

# CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF



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*Founding Pastor*



**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS  
OF  
RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH**

**PREAMBLE**

WHEREAS, God has in these last days founded His church upon Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:20; I Corinthians 3:11); built it through His people (I Corinthians 12:14), given it power and authority (Matthew 16:19), and unified it with internal structure (I Corinthians 12:28) and the Holy Ghost as the guide (John 16:13), that we, as the Body of Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23), might present His Gospel (Mark 16:15) by assisting in the implementation of the vision for this local church with the following constitution and bylaws of the church.

We, whose names appear as members of the Board of Directors, in order to establish and maintain a place for the worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, do hereby; recognize ourselves as a sovereign local church. We desire to provide for Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith, where the Holy Spirit may be honored according to our distinctive testimony; to assume our share of responsibility and the privilege of propagating the Gospel of Jesus Christ by all available means, both at home and in foreign lands; and for this purpose we do adopt the constitution and bylaws of the church this 24th day of November 2006 and submit ourselves to be governed by them.

**CONSTITUTION**

**ARTICLE I – NAME**

The name of this church shall be RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH, which shall be located in Mobile, Alabama. RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH shall be herein referred to as the “church” unless otherwise noted.

**ARTICLE II - COVENANT PARTNERSHIP/MEMBERSHIP**

RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH is committed to the concept of “covenant partnership/membership”, that any individual who accepts the inspiration of the Scriptures in theory and in practice, and who successfully completes the covenant partnership/membership application and the “new member discipleship” classes is then considered in covenant fellowship with the Body of Christ at RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH.

Covenant partnership/membership in the Body of Christ is achieved by means of the new birth. One of the most important things any believer can do is get rooted and grounded in a local church where the Word of God is taught, believed and acted upon. Covenant partnership/membership is offered as a means of enabling one to become involved with the church as we labor together in His ministry. Covenant partnership/membership will cause one to

be able to draw on all the resources of the ministry without reservation. It will also provide one with an opportunity to give as well as receive.

There are many areas of ministry where one can use the talents and abilities the Lord has given him/her. This can be accomplished as all are joined together in unity and love to accomplish God's will.

## **ARTICLE III PREROGATIVES**

### **Section 1**

This church shall have the right to govern itself according to the standards of the New Testament Scriptures. “I...endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace . . . till 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: 1-13).

### **Section 2**

This church shall implement its New Testament Christianity commissioned by the further prerogatives.

- a. To administer the regular ordinance of a New Testament church (Matthew 28:19; I Corinthians 11:20; 12:13; Colossians 3:16);
- b. To establish and maintain such departments, institutions and services for the propagation of the Gospel and its work embraced by the purposes of this corporation; i.e. music ministries (Deuteronomy 6:5-7; Proverbs 2:6; 22:6; Colossians 2:8; I Timothy 6:20-21);
- c. To examine candidates for the ministry, and to license and ordain those who shall have been approved for the Christian ministry by the Senior Pastor, Board of Directors, and presbytery according to standards set forth by the New Testament as accepted by this church (Titus 1:5; I Corinthians 7:17; Acts 14:23);
- d. To examine candidates and appoint missionaries and to endorse and support missionary programs according to standards set forth by the New Testament (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 4:29-30; 13:47; 14:21, 24-28; 15:22-29, 36-39; 18:23);
- e. To establish other churches, church schools, missions, Christian camps, Christian centers, and Christian academic institutions, both at home and abroad, to standards set forth by the New Testament (Acts 15:41; 16:5; Proverbs 8:10; 13:1; II Timothy 3:16; John 14:26; I Peter 4:6; I Chronicles 16:23-24; Psalms 68:4; Revelation 14:2);
- f. To spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ through seminars, conferences, the establishment of church literature and any other forms of mass media for the purpose of educating people about Jesus Christ, both at home and abroad, to standards set forth by the New Testament (I Chronicles 16:24, Mark 1:38, 16:15, Gal. 1:16-17, II Cor. 10:15-16, Acts 16:10);

- g. To conduct and carry on religious services and instruction through public media, including but not limited to radio and television programs, the Internet, satellite transmission, cable television, closed circuit transmission, microwave distribution, telecasting, and electronic broadcasting, both at home and abroad, to standards set forth by the New Testament (I Chronicles 16:24, Mark 1:38, 16:15, Gal. 1:16-17, II Cor. 10:15-16, Acts 16:10);
- h. To acquire, own and operate any and all such broadcasting and/or telecasting facilities necessary for the purpose of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ, both at home and abroad, to standards set forth by the New Testament (I Chronicles 16:24, Mark 1:38, 16:15, Gal. 1:16-17, II Cor. 10:15-16, Acts 16:10);
- i. To designate its own officers, to appoint committees, to arrange for its own meetings, and to govern itself in accordance with the bylaws;
- j. To uncompromisingly minister the Word of God to the faithful (Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 12:32; Proverbs 30:5-6; II Corinthians 7:14; 13:8; Ephesians 4:15; Colossians 1:5-6; I Thessalonians 2:13; I Timothy 2:7; 6:1-3; II Timothy 2:1-2, 24-26; Revelation 22:18-19);
- k. To conduct a local church 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;
- l. To establish a religious order (one or more) to provide the present day equivalent of the Levitical and deaconate ministries of the Old and New Testaments, respectively (Numbers 3 and 7; I Chronicles 9, 23-28; Ezekiel 44; Acts 6; I Timothy 2:7; 6:1-3; II Timothy 2:1-2, 24-26; Revelation 22:18-19);
- m. The presbyters/elders of this church shall have the right to determine who may attend church meetings and functions, but the final decision is made by the Senior Pastor/president, because this church is not a public institution and its property is not a public place (Acts 20:28-31; II Peter 2:1-3; I Timothy 1:20, 6:5; I Corinthians 5:1-13; II Thessalonians 3:6-15; II John 9-11; II Timothy 3:1-5; Titus 3:10-11; Romans 16:17);
- n. 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 (Ephesians 5:23; Colossians 1:18). “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28). In Christ all ethnic, social and cultural distinctions blend together harmoniously to enrich His love in this church. We therefore will extend our Christian love to “whosoever will” (Revelation 22:17);
- o. We categorically reject any and all claims by the state (civil government) to headship or sovereignty over the church (Exodus 8, 9 & 10; Daniel 3 & 6). 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 4:19; 5:29);

- p. Scripture teaches that all tithes and offerings "belong to the Lord" and are "holy to the Lord" (Leviticus 27:30). Therefore, the church is tax immune. Attempts by civil government to tax the church or its property, or to 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 (Romans 13:1-7; I Timothy 2:1-6; I Peter 2:13-17; Mark 12:13-17);
- q. Scripture teaches that the responsibility for education of children rests with the parents of those children and not the state (Deuteronomy 6:5-8; 11:19; 18:19; Leviticus 10:11; Nehemiah 8:9; Isaiah 48:17; Jeremiah 10:2). The church recognizes the right and duty of the parents to educate their children by and through the church school or Christian academy under the covering of the local church as the parents need to oversee and be involved in the education of their children (Galatians 4:1-2; Luke 6:40; Deuteronomy 6:5-8; Psalm 78:4-6; Ephesians 6:4);
- r. The authority of the church as established by God (set ministry and those placed by set ministry) has the responsibility to oversee the finances of the church, both income and expenses; to maintain a list of those who are in covenant partnership/membership with the church and to maintain all records of the church (Numbers 18:8-32; Nehemiah 10:37-39; Malachi 3:8-12; Hebrews 7:4-5; II Kings 12:4-16);
- s. Scripture teaches that the responsibility for the operation of the finances of the church is left in the hands of the church authority and they alone are responsible for the spending of the same without the need to report to the people (II Kings 12:11-15; II Kings 22:5-7);
- t. Those who attend this church or contribute to the finances are not necessarily entitled to see any of the records of the church, as the authority of the church is responsible to God alone for the conduct of the affairs of the church including how God's money is spent. The sheep of the flock have no Biblical right or access to any of the church records, as the authority has no accountability to them. The authority shall decide whether to make such records available to the people and under what conditions they may be viewed. All who give tithes, offerings and alms do so at the direction of the Lord to whom it belongs and as such it is a gift to the Lord and no longer the property of or the concern of the giver (Psalms 50:7-14; Nehemiah 13:10-14; II Chronicles 31:1-14; I Chronicles 26:20-28; II Kings 20:12-19; 24:12-16, 20; John 12:5-8; Mark 14:4-9).

### **Section 3**

In connection therewith, or incidental thereto, the church shall have the right to purchase or acquire by 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 or as the same may be hereafter modified or amended.

## **Section 4**

The vision of RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH is encompassed in but not limited to the following:

- a. As a church composed of a body of believers, to be a soul-saving station and outreach center to the world (Mark 16:15-16; Hebrews 10:39; Romans 10:13; I Corinthians 10:33; I Timothy 4:12).
- b. As individual believers, to be faithful to the soul winning vision (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18-20).
- c. To have a body ministry fellowship, allowing and encouraging believers to flow with the anointing of the Holy Spirit in order to grow and develop the call of God on their lives (I Corinthians 12; 14:1-5; Mark 16:18; James 5:14; I John 4:1; Romans 12:4-8).
- d. To feed and clothe the truly poor by having a soup kitchen, food pantry, clothes closet (Leviticus 25:35; Matthew 25:34-40; Galatians 6:10; Psalms 142:7; 146:7; Luke 4:18; I Peter 3:19), and whatever other means the Lord may tell the Senior Pastor to fulfill this vision (Habakkuk 2:2; Isaiah 30:8) including providing a home for the homeless and runaways (Proverbs 19:17; Luke 3:11; II Corinthians 8:14-15).
- e. To raise up preachers with a similar vision to reach the lost and poor (I Chronicles 9:22-23; Titus 1:5; Acts 14:23). To send them out with the guidance and help of this church to start other churches both here and abroad (Acts 15:41; 16:5).
- f. To implement a Bible training program with the future goal of developing a full time, live-in Bible school, designed to operate under the full anointing of the Holy Spirit in order to train men and women to function in the five-fold ministry of Ephesians 4 and I Corinthians 12. Our conviction is that in exalting the Scriptures, we are exalting Jesus Christ who is the Living Word. The Bible training program and Bible school will also provide teaching and development to those who would be led of the Holy Spirit to build Holy Spirit anointed churches with a vision to save those who are lost and without Christ (Psalms 40:9-10; John 14:26; 1 Peter 4:6).
- g. To purposefully strive toward people of all races regardless of skin color or nationality for sake of unity in the Body of Christ (Phil.1: 27; 2:2-3, Eph.4:3).
- h. To provide a place of rest for missionaries and their families (Matthew 10:40-42, Mark 9:41, 1 Kings 17).

## **ARTICLE IV PURPOSES**

It shall be the purpose of RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the preaching and teaching of the Holy Bible, to bring the unsaved to Jesus Christ; to build up and disciple the saved in Christian grace and living, to have a vital part in missions here and abroad, and to strive toward unity with all races for the sake of peace in the Body of Christ.

We are united in one accord for the following purposes:

1. To praise and worship God.
2. To proclaim the full Gospel of Jesus Christ.
3. To proclaim the Holy Spirit to all.
4. To present salvation unto the lost.
5. To edify and unify the Body of Christ.
6. To perpetuate all the above to the subsequent generations.

Since RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH is under the law and commandments of God, the covenant partners are constituted to obey the guidance and leadership of the Holy Spirit. In connection therewith or incidental thereto, this 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.

## **ARTICLE V MANAGEMENT OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS**

The Holy Spirit of God shall guide the affairs of RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH. The Senior Pastor of the church and the Board of Directors are authorized to administer final judgment on all matters concerning the organization as a whole.

## **ARTICLE VI AFFILIATION**

While maintaining its inherent rights to sovereignty in the conduct of its own affairs, this local church shall seek to be trans-denominational and to maintain voluntarily cooperative fellowship with other churches, fellowships, church ministries, and groups that are deemed mutually benevolent and beneficial to the vision and purpose of this local church.

## **ARTICLE VII STATEMENT OF FAITH**

RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH embraces the following statements concerning the truth. The Bible is our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. This Statement of Faith is intended simply as a basis of fellowship among us (i.e., that we all speak the same thing, I Corinthians 1:10; Acts 2:42). No claim is made that it contains all Biblical truth, only that it covers our need as to these fundamental doctrines. We do not presume to say the phraseology employed in this Statement of Faith is inspired or that it is the final work on Bible 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” (Luke 1:1).

- a. **That the Holy Scriptures**, both Old and New Testaments were written by holy men inspired by the Holy Spirit and are God’s revealed word to man. They are the sufficient, infallible rule and guide to salvation and all Christian worship and service (II Peter 1:20-21; II Timothy 3:15-17; I Thessalonians 2:13). The Bible is the inspired Word of God, equally in all parts and in the whole is totally inerrant in the original manuscripts. It is the supreme revelation from God and of God, superior to conscience and reason, though not contrary to them; and it is therefore our infallible rule in all manners. All the Scriptures center about the Lord Jesus Christ and hence that no portion is properly read nor understood until it leads to Him.
- b. **That Scripture teaches that there is one and only one true and living God**, who is self-existent, and the eternal “I AM,” the creator of heaven and earth and the redeemer of mankind. That He has chosen to reveal Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, the same in essence, though distinct in personality (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10-11; Matthew 28:18-19; Luke 3:22). These three are one God, having the same nature, attributes, and perfection and are worthy of the same homage and obedience (Mark 12:29; John 1:14; Acts 5:3, 4; II Corinthians 13:14; Revelation 1:4-6). The mode of His existence, however, is a subject far above the understanding of man. He is the fountain of all perfection and happiness. He is glorified by the whole of creation and is worthy to be loved and served by all intelligence. He, therefore, is the only proper object of worship (Jeremiah 10:10; Exodus 3:14; Psalms 90:2; Matthew 28:19, 20; Job 11:7; Psalms 19:1, 2; 145:10; 150:6; Exodus 34:14).

c. **Creation**

1. Of the World

God spoke into existence the world and all things that it contains, for His own pleasure, and the enjoyment of His creatures (Revelation 4:11; I Timothy 6:17).

2. Of Man

God created man in His image according to Genesis 1:26 as a triune being consisting of spirit, soul (which is made of the mind, will and emotions), and a body.

3. Primitive Man and His Fall

Our first parents, in their original state, were upright. They naturally preferred and desired to obey their creator, and had no preference or desire to transgress His will until they were influenced and inclined by Satan to disobey God’s commands. Previous to this, the only tendency of their nature was to do righteousness. In consequence of their first transgression, the state under which the posterity of Adam came into the world is so different from that of Adam that they have not that righteousness and purity which Adam

had before the fall; they are not willing to obey God but are inclined to do evil. Hence, none, by virtue of any natural goodness and mere work of their own, can become the children of God (Genesis 1:26-31; 3: 1-7; Ecclesiastes 7:29; Psalms 51:5; John 6: 44; Romans 5:12-21; I Corinthians 2:14).

d. **That Jesus Christ**, the Son of God and the Son of Man, was born miraculously of the Virgin Mary (Matthew 1: 23; Luke 1:31, 35). He lived a sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; I Peter 2:22). That He came into the world to save men from the guilt and condemnation of sin (John 3:16), offering His blood as an atonement (I Corinthians 15:3; II Corinthians 5:21) and making it available to all who exercise faith in Him. His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; I Corinthians 15:4). His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9, 11; 2:33; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1-3). Also that His divinity is proved from His titles, His attributes, and His works (John 1:14; Luke 1:26-35; Acts 4:12; Acts 16:31). That He is presently seated at the right hand of God the Father, interceding for His redeemed. We also acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord over all things in Heaven, and in Earth, and under the Earth (John 1:12-14; I Timothy 3:16; Acts 7:37-38; Philippians 2:9-10; Hebrews 7:25).

e. **The Holy Spirit**

1. The Scriptures ascribe to the Holy Spirit the acts and attributes of an intelligent being. He guides, knows, moves, gives information, commands, forbids, sends forth, reproves, as the instrumental segment of the God Head in the liberal dispersion of spiritual gifts, and can be sinned against (John 16:13; I Corinthians 2:11; Genesis 1:2; Acts 10:19; 13:2; 16:6; 13:4; John 16:8; Mark 3:29; Acts 7:51; Ephesians 4:30; I Corinthians 12).
2. The works of God are ascribed to the Holy Spirit; creation; inspiration, giving of life, and sanctification (Job 33:4; II Peter 1:21; I Peter 3:18; I Corinthians 6:11).
3. Of Sanctification: That sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we become partakers of His holiness; that it is begun at regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in the continual use of the appointed means, especially the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer (I Thessalonians 4:3; I John 2:29; Romans 8:5; Philippians 2:12-13).

f. **The Salvation of Man:** Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, the only Son of God. Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life. The inward evidence of salvation is direct witness of the Spirit and the outward evidence to all men of a life of righteousness and true holiness (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 4:24; Titus 2:12).

Salvation is an inclusive word, which gathers into itself all the redemptive acts and processes, i.e., justification, redemption, deliverance, imputation, sanctification, glorification, etc. The

Hebrew and Greek words for salvation imply the ideas of deliverance, safety, preservation, healing, and soundness. Salvation is by grace through faith, is a free gift, and wholly without human works (Romans 3:27-28, 4:1-8, 6:23, Ephesians 2:8). Salvation is in these three tenses:

Condition of Salvation - The grace of God, which brings salvation, hath appeared to all men, through the preaching of repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ; man is saved by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost, and, being justified by grace through faith, he becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life (Romans 10:13-15; Luke 24:47; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7; Ephesians 2:8-9).

Evidences of Salvation - The inward evidence, to the believer, of his salvation, is the direct witness of the Spirit (Romans 8:16). The outward evidence to all men is a life of unconditional love, righteousness, and true holiness, demonstrated by the fruit of the Spirit (John 13:35; Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 4:24).

Final Result of Salvation - The spirit of the believer who dies in Christ immediately goes to be with the Lord (Ecclesiastes 12:7; Luke 23:42-43; II Corinthians 5:8).

- g. **The Doctrine of Baptisms:** We believe the New Testament teaches at least three baptisms. First, there is the baptism whereby the repentant sinner, upon trusting Jesus Christ as his Savior, is baptized by the Holy Spirit into the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:13). Secondly, there is water baptism by immersion for believers only. This we believe to be an ordinance of the church, whereby the believer experiences the reality of co-crucifixion and co-resurrection with the Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 6:3-6). Thirdly, there is the filling or baptism in the Holy Spirit by the Lord Jesus Christ, which may occur at or subsequent to conversion. We believe that speaking in tongues as the Spirit gives the utterance is the normative evidence of this baptism. Further, we believe that by the believer's continued submission to the Holy Spirit, his very weakness is transformed into strength to witness for Jesus Christ in power, and to live according to the will of God (Acts 1:5-6; 10:46; 11:28; 19:6).
- h. **Ordinances of the Gospel:** Baptism in Water - We believe water baptism is commanded of every believer, and a necessary requisite for going on to spiritual maturity. When done in faith, it is the means whereby those who have been justified by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ receive a circumcision of the heart, are made participants in the death and resurrection of Christ and thus are delivered from the dominion and rule of sin. The ordinance of baptism is a burial with Christ, to be observed, whenever physically possible as commanded in the Scriptures by all who have repented and truly believed in their heart on Christ as Savior and Lord. The method of baptism will be by immersion. They declare to the world that they have died with Jesus and that they have also been raised with Him to walk in newness of life. It is the circumcision of the heart by faith and through the working of the Spirit of God. Water baptism is the taking on of a great responsibility, because in it a person makes an everlasting commitment to God (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 10:47-48; Colossians 2:11-12). The Lord's Supper - The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements, bread and the fruit of the vine, is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ, a

memorial of His suffering and death, and a prophecy of His second coming. It is enjoined on all believers ‘until He comes’ (John 6:48, 51, 53-57; Luke 22:19-20; I Corinthians 2:11-12).

- i. **The Promise of the Father:** All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the Promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience in the early Christian church. With it come the endowment of power for life and service, and the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-5; I Corinthians 12:1-31). This wonderful experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 2:38; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-8).
- j. **Sanctification:** Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and a dedication unto God (Romans 12:1-2; I Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:12). The Scriptures teach a life of “holiness without which no man shall see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14). By the power of the Holy Ghost we are able to obey the command: “Be ye Holy, for I am Holy” (I Peter 1:15, 16). Sanctification is realized in the believer by recognizing his identification with Christ in His death and resurrection and by faith reckoning daily upon the fact of that union, and by offering every faculty continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit (Romans 6: 1-11,13; 8: 1-2, 13; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 12:12-13; I Peter 15).
- k. **The Church and the Ministry:** We believe that all who are united by the new birth to Jesus Christ are covenant partners of the Universal Church, the Body of Christ. We also believe that the local congregation of Christian believers is divinely instituted and is the chosen instrument of God for the furtherance of God’s work here on Earth. While appreciating the work of church groups, we believe that the local church is God’s chosen vehicle for world evangelization and the nurture of Christians. We further believe in the spiritual unity of all believers and in working together with others who believe in salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ for the causes of evangelism, missions and benevolence (Matthew 16:16-18; John 17:21; Ephesians 1:20-23; 4:3-10; Colossians 3:14-15). The church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission and purpose. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the Church of the Firstborn, whose name is written in heaven in the Lamb’s Book of Life. As such, the Bible reveals that we are covenant partners one of another and the basis of our fellowship is in Christ in the power of the Spirit (Ephesians 1:22; 2:19-22; Hebrews 12:23). A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the three-fold purpose of leading the church in: (1) Evangelization of the world, (2) Worship of God, (3) Building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (I Chronicles 16:29; Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-20; Luke 14:23; John 4:23-24; Ephesians 4:11-16; Colossians 1:28).
- l. **Responsibility of the Believer:** We believe that it is essential that each believer lay a foundation of Biblical truth and experience upon which he/she builds his/her life. These foundation stones are: repentance from dead works, faith toward God, doctrine of baptisms, laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment, all of which are prerequisites to going on to perfection (spiritual maturity) (Hebrews 6:1-2).

We believe each Christian is called and chosen in God to be a priest unto God to offer up the sacrifice of praise (the fruit of the lips), to give of their time, strength, and material possessions to the service of the Lord. All believers have been purchased with the blood of Jesus Christ and are no longer their own, but belong to the Father to be used for His glory; and as possessions of the Lord, must give themselves to serving Him, finding their place in the church, His body, and making themselves available by being present when the church comes together, that they might be able to minister their gifts and talents for the building up of the Body of Christ (John 15:16; Ephesians 1:4-5; I Corinthians 6:20; 12:18; Hebrews 13:15; I Peter 2:5,9). We believe that the whole purpose of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. Therefore, we believe in the act of praising and worshipping God with one's total being as set forth in the Holy Scriptures. We also believe that praising God is a form of spiritual warfare (Psalms 149; 150; Mark 12:29-31; Ephesians 5:18-21).

- m. **Five-Fold Ministry:** The church is to be taught and led by the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers for the purpose of every believer seeing and exercising their priestly and kingly ministry as outlined in I Peter 2:5, 9 and Revelation 16. The five-fold ministry is to teach and train its people to do the work of the ministry with maturity and unity in mind. Working with these ministries will be elders, deacons, and the gifted men and women of the church (Romans 12:3-8; I Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 4:11-13; I Timothy 3:2-12; Titus 2:1-15).
- n. **Ministry and Distribution:** The Bible relates that covenant partners of the Levitical order were to be paid from the tithes and offerings presented (Numbers 18:21-24; Deuteronomy 12:19; 18:1-2) by the people to the men/women of God at the church. The church believes that the Word of God sets forth that the sacerdotal functions to be performed by the Levites are:(a) The care of the sanctuary (Numbers 1:49-53; 18:2-4; I Chronicles 6:48; 23:27-32); (b) The ushers in the temple (I Chronicles 9:17-27, 26:12-19); (c) Treasurers (I Chronicles 26:26-28); (d) Singers (I Chronicles 9:33-34); (e) Instructors in the law (Leviticus 10:10; Ezekiel 44:24); (f) Assistants to the priests (Numbers 3:9; I Chronicles 23:28-32); (g) Secretaries (I Chronicles 2:55; II Chronicles 34:13); (h) Overseers of building and repairing the temple (I Chronicles 23:2-4; Ezra 3:8-9); (i) Inquirers of God (Exodus 28:30, Numbers 27:21, Ezra 2:63, Nehemiah 7:65); (j) Ministers before the ark (I Chronicles 16:4); (k) Musicians (I Chronicles 15:16, 16:42); (l) Protectors of the tabernacle (Numbers 1:53); (m) Ministers of God (Numbers 3:12, 39-49); (n) Prayers ( II Chronicles 30:27; I Chronicles 23:30); (o) Teachers (II Chronicles 35:3, Nehemiah 8:9); (p) Praisers (II Chronicles 8:14); and (q) Providers of music for worship (II Chronicles 5:12; 7:6; 29:30; 30:15-27).

Therefore all persons participating in the above functions of the Levites in the church shall be candidates for commissioning into the ministry and shall be eligible for receipt of the Levitical distribution from the church. The Senior Pastor with the counsel of the Board of Directors shall determine the amount of such distribution.

- o. **Ordination:** The Bible relates that those who are chosen by God to a specific work should be recognized by appointment and ordination to the work (Mark 3:13-15; I Chronicles 9:22; II Chronicles 11:15; 23:18; I Corinthians 7:17; Titus 1:5; I Timothy 2:7). Thus are those to

be set in order in their function as Levites for the ministry of the work and so those in the church might know and receive those who have a position in the work of the ministry.

- p. **Divine Healing:** Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement and is the privilege of all believers. The ministration of the laying on of hands accompanied with the anointing of oil for the healing of the sick shall be granted as request is made and the need may require (Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:16-17; Mark 16:17-18; James 5:14-15).
- q. **The Total Prosperity of God:** We believe that the Gospel of the kingdom is God's absolute answer to man's total need and total prosperity NOW:
  - 1. Spiritually - John 3:3,11; II Corinthians 5:17-21; Romans 10:9-10
  - 2. Mentally - II Timothy 1:7; Romans 12:2; Isaiah 26:3
  - 3. Physically - Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:17; I Peter 2:24
  - 4. Financially - 3 John 2; Malachi 3:10-11; Luke 6:38; II Corinthians 9:6-10; Deuteronomy 28:1-14
  - 5. Socially - Proverbs 3:4; I Samuel 2:26; Romans 14:18; II Corinthians 8:21
- r. **The Blessed Hope:** The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and the blessed hope of the church (I Thessalonians 4:16-17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; I Corinthians 15:51).
- s. **Laying on of Hands:** A simple belief that power or anointing of any other necessary quality can be transmitted from one person touching another. First practiced by the Levitical priesthood (Numbers 8:10-11, 27:22-23). Jesus practiced it as a blessing, (Mark 10:13-16) and it has been used by Him and others for healing (Mark 5:22-23; 16:18; Acts 14:3; 19:11-12; 28:8; Luke 4:40), conferring office (Acts 8:16-18), receiving anointing (I Timothy 4:14) and for ordination (I Timothy 4:14).

We believe in the doctrine of the laying on of hands for:

- 1. The confirming of believers to commitment and ministry in the local church.
- 2. The confirming of one's call by God to special ministry in the local church (Acts 13:1-3).
- 3. The imparting of spiritual gifts (I Timothy 4:14; II Timothy 1:6).
- 4. The experiencing of the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:17-18).
- 5. The ministry of healing of the sick through the Lord Jesus Christ (Mark 16:16).
- 6. The blessing and dedicating of children to the Lord (Mark 10:16).

We further believe that, in obedience to the Holy Scriptures, we should lay hands on no man suddenly, but that the laying on of hands confirms a ministry, which is already observable and has been proven (I Timothy 5:22).

- t. **Deliverance:** The need for deliverance is manifested by an inability to be free from bondage: e.g. mental (emotional), physical or spiritual normally associated with demon

activity. It is God's desire to bring deliverance to His people (Job 5:19; Psalms 91:3; II Timothy 4:18; Hebrews 2:15; II Peter 2:9). We have been granted the authority in the name of Jesus to bring deliverance to others (Mark 16:17; John 14:12; I Corinthians 12:8-11). We must understand that our warfare is with the forces of evil (Ephesians 6:12), our weapon is the Word of God, our authority and power is from Jesus Himself (Mark 16:17; Acts 1:8) and that the battlefield is in the spiritual realms (Ephesians 6: 10-18; II Corinthians 10:3-5; Romans 8:9; Galatians 5:22-23).

- u. **Gifts of the Spirit:** The nine gifts of the Spirit set forth in I Corinthians 12 should be and must be operative in the church to enjoy the fullness of God. These gifts are imparted by the sovereignty of the Holy Spirit and only work or are operated by this one and the self-same Spirit (I Corinthians 12:11).
- v. **The Millennial Reign of Christ:** The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our blessed hope. Followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on the earth for one thousand years (Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 24:27, 30; Revelation 1:7; 19:11-14; 20:1-6). This millennial reign will bring the salvation of the national Israel (Ezekiel 37:21-22; Zephaniah 3:19-20; Romans 11:26-27) and the establishment of universal peace (Isaiah 11:6-7; Psalm 72:3-8; Micah 4:3-4).
- w. **The Final Judgment and Eternal State:** We believe that at death the spirits and souls of those who have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ pass immediately into His presence and there remain in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the glorified body, when Jesus Christ comes for His own. Whereupon soul and body reunited shall be with Him forever in glory; but the spirits and souls of the unbelieving remain after death conscious of condemnation and in misery until the final judgment of the Great White Throne when soul and body reunited shall be cast into the lake of fire, not to be annihilated but to be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power (Luke 16:19-26; 23:42; II Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; II Thessalonians 1:7-8; Jude 6, 7; Revelation 20:11-15).

There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together with the devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, will be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death (Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 19:20; 20:11-15; 21:8).

- x. **The New Heavens and the New Earth:** "We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness" (II Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:22).
- y. **Tithing, Offerings and Alms:** Both the Old and New Testament Scriptures teach tithing as God's financial plan for the support of His work. These are to be practiced continually by all believers and are outward expressions of the unity of the church, the Body of Christ, as it joins together in support of the work of the Lord (Malachi 3:8-10; I Corinthians 16:2; Genesis 28:22; Matthew 23:23; Deuteronomy 26; 14:28-29; 15:7-11; Numbers 18:8-11; Ezekiel 44; Proverbs 14:21; 29:7; Luke 11:41; 12:33).

- z. **Death:** As a result of original sin, all mankind is subject to the death of the body. The soul does not die with the body, but immediately after death enters into a conscious state of happiness or misery according to the character here possessed either by rejection or acceptance of the Savior (Romans 5:12; Ecclesiastes 12:7; Philippians 1:23).
- aa. **Of the World to Come:** We believe that the end of this age is rapidly approaching (I Peter 4:7). We believe in “That Blessed Hope” -the personal, imminent return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Acts 1:11; I Thessalonians 4:13-18). We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and of the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the everlasting punishment of the lost without Christ (Acts 24:15; Matthew 24:31-46; Revelation 22:11).
- bb. **Help of the Poor:** We believe that it is the intent of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to feed the hungry (Matthew 25:34-40; Isaiah 58:7-8); to care for the poor (Matthew 19:21; Psalm 112:9; II Corinthians 9:6-9); and to care for the widows and orphans (James 1:27). We further believe that such ministry should be toward His name to both saints and unbelievers (Hebrews 6:10).

## **ARTICLE VIII ORDINANCES AND PRACTICES**

We hold that the following sacraments (ordinances and practices) are in harmony with the Scriptures and are to be observed by the church. These sacraments are to be administered by those scripturally qualified (I Timothy 3:1-11; Titus 1:5-6).

### **Section 1**

Baptism by immersion shall be observed as commanded in the Scriptures by all who have 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 (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12). Those who have become partakers 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 (Genesis 17:1-4; John 3:1-6; Romans 2:28-29; I Peter 3:18-22; I John 5:8).

### **Section 2**

The Lord’s Supper is a memorial of the covenant made with God through the blood of Christ. 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. The church participates in the Lord’s Supper as a body or family, with each covenant partner in fellowship adding to the blessedness of the experience (Exodus 11, 12; Mark 14:24; Luke 22:19-20; I Corinthians 10:16; 11:23-26).

### **Section 3**

The dedication of children is the presentation of a child to God, and therefore establishes a covenant between God and parents (one biologically-born male and one biologically-born female). God promises blessing 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 parents until he/she reaches the age of accountability, whereupon he/she becomes responsible as an individual before God and is commanded to repent (Psalms 34:11; Isaiah 54:13; Matthew 19:14; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-16; I Corinthians 7:14).

### **Section 4**

Anointing oil is administered for healing. 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 (Mark 16:18; James 5:14).

### **Section 5**

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a necessary and vital experience for every believer, is evidenced by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance. Those who seek the fullness of the Spirit shall receive prayer for the baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:15-17; 19:2-6).

### **Section 6**

Marriage is a covenant made between one biologically-born man and one biologically-born woman before God. The marriage covenant requires the married parties to be faithful, loving and helpful to each other as long as they both shall live. Christians are not to marry unbelievers, and are not to be divorced except for adultery, abuse, or abandonment. Those whom God has directed to be joined together shall, after counseling with the pastor concerning what God requires of them, be joined in Christian marriage (Malachi 2:13-16; Matthew 5:32; 19:5-6,9; Romans 7:2-3; ICorinthians 7:10-11, 15; II Corinthians 6:14; Ephesians 5:22-23).

### **Section 7**

Confirmation is administered by the laying on of hands of the presbytery to confirm the believer in the faith and service of Christ. This is done after the believer has been instructed and established in the doctrines of Christ (John 7:17; II John 9; Acts 8:17; 14:21-23; 15:32, 41;19:6, Galatians 2:9, I Timothy 5:24).

## **ARTICLE IX OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERY**

The officers of the church shall be: chairman of the board/president (Senior Pastor), vice president(s), the corporate secretary and the treasurer. Appointed directors and the Senior Pastor shall constitute the Board of Directors. The presbytery of the church shall be: the Senior Pastor, and appointed elders. Being an elder is separate from being a director. The Senior Pastor may appoint an elder to serve as both presbyter and director; however, being an elder does not constitute the appointment of director.

There shall be no less than three (3) members of the Board of Directors including the Senior Pastor. Tenure of office for all Board of Directors shall be indefinite. Directors shall always display evident and consistent adherence to the Statement of Faith, the Prerogatives and the Ordinances and Practices as set forth in this constitution. Each director will be reviewed annually according to their performance and spiritual walk with God and given the opportunity to resign or recommit for further service to God as God directs. The Senior Pastor shall appoint the directors with or without the counsel of the advisory presbytery board. In the event that an office of the Board of Directors becomes vacant, the Senior Pastor may, with the counsel of the Board of Directors, appoint a successor to serve the remainder of the term.

The qualifications for presbyters/elders and directors are outlined in the bylaws.

## **ARTICLE X COVENANT PARTNERSHIP/MEMBERSHIP FAITH, AND PRACTICE**

### **Section 1**

The covenant partnership/membership of this church family shall consist of persons who have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and who have obeyed Him in the Scriptural ordinance of baptism. Covenant partners are expected to confirm a firm and continuing commitment through:

- a. Public and private affirmation of the Statement of Faith set forth in this constitution;
- b. Regular attendance at all services of the church (Sunday morning, midweek, etc.);
- c. Attendance at all congregational meetings;
- d. Participation in times of prayer and fasting when called by the Senior Pastor;
- e. Payment of tithes and the giving of offerings to accomplish the work of Christ through the church;
- f. Recognition of a personal function in the Body of Christ and pursuit of the fulfillment of that function.

### **Section 2**

The standard of faith and practice shall be that as set forth in the New Testament and incorporated in the articles of faith and the church constitution as adopted by this church.

### **Section 3**

Meetings for public worship shall be on each Lord's Day and during the week as may be provided for under the direction of the Senior Pastor with the counsel of the Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE XI RELIGIOUS ORDER**

The religious order of this church shall be called the "Levitical Order Ministry." Covenant partners of the order may be either married or single and may be either male or female. This order shall be an integral part of this church and shall be governed and directed by the local presbytery and Senior Pastor (Numbers 3-4).

## **ARTICLE XII FINANCES**

The church shall be financed according to the Scriptural method by the tithes and offerings of the covenant partners and friends of the church (Malachi 3:10; Matthew 23:23; Hebrews 7:4-9; Deuteronomy 14:28-29; 15:7-11). The Senior Pastor/president may approve additional fund-raising activities. These gifts when given to the church divest the donor of all interest in the donated funds and property. The disposition of those funds shall be left to the Senior Pastor and Board of Directors of the church (Acts 4:34-37).

## **ARTICLE XIII PROPERTY**

1. All property, real or chattel, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred, or conveyed in the name of RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH.
2. No real *or* chattel property of the church shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise alienated without the same being authorized by at least two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors, including the Senior Pastor.
3. The Senior Pastor and secretary of the Board of Directors/corporate secretary shall certify in such conveyance, lease or mortgage that the same has been duly authorized by the vote of the Board of Directors. Such certificate shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.
4. Should the church cease to function as a church body, then such property, real or personal, shall be donated by the Board of Directors and Senior Pastor together with the local and advisory presbytery to a worthy non-profit religious institution according to the articles of incorporation as amended.

## **ARTICLE XIV AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to the constitution may be made by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors, including the Senior Pastor, and the local presbytery.

# BYLAWS

## ARTICLE I GOVERNMENT

The government shall be vested in the Senior Pastor whom the Holy Ghost has made overseer of the flock (set man) (Acts 20:28; I Peter 5:1-4).

This church recognizes the privileges of the communion of fellowship and cooperation in word and spirit of other churches of like precious faith, for the furtherance of the Gospel at home and abroad.

To perpetually protect this local church organization in its ownership and control of its property and in its sovereignty under Christ, all ecclesiastical power and authority relative to this church and its property shall be exercised by the Senior Pastor with the counsel of the church Board of Directors and the decisions thus made are subject to no reversal or amendment by any other ecclesiastical body whatsoever.

Therefore, any action or effort on the part of any covenant partners or officers of this local church organization to cause it to become a covenant partner of any church organization other than such a fellowship of churches as shall constitutionally guarantee that no covenant partner church shall in any way be amenable to that organization is hereby strictly forbidden and any such action shall be a breach against the foundation and intent of this local church organization, and any record made of any such action shall have no binding power upon this church but shall merely be a record of misconduct of those participating in such action.

### A. DIRECTORS

The Holy Spirit of God shall guide the affairs of RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH. The Senior Pastor of the church is authorized to administer final judgment on all matters concerning the organization as a whole; however, all matters will be discussed openly among all of the Board of Directors.

There shall be no less than three (3) directors. Each director shall be filled with the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4, and shall serve the organization as long as duty is performed consistent with the organization's bylaws. A director may resign at any time or be removed with or without cause by the Senior Pastor. Any resignation or removal shall be in writing and shall become a part of the records of the organization. Directors need not be residents of Alabama or covenant partners of the church.

If the Senior Pastor chooses to have his/her spouse serve as co-pastor, the spouse will serve as executive pastor/executive vice-president of the Board of Directors. The number of directors not related to the Senior Pastor shall be greater than the number which is related to him/her. At no time shall the number of directors related to the Senior Pastor be more than the number of directors not related. No director or covenant partner related to the Senior Pastor shall serve as treasurer of the church but may serve in any other position.

A meeting of the Board of Directors will be held annually. Notice of the time and place of such meeting, signed by the secretary, will be mailed to each board member at least five (5) days before the date of the meeting. The Senior Pastor shall hold such other meetings as may be necessary from time to time. Only three (3) days notice shall be required for such special meeting. The

Board of Directors shall not give out the business discussed by its board or any board. Only such items as are to be passed on to the assembly shall be given out by the Senior Pastor or someone he/she appoints.

No meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held without the Senior Pastor's approval. A majority of the Board of Directors, including the Senior Pastor, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board of Directors. If less than a majority of the Board of Directors is present at said meeting, a majority of the Board of Directors present may adjourn the meeting to another time without further notice.

Any agreement, resolution, decision passed by a majority of the Board of Directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board of Directors, providing the majority includes the vote of the Senior Pastor and unless the act of a greater number is required by these bylaws or the articles of incorporation.

Any vacancies of existing Board of Directors or additional Board of Directors to be added to increase the number of Board of Directors shall be filled by appointment of the Senior Pastor.

Directors shall not receive any stated salaries for their services, but by resolution of the Board of Directors a fixed sum and expenses of attendance, if any, may be allowed for each regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors, provided that nothing herein contained shall be construed to preclude any director from serving the church in any other capacity and receiving reasonable compensation therefore.

The Board of Directors together with the local presbytery may, by resolution, adopt numerical limitations as to the maximum number of members of the Board of Directors that are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

All members of the Board of Directors, local presbytery, deacons and advisory presbytery must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age. The church secretary and treasurer must be at least eighteen (18) years of age.

## **B. OFFICERS - QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES**

### **Section 1**

#### **Senior Pastor (President)**

- a. **Qualifications:** The Senior Pastor shall be a man/woman of mature experience, spiritually endowed and possessed of abilities commensurate with his/her office (I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; I Peter 5:1-4).
- b. **Duties:** The Senior Pastor is the chief executive officer of the church and the continuing president of the Board of Directors. The Senior Pastor shall be considered the spiritual overseer of the church and shall direct all of its activities. He/she shall provide for the various services of the church, and arrange for all special meetings, conventions or revival campaigns. No person shall be invited to speak or preach in the church or any of its departments without his/her approval. He/she shall administer the ordinances of the church and perform all other functions pertinent to his/her office. It shall be his/her responsibility to assign portfolios to all officers. As president of the corporation, he/she shall serve as chairman of all the business meetings of the church and church boards, board of advisors, board of deacons, and Board of Directors, and board of presbyters, execute all deeds and documents as approved by

the church Board of Directors and shall be an ex-officio member of all boards, departments and committees. No church meetings or board meetings shall be held in his/her absence without his/her prior approval.

- c. **The Senior Pastor is required by God to pastor the flock** (John 21:15-17); to take the oversight of the church (I Peter 5:2-3). The Senior Pastor shall act as chairman at the business meetings of the church and the Board of Directors and shall be ex-officio covenant partner/member of all committees or departments, shall provide for the services of the Body and shall arrange for all special meetings, conventions, crusades or revival campaigns (Acts 21:17-18; 15:13-21). No person shall be invited to preach or speak in the church without the Senior Pastor's approval; the Senior Pastor (presiding chairman) alone can call a special meeting, as long as his/her life is in harmony with the Scriptures and as long as he/she faithfully fulfills his/her office according to God's Word (Acts 6:2). The Senior Pastor has the power to appoint any church officer to act as chairman of the board meeting and church business meeting in the event of his/her absence. The Senior Pastor shall have the authority to appoint any person to all Scriptural positions of authority within RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH. The Senior Pastor shall be the executive head of the church and the president of the Board of Directors and his/ her tenure of office shall be indefinite. He/she shall be in charge of the business and affairs of the corporation and shall see that the resolutions and directives of the Board of Directors are carried into effect except in those instances in which that responsibility is assigned to some other person by him/her; and in general, shall discharge all duties incident to the office of president and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors. He/she shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors.
- d. **In his/her absence**, the executive pastor/executive vice-president of the Board of Directors shall act in his/her place on the performance of such as may be necessary to carry on the work of the church. In the event of death, resignation or inability of the Senior Pastor to fulfill his/her duties, the executive pastor shall perform all such duties of the Senior Pastor until a new Senior Pastor has been chosen. The local presbytery shall report the fact to the church and follow with the advisory presbytery and Board of Directors the method of Senior Pastoral replacement in article III of the bylaws.

## Section 2

### Executive Pastor (Executive Vice-President)

- a. **Qualifications:** He/she shall have the same qualifications as those of the Senior Pastor. The Senior Pastor reserves the right if he/she chooses to have his/her spouse serve as co-pastor of RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH. The spouse must have a calling from God on his/her life to walk in such a position. If the Senior Pastor chooses to exercise this right, then the advisory presbytery, local presbytery and Board of Directors shall agree on such. If the Senior Pastor chooses to appoint his/her spouse as co-pastor then the spouse shall serve as the executive vice-president of the Board of Directors and be the executive pastor of the church.
- b. **Duties:** He/she shall assist the Senior Pastor in the various services of the church, in the administration of the business and ordinances of the church, and in the discipline of

the church covenant partners/those in covenant fellowship. He/she shall be the executive vice-president of the Board of Directors. He/she shall be the vice-chairman of the local presbytery board. He/she shall perform all other duties as assigned by the Senior Pastor. The executive pastor shall not give out the business discussed by any board. Only such items as are to be passed on to the assembly shall be given out by the Senior Pastor or someone he/she appoints.

- c. **In his/her absence**, the Senior Pastor shall appoint someone to fill his/her position. In the event of death, resignation or inability of both the executive pastor and the Senior Pastor, the chairman of the advisory presbyters serving as a vice-president of the Board of Directors shall act on their behalf. The chairman of the advisory presbyters may appoint, if he/she chooses, someone from the local presbytery board to fulfill the ministerial duties of the Senior Pastor if the Senior Pastor and the executive pastor both are unavailable to do so. Only the ministerial duties may be delegated. Until a new Senior Pastor is chosen, the chairman of the advisory presbytery shall act as interim president of the Board of Directors and may not delegate this position or responsibilities to anyone else.
- d. **Appointment:** The Senior Pastor/president shall appoint the executive pastor. Vacancies as they occur shall be filled in the same manner.

### Section 3

#### The Corporate Secretary (Secretary)

- a. **Qualifications:** The corporate secretary shall be a person possessed of mature judgment, Christian character, and with abilities to perform such clerical duties, as the office requires. The corporate secretary does not have to be a covenant partner of RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH.
- b. **Duties:** The corporate secretary shall keep, or cause to be kept, a book of minutes at the principal office or such other place as the Board of Directors may order, of all meetings of Board of Directors with the time and place of holding whether regular or special, and if special, how authorized, the notice thereof given, the names of those present at meetings of the Board of Directors and the proceedings thereof. The corporate secretary shall give or cause to be given, notice of all meetings of the Board of Directors required by these bylaws or by law to be given, and shall keep the seal of the corporation in safe custody, and shall have other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors, or by these bylaws. The corporate secretary shall not give out the business discussed by any board. Only such items as are to be passed on to the assembly shall be given out by the Senior Pastor or someone he/she appoints.
- c. **Appointment:** The Senior Pastor/president shall appoint the corporate secretary. Vacancies as they occur shall be filled in the same manner.

## Section 4

### The Treasurer (Treasurer)

- a. **Qualifications:** The treasurer shall be a person possessing mature judgment, of Christian character, and with abilities to perform the duties required of the office. The treasurer may not be related to the Senior Pastor/president.
- b. **Duties:** The treasurer shall be entrusted with all the finances of the church. The treasurers of the various departments and groups shall deposit with him/her all monies received. He/she shall deposit all funds committed to his/her keeping in such banks as the church board may designate in the name of the church, and disburse the same as authorized by the Senior Pastor and church Board of Directors. The treasurer shall keep a true and accurate records of all monies received and disbursed and render an itemized report of his/her accounts at the annual business meeting of the church and at the regular monthly meeting of the church Board of Directors and at such other times as may be requested by the Senior Pastor and/or the church Board of Directors. The treasurer shall perform any and all other duties deemed necessary by the Senior Pastor and Board of Directors. The treasurer shall not give out the business discussed by any board. Only such items as are to be passed on to the assembly shall be given out by the Senior Pastor or someone he/she appoints. The accounts of the treasurer shall be audited every other year under the direction of the Senior Pastor and the church Board of Directors by an inside or outside auditor (Acts 6:1-4, I Timothy 3:8-13).
- c. **Appointment:** The treasurer shall be appointed by the Senior Pastor/president and shall be ratified by the church Board of Directors. Vacancies as they occur shall be filled in the same manner.

## Section 5

### Other Eligibility Requirements

- a. Preferably, and insofar as possible, all offices shall be filled by those who have been baptized in the Holy Spirit, which shall be accompanied with the evidence of speaking in tongues.
- b. All office holders shall walk in agreement with the constitution and bylaws of RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH.
- c. Except for the Board of Directors and advisory presbyters, all office holders shall have been covenant partners of this church for at least 6 months, if possible, except for the Senior Pastor who shall be a covenant partner automatically upon assuming the leadership of the church.

## Section 6

### Local Presbytery (Elders)

- a. **Qualifications:** A presbytery shall be made up of such qualified men/women, as the Senior Pastor shall appoint to serve on such board. They will be an extension of the Senior Pastor in the spiritual guidance of the church. The term “presbytery” shall be assigned to this board.
  1. Elders must qualify in accordance to I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9; I Corinthians 6:19-20, 10:33; II Corinthians 6:17-and as in the book of Acts, Chapter 13, Verse 2, “...after much prayer and seeking of guidance from God...,” the elders shall be appointed by the Senior Pastor. If a vacancy occurs on the presbytery, it shall be filled by appointment of the Senior Pastor.
  2. They must be involved in the full time ministerial duties. They shall assist the Senior Pastor who is the “chief elder” in all spiritual matters concerning the oversight of the church (Acts 20:17, 28, 35); to visit the sick and pray for them (James 5:14-15); to visit those covenant partners who have absented themselves from the regular services of the church; and to visit visitors to the church; to assist in the administration of the ordinances of the church, such as serving communion and to assist in the discipline of covenant partners and Levitical Order Ministers.
  3. The Senior Pastor shall give each elder a specific portfolio of responsibility to be carried out by each elder. The elder shall be accountable to the Senior Pastor for his/her work under such portfolio.
- b. **Duties:** The presbyters/elders under the direction of the Senior Pastor shall implement the overall spiritual oversight of the church. They shall be available to assist the Senior Pastor and serve the congregation in any of the multiple tasks which comprise spiritual oversight and ministry of the church; said tasks to be assigned by the Senior Pastor and representing an extension of the Senior Pastor’s own spiritual responsibilities.
  1. The presbytery shall meet at any time deemed necessary by the Senior Pastor who is the “chief elder” and chairman of the board of presbyters. Due notice shall be given to each covenant partner of the presbytery either by public announcement in the church or notification by the presbytery secretary.
  2. The presbytery of RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH is expected to serve faithfully in their respective responsibilities. They must seek to be examples to the flock in worship, attendance, purity, love, unity, loyalty, generous giving and all other spiritual virtues. He/she shall further dedicate daily time to prayer and Bible Study.
  3. Elders shall serve in an advisory capacity with the Senior Pastor in all matters pertaining to the church in its spiritual life. They are not a legislative body, but are for counsel and

mutual assistance in the administration of spiritual affairs of the fellowship. They shall act in the administration of the discipline of the fellowship.

4. The Senior Pastor may place certain families under the care and oversight of the elders. They shall visit and pray for the family under their oversight.
5. The elders shall serve on the RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH presbytery if appointed thereto by the Senior Pastor and attend all monthly and special meetings. The Senior Pastor shall appoint a secretary of the presbyter board for the purpose of recording the minutes of each meeting. He/she shall further dedicate daily time to prayer and Bible Study.
6. An elder's wife/husband shall consider themselves as a part of their husband's/wife's ministry and shall be in loving submission, cooperation and unity with them.
7. Presbyters/elders shall not give out the business discussed by its board or any board. Only such items as are to be passed on to the assembly shall be given out by the Senior Pastor or someone he/she appoints.

c. **Appointment:** Any vacancies occurring in the presbytery or any elders to be added by reason of an increase in the number of elders shall be filled by appointment of the Senior Pastor. However, the Senior Pastor shall present to the church from the pulpit the name or names of the individuals to be selected as elders and shall allow those who object to the named individual to be given an opportunity to present to the Senior Pastor, in writing, such objections and to be willing to sit down with the Senior Pastor, the presbytery and the candidate in order to discuss the candidacy. This announcement shall be made thirty-(30) days before the proposed appointment with all objections to be made in writing within fourteen (14) days of the announcement.

## Section 7

### Deacons

**Qualifications:** Deacons shall be composed of persons who meet the spiritual qualifications as given in Acts 6:3 and I Timothy 3:8-13. The deacon shall be a person possessed of mature judgment, of Christian character, and with abilities to perform the duties required of his/her office.

**Duties:** Deacons shall assist in the administration of the church, such as in ushering duties, etc. They shall visit the sick, the aged and the poor, and those covenant partners who have absented themselves from the regular services of the church. Deacons are responsible for the maintenance of the church building and grounds, and in general shall be responsible for attending and serving those duties both in the natural and spiritual realms as requested by the Senior Pastor. The deacons shall act as the custodian of the property of the church and shall take all necessary measures for its protection and management. The deacons shall be directly responsible to the church for repairs and replacements from time to time as the need may

require. They shall advise with the Senior Pastor in the engagement of a suitable person or persons to oversee and maintain the church property in a clean and suitable condition. They shall provide adequate supplies and equipment to care for the property of the church so that it may serve the purpose intended. The Senior Pastor, by virtue of his/her position as the overseer of the flock, shall be chairman of the board of deacons. The executive pastor, by virtue of his/her position shall be the vice-chairman of the board of deacons. At the first business meeting of the deacons after its ratification at the annual business meeting, the deacons shall elect from its own group one man/woman to be the secretary of the board of deacons who will faithfully keep all records of business transactions by the deacons. In the event the Senior Pastor, who is chairman, is absent from the city and it becomes necessary to have a special or regular board meeting, the Senior Pastor shall delegate authority to the vice-chairman to conduct such a meeting, or authorize the executive pastor to conduct the meeting. Deacons shall not give out the business discussed by its board or any board. Only such items as are to be passed on to the assembly shall be given out by the Senior Pastor or someone he/she appoints.

**Appointment:** The deacons of the church shall be appointed by the Senior Pastor and ratified by the church presbytery. Vacancies, as they occur, shall be filled in the same manner.

## Section 8

### The church secretary

- a. **Qualifications:** The church secretary shall be a person possessed of mature judgment, Christian character, and with abilities to perform such clerical duties as the office requires.
- b. **Duties:** The church secretary shall keep the minutes of all the annual and special business meetings of the church and of any other meetings of church councils, boards, and committees when requested by the Senior Pastor. He/she shall maintain a register of the church covenant partnership/membership, serve as corresponding secretary, under the direction of the Senior Pastor, and perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of his/her duties. He/she shall be the custodian of all legal documents of the church. He/she shall sign for the church any and all necessary legal papers. When a new secretary is selected, his/her predecessor shall transfer all papers and documents to him/her. The church secretary shall not give out the business discussed by any board. Only such items as are to be passed on to the assembly shall be given out by the Senior Pastor or someone he/she appoints.
- c. **Appointment:** The secretary shall be appointed by the Senior Pastor/president. Vacancies as they occur shall be filled in the same manner.

## Section 9

### Ministers

A person may become a covenant partner of this order through an appointment by the Senior Pastor after meeting the qualifications and subscribing to the following vows:

1. Chastity;
2. Obedience to God in all things and to the local presbytery in respect to the duties of their ministry;
3. Recognition of the high call of their office and its Scriptural significance;
4. Devotion to service in the performance of the duties of their ministry.

Covenant partnership/membership in this order may be dissolved by termination of ministry, personal request or by the Senior Pastor. Covenant partnership/membership in this order must conform to the following rules of the order:

1. All covenant partners of this order must be in covenant fellowship with this church or a church of like faith, which is approved by the Senior Pastor.
2. All covenant partners of this order must be at least eighteen (18) years of age before making their profession and complete a probationary period of not less than 90 days no more than one year.
3. All covenant partners of this order will be commissioned and are authorized to teach the Gospel as well as to assist ordained ministry in baptism, marriages and administering the sacraments of the church, in addition to any other duties assigned them by the elders.
4. All covenant partners of this order must be persons of mature Christian character who are known for his/her devotion to Jesus Christ.
5. All covenant partners of this order must agree with and submit to the Statement of Faith and the vision of the Senior Pastor. No selfish-ambition allowed.
6. All covenant partners of this order submit to the leadership of the elders. No employment outside the order shall be allowed that will interfere with the duties of the Levitical order.

## **Section 10**

### **Board of Counselors**

The board of counselors shall be professional men/women from the community and from the congregation of the church chosen by the Senior Pastor for the purpose of seeking counsel as to many secular matters in which the church may be involved: i.e. insurance, real estate purchases, mortgage financing, etc. They shall meet when called into session by the Senior Pastor (I Chronicles 12:32; Proverbs 11:14; 15:22; 20:18; 24:6).

## Section 11

### The Senior Pastor

This church is set in order under the authority of the Bible and at the request of a company of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, on the following principles: it is to be Scripturally independent as to its faith and government (Hebrews 6:12; Ephesians 4: 11-12; I Corinthians 12:18-20); and in accord with the twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth chapters of I Corinthians as to its conduct and practice; and in cooperative fellowship with other bodies of believers who are “earnestly contending for the faith that was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3).

The government of the church is in the hands of the Senior Pastor, who has ultimate authority under Christ. He/she shall act as chairman of all meetings of the church, except that he/she has the right to delegate that function to any other person.

No person shall be invited to speak, preach, perform, or otherwise minister in the church without the consent of the Senior Pastor.

In general, the Senior Pastor is expected to exercise his/her authority in conjunction with other ministers, the local and advisory presbytery, the Board of Directors, and all covenant partners of RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH. Authority in the church is neither autocratic, nor oligarchic, nor democratic, but theocratic. The church has only one prevailing task: to find the will of God, and to do it.

## Section 12

### Church Government

1. We recognize four kinds of authority in the church:
  - a. **The Absolute Authority of Christ:** Christ alone can be and must be the Chief Shepherd of the flock of God.
  - b. **The Delegated Authority of the Under-Shepherd:** Christ chooses to express His authority through men and women who are His gift to the church (Philippians 1:1; Hebrews 13:17; Matthew 18:18; Acts 20:28; I Corinthians 16:16; Ephesians 4:11-12; I Thessalonians 5:12-13; etc.). The people are expected to yield to the authority of their bishop/minister/pastor/elder/presbyter/overseer (these terms are nearly synonymous in the New Testament). In the church we choose to call the person who occupies the office of bishop or chief overseer, the “pastor” or “Senior Pastor”. The authority given to the Senior Pastor in Scripture is forceful, and in all matters, relevant to the spiritual life of the church, to its mission and growth, its discipline and order; his/her rule (when properly exercised in the Scriptures) should be obeyed (Hebrews 13:7, 17; Acts 20:26, 28).
  - c. **The Advisory Authority of the Presbytery:** Since authority vested in one man or woman alone may easily become tyranny when the he/she does not follow God (I Peter 5:3), and since Scripture commands the wisdom found in a multitude of counselors (Proverbs 11:14, 24:6) and since there are diverse gifts and ministers in the Body of

Christ (I Corinthians 12:14-27), the Senior Pastor is expected to work with a team of dedicated people (these may be called the presbyters, elders, deacons, counselors, etc.). The New Testament clearly indicates that the full oversight of a local church should be vested in such plural eldership, or team ministry (Philippians 1:1, Acts 20:28, Titus 1:5). This collective leadership (headed by the senior pastor) creates a source of immense spiritual power (Matthew 18:18-20). In this church, the above principles will be implemented by the setting up of a local presbytery, which will consist of the senior pastor and appointed elders. This presbytery will meet at such times as the Senior Pastor shall determine, and shall be responsible for the proper conduct of the affairs of the church, except that final authority shall remain in the Senior Pastor in accordance with the bylaws herein.

- d. **The Priestly Authority of the People.** The Senior Pastor and presbytery must recognize the priesthood of each believer (I Peter 2:9, Revelation 1:6, 5:10, 20:6, Hebrews 10:19-23, 4:16, Romans 5:1-5). This priesthood means that the people need no intermediary save Christ to represent them before God. Hence, God may speak to the church at any time through the humblest saint - He is not bound to speak only through official channels. All covenant partners are encouraged to use, express and grow in their spiritual gifts under the oversight of the Senior Pastor and presbytery. Hence, each covenant partner will be allowed to voice the move of the Holy Spirit within them, and godly leaders will always be attentive to the voice of the Spirit and willing to obey at once if God's Word should come to the church from that source. Yet, the final decision must remain with oversight, and ultimately with the Senior Pastor, who is responsible under God for the welfare of the church and accountable for the church and flock given to him.
2. The church must function as a theocracy.

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 as the same is not God's way, for the purpose of the church is not to do the will of the majority, but the will of God.

## Section 12

### Ministerial Staff

1. The Senior Pastor shall select all covenant partners of the ministerial staff with the counsel of the local presbytery.
2. The Senior Pastor shall direct and evaluate the ministry performance of all covenant partners of the ministerial staff.
3. The service of the covenant partners of the ministerial staff shall continue or terminate at the discretion of the Senior Pastor.

4. The Board of Directors shall determine all salaries of the ministerial staff. The Senior Pastor and staff shall be given regular and adequate financial support. The Board of Directors shall determine the amount and manner of such support.

## Section 13

### **Sovereignty of this Church**

1. This church recognizes the privileges of the communion of fellowship and cooperation in word and spirit of other churches of like precious faith for the furtherance of the Gospel at home and abroad.
2. The Board of Directors, by resolution adopted by a majority of those in office, may designate one or more committees, which committees, to the extent provided in said resolution and not restricted by law, shall have and exercise the authority of the Board of Directors in the management of the corporation; but the designation of such committees and the delegation thereto of authority shall not operate to relieve the Board of Directors, or any individual board member, of any responsibility imposed upon it or him by law.
3. To perpetually protect this local church organization in its ownership and control of its property and in its sovereignty under Christ, this church shall exercise all ecclesiastical power and authority relative to this church and its property and the decisions thus made are subject to no reversal or amendment by any other ecclesiastical body whatsoever. Therefore, any action or effort on the part of any covenant partners or officers of this local church organization to cause it to become a covenant partner of any church organization other than such fellowship of churches as shall constitutionally guarantee that no covenant partner church shall in any way be amendable to that organization is hereby strictly forbidden and any such action shall be a breach against the foundation and intent of this local church organization, and any record made of any such action shall have no binding power upon this church but shall merely be a record of misconduct of those participating in such action.

## **ARTICLE II - ADVISORY (PEER) PRESBYTERY**

### **A. PURPOSE**

The purpose of the advisory presbytery shall be to provide spiritual covering by prayerfully giving necessary aid, comfort, instruction, guidance, protection, and corrective discipline to the senior pastor (II Timothy 3:16,17; Acts 15). Because of the necessity of the apostolic structure of this church, an advisory presbytery must always be in force. The Senior Pastor cannot overlook or bypass this board. If the Senior Pastor will not submit to spiritual authority, then he/she shall have no spiritual authority. This board will be in place or the Senior Pastor is out of line with God's Word and may be open to corrective discipline by this board and the Board of Directors. The term "advisory presbytery" shall be assigned to this board.

## **B. FUNCTION**

1. At the discretion of the Senior Pastor, the advisory presbytery will be called upon to give counsel, advice, and recommendation in helping to settle internal conflicts and disputes among the congregation and/or leadership.
2. In the event the Senior Pastor is brought into question concerning his/her morals, doctrines, ethics, finances, and upon the request of the Board of Directors and local presbyters, the advisory presbytery shall be called into function as an apostolic counselor, advisor, and facilitator of restoration if necessary. The advisory presbytery alone has the right to counsel, to advise and to correct the Senior Pastor. No other board or officer shall be allowed to participate in this process unless directed to do so by the advisory presbytery. Attempts must first be made to approach the Senior Pastor according to Matthew 18.
3. In the event of death or resignation, the Board of Directors and local presbytery shall call the advisory presbytery into function to serve in apostolic spiritual authority to seek the face of God, for the purpose of installing a new senior pastor.

## **C. STRUCTURE**

The advisory presbytery shall have no innate power or authority as a legal, organizational entity, except that which is invested in them by these bylaws.

The RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH corporate secretary shall serve as recording secretary and agent for all officially called meetings of the advisory presbytery.

Any member of the advisory presbytery may be replaced/removed of their function, existence and aim at any time deemed necessary by the Senior Pastor of RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH with the Board of Directors and local presbyters being notified of such replacement/removal. Future vacancies shall be filled by the appointments of the Senior Pastor with the counsel of the Board of Directors and local presbytery and shall consist of current or retired ministers who have built successful works for the Lord. All appointed should have an uncompromising commitment to the Word of God and have served for five (5) or more years in paid full time ministry. All members of the advisory presbytery must be at least twenty-one years of age and agree with the Statement of Faith of this church.

The Senior Pastor of RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH shall appoint the initial advisory presbytery and its representative. The representative appointed by the Senior Pastor shall chair the advisory presbytery.

The initial chairman of the advisory presbytery shall serve until it is deemed necessary to change, at which time the Senior Pastor will appoint a new chairman with the counsel of the Board of Directors.

The chairman of the advisory presbytery shall serve as a vice-president of the Board of Directors and in the event of both the Senior Pastor and executive pastor's death or resignation, he/she will oversee the church until a new Senior Pastor can be chosen in accordance with article 1 section 2.C.

Any succeeding Senior Pastor to the founding Senior Pastor must keep the advisory presbytery that was in existence at the time he/she became Senior Pastor. He/she may after a one year period, make replacements. He/she must follow the procedure set forth in paragraph C.3 above by choosing men/women who meet the qualifications set forth therein and as set forth in Exodus 18:21.

#### **D. DESIRE**

RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH believes in theocratic, apostolic government and it is our desire to please Jesus, the Chief Shepherd, by being under authority in order to be in authority. The Senior Pastor cannot overlook or bypass this board. If the Senior Pastor will not submit to spiritual authority, then he/she shall have no spiritual authority.

### **ARTICLE III – SENIOR PASTOR REPLACEMENT**

There must be just cause to remove the Senior Pastor. Proven cases of adultery, apostasy, and embezzlement are just cases. The sinning pastor will be given needed time and opportunity to repent and make restitution (Galatians 6:1-2). The goal of Matthew 18:15-20, II Timothy 4:11 and I Timothy 5:17-20 is not removal, but restoration. If necessary, the Senior Pastor may be placed on paid sabbatical leave in order to recover from his/her transgression.

The removal of the Senior Pastor should be a last resort. If the Senior Pastor truly repents and makes restitution, the church shall forgive him/her and the advisory presbytery shall restore him/her to his/her ministry (Psalms 51, Luke 22:21-34, Genesis 9:20-24, Hebrews 11:7, James 5:19-20).

However, if the Senior Pastor refuses to repent and make restitution he/she shall be dismissed from his/her authority and position. He/she shall also be disqualified from the selection of his/her successor. The Senior Pastor may be dismissed by the recommendation of a unanimous “advisory presbytery” vote. All voting on the matter must be by secret ballot, and under the supervision of RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH Board of Directors and local presbyters.

Advisory presbytery members not present at the meeting will be asked to vote by registered mail (absentee ballot).

In the event of the disqualification or death of the Senior Pastor, the advisory presbytery and local presbytery along with the Board of Directors shall appoint his/her successor. The executive pastor shall perform such duties of the Senior Pastor until a new Senior Pastor has been chosen. The executive pastor is eligible to be appointed as Senior Pastor. If the executive pastor desires to be Senior Pastor, then he/she will need to inform the advisory presbyters, the local presbyters and Board of Directors. The advisory presbytery and local presbytery shall vote by secret ballot for the candidate’s nomination. A majority vote from both presbyteries shall constitute a nomination.

The vice-chairman of the Board of Directors/chairman of the advisory presbytery and the Board of Directors shall preside at this meeting with at least two of the advisory presbyters present. The Board of Directors, excluding the executive pastor, shall vote on the nomination of the executive pastor to be Senior Pastor by the advisory presbytery and local presbytery. A majority vote of the Board of Directors shall constitute an election of the Senior Pastor. However, in the event of a tied vote or deadlock that would be detrimental to the church, the advisory presbytery may cast the deciding vote concerning the replacement of the Senior Pastor. Once the executive

pastor is installed as the Senior Pastor, he/she shall assume all the authority of the Senior Pastor subject to the restrictions set forth in article II as to advisory presbytery replacement. If the executive pastor does not desire to be Senior Pastor or does not receive a majority vote of nomination from both presbyteries, then the advisory presbytery and local presbytery shall arrange to invite qualified speakers until a new Senior Pastor is chosen. After the nominees for Senior Pastor have had opportunity to speak, the advisory presbytery and local presbytery shall vote by secret ballot for the candidate's nomination. A majority vote from both presbyteries shall constitute a nomination. The executive vice-chairman of the Board of Directors/executive pastor and the Board of Directors shall preside at this meeting with at least two of the advisory presbyters present. The Board of Directors shall vote on the new Senior Pastor nominated by the advisory presbytery and local presbytery. However, in the event of a tied vote or deadlock that would be detrimental to the church, the advisory presbytery may cast the deciding vote concerning the replacement of the Senior Pastor. The successor shall then assume all the authority of the Senior Pastor subject to the restrictions set forth in article II as to advisory presbytery replacement.

## **ARTICLE IV - EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP COMPENSATION COMMITTEE**

### **A. PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Executive Leadership Compensation Committee shall be to provide independent compensation determination for the Senior Pastor. The compensation package for the Senior Pastor shall be independently determined by the Executive Leadership Compensation Committee, without input from the Board of Directors or the Senior Pastor, taking into consideration the Biblical foundation for compensation (Numbers 18:21-24, Deuteronomy 12:19, 18:1-2, I Corinthians 9:10, 14, I Thessalonians 5:12-13, I Timothy 5:17-18).

### **B. FUNCTION**

1. The Executive Leadership Compensation Committee will be called upon to meet in November or December of each year for the purpose of establishing the compensation package for the Senior Pastor for the coming year.
2. They should evaluate as objectively as possible, the contributions made over the previous years.
3. They shall consider in their determination the following:
  - a. What churches and religious organizations of similar size in the independent sphere of Christian activity pay someone in the similar position?
  - b. Whether the church will be hindered in carrying out its function by paying a particular sum.

- c. The individual's character and his/her responsibilities as he/she serves the organization.
- d. Future projects and prospects for the church.
- e. Unique ability, including background and experience.
- f. Prior years of inadequate compensation (when considering the compensation of founding leadership).
- g. Profitability (both spiritual and financial) to the church of the services rendered; ease or difficulty of work; the time and energy dedicated to the activities and programs of the church, and the number of available persons to perform the duties of the position (indispensability).

4. They shall review current salary and benefits, and current position responsibilities, discuss compensation for the coming year and prepare a written opinion, which shall be binding on the Board of Directors in establishing the compensation package for the individuals considered.
5. The committee shall not be able to reduce any current salaries but will be able to make recommendations as to any reductions. The Senior Pastor shall have the right to refuse any increase in compensation established by the compensation committee and retain their current compensation for the forth-coming year.

## **C. STRUCTURE**

1. The Executive Leadership Compensation Committee shall have no innate power or authority as a legal, organizational entity, except that which is invested in them by these bylaws.
2. The Executive Leadership Compensation Committee chairman shall appoint a recording secretary from the committee members as agent for all officially called meetings of the Executive Leadership Compensation Committee.
3. Each covenant partner of the Executive Leadership Compensation Committee shall be appointed to the committee for a term of one year. Such appointment shall be from January 1 to December 31 of each year and each covenant partner shall be notified of their appointment or re-appointment by the Senior Pastor of RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH by January 15 of each year they are so appointed or re-appointed.
4. Any covenant partner of the Executive Leadership Compensation Committee may be replaced or removed at any time deemed by the Senior Pastor with the Board of Directors being notified of such replacement or removal.

5. The initial Executive Leadership Compensation Committee shall be appointed by the Senior Pastor. The representative appointed by the Senior Pastor shall chair the Executive Leadership Compensation Committee. No less than three individuals shall constitute the Executive Leadership Compensation Committee. Future vacancies shall be filled by the appointments of the Senior Pastor with the council of the Board of Directors and shall consist of individuals who have knowledge of ministry and/or business and who have an uncompromising commitment to the Word of God.

#### **D. DESIRE**

RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH believes in the right of the church to determine its own affairs and the compensation paid to its ministers and leaders as set forth in the Holy Bible. It is our desire to please the Lord Jesus Christ and to follow the admonition of the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 4:27, “Neither give place to the Devil,” by providing a fair and impartial method to adequately compensate our pastor and the church executive leadership without them being able to determine their own compensation and without being under the authority or control of a secular governmental agency establishing such compensation.

#### **E. OTHER**

The Senior Pastor may elect not to activate this committee. If he/she chooses not to use this committee then he/she may call for the Advisory Presbytery Board and Board of Directors to allocate his/her salary. If the Advisory Presbytery and Board of Directors is assigned this task, they should use the guidelines under (B. FUNCTION) above for determining appropriate salaries.

### **ARTICLE V - ELECTIONS AND VACANCIES**

#### **Section 1**

##### **Election of the Senior Pastor**

Upon the resignation or expulsion of the Senior Pastor pursuant to these bylaws, a Senior Pastor shall be appointed as set forth in article III to serve for a definite or indefinite period of time but for no longer than the time till the next election for Senior Pastor pursuant to these bylaws.

In the event of the resignation of the Senior Pastor, the Senior Pastor reserves the right to choose his/her successor. The new Senior Pastor may be selected to serve for a definite or for an indefinite period of time as may be determined at time of election.

No Senior Pastor who has been disqualified under article III of these bylaws may elect his/her successor. He/she is not a resigning Senior Pastor but a disqualified Senior Pastor.

If a resigning Senior Pastor chooses not to elect his/her successor, then the advisory presbytery and local presbytery shall nominate the new Senior Pastor in accordance with article III of these bylaws. Once nominated then a majority vote of the remaining Board of Directors, absent the nominee, shall be required to constitute an election of a new senior pastor.

The executive pastor is eligible to be the Senior Pastor. Nomination and election for the executive pastor to be Senior Pastor will be in accordance with article III of these bylaws.

## Section 2

### Vacancies

If at any time there occurs a vacancy in the position of secretary or treasurer or any officer of the Board of Directors, the Senior Pastor shall immediately select a replacement for the individual whose office is vacated and such appointed individual shall serve until such time as the vacancy occurs or if his/her office is an elected office, until the next annual business meeting for the election of such office. In the event that it is not possible for the Senior Pastor to appoint a new officer due to lack of qualified individuals to fill this vacancy, the Senior Pastor may with the approval of the Board of Directors fill the vacant office until such time as a qualified person is available.

The Senior Pastor may remove any officer appointed whenever the best interests of the church would be served thereby, but such removal shall be without prejudice to the contract rights, if any, of the person so removed.

## ARTICLE VI - COVENANT PARTNERSHIP/MEMBERSHIP

A person is eligible for covenant partnership/membership in this church that gives evidence of his/her faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who voluntarily subscribes to the Statement of Faith and who agrees to be governed by its bylaws as herein set forth.

RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH is a fellowship of believers participating in the labors of the Holy Spirit in this community. Union in this fellowship results when a believer understands and acknowledges the Statement of Faith and purposes to submit his/her life to the working of the Holy Spirit through the local body.

RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH is theocratic in government; therefore, there is no voting of covenant partners/members at RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH because 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 as the same is not God's way, for the purpose of the church is not to do the will of the majority, but the will of God.

### A. THE STANDARDS OF COVENANT PARTNERSHIP/MEMBERSHIP

The standard of covenant partnership/membership of this church shall be: (1) Evidence of a genuine experience of regeneration (new birth), John 1:12-14; John 3:3-8; and I Peter 1:23-25; (2) Evidence of a consistent Christian life, Romans 6:4; 8:1-4; 13:13-14; Ephesians 4:1-2,15,17-32; 5:1,2,15; and I John 1:6,7; (3) Baptism in water by immersion (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 10:47- 48; Romans 6:3-12; Colossians 2: 11-12); (4) Full subscription to the tenets of faith as set forth in the bylaws adopted by the church; (5) Willingness to contribute regularly to the support of the church according to his or her ability through tithes and offerings (Malachi 3:10; Matthew 23:23; Hebrews 7:4-5); and, (6) Support of the church with regular attendance at services (Hebrews 10:25).

## **B. RECEPTION OF COVENANT PARTNERS**

Any person professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as his/her personal Savior and giving evidence of having been born again and evidence of water baptism, having completed the “new member discipleship training” classes may acquire covenant partnership/membership in this church.

All persons who shall meet the covenant partnership/membership requirements and have been passed on favorably shall be received into the church publicly at any of the regular services, in writing (application) or online (application) and their names inscribed on the roster.

## **C. PROHIBITED CONDUCT OF COVENANT PARTNERS**

Any covenant partner or those who are in covenant fellowship with the church found guilty of any of the following offenses shall be subject to removal from the church covenant partnership/membership:

1. In any way sowing discord among the brethren, including but not limited to rumor mongering, tale bearing and bearing false witnesses (Proverbs 6:16-19, I Corinthians 1:10, 12:25, Galatians 5:20-21, Ephesians 4:2-3).
2. Propagation of doctrines and practices contrary to the Statements of Fundamental Truths which causes discord, dissension and division in the church (Romans 1:21-32; Galatians 1:8-9; Titus 3:9-11; 2 Thessalonians 3:6).
3. Living any kind of sexually immoral lifestyle (Romans 1:21-32, I Corinthians 5:1-5,9-13, Galatians 5:16-21, Ephesians 5:1-12, I Thessalonians 4:1-7).
4. Persisting in believing or propagating some pernicious, false, contrary doctrine (Romans 16: 17-18, I Timothy 4:1, II Timothy 4:3-4, Titus 3:10-11, II Peter 2:1-3).
5. Involvement in any form of occult practices (Deuteronomy 18:9-14, Acts 19:18-19, Galatians 5:20, Revelation 21:8).
6. Being involved with sinful worldly habits, vices, and amusements, such as possessing or abusing: alcoholic beverages and tobacco (Proverbs 23:29-32, I Corinthians 6:19); non-prescription narcotics and illegal drugs or substances including marijuana (Romans 6:12-16, Galatians 5:1); participating in oath bound secret societies (Hosea 10:4, Matthew 5:34-37); reading of literature, listening to or viewing video of theatrical productions that promote attitudes, values or conduct contrary to God’s Word (Luke 11:34-36, I Thessalonians 4:7).
7. Publicly wearing apparel, which is indecent or sensual (I Timothy 2:9-10, 4: 11-12).
8. Repeated offenses of civil laws that are not consistence with the Word of God (Ecclesiastes 8:2-4, Romans 13:1-7, I Peter 2:13-17).

## **D. DISCIPLINE**

1. This church is committed to Biblical discipline in order to prepare a spotless bride for the Lord Jesus Christ's return, to maintain holiness as a way of life, to restore the sinning person to a right relationship with the Lord, and to expose sin so that it will not become a polluting influence in the rest of the church (Ephesians 5:11, I Peter 1:15-16, I Corinthians 5:6-7, Joshua 7:1-26).
2. Divisive persons shall be confronted according to the pattern outlined in Titus 3:9-11. At least two elders, or those whom they designate, shall meet with the divisive person and warn him/her to repent. If the person does not repent, at least two elders, or those whom they designate, shall meet with him/her again and warn him/her a second time. If the person still refuses to repent of his/her sin of divisiveness, the presbytery at either a regular or special meeting may excommunicate him/her from the church in accordance with the Word of God (Romans 16:17-19).
3. If a believer observes a sin in another believer's life, he/she is to confront the person according to the pattern outlined in Matthew 18:15-17, by first going to him/her in private. If the sinning person does not listen and repent, the believer is to take one or two other believers and confront him/her again. If he/she stays unrepentant, he/she shall be brought before the presbytery. The presbytery shall do everything necessary to restore the sinning brother/sister. If after everything has been done Biblically to restore the sinning brother/sister the person refuses to repent, then the presbytery shall excommunicate him/her from the church at a regular or special meeting.
4. All believers are encouraged to consult with one of the elders when confronting another believer about sin in his/her life (Matthew 18:15-17). In both the above cases, the elder shall determine the appropriate time between steps and everyone involved shall, to the best of their ability, carry out this discipline in the spirit of love, humility, and meekness putting the interests of others ahead of their own (Galatians 6:1-2).
5. In the event of a serious difference arising between covenant partners of the assembly, if the parties involved cannot effect reconciliation, they shall have the right to appeal to the presbytery. The presbytery will consider no charges of misconduct unless they are made in writing. When formal charges have been laid against a covenant partner, and the Senior Pastor decides that disciplinary action must be taken, the covenant partner so charged shall be advised in writing and a date set for a hearing before the presbytery in the presence of the one laying the charge, at which time the evidence shall be considered and a verdict shall be determined by secret ballot. If guilt is established and contrition, sorrow and repentance are not evident on the part of the offender, suspension of covenant partnership/membership shall be considered as disciplinary action. However, unless his/her attendance at church would be cause for scandal, he/she should be permitted to attend church services in the hope that he/she would be reconciled to the Lord. Every effort shall be made to restore such a one to covenant partnership/membership upon evidence of repentance (Matthew 18:15-17, 35).

## **E. TERMINATION OF COVENANT PARTNERSHIP/MEMBERSHIP**

1. The Senior Pastor and Board of Directors shall be authorized to revise the covenant partnership/membership roll of the corporation and the Senior Pastor and presbytery shall be authorized to revise the covenant partnership/membership roll of the church at least once a year, and to remove from the list of active covenant partners those in fellowship under the following categories:
  1. Issuance of Letter of Transfer.
  2. Voluntary withdrawal from covenant partnership/membership.
  3. Deceased during the year.
  4. Propagation of doctrines and practices contrary to the Tenets of Faith, which cause discord, dissension and division in the church (Romans 16:17,18; Galatians 1:8,9; Titus 3:9-11; II Thessalonians 3:6).
  5. Those who are living in sin and whose lives are inconsistent with Biblical standards of holiness (I Corinthians 5:11; Galatians 5:19-21; Hebrews 12:14).
  6. Those under discipline.
  7. Those who have not contributed regularly to the financial support of the church within their ability.
  8. The church may also terminate the covenant partnership/membership of any individual who is absent from the church services for a period of three (3) months without reasonable excuse.
  9. Any covenant partner absent from the services without reasonable excuse for a period of three (3) months shall be placed upon the inactive roll.
10. It is understood that the purpose for terminating the covenant partnership/membership with those who are in violation is to discipline them and to win them back, not to condemn them and forget them (I Corinthians 5:1-2; II Corinthians 2:6-11).
2. Any person who may have been terminated as a church covenant partner shall be notified of this action in writing by the church secretary and shall have the right to appeal to the presbytery for reconsideration of said action.
3. The presbytery may restore to covenant partnership/membership any person previously excluded, upon request of the excluded person, and upon evidence of the excluded person's repentance and reformation. This should be done in the Spirit of forgiveness and love (II Corinthians 2:6-8).

## **F. DUTY OF CHURCH COVENANT PARTNERS IN FELLOWSHIP**

1. To contribute financially for the support of the church and its ministries in tithes and offerings in accordance with the Scriptures as God may prosper them, for the support of its various missionary work, both at home and foreign.
2. By a godly and Christian life each covenant partner shall cooperate with the church, its Senior Pastor, Board of Directors, local and advisory presbytery and deacons in their various efforts to attain to Scriptural church life.
3. Covenant partners shall regularly attend all church services, and special meetings as called by the Senior Pastor.
4. The duties of the covenant partners to themselves are: the acquisition of Scriptural knowledge, constant progress in spirituality, and consistency of external conduct.
5. Each covenant partner must consent to be in subjection to church discipline and order as directed in a Scriptural manner by the Senior Pastor and presbytery. It is the duty of the covenant partners to honor and esteem their Senior Pastor; to pray for him/her fervently and daily; to attend constantly upon his/her ministration; to manifest a tender regard for his reputation, and to follow his/her vision. He/she shall publicly be referred to as "pastor."
6. It is the duty of each covenant partner to cultivate and cherish brotherly love for all people, especially members of the Body of Christ.
7. It shall be understood that matters discussed among the covenant partnership/membership shall remain confidential within the covenant partnership/membership.
8. Covenant partnership/membership in RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH shall terminate by voluntary transfer of covenant partnership/membership or membership to another church. It shall also terminate by excommunication of an unruly covenant partner according to Matthew 18:15-17.

## **G. LIMITATION OF CORPORATE COVENANT PARTNERSHIP/MEMBERSHIP**

Covenant partnership/membership in the corporation RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH is limited. Voting in the corporation is limited to those individuals permitted to vote by the constitution and bylaws of the church. The general qualifications for corporate covenant partnership/membership are a firm and consistent adherence to the Statement of Faith of RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH.

In addition, the specific qualifications for corporate covenant partnership/membership shall consist of the present and evident ability to meet the current needs of the church as perceived by the Board of Directors and the Senior Pastor.

## **ARTICLE VII - LOANS TO DIRECTORS OR OFFICERS**

This corporation shall not make, directly or indirectly, any loan of money or fixed property to or guarantee or otherwise secure the obligation of any person, corporation, partnership or association. Neither a sale on credit in the ordinary course of business nor a life insurance policy loan shall be subject to the restrictions of this bylaw.

## **ARTICLE VIII - STATEMENT OF CONTINUING SUPPORT**

The covenant partners and officers of RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH shall be governed by and subject to the policies and vision of VINCENT L. ROBINSON affirming and supporting the God-given ministry given unto VINCENT L. ROBINSON as founder of RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH in accordance with the Word of God. In regard thereto, it shall be ever understood that VINCENT L. ROBINSON shall be a voting covenant partner for life, president of the Board of Directors for life, and Senior Pastor of RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH for life. Any attempt by the board members or officers to remove VINCENT L. ROBINSON as a voting covenant partner, president of the Board of Directors, or as Senior Pastor shall be void. However, the foregoing statement shall not affect the rights of the advisory presbytery as to pastoral replacement in article III. This statement of support is not intended to limit in any way whatsoever the normal function of any board member or officer of RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH, but to point out that VINCENT

L. ROBINSON is the shepherd of RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH and that RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH shall be operated under the special God-given ministry and vision of VINCENT L. ROBINSON in accordance with the Word of God. Upon the retirement or resignation of VINCENT L. ROBINSON as Senior Pastor, he shall appoint his successor.

## **ARTICLE IX – MEETINGS**

### **Section 1**

#### **Regular Meetings**

The church shall appoint services for public worship on each Lord's Day and such other meetings as may be deemed profitable and necessary.

### **Section 2**

#### **Annual Meeting**

The annual meeting and installation of officers shall be held on a day in January of each year. It shall be the duty of all officers and heads of departments to make full and complete reports of the years' activities at this meeting. Also, at this meeting, the officers for the coming year shall be installed.

### **Section 3**

#### **Special Meetings**

Special meetings may be called by the Senior Pastor of the church or, in his/her absence, resignation or inability to act, the vice-chairman of the Board of Directors shall call such meetings on the request of a majority of the Board of Directors, and the notice of such meetings be publicly given in the church on the Lord's Day proceeding. Any duly called meeting of this church shall constitute a meeting capable of dealing with current items of business relative to the operation of the church.

### **Section 4**

#### **Notice of Meetings**

Written notice of the date and place of the annual meeting and of any special meeting shall be sent by regular mail to all active covenant partners at least two (2) days prior to the meeting.

### **Section 5**

#### **Quorum**

Those in attendance upon any regular or special meeting called for the transaction of business shall constitute a quorum.

### **Section 6**

#### **Order of Business**

Pastoral Report: The pastoral report shall be a “state of the church” address.

Ministry Report: The ministry report shall present the functions of the various ministries.

Financial Report: The financial report shall present summary information about the financial affairs of RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH.

## **ARTICLE X - CARE OF PASTOR AND PASTORAL FAMILIES**

The advisory presbytery shall have the authority to set standards of care for the families of the Senior Pastor and associate pastor(s) in the event that the Senior Pastor or associate pastor(s) shall die while in those positions in the church. They shall have the right to establish an insurance program as well as an established salary schedule for the care of the surviving family for a period

of no longer than nine (9) months after the death of an associate pastor(s) and no longer than eighteen (18) months after the death of the senior pastor. Further, appropriate retirement should be established for those who have done the work of the Lord (Numbers 18:2-3) and who have charge of the tabernacle (Numbers 8:23-26). The retirement shall be sure to cover the Pastors who have labored faithfully in the fields and cared for the flock (I Corinthians 9:7-14; I Timothy 5:17-18). One who has given all for the Kingdom should be cared for and not end up as a beggar (Matthew 6:33). This church will not let that happen to their pastors (Deuteronomy 12:19, 14:29).

## **ARTICLE XI – QUOTA**

In order to conduct any business meeting, it shall be necessary for any amount of those in fellowship to be present as long as adequate notice of the meeting was given.

## **ARTICLE XII - RULES OF ORDER**

The Holy Bible under the pastor's authority shall govern all business meetings of the church as to matters not addressed by this constitution or bylaws.

## **ARTICLE XIII – LICENSING AND ORDINATION**

All candidates for licensing or ordination must be of the necessary experience and qualifications, and shall have demonstrated their ability to undertake the responsibilities of the ministry. No minister shall be licensed or ordained until he/she shall have been engaged in the active work of the ministry, exhibiting a teachable spirit, and bearing good fruit. Credentials shall be valid only when sealed by the church Seal, and shall be renewed annually.

Ordination shall be in order for local ministries within the fellowship as a means of establishment, under girding, and as a display of support. This type of ordination serves to recognize the calling to labor inside and outside of the local church. The Senior Pastor and presbytery shall establish various offices of ministers who shall minister in the church and to the congregation in the following manner:

- A. Ordained Minister - those called and anointed of God to minister to the Body of Christ as recognized and confirmed by the public laying on of hands by the presbytery.
- B. Licensed Minister - Those called and anointed of God to minister to the Body of Christ who are in training under the authority of those who have been ordained.
- C. Commissioned Minister - those who have recognized the call and anointing of God on their lives but who have just entered into the ministry and will, if such anointing and call is confirmed, work their way to licensing and ordination.

D. Covenant Partners of the Five Fold Ministry - those who have a recognized and confirmed call of God to fulfill the commission of Ephesians 4:8-16 and therefore are sent out to the Body of Christ from the church.

RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH shall have authority to examine all candidates. An application shall be filled out properly and to the prescribed person. A confidential questionnaire may also be required. Each candidate may be required to take a written examination. Each candidate may be requested to appear in person before a prescribed committee to respond to any matter relating to the ministry.

Credentials may be terminated by the removal of the minister from the authority of this fellowship or by discipline as set forth with regard to those in fellowship.

## **ARTICLE XIV - DEPARTMENTS/COMMITTEES**

The Senior Pastor and the Board of Directors shall have the authority to establish committees, home and foreign missionary committees, or any other departments, committees, or boards, as the needs of the work may require. These boards, committees and departments shall be subordinate to the covenant partnership/membership and shall contribute to the harmony and development of the whole. They shall be under the general supervision of the presbytery. The Senior Pastor and Board of Directors shall create or dissolve as many ministries or departments as they deem necessary for the ministry of the church.

## **ARTICLE XV – FINANCES**

The voluntary contributions of the tithes and offerings of the covenant partners and friends of the church shall provide funds for the maintenance of the church. The Board of Directors shall accept offerings at such times and such ways as directed by the Senior Pastor and shall be administered by the treasurer of the church. The treasurer at all times shall maintain records evidencing the property owned by the church and its disbursements as well as provide that the records shall always be open for inspection by any of the Board of Directors. Since the organization is a non-profit corporation, any and all contributions by the church shall be secured as deductible by any of its covenant partners via the church through whatever action, if any, the church would need to take to seek such approval from the Internal Revenue Service.

The Senior Pastor, any and all ministerial staff which shall be appointed or elected to those positions shall be qualified to receive from the church salaries, housing allowances, auto expenses and clothes cleaning benefit as established by the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors shall establish an annual budget. The annual budget shall be presented at the annual business meeting. Each committee and ministry will have the right to conduct its own financial affairs. No department shall obligate itself in any indebtedness without the Board of Directors' approval. Any major appropriation of church finances shall be approved by the Board of Directors. These gifts including tithes, offerings, and alms, when given, become the sole property of the church and the disposition of those funds is no longer subject to inquiry of the Board of Directors, its Senior Pastor and its presbytery (Acts 4:34-37).

## **ARTICLE XVI - CONTRACTS, CHECKS, DEPOSITS AND FUNDS**

### **Section 1**

#### **Contracts**

The Board of Directors may authorize any office or officers, agent or agents of the corporation, 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 corporation and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

### **Section 2**

#### **Checks, Drafts, Etc.**

All checks, drafts or other orders for the payment of money, notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the corporation, shall be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents of the corporation and in such manner as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Board of Directors.

### **Section 3**

#### **Deposits**

All funds of the corporation shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the corporation in such banks, trust companies, or other depositaries as the Board of Directors may select.

### **Section 4**

#### **Gifts**

The Board of Directors may accept on behalf of the corporation any contributions, gifts, bequests or devise for the general purposes or for any special purpose of the corporation.

## **ARTICLE XVII - BOOKS AND RECORDS**

The corporation shall keep correct and complete records of account and shall also keep minutes of the proceedings of its Board of Directors, and committees having any of the authority of the Board of Directors. Any member of the Board of Directors, or his/her agent or attorney may inspect all books and records of the corporation for any proper purpose at any reasonable time.

## **ARTICLE XVIII - FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year of the church shall begin on January 1 and shall end on December 31 of each year.

## **ARTICLE XIX – OFFICES**

The church shall maintain in the state of Alabama, a registered office and a registered agent, and may have other offices within or without the state.

## **ARTICLE XX – SEAL**

The corporate seal shall have inscribed thereon the name of the corporation and the words, "Corporate Seal, Alabama."

## **ARTICLE XXI - WAIVER OF NOTICE**

Whenever any notice is required to be given under the provisions of the Alabama law or under the provisions of the articles of incorporation or the bylaws of the corporation, 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 XXII – PROPERTY**

All property of the church shall be deeded to RIGHT WAY CHRISTIAN CENTER CHURCH, of Mobile, Alabama and held in its name or held in trust. Any property, which should be sold, leased, mortgaged or otherwise disposed of, shall be valid only if signed by the church acting through the president. Any transfer signed in this manner shall, in all respects, bind the church as fully and completely as if such transaction had been authorized by a specific vote of the Board of Directors and any person, firm, or corporation to whom a copy of this article shall be certified by the president and secretary and shall be entitled to rely thereon until notified of its repeal. The president and secretary of the church shall certify in such conveyance, lease or mortgage that the same is in proper form according to the bylaws and such certification shall be held to be conclusive thereof.

## **ARTICLE XXIII - AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS**

The church shall have such auxiliary organizations as shall from time to time be authorized and appointed by the Board of Directors (inclusive but not limited to):

- a. To send forth home and foreign missionaries for the spreading of the Gospel and in extending the Gospel of God throughout the world (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 13:47, 4:29-30).

- b. To print, publish, distribute and sell books, magazines and other literature in connection with the purposes of this corporation; to sell, record and reproduce tapes, radio, and television programs in connection with the purposes of this corporation to produce and distribute radio and television programs (Deuteronomy 31:19; I Chronicles 16:23-24; Psalm 68:4; Revelation 14:2).
- c. To provide a prayer ministry to assist those in the church and those in need who need agreement in receiving a touch from the Lord (Acts 12:5, 14:23, 16:9, 8:22; Isaiah 53:12; Romans 8:27,34; I Timothy 2:1-4).
- d. To establish and raise up satellite churches and pastors to lead them; establish auxiliaries, clubs, and societies of a religious nature and to promote and encourage Christian fellowship between its covenant partners (Acts 15:41, 16:5).
- e. To establish and raise up churches and pastors to lead them; to provide spiritual oversight to those churches and pastors who desire the oversight and to provide spiritual accountability for the conduct of independent churches and ministers. (Acts 15:6, 15:22-29, 15:41, 16:5)
- f. To ordain ministers and Christian workers for the edification and the unity of the Body of Christ (I Chronicles 9:22-23; Titus 1:5; I Corinthians 7:17; Acts 14:23).
- g. To carry on charitable work:
  - 1. The poor and lost (Leviticus 25:35; Matthew 25:34-40; Galatians 6:10; Mark 14:7) Feed the Hungry Soup Kitchen, food pantry, clothes closet (Matthew 25:35; Psalm 146:7; Luke 3:11, 4:18);
  - 2. Prison ministry (Psalm 142:7; I Peter 3:19);
  - 3. After-care center for released prisoners (Job 3:18; Psalm 69:33; Isaiah 49:9-10);
  - 4. Sick and shut-in ministry (James 5:14-15; Mark 16:18);
  - 5. Unwed mother's home (Luke 1:39-40,56);
  - 6. Abused wives and children's home (Exodus 22:22-24; Deuteronomy 10:18; Acts 6:1; I Timothy 5:3-12,16);
  - 7. Housing for the homeless and runaways (Leviticus 25:35; Proverbs 19:17; Luke 3:11; II Corinthians 8:14-15);
  - 8. Care for and assist handicapped individuals (Leviticus 19:32; Isaiah 35:5; Mark 7:37; Luke 7:32,14: 13-14);

9. To provide ministry to homosexuals and prostitutes, so they may be taught the Gospel of Jesus Christ (I Corinthians 1:27-31, 6:9-11; Hebrews 10:22; Luke 14:12-24; Matthew 22:2-10, John 8:1-11);
10. To provide child placement services and adoptive services (Psalm 127:3; Isaiah 54:1; Mark 10:14; Numbers 3:13);
11. To establish a credit union for covenant partners of the church (Psalm 72:4, 112:5; Malachi 3:10; Deuteronomy 15:7-11, 28:12, 44; Matthew 5:42; Proverbs 3:9; Nehemiah 11:38);
12. Housing for those with addictive behavior (Luke 4:1-18);
13. Drug and alcohol program (Isaiah 5:11, 19:14, 20; Habakkuk 2:15; Joel 2:32; Matthew 9:12; Psalm 121:2);
14. The mentally disturbed (Matthew 4:24, 17:15);
15. To establish and maintain an educational institution and not for pecuniary gain; for the establishment, maintenance and support of a private Christian elementary and secondary schools (Christian academy) at which both charity and pay students shall be received; for the establishment, maintenance, and support of a private Christian day care center and nursery school (Mark 10:14; Luke 18:16-17) at which both charity and pay students shall be received;
16. To establish and maintain a theological college of higher education and training in the Bible, Biblical languages, Christian theology and literature and such training in the mathematics, history, science, languages and Scripture as are needful and appropriate to the education and training of ministers of the Gospel and missionaries in foreign and home fields, Bible teachers, and other Christian workers in various lines of religious, benevolent and philanthropic work. The institution shall grant appropriate degrees and provide for the proper regulation and control of its students. The institution shall offer admittance and equal advantages to all students who possess the requisite literary, moral and other qualifications, irrespective of their particular denomination or religious profession and both charity and pay students shall be used to extend the charity work, but no part of the income shall be received, wherein the income from the pay students shall be used to extend the charity work, but no part of the income shall ever be paid or distributed to its covenant partners, directors or officers, other than reasonable compensation for services rendered. Such institutions within the church shall have a racially nondiscriminatory policy towards students and shall not discriminate against applicants and students on the basis of race, color and national or ethnic origin. (Psalms 40:9-10; John 14:26; I Peter 4:6; II Timothy 2:2, 24-25; I Corinthians 14:12);
17. To establish and maintain a Christian bookstore for the benefit of the students and covenant partners of the church and their guests (Psalm 68:11; Acts 13:39);

18. To operate under the name as set forth in article I above; to adopt and assume names in the furtherance of its nonprofit, tax-exempt purposes (Genesis 17:5, 32:28; Acts 13:9; Matthew 1:23; Revelation 2:17); to exercise such other and incidental powers as may reasonably be necessary to carry out the purposes for which the church is established, provided that such incidental powers shall be exercised in a manner consistent with its tax exempt status as a religious organization as set forth in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as amended, of the United States of America;

The several clauses contained in this article shall be construed both as purposes and powers and the statements contained in each clause, shall except where otherwise expressed, be in no wise limited or restricted by reference to or inference from the terms of any other clauses, but shall be regarded as independent purposes and powers.

19. To join, merge or unite with any other church or religious society having the same ideals, aims and purposes of this church; to associate and cooperate freely with other churches and with missionary organizations and branches as a free and independent fellowship body in accord with its own conscience and the wisdom of God, as the church perceives it to be, but in every case and in every act and in practice or association does and shall do so as a free church, always retaining its sovereignty and independence, and in no case whatsoever as an act of subjection or precedent or amenability or as an active or passive or implied affiliation or in any way as relinquishing its perpetual legal independence and sovereignty as a church (Acts 5: 12-14; I Corinthians 1:10, 6:17; Ephesians 4:16);
20. To employ qualified counsel and other necessary personnel to carry out the purposes of this church. (Titus 3:13; James 5:4);
21. To further all religious and charitable work and for such purposes to adopt and establish bylaws, rules, regulations in accordance with the law and not inconsistent with this articles of incorporation. (Joshua 1:7-B; Habakkuk 2:2-3; Romans 7:12, 10:4);
22. To do all those things allowed and permitted to be done under law;
23. The activities of such auxiliary organizations shall always be conducted in such a manner as will advance the best interests of the church. The bylaws and other regulations of all auxiliary organizations shall be consistent with this constitution and bylaws and with the objects of the church. In the event of any conflict of opinion or ruling between the Board of Directors and any auxiliary organization, the Senior Pastor shall have the power to overrule and take precedence over any such organization, and withdraw the churches approval of same. Upon revocation of approval, such auxiliary organization shall immediately cease representing, by name or otherwise, that it is connected with this church and of all property of that organization shall belong to the church.

## **ARTICLE XXIV INDEMNIFICATION**

The church shall indemnify the Board of Directors, trustees, officers or employees, or former directors, trustees, officers or employees of the church against expenses actually and necessarily incurred by him/her in connection with the defense of any action, suit or proceeding in which he/she is made a party by reason of being or having been such directors, trustees, officers or employees, except in relation to matters as to which he/she shall be adjudged in such action, suit or proceeding to be liable for negligence or misconduct in the performance of duty.

## **ARTICLE XXV EXEMPT STATUS AND DISSOLUTION**

This corporation is organized exclusively for religious purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

No part of the net earning of the corporation shall insure to the benefit, or be distributable to its covenant partners/members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of its purposes. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities 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 or the corresponding provision of any future federal tax code or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or any other corresponding provision of any future federal tax code.

Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the Board of Directors shall after paying or making provisions for the payment of all the liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all of the assets of the corporation exclusively for the purpose of the corporation, or for one or more other exempt purposes, in such manner, or to one or more organizations described in Sections 501(c)(3) and 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or corresponding provision of any future federal tax code), as the Board of Directors shall determine. Any of such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a court of appropriate jurisdiction 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 XXVI GENDER**

In referring to elders, trustees, officers, chairmen, covenant partners, deacons, incorporators or assistants within these By Laws, words of any gender shall be deemed to include any other gender, and a reference to the singular shall include the plural, and vice versa, unless the context indicates that such reading would be inappropriate.

## **ARTICLE XXVII ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Business meetings shall be governed by the accepted rules of parliamentary procedure, and should be conducted in the Spirit of Christ, and in brotherly counsel. The regular order of business for the annual meeting of the Board of Directors shall be as follows:

1. Devotional
2. Reading of Minutes
3. Report of Secretary
4. Report of Treasurer
5. Reports of Committees
6. Unfinished Business
7. Ratification of Officers
8. New Business
9. Adjournment

## **ARTICLE XXVIII AMENDMENTS**

A majority vote of the Board of Directors, including the Senior Pastor, the local presbytery and the advisory presbytery shall have the power to amend these bylaws or adopt new bylaws provided that the bylaws at no time shall contain any provisions inconsistent with the articles of incorporation.

Authorized Signatures:

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Senior Pastor's Name

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Board of Director's Name

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Board of Director's Name

