

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Constitution and Bylaws of Journey Church of Amarillo (a.k.a Journey Church)

Preamble

This Constitution and Bylaws are made to:

1. Preserve and secure the principles of our faith.
2. Preserve the liberties of each individual member of the church.
3. Ensure freedom of action of independence from any religious body or organization.
4. Provide for orderly conduct of internal affairs, in dealing with others, and of governing church members.

I. Name

The name of this church shall be Journey Church of Amarillo. The Church is a non-profit corporation formed under the laws of the State of Texas, governed, on earth, by the Texas Business Organizations Code (the "TBOC"), as it may from time to time be amended. The Church shall be non-denominational in nature.

II. Business Location

The address of the principal office of this church shall be: 9711 FM 2186, Amarillo TX 79119

III. Registered Office and Registered Agent.

The Church shall have and continuously maintain in the State of Texas a registered office and a registered agent, whose office is identical with such registered office, as required by Texas Nonprofit Corporation Law. The Registered office may be, but need not be, identical with the principal office of the Church in the State of Texas, and the address of the registered office may be changed from time to time by the Leadership Team.

IV. Mission

The mission of Journey Church is Encountering God; Engaging together; Empowering Change (or similar variant).

V. Vision

To create an environment with authentic relationships and intentional discipling that builds passion for Christ and people.

VI. Purpose

The purposes of Journey Church are:

1. To worship God, who is worthy of all praise and glory.
2. To serve God locally, nationally, and internationally by fulfilling the Great Commission of Jesus Christ as set forth in Matthew 28:19-20.
3. To minister to the needs of the members and others as the church is able to do so.
4. To do any and all things related to and in connection with the carrying out of the purposes of a New Testament Church.

VII. Articles of Faith

1. We believe the Holy Bible as the inspired Word of God, and has authority in matters of faith, doctrine, and Christian living.
2. We believe in one God, eternally existing in three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Also known as the Trinity)
3. We believe in the Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ, and that He is true God and man. He died on the cross for our sins. He rose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven where He sits at the right hand of the Father and is now our High Priest and Advocate.
4. We believe that man was created in the image of God but fell into sin and is, therefore, lost. Only through regeneration by the work of the Holy Spirit can one's salvation and spiritual life be obtained.
5. We believe that eternal salvation is the free gift of God, apart from one's works, and is possessed by any and all who have faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.
6. We believe that baptism is by immersion and the Lord's Supper is a memorial to His suffering and death on the cross. These are practices to be observed by the church in its present age. They are viewed as part of an individual's journey in faith, and representation of their faith.
7. We believe in the return of the Lord Jesus Christ and that His second coming inspires believers for faithful life and service for Him while waiting for His return.
8. We believe that we too will be raised with Christ, and that we will join him in Heaven.
9. We believe in the autonomy of the local church. The church shall manage its own affairs and shall not be subject to any other religious body or organization.

VIII. Government

The government of (Journey Church) is vested in its members and through a Leadership Team, confirmed by its members annually. The membership retains unto itself the right of exclusive self-government in all phases of its life and organization.

IX. Non-profit Status and Liquidation

This church is not organized for profit. In the event of liquidation or dissolution of the church, all of its assets and property of every nature and description whatsoever shall be paid over and transferred at the direction of the trustees to another local non-profit.

X. Amendment

This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended provided the proposed amendment shall have been presented in writing at a leadership meeting and then circulated to the membership. Amendments to this Constitution and Bylaws shall be two-thirds vote of leadership team and church members.

BYLAWS

I. Church Membership

A. Membership Affirmation

Membership of (Journey Church) shall consist of people expressing desire to become a part of the Journey Church body and commit to its leadership, practices, and are in agreement with the Statement of Faith.

B. Qualifications

Membership in the church may be attained by:

1. Verbal confirmation that they wish to be considered as members.
2. Adherence to our Membership expectations (expressed verbally and in writing in our membership packet).
3. By restoration to the church membership after having been dropped.

C. Rights & Privileges of Members

New members should attend a Church Membership Orientation to learn and understand the privileges and responsibilities of belonging to Journey Church.

1. Members in good standing shall have the right to a voice and vote in all church transactions and shall have the right and privileges to full participation in the life and work of the church.
2. It shall be the duty of church members to uphold the Articles of Faith, Constitution and Bylaws.

D. Church Discipline

- A. Should any unhappy difference arise among members, the aggrieved member shall follow in a tender spirit, the rules given by our Lord in Matthew 18:15-17.
- B. Should any case of gross breach of relationship, or of public scandal occur, the leadership team shall endeavor to resolve the conflict;
- C. All such proceedings shall be pervaded by a spirit of Christian kindness and forbearance, but should an adverse decision be reached, the lead pastor and leadership team may proceed to admonish or declare the offender to be no longer in the membership of the church.
- D. Any person whose membership has been terminated for any offense may be restored by vote of the lead pastor and leadership team, upon evidence of the person's repentance and reformation; or if an account of continued absence, upon satisfactory explanation.

E. Termination

Membership in this church shall be terminated when a member:

1. Requests a letter of transfer to join another church.
2. Is dropped from the roll of membership when he or she joins another kind of church. A letter of transfer is not necessary.
3. The member dies.
4. Is dismissed by a vote of the leadership team and pastor due to unacceptable reasons and circumstances. The pastor and leadership team will do all they can to counsel the member for restoration prior to action of dismissal or a request of the member to be dismissed from the church membership.

II. Church Leadership & Staff

All church leadership and staff must be members of the church in good standing.

A. The Pastor:

1. The qualifications for pastor shall be consistent with those listed in I Timothy 3:1-7. His training, skills, and experiences are needed in this area of leadership.

2. His responsibilities:

- a) These generally fall into the following areas: preaching, teaching, pastoral counseling, administration, planning, and guiding the church to grow and fulfill its purposes.
- b) He shall lead the church, the organizations, and all leaders of the church in performing their tasks in worship, proclamation, education, and evangelism.
- c) The pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all church standing teams, except the Pastor's Selection Team.
- d) He shall assist the leadership team in securing pulpit supply for times in his absence.

3. Pastor Appointment

- a) A pastor shall be chosen and called whenever a vacancy occurs.
- b) The Leadership Team will follow and implement the Leadership Succession/Transition Plan which will include the posting of the position, review of resumes, and the initial interview of qualified candidates.
- c) The Leadership Team will recommend only one candidate at a time to the Pastor Selection Team.
- d) A Pastor's Selection Team shall be appointed by the Leadership Team to conduct a final interview of the candidate and make determination to nominate the candidate to the church for confirmation.
- e) The Pastor's election shall take place at a meeting called for that purpose, of which at least one week notice shall be given to the members.
- f) An affirmative vote of two – thirds (2/3) of those present is necessary for a candidate to be confirmed.

4. Terms of Service

- a) The chosen pastor shall serve until the relationship is terminated by either his request or that of the church. In either case, at least sixty (60) days' notice shall be given unless otherwise mutually agreed.
- b) There shall be a written mutual contract/agreement made between the pastor and the church.

B. Church Staff

This church shall employ or call staff as it shall need.

1. Staff members other than that of the pastor shall be recommended for employment by the lead pastor and/or leadership team.
2. A written job description and mutual contract/agreement will be prepared when the need for church staff is determined.

C. Leadership team

1. Number, term of office:

There shall be 3-10 members on the leadership team for Journey Church at any given time. A member of the leadership team may serve a maximum of five consecutive years, subject to annual confirmation by the membership. After completing a five-year term, the individual may be eligible to return to the leadership team following a one-year break in service.

2. Qualifications

- a) A church leader ("leader" is used in lieu of "deacon" or "elder" but carried the same weight in meaning) must meet the qualifications listed in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.
- b) A leader shall demonstrate an exemplary Christian testimony in private, family, and public life; a committed Christian and partner of the pastor; supporter and promoter of the church faith, practice, programs, and ministries.

3. Election

- a) Leadership candidates will be identified from members in good standing as vacancies arise. The leadership team and pastor shall follow the biblical principles and guidance outlined in Acts 14:23 to select members.
- b) A member of the leadership team and the lead pastor will meet with potential candidates to share the duties, qualifications, importance of the office of leader, and time commitment required.
- c) After a time of prayer for all involved, the candidate will give a decision about service on the leadership team.
- d) Once a candidate has agreed to serve, the church will be asked to indicate their support of the appointment by vote. Two-thirds (2/3) vote in support must be given prior to a member being appointed to the leadership team.

4. Confirmation

- a) Selection, election, and confirmation to the leadership team is a privilege of the local church.

b) When the church confirms the selection to the leadership team, the pastor will present the new leaders to the church in a scheduled service.

5. Quorum

The quorum consists of those who attend the leadership meeting, provided it is a stated meeting or one that has been properly called. Attendance by the majority of the members on the leadership team shall constitute a quorum.

6. Duties

The leadership team shall

- a) Serve in a ministry of encouragement and counsel for the pastor concerning the progress and welfare of the church.
- b) Assist the lead pastor in ministering to the church as needed or requested by the lead pastor, staff, or members.
- c) Seek to solve any fellowship problem of the church.
- d) Serve in the function of trustees who can sign any, and all legal documents involving the sale, mortgage, purchase, or lease of church property or any other legal documents requiring the signature of the trustees for and in behalf of the church. However, they shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer any property of the church without a specific vote of the church authorizing each action.
- e) In the absence of the pastor, the leadership team shall serve as an advisory member to all organizations, departments, and teams of the church.

III. Church Meetings

A. Worship Services

The church shall meet regularly for the worship of God, for preaching, instruction, evangelism, prayer and Bible study. These meetings shall be open for the entire membership of the church and for all people and shall be conducted under the direction of the pastor or designated church officer in the absence of the pastor.

B. Regular Leadership Meetings

Leadership meetings shall be held quarterly, or as needed to make decisions and provide counsel for matters involving the church, pastor and staff. The agenda will be circulated to the leadership team at a

minimum of 24 hours prior to the meeting for the purpose of identifying any other items for discussion.

C. Special Business Meeting

A special called business meeting may be called by the pastor, and with members of the leadership team or by action of the church to consider special matters of significant nature. A one-week written notice or announcement must be given for the specially called business meeting.

Ratified by action of the church in its business meeting on _06-05-26_.
(date)

Moderator: _____

Church: _____