- To seek to understand and to exercise our spiritual gifts and to participate actively as an important member of this local church (1 Cor. 12);
- To study the Scripture and seek to understand, support, and follow its teachings (Acts 17:11).

## Revisions

### February 19, 2012 – Revision to Bylaws

#### Article D. Leadership - Appointed Officers

##### Section 4.a. Church Treasurer

Old wording: “The Treasurer is appointed by the Elders.”

New wording: “The Treasurer shall be appointed by the Elders for a term of two years, and may be re-appointed to successive terms without limit.”

**Reason for change:** So the individual serving as Treasure has a beginning and end date in mind when committing to serve in the position.

#### Article G. – Meetings

##### Section 2.a. For Business

Old wording: “The annual meeting of the church shall be held on the third Sunday of the last month of the fiscal year.”

New wording: “The annual meeting of the church shall be held on the second Sunday of the last month of the fiscal year.”

**Reason for change:** The third Sunday falls during Mid-Winter break. Some families use this break as an opportunity to travel. Moving the annual meeting to the second Sunday provide opportunity for more families to attend.



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