

BYLAWS

Gate City Bible Church

Bylaws

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Bylaws

Preamble

WHEREAS, it is the express purpose of God our Heavenly Father to call out of the world a saved people who shall contribute to the Body of Christ, built and established on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the Chief Cornerstone.

WHEREAS, the members of the Body of Christ are enjoined to assemble themselves together for worship, fellowship, counsel, and instruction in the Word of God and the work of the ministry and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices provided for in the New Testament, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that we recognize ourselves as a body of Christian believers working together for the common purpose of spreading the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and that under the laws of the state of Washington we may exercise all the rights and privileges granted to religious bodies.

Male and Female References

The masculine gender stated within this document shall refer to both men and women.

Article I Name

The name of this corporation shall be Gate City Bible Church.

Article II Purpose

The specific purpose for which the corporation is organized is to establish and oversee places of worship, teach and preach the gospel to all people, conduct evangelistic and humanitarian outreach, license and ordain ministers of the gospel and to also engage in activities which are necessary, suitable or convenient for the accomplishment of that purpose, or which are incidental thereto or connected therewith which are consistent with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. This corporation is organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code.

Article III Tenets of Faith

The human phraseology employed in this statement is not inspired nor contended for, but the truth set forth is held to be essential to a full Gospel ministry. No claim is made that it contains all the truth in the Bible, only that it covers orthodox fundamental matters.

The following Statement of Core Beliefs does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe.

REVELATION

We believe God reveals Himself to humanity, who could not otherwise know Him apart from His self-disclosure (Matt. 16:17; Gal. 1:11–12). He does so through general revelation, seen in creation and conscience (Ps. 19:1; Rom. 1:18–20), and special revelation, given through Scripture, mighty acts, and ultimately Jesus Christ (2 Tim. 3:16–17; Heb. 1:1–3). General revelation reveals God as Creator and moral Lawgiver. General revelation itself, however, is not sufficient to bring someone to salvation. Special revelation reveals God’s redemptive plan in Christ so that one may understand and know how to be made right with God.

SCRIPTURE

We believe the Bible, consisting of 66 books, is verbally inspired by the Holy Spirit and is the authoritative Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16–17; 2 Pet. 1:20–21). It is inerrant in the original manuscripts, sufficient for salvation and godly living, and clear in its essential message and therefore to be believed and obeyed (Ps. 19:7–11; John 17:17). Scripture is illumined by the Holy Spirit for believers (1 Cor. 2:14). The canon is closed and recognized by the Church as God’s completed revelation (Rev. 22:18–19).

GOD

We believe God eternally exists as one essence and three distinct persons - God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit - equal in essence yet distinct in role (Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14). He possesses incommunicable attributes such as eternity, immutability, omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence (Mal. 3:6; Ps. 139:7–10), and communicable attributes such as love, holiness, justice, and truth (1 John 4:8; Isa. 6:3). God is Creator and Sustainer of all things (Gen. 1:1; Col. 1:16–17). He sovereignly governs history and redemption for His glory and the good of His people (Isa. 46:10; Rom. 8:28).

JESUS

We believe Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man, the second person of the Trinity who took on human flesh through the virgin birth (John 1:1, 14; Phil. 2:6–7; Matt. 1:18). He lived a sinless life, died as a substitutionary atonement for sin, and rose bodily from the grave (2 Cor. 5:21; Rom. 6:9–10). He ascended to the Father’s right hand where He now reigns (Heb. 1:3). He will return to judge and to consummate His kingdom (Heb. 9:28; Rev. 22:12).

THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe the Holy Spirit is fully God and active in creation, revelation, and redemption (Gen. 1:2; Acts 1:8). He regenerates, indwells, seals, and sanctifies believers (Titus 3:5; Eph. 1:13–14; Rom. 8:29). The Spirit empowers the Church for witness and service and distributes spiritual gifts for edification (1 Cor. 12:4–11).

HUMANITY

We believe humanity, created male and female in God's image, reflects His character and possesses inherent dignity (Gen. 1:26–27). Humans were created as body and soul and given dominion over creation (Gen. 2:7; Ps. 8:5–6). Though equal in worth, men and women have distinct roles within God's created order (Eph. 5:22–33; 1 Tim. 2:12–13). Adam and Eve were created to complement one another in a one-flesh covenant union of marriage (Gen. 2:24). This covenant establishes God's ordained design for marriage and reflects Christ's relationship with His Church (Eph. 5:32).

SIN

We believe sin entered creation through Adam and Eve's disobedience, bringing corruption and death to all humanity (Gen. 3; Rom. 5:12). Sin affects every aspect of human nature, rendering people unable to justify themselves before God (Rom. 3:23; Isa. 64:6). All stand guilty under God's righteous judgment (Eph. 2:3). Redemption from sin is possible only through Jesus Christ (John 3:16; Eph. 1:7).

SALVATION

We believe salvation is God's gracious deliverance from sin through the atoning work of Christ, applied by the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:12; Titus 3:5). Salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone (Rom. 5:1, Eph. 2:8–9). Those who put their faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ and receive the Lord Jesus Christ through faith are declared righteous by God and become children of God (Heb. 10:19–25). The Holy Spirit imparts a new nature to which a believer becomes a new creation in Christ in which the dominion of sin is broken and the desire to serve God is given. (2 Cor. 5:17, Gal. 2:20). True believers are sealed by the Spirit, sanctified by the Spirit's work, and will persevere to the end (John 10:28–29; Rom. 8:38–39; 15:16).

THE CHURCH

We believe the Church is the body of Christ sent into the world as witnesses to the glory of God. The universal Church consists of all believers united to Christ as His body (Eph. 1:22–23; 1 Cor. 12:13). The local church gathers for preaching, sacraments, discipline, discipleship, and mission (Acts 2:42; Matt. 28:18–20). Christ rules His Church through biblically qualified elders (1 Tim. 3:1–13). Baptism and Communion are ordinances for believers that visibly proclaim the gospel (Matt. 28:19; 1 Cor. 11:23–26). Water baptism is only for those who have genuinely put their trust and faith in Christ. Water baptism symbolizes a person's union with Christ in the likeness of his death and resurrection (Rom. 6:3–4). Communion is for genuine followers of Christ. This ordinance symbolizes the breaking of Christ's body and the shedding of His blood on our behalf (1 Cor. 11:17–34).

LAST THINGS

We believe in Jesus Christ's imminent return in which He will judge the living and the dead (Ja. 5:8; 2 Tim. 4:1). Jesus will return to consummate the Kingdom of God (1 Cor. 15:24–28). He will

raise the dead and judge the just and the unjust. He will establish the new heavens and the new earth (2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:1-4). Satan, his fallen angels, and all those who reject Christ will be permanently separated from God enduring eternal punishment (Rev. 20:7-15). Those found in Christ will be given glorified bodies and will live and reign with Christ forever (Phil. 3:21; Rev. 22:3-5).

Doctrinal Distinctives

Complementarian

We believe that men and women are equal in worth, dignity, and value, each made in the image of God. At the same time, Scripture teaches that God, in His wisdom and goodness, has designed men and women to be distinct and complementary in their roles. This distinction is not a result of the fall, but part of His good created order. In both the home and the church, men and women are called to meaningful, active participation and leadership. However, in the life of the church, the office of elder is reserved for qualified men, as outlined in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

We believe the gifts of the Holy Spirit that are described in the New Testament are still active within the life of the church. These gifts are to build up and edify the Church and are to be practiced within the confines of Scripture (1 Cor. 12:1-11).

Baptism by Immersion

We believe baptism is for believers who have given a clear testimony of saving faith in Jesus Christ. We deny that there is any efficacy in infant baptism since an infant can neither believe nor testify to their own faith in Jesus Christ. Baptism by immersion is meant to symbolically depict the believer's real union to Christ in His death and resurrection (Rom. 6:1-14).

Sovereignty of God in Salvation

We believe that salvation is entirely the work of God. Before the foundation of the world, He set His saving love upon His people and purposed to redeem them (Rom. 8:29-30; Eph. 1:4-6). Even the faith by which we believe is a gift of His grace, so that no one may boast. Left to ourselves, we would not seek God, for we are dead in our sin apart from His mercy (Rom. 3; Eph. 2:1-3). From beginning to end, salvation belongs to the Lord.

The Dignity of Human Life

We believe that God is the Creator and Sustainer of life. Therefore, we believe that human life is sacred from conception to His chosen time to take it. We deny that abortion, euthanasia, racism, genocide, sexual exploitation, domestic violence, child abuse, and rape are acceptable behavior

Article IV Ordinances

Baptism in Water

The ordinance of baptism by burial with Christ should be observed (as commanded in the Scriptures) by all that have repented of their sins and in their hearts have believed on Christ as their Savior and Lord. In doing so, they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they have also been raised to walk with Him in newness of life (Matt. 28:19; Rom. 6:4).

The Lord's Supper (Communion)

The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements, bread and fruit of the vine, is the symbol expressing our sharing in a memorial to His suffering and death, and a prophecy of His second coming, and is enjoined to all believers "until He comes" (John 6:48,51,53-57; Luke 22:19,20; 2 Pet. 1:4; 1 Cor. 11:25).

Article V Membership

This church shall maintain a non-voting congregational membership. The Board of Elders may establish a membership program outlining the requirements, rights, and responsibilities of members, as well as the procedures for dismissal.

Article VI Government

Section 1 Board of Elders

1. There shall be a President.
2. There shall be a Senior Pastor.
3. There may be a Vice President.
4. There shall be a Secretary.
5. There shall be a Treasurer.
6. Other individuals may be added as needed.

Section 2 Official Board of Elders and Voting Power

1. The Board of Elders is that group of persons vested with the management of the business and affairs of the corporation.
2. The official Board of Elders shall consist of individuals listed above and those added by official action of the Board of Elders.
3. The majority of the Board of Elders shall serve without remuneration. The majority shall also not be comprised of one group whose members are related by blood, business or marriage.

4. The President shall be chairman of the Board of Elders.
5. Each member of the Board of Elders shall have equal voting power among all of the other members.
6. A decision by the Board of Elders is considered valid with a simple majority vote, including the approval of the Senior Pastor and President, unless otherwise specified in the Bylaws.
7. The Board of Elders shall adopt a Conflict of Interest Policy to prevent voting by disqualified individuals, as defined in IRC Section 4958(f)(1). All members who are disqualified with respect to a decision shall recuse themselves from the vote.
8. The Board of Elders shall be authorized to create any additional committees as may be deemed necessary for the management of the corporation.
9. The Senior Pastor and President shall be ex officio members of every committee and either can, at their discretion, be the chair of such committee at the time of its creation.

Section 3 Removal from the Board of Elders

Any member of the Board of Elders may be removed from office with or without cause by a simple majority vote of the Board of Elders, including the Senior Pastor and President's approval.

The President may be removed from office with or without cause by a simple majority vote of the Board of Elders, including the Senior Pastor's approval.

The Senior Pastor may be removed from office in accordance with Article X.

The following reasons are considered just cause for Board of Elders member removal by the Board of Elders:

1. In absentia at three consecutive Board of Elders meetings;
2. Violation of the mutual interest clause of Article XII;
3. Not acting in the best interests of the organization;
4. Willful nondisclosure of a conflict of interest as interpreted by a majority vote of the Board of Elders.

Section 4 Vacancies

In the event of a vacancy on the Board of Elders due to resignation or removal, the President shall have a reasonable amount of time to nominate an individual who meets the qualifications and requirements set forth in these Bylaws. The nomination must be approved by a simple majority vote of the Board of Elders.

Section 5 Resignation

Any Elder may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Board of Elders. Such resignation shall take effect on the date of the receipt of such notice, and acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

Article VII Official Functions

The officers listed below are ultimately responsible to oversee that all listed duties are properly executed. The actual carrying out of necessary actions may be accomplished by any individual whom the Board of Elders sees fit.

Section 1 President Qualifications

The President shall have wisdom in handling the corporation's affairs. He shall be of sound doctrine and good judgment.

Duties

The President shall be chairman of the official Board of Elders and preside over all corporate meetings.

Term of Office

The term of office of the President shall be reviewed every three years. The number of consecutive terms that he may serve is two. The President is subject to removal at any time in accordance with Article VI.

Succession

The President may nominate a successor at any time. The nominee shall be confirmed by simple majority vote of the Board of Elders, after the nomination is made. This person will assume the role of the President if the President retires, passes away unexpectedly or is otherwise incapacitated.

No Successor Appointed

Should the President fail to appoint a successor, the following shall serve as an order of succession:

1. Vice President
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer

If the retirement, passing, removal or incapacity of the President leaves the Board of Elders unbalanced or without a quorum, then the first motion of the person who assumes the role of the President through this section, shall be to nominate prospective Board of Elder member(s). The nominee(s) shall be confirmed by a unanimous vote of the remaining Board of Elder members.

Section 2 Senior Pastor Qualifications

The Senior Pastor shall have wisdom in handling the corporation's affairs. He shall be of sound doctrine and good judgment.

Duties

The Senior Pastor shall be the leader of the church as provided by the Holy Scriptures.

The Senior Pastor shall be responsible for the day-to-day decisions.

Term of Office

The term of office of the Senior Pastor shall be reviewed every three years. The number of consecutive terms that he may serve is unlimited.

Succession

The Board of Elder may nominate a successor at any time. The nominee shall be confirmed by simple majority vote of the Board of Elders, after the nomination is made. This person will assume the role of the Senior Pastor if the Senior Pastor retires, passes away unexpectedly or is otherwise incapacitated.

Removal

The Board of Directors is responsible for providing spiritual covering by prayerfully giving necessary aid, instruction, guidance, protection and correction as well as counsel, wisdom and fellowship to the Senior Pastor/President (Galatians 6:1).

The Board of Directors may call a meeting into session without the presence of the Senior Pastor/President to conduct an investigation of accusations against him and make a determination as to whether the Senior Pastor/President has committed any of the following accusations which are grounds for dismissal:

1. Adultery
2. Embezzlement
3. Compulsive Lying
4. Sexual Impurity
5. Conviction of a felony that is a violation of Scripture
6. The Senior Pastor/President not acting in the best interest of the church

The Board of Directors will determine if the Senior Pastor/President is guilty or innocent

and whether to discipline or dismiss him from office.

Any action taken by the Board of Directors concerning the removal of the Senior Pastor/ President is valid by a unanimous vote.

No Successor Appointed

Should the Board of Elder fail to appoint a successor, the following shall serve as an order of succession:

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer

If the retirement, passing, removal or incapacity of the Senior Pastor leaves the Board of Elders unbalanced or without a quorum, then the first motion of the person who assumes the role of the Senior Pastor through this section, shall be to nominate prospective Board of Elder member(s). The nominee(s) shall be confirmed by a unanimous vote of the remaining Board of Elder members.

The successor will automatically and immediately become the Senior Pastor. In the event the successor is not prepared to assume the role of the Senior Pastor, the Board of Elders will begin the search for the replacement Senior Pastor. The Board of Elders may select an interim Senior Pastor by a simple majority vote until a permanent replacement is found.

Section 3 Vice President Qualifications

The Vice President shall have wisdom in handling the corporation's affairs. He shall be of sound doctrine and good judgment.

Duties

He will serve as chief advisor to the President.

He shall carry out the responsibilities that the President delegates to him.

Manner of Appointment

The President shall nominate and the Board of Elders shall confirm the Vice President to office by a simple majority vote.

Term of Office

The term of office of the Vice President shall be reviewed every three years. The number of consecutive terms that he may serve is two. The Vice President is subject to removal at any time in accordance with Article VI.

Section 4 Secretary Qualifications

The Secretary shall be a spiritually minded person and of sound judgment. He must be administratively minded with the ability to multi-task.

Duties

By virtue of his office, the Secretary shall keep a true and accurate record of all meetings, including business meetings of the corporation. He shall perform clerical duties and shall be the custodian of all legal documents.

Manner of Appointment

The President shall nominate and the Board of Elders shall confirm the Secretary to office by a simple majority vote.

Term of Office

The term of office of the Secretary shall be reviewed every three years. The number of consecutive terms that he may serve is two. The Secretary is subject to removal at any time in accordance with Article VI.

Section 5 Treasurer Qualifications

The Treasurer shall be a spiritually minded person and of sound business judgment. He shall be capable of doing the accounting required to maintain the corporate books.

Duties

By virtue of his office, the Treasurer shall keep, in a business-like manner, an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements of monies committed to his trust and shall make reports to be presented during the official Board of Elders meetings. He shall deposit and make withdrawals in a manner prescribed in Article XX.

Manner of Appointment

The President shall nominate and the Board of Elders shall confirm the Treasurer to office by a simple majority vote.

Term of Office

The term of office of the Treasurer shall be reviewed every three years. The number of consecutive terms that he may serve is two. The Treasurer is subject to removal at any time in accordance with Article VI.

Section 6 Elders

The Board of Elders will be made up of no less than three Elders. The Elder Board will always have at least one more lay Elder than there are staff Elders.

Qualifications

Elders shall be spiritually minded persons, and of sound business judgment.

Duties

By virtue of their office, Elders shall carry out the responsibilities that the President or Board of Elders delegate to them.

Manner of Appointment

The President shall nominate and the Board of Elders shall confirm Elders to office by a simple majority vote.

Term of Office

The term of office of the Elders shall be reviewed every three years. The number of consecutive terms that an Elder may serve is two. An Elder is subject to removal at any time in accordance with Article VI.

Article VIII Meetings

Section 1 Church Services

In any established place of worship, the appointed Pastor will be responsible for regular church services.

Section 2 Corporate Meetings

The corporate year shall coincide with the calendar year, beginning on January 1st and running through December 31st.

Proper notice of ten days shall be given to all Elders prior to any corporate meeting.

The President will call the official Board of Elders meeting to discuss the direction of the corporation. The President shall set dates and times for Board of Elders meetings. The Board of Elders may have invited guests present at any meeting so long as the President has approved it.

The Secretary shall accurately record the minutes of each Board of Elders meeting. He must then present these minutes at the following Board of Elders meeting for review by the Board and approval by the President. Once approved by the majority of the Board of Elders, the minutes shall be adopted, and all included policies and procedures will remain in effect.

Section 3 Waiver of Notice

An Elder's attendance at any Board of Elders meeting constitutes a waiver of notice for that meeting, unless the Elder is present specifically to object, at the outset of the meeting, to conducting any business due to the meeting not being appropriately called or convened.

Section 4 Meetings by Remote Communications Technology

Subject to the notice provision in Section 2 of this Article, the Elders may also hold meetings by means of a remote electronic communications system, including but not limited to video or telephone conferencing technology or the Internet, such as Zoom, Google Meeting, FaceTime, Skype, or any combination. This is permissible only if each person entitled to participate in the meeting consents to the meeting being held by means of that system, and the system provides access to the meeting in a manner or using a method by which each person participating in the meeting can communicate concurrently with each other participant. Participation in such a meeting shall constitute presence in person at such meeting, except participation for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business on the ground that the meeting is not properly called or convened.

Section 5 Action by Unanimous Written Consent Without Meeting

Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Board of Elders under any provision of law may be taken without a meeting, if all members of the Board of Elders shall individually or collectively consent in writing to such action. Such written consent or consents shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Elders. Such action by written consent shall have the same force and effect as the unanimous vote of the Elders. Any certificate or other document filed under any provision of law which relates to action so taken shall state that the action was taken by unanimous written consent of the Board of Elders without a meeting and that the Bylaws of this corporation authorize the Elders to so act and such statement shall be prima facie evidence of such authority.

Article IX Quorum

A simple majority of the Board of Elders members (including the President) at an official Board of Elders meeting constitutes a quorum.

Article X Ecclesiastical Authority

This church is theocratic in government. In any growing congregation, there will be people at all stages of spiritual growth and maturity. For that reason, it is not proper to submit the affairs of the church to a democratic vote, for the purpose of the church is not to do the will of the majority, but the will of God.

Any disputes that arise over the interpretation of these Bylaws, doctrine, or matters of faith, shall be deferred to the highest ecclesiastical authority of this church. In this case it would be the Board of Elders.

In *Watson v. Jones*, the court ruled that: “Whenever the questions of discipline, or of faith, of ecclesiastical rule, custom, or law have been decided by the highest church judicatory to which the matter has been carried, the legal tribunals must accept such decisions as final, and as binding on them ...”

Article XI Mutual Interest

The behavior of anyone in fellowship with this church is of common interest to the Board of Elders and congregation (Gal. 6:1). This church requires every member of the Board of Elders and every congregant to adhere to a lifestyle that is consistent with the doctrines of this church as taught in the Holy Scriptures. Therefore, this church reserves the right to refuse service to any individual that is not submitting their lifestyle to this Scriptural mode of conduct. This refusal would include services, benefits and any use of church assets.

Article XII Prohibited Activities

This church is prohibited from engaging in activities which violate its written doctrines. This church is also prohibited from condoning, promoting or allowing any of its assets to be used for activities that violate its written doctrines.

Article XIII Senior Pastor's Vision

To establish an efficient leadership infrastructure, the Senior Pastor shall be responsible to articulate in clear, concise and simple language the vision of the church. The purpose of this is to create a consistent and logical framework which empowers staff and volunteers to participate in the decision making processes that reflect the Senior Pastor's heart and vision for the church.

Article XIV Safety and Security

Section I Ministry of Helps

To help ensure the protection, security, and safety of congregants, guests, and volunteers during church functions, this church recognizes the Ministry of Helps. The Board of Elders may establish teams and committees who are trained in the policies and procedures of the church to carry out this ministry.

Article XV Emergency Lockdowns

Section 1 Right to Remain Open

In alignment with recent Supreme Court rulings, this church reaffirms its vital role in the spiritual, emotional, and mental well-being of its congregation. As such, the church maintains its constitutional right to remain open during government-mandated lockdowns, as outlined below.

1. **Equal Treatment:** The church asserts that it cannot be treated less favorably than comparable secular organizations during emergencies.

2. **Uniform Restrictions:** The church shall comply with government restrictions only if they apply uniformly to all gatherings, both religious and secular. For example, if a state imposes a ban on gatherings in excess of 100 persons that applies uniformly to every religious and secular organization, the church will cooperate with such measures.
3. **Board of Elders' Discretion:** If the Board of Elders believes that the government is not treating churches equally, we reserve the right to seek legal counsel to determine if we can remain open.

Section 2 Safety Measures

1. **Health and Safety Protocols:** While asserting the right to remain open, the church shall implement appropriate health and safety protocols to protect the health and safety of its members, staff, and volunteers.
2. **Cooperation with Guidelines:** The church will seek to cooperate with public health guidelines to the extent possible without compromising its essential function of worship and ministry.
3. **Online Services:** The church will enhance its online presence and provide virtual worship services, Bible studies, and other forms of support to its members during lockdowns.

Article XVI Review of Church Records

Section 1 Requests Made by Congregant

To ensure the trust of the congregants and to also ensure that a public interest is being served, church records and basic financial information may be available for congregational inspection and review. At no time may information be supplied that would violate Section 4 of this Article or Article XVIII. Any questions by any congregant shall be addressed to the treasurer either in writing or by scheduled appointment.

Section 2 Required Provisions of the Request

The request must state the name of the individual, the reason for the request and that the information shall in no way be made public or shared with any other congregant in a way that will jeopardize the church.

Section 3 Required Fee

This corporation may require a reasonable per page fee for any copies that are required in order to accommodate approved records requests.

Section 4 Confidentiality

In order to keep the records of the church confidential, records shall not be released to any outside agency, person or entity unless due process has been served and a certified subpoena has been personally delivered. This includes the IRS, except under the provisions of Section 7611 which shall be limited only to information deemed to be relevant to the inquiry being made. At all times the IRS will be expected to comply with all of the

provisions of Section 7611.

Section 5 Denying a Request

The Board of Elders reserves the right to deny such a request for any of the following reasons:

1. The request is considered by the Board of Elders and deemed to be frivolous;
2. The individual making the request has a history of being divisive;
3. The individual does not adequately provide the required information on the request as stated in this Article;
4. The person making a request is not a regular attendee or regular financial contributor.

Article XVII Privacy

This church shall diligently watch to keep private all records concerning polity, doctrine, counseling and information on individuals in fellowship with this church. This church must not disclose any records that may compromise information about a congregant's attendance, status, giving and counseling records.

Article XIII Order

For the purpose of conducting business, the President shall, in an orderly manner, preside over all of the affairs of the corporation.

Article XIX Finances

Section 1 Audit

The Treasurer or another person appointed by the Board of Elders shall conduct an internal audit. This audit of all financial records must be completed after the close of the calendar year and before the end of February.

Section 2 Checks, Payments and Withdrawals

The Board of Elders shall adopt a Corporate Expenditures Policy detailing the procedure for properly executing checks, payments and withdrawals.

Section 3 Salaries

All salaries shall be determined in the following manner:

1. The President shall consider each candidate and create a compensation package that shall be forwarded to the Board of Elders for approval
2. The Board of Elders shall consider the recommendation of the President and shall vote on the package.

Only uncompensated individuals of the Board of Elders shall vote on any recommended compensation package.

All salaries shall be reviewed each year during the last meeting of the calendar year.

Section 4 Digital Currency

The Board of Elders shall adopt a Digital Currency Policy. This policy will detail the procedures for executing the following, but not limited to:

1. **Acceptance Guidelines:** Adhere to IRS guidelines for accepting digital currency donations.
2. **Communication with Donors:** Inform donors about the policy and tax implications.
3. **Acknowledgment of Donations:** Send acknowledgment letters with specified details and ensure IRS compliance.
4. **Investment Strategy:** Develop, implement, and approve an investment strategy for digital assets.
5. **Transactions:** Obtain board approval for transactions involving digital assets.
6. **Management:** The chief officer will decide on storage methods and ensure security measures for digital assets.

Article XX Property Rights

All property, real or chattel, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred or conveyed in the corporation's name.

No real or chattel property of the corporation shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise alienated without authorization of the President.

The President of the corporation shall certify in such conveyances, leases, or mortgages.

Article XXI Dissolution

In the event that the corporation ceases to exist, all assets of this church shall, at the discretion of the Board of Elders be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by a court of competent jurisdiction in the county in which the principal office of the church is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Article XXII Ministers of the Gospel

The Senior Pastor of this ministry shall by virtue of his office automatically be recognized as an ordained minister.

Section 1 Classes of Ministers

This ministry shall have a set number of classes of ministers, as set forth below. Each class of minister will have distinct rights and privileges; they are listed below:

Ordained Pastor/Minister:

This recognition is conferred by the Board of Elders to those persons who have an "established" or "proven" ministry. Ordained ministers are authorized to perform all functions of the Christian ministry and religious functions, and must be capable of doing so. Ordained ministers are authorized to perform all religious functions, including but not limited to:

1. Conduct religious worship
2. Religious instruction
3. Administer communion
4. Provide spiritual counseling
5. Serve on the Board of Elders of a church
6. Ministry administration
7. And other sacerdotal functions including:
 - a. Conduct baby dedication ceremonies
 - b. Perform baptisms
 - c. Perform weddings
 - d. Conduct funerals
 - e. Visit the sick and shut-in
 - f. Minister in prisons
 - g. He must be capable, as determined by the Board of Elders, to take charge of a congregation.

Section 2 Board of Elders' Authority

The Board of Elders of this ministry shall have ecclesiastical authority to decide who, how or if a person will be licensed by this ministry to hold any of the classes mentioned above (Matt. 16:13-19).

Section 3 Deacons Qualifications

The office of Deacon is described in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-7. The church shall recognize, in accordance with the constitutional provisions on elections, men and women who are giving of themselves in service to the church, and who possess particular gifts of service. These members shall be received as gifts of Christ to His Church and set apart as Deacons.

Duties

Deacons shall care for the temporal needs of members, attend to the accommodations for public worship, and encourage and support those able to help others and those with gifts of administration.

Manner of Appointment

The Senior Pastor shall nominate and the Board of Elders shall confirm Deacons.

Term of Office

The term of office of each Deacon shall be reviewed every three years. The number of consecutive terms that a Deacon may serve is unlimited. A Deacon is subject to removal at any time as outlined in the Removal process described below.

Removal

Should a Deacon be found in violation of the Bylaws, the Board of Elders may dismiss him by a simple majority vote.

Article XXIII Indemnification

Section 1 Indemnification Coverage

This church shall indemnify, to the extent legally permissible, each person who serves or has served as an officer, elder, or employee of the church. Indemnification means protecting these individuals against all expenses and liabilities they might incur, including but not limited to:

Legal fees

Judgments Fines

Excise taxes

Penalties

Settlement payments

Section 2 Scope of Protection

These protections apply to any costs that arise from their service in these roles if they become involved in any threatened, pending, or completed legal action, suit, or proceeding because of their service.

Section 3 Exceptions to Indemnification

Indemnification will not be provided if:

1. The person is finally adjudicated (legally determined) in a proceeding to have not acted in good faith.
2. It is determined that the person knew or should have known that their actions were not in the best interests of the church.

Section 4 Approval of Settlements

Any compromise or settlement payment must be approved by a simple majority vote of a quorum of Elders who are not involved in the proceeding.

Article XXIV Media and Communication

The Board of Elders shall adopt a Media and Communications Policy, which must include the following:

1. **Public Statements:** Designated spokesperson and approval process.
2. **Social Media:** Guidelines and monitoring procedures.

The policy document outlines the specific procedures and requirements related to public statements and social media management and is binding upon adoption.

Article XXV Subsidiaries

Section I Authority to Form a Subsidiary SMLLC

The church may, at any time it deems appropriate, form a subsidiary known as a Single Member Limited Liability Company (SMLLC) by passing a resolution through a simple majority vote of the Board of Elders.

Section 2 Purposes of the SMLLC

The SMLLC may be formed for any of the following purposes:

- a. To hold title to buildings and properties owned by the church.
- b. To conduct revenue-generating activities consistent with the church's purposes and mission.
- c. To manage and operate specific programs or initiatives, including but not limited to:
 - i. Citywide outreach programs to feed the poor
 - ii. Sports programs
 - iii. Men's and women's auxiliary groups
 - iv. K-12 schools and higher learning education agencies
 - v. Bible colleges
 - vi. Daughter churches
 - vii. Local and foreign mission outreach programs
 - viii. Evangelistic outreach
 - ix. Minister ordination organizations
- d. To engage in any other purpose or activity that promotes the purposes and activities of the church, as determined by the Board of Elders.

Section 3 Adding Additional Members to the SMLLC

At any time, the church may add additional members to the SMLLC by passing a resolution through a simple majority vote of the Board of Elders.

Article XXVI Bathroom Usage

The Board of Elders shall adopt a Bathroom Usage Policy. This policy will detail the procedures for executing the following, but not limited to:

Section 1 Bathroom Usage Policy Requirement

1. **Gender-Specific Facilities:** The church shall maintain separate bathroom facilities for males and females. Individuals are required to use the bathroom that corresponds with their biological sex as determined by their chromosomes (male by XY chromosomes and female by XX chromosomes).
2. **Enforcement:** The church leadership is responsible for ensuring that bathroom facilities are used in accordance with this article. Any concerns or violations should be reported to the church leadership for appropriate action.
3. **Exceptions:**
 - a. **Young Children:** In cases of young children or individuals with special circumstances, parents or guardians may bring the child into the bathroom that is consistent with the parent's sex.
 - b. **Unisex Facilities:** Bathrooms designated for single-person use may be unisex.

Section 2 Review and Amendment

The Board of Elders may review and amend this policy from time to time as deemed necessary. Any changes to this policy must be approved by a simple majority vote of the Board of Elders.

Article XXVII Other Considerations

Any matters not addressed within these Bylaws shall be deliberated and resolved at an official meeting of the Board of Elders.

Article XXIII Amendments

Section I Amendments to the Bylaws

Amendments to the Bylaws may be made by a simple majority vote of the official Board of Elders, including the Senior Pastor and President.

Section 2 Incorporation by Reference

1. **Authority to Incorporate:** All policies, decisions, and programs required to be adopted under these Bylaws are hereby incorporated into these Bylaws by reference and shall have the same legal effect as if fully set forth herein.
2. **Approval Process:** Upon approval by a simple majority vote of the Board of Elders, the specific item shall be recorded in the church's corporate records book.
3. **Effective Date:** Such approval shall take effect immediately and shall be incorporated by reference into the church's Bylaws.
4. **Record Keeping:** The Secretary of the church shall be tasked with maintaining an up-to-date copy of this approval and ensuring that it is promptly recorded and stored as part of the church's Bylaws.

Certification of Approval

These Bylaws, adopted on this 5th day of March 2026, nullify all prior addenda and supersede all previous Bylaws voted on before this date.

Signed and certified, to be effective immediately.

President of Gate City Bible Church

Senior Pastor of Gate City Bible Church

Secretary of Gate City Bible Church

Treasurer of Gate City Bible Church