

THE FATHER'S HOUSE BYLAWS

Vacaville, California

Adopted December 9, 2007

WHEREAS, it is the express purpose of God, our heavenly Father, to call out of the world a redeemed people, who shall constitute the body or Church of Jesus Christ, built and established upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone; and

WHEREAS, the members of the body, the Church of Jesus Christ, are commanded to assemble themselves together for worship, fellowship, counsel and instruction in the Word of God, and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts, offices and endeavors set forth in the Bible;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Eldership of The Father's House, recognize our Church Membership as a body of Christian believers according to the Scriptural plan for the local assembly, in order that we may worship God as a united body exercising all our responsibilities and privileges given to the Church by Jesus Christ as recorded in the Bible.

ARTICLE 1 - NAME AND CLASSIFICATION

1.1 **Name**. The name of this Corporation is **The Father's House, Incorporated**

1.2 **Classification**. This Corporation is a religious corporation and its duration is perpetual.

ARTICLE 2 - PURPOSES AND POWERS

2.1 **Purposes**. The Corporation (Church) is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue Law), including, but not limited to, for such purposes, the following:

2.1.1 Evangelizing of the unsaved by the proclaiming of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

2.1.2 Sending missionaries and maintaining missionary endeavors in the United States and any foreign country.

2.1.3 Establishing and maintaining Christian training schools including all levels of education, including but not limited to, pre-schools, elementary schools, high schools, colleges, Bible training schools - or any other schools which may be deemed necessary.

2.1.4 Ordaining and licensing ministers of the gospel to carry on the purposes of the Church.

2.1.5 Establishing and maintaining charitable institutions, including but not limited to, the building of Churches, parsonages, schools, chapels, radio stations, television stations, rescue missions, print shops, day-care centers, and camps - or any other institutions which may be deemed necessary.

2.2 **Powers**. The Corporation shall have all powers granted by law necessary and proper to carry out its above stated purposes, consistent with its qualification under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, including but not limited to the power to contract, rent, buy or sell personal or real property.

ARTICLE 3 - RESTRICTIONS

3.1 **Personal Gain**. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to, its directors, officers or other private persons, except that the corporation may pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and may make payments and distributions in furtherance of its purposes.

3.2 **Political Involvement**. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall consist of carrying on propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, except to the extent permissible under Section 501(h) of the Code. The Corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements), any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.

3.3 **Other Activities**. The Corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by (a) a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code, or (b) a corporation to which contributions are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Code.

ARTICLE 4 – STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the following Statement of Faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible, and therefore, is binding upon all members. All literature used in the Church shall be in complete agreement with the Statement of Faith, and are reflected in the following clear statements:

4.1 We believe in the plenary-verbal inspiration of the accepted canon of Scriptures as originally given. The Scriptures are infallible, inerrant, and the sole and final authority for all matters of faith and conduct. (2 Timothy 3:16; 1 Corinthians 2:13)

4.2 We believe in the Eternal Godhead who has revealed Himself as One God existing in Three Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, distinguishable but indivisible. (Matthew 23:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

4.3 We believe in the creation, test and fall of man as recorded in genesis; his total spiritual depravity and inability to attain to Divine righteousness. (Romans 5:12, 18)

4.4 We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of men, conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, very God and very Man. (Luke 1:26-35; John 1:14-18; Isaiah 7:14; 9:6)

4.5 We believe Christ died for our sins, was buried and rose again the third day, and personally appeared unto His disciples. (1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Romans 4:25)

4.6 We believe in the bodily ascension of Jesus to heaven, His exaltation, and personal, literal and bodily coming again the second time for His Church. (John 14:2, 3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

4.7 We believe in the salvation of sinners by grace, through repentance and faith in the perfect and sufficient work of the cross of Calvary by which we obtain remission of sins. (Ephesians 2:8,9; Hebrews 9:12,22; Romans 5:11)

- 4.8 We believe in the necessity of water baptism by immersion in the Name of the Eternal Godhead in order to fulfill the command of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:34-36; 19:1-6)
- 4.9 We believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit as a real experience at or subsequent to salvation, with the Scriptural evidence, namely, speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance. (Acts 2:1-4; 8:14-17; 10:44-46; Galatians 3:14-15)
- 4.10 We believe in the operation of the Gifts of the Spirit as enumerated in 1 Corinthians 12-14, as manifested in the Early Church.
- 4.11 We believe in the Spirit-filled life, a life of separation from the world and perfecting of holiness in the fear of God as expressing the true Christian faith. (Ephesians 5:18; 2 Corinthians 6:14; 7:1)
- 4.12 We believe in the healing of the body by Divine power, or Divine healing in its varied aspects as practiced in the Early Church. (Acts 4:30; Romans 8:11; 1 Corinthians 12:9, James 5:14)
- 4.13 We believe in the table of the Lord, commonly called the Communion or the Lord's Supper, for believers. (1 Corinthians 11:28-32; Matthew 26:26-28)
- 4.14 We believe in the reality and personality of the Devil and eternal judgment in the Lake of Fire for the Devil and his angels. (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:14,15)
- 4.15 We believe in eternal life for believers (John 5:24; 3:16), and eternal punishment for the unbelievers. (Mark 9:43-48; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 20:10-15)
- 4.16 We believe that there is one true universal Church, made up of genuine believers, but this one universal Church is also composed of many local Churches in given localities. These Churches are under the sovereign Headship of the Lord Jesus Christ, exercising autonomous government under Him, administering all its local affairs and ministry, as well as the propagation of the Gospel. (Acts 15:22; with Matthew 16:18; 18:15-20)
- 4.17 We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: 1) the home, 2) the Church, and 3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The home, the Church, and the state are equal and sovereign in their respective Biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God. (Romans 13:1-7; Ephesians 5:22-24; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 2:13-14)
- 4.18 We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. (Genesis 2:24; Genesis 19:5, 13; Genesis 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1: 26-29; 1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4)
- 4.19 We believe that God created sex as a gift to be shared only in the context of a marriage between one man and one woman. Any sexual activity outside of marriage, such as adultery, fornication, or homosexual activity, is sinful and forbidden by Scripture. We believe that an individual's gender is determined by God and no one should attempt to alter his or her gender by

surgery or appearance. (Genesis 2:24; Genesis 19:5, 13; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:24-32; I Corinthians 5:1-5; I Corinthians 6:9-20; I Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4).

4.20 We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to support his local Church financially. We believe that God has established the tithe as a basis for giving, but that every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the Church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all rights to direct the use of the tithe or offering once the gift has been made. (Genesis 14:20; Proverbs 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; 1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7; Galatians 6:6; Ephesians 4:28; 1 Timothy 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17)

ARTICLE 5 - DEFINITIONS

5.1 **Church.** The term "Church" as it is used in this document, is the equivalent of the legal term "Religious Corporation" and refers to The Father's House Incorporated.

5.2 **Elder.** The term "Elder" as it is used henceforth in this document, is the equivalent of the legal term "Director."

5.3 **Eldership.** The term "Eldership" as it is used henceforth in this document, is the equivalent of the legal term "Board of Directors."

5.4 **Voting by Eldership.** It is intended that proceedings requiring a vote of the Eldership be passed unanimously. However, to avoid an impasse, certain provisions of these bylaws allow a simple majority in some cases and a minimum two-thirds vote (rounded to next full integer) in other specified cases.

5.5 **Senior Pastor.** The term "Senior Pastor" as it used henceforth in this document, is the equivalent of the legal term "Chairman of the Board."

5.6 **Deacon.** The term "Deacon" as it is used henceforth in this document, refers to a Church Member who has been appointed by the Eldership for specified lengths of service related to assisting the Senior Pastor and Eldership in meeting the needs of the Congregation.

5.7 **Apostolic Ministry.** The term "Apostolic Ministry" as it is used henceforth in this document, refers to ordained, experienced and recognized ministry, specifically gifted of God to serve and direct the spiritual establishing, building, and problem-solving of local Churches according to the pattern given in the Bible. They can be, but are not limited to, ministry outside The Father's House.

5.8 **Church Members and Membership Roll.** The term "Church Members" as it is used henceforth in this document, refers to all persons who have met the Qualifications for Membership and are listed on the "Membership Roll."

5.9 **Membership Meeting.** The term "Membership Meeting" as it is used henceforth in this document, refers to any specifically identified meeting of Church Members.

5.10 **Duly Announced.** The term "duly announced" as it is used henceforth in this document, refers to verbal notice given at a meeting of the Church Members delivered during regularly scheduled weekend public worship services, and/or posted in the Church bulletin or website, and/or by written notice delivered by physical or electronic mailing to Church Members.

5.11 **Quorum**. Any Church Members present (but not less than ten percent (10%) of Church Members listed in the current Membership Roll) at a duly announced Membership Meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

5.12 **Confirmational Vote**. The term "confirmational vote" as it is used henceforth in this document, is a majority vote of a quorum of Church Members at a duly announced Membership Meeting that confirms an action or a decision of the Eldership. It is in essence the opportunity of veto and in no way grants or infers the process of initiative on behalf of those given such a vote.

5.13 **Congregation**. The term "Congregation" as it is used henceforth in this document, refers to those persons, including official Church Members, who regularly attend public worship services and other public Church events.

5.14 **Congregational Meeting**. The term "Congregational Meeting" as it is used henceforth in this document, refers to regularly scheduled public worship services.

ARTICLE 6 - ELDERSHIP

6.1 **Duties**. The Eldership is responsible for directing the affairs of the Church and overseeing the equipping of the congregation to live their lives according to the Holy Bible. The affairs of the Church (Corporation) shall be fully controlled and operated by the Eldership of the Church (Board of Directors), and each individual member thereof shall be known as an Elder (Director).

6.2 **Number**. The Eldership shall consist of not less than three Elders. The exact number of Elders shall be fixed from time to time by a resolution of the Eldership.

6.3 **Appointment**. Elders shall only be nominated by the Senior Pastor of the Church and elected by a two-thirds vote of the Eldership. In the event that there is not an election by a two-thirds vote of the Eldership, the person under consideration as an Elder shall not be 'set in,' or 'appointed' by the Eldership.

6.4 **Qualifications**. All Elders must be official Church Members and must have a lifestyle consistent with the qualifications as set forth in the Holy Bible in I Timothy 3:2-7 and Titus 1:5-9. When no local Church Members are qualified and/or willing to serve, and only in order to meet the minimum number of Elders in Article 6.2, the requirement that an Elder be an official Church Member may be waived, appointing a qualified, yet interim, board member from another Church or geographical region.

6.5 **Term**. Elders serve voluntarily, without compensation in any form. Upon appointment, Elders shall continue to serve until they voluntarily resign, they cease to be Church Members (except an interim board member), they move to a new geographical location, they cease to be able to fulfill the functions of the office or they are removed under Article 6.6. An interim board member shall resign and/or automatically be removed from the board at any time that the number of local elders reaches three.

6.6 **Removal**. Elders are subject to removal at any time that they cease to qualify under the biblical qualifications by which they were appointed, or ceasing to fulfill their duties as outlined in these Bylaws. The Elder in question can be involved in discussions with the Eldership regarding his disqualification and removal, but shall have no vote. The Eldership will determine, on the basis of a two-thirds vote of the Eldership, when an Elder is no longer fulfilling the necessary qualifications of the office. An Elder can be removed by a two-thirds vote of the

Eldership, except in the case of the Senior Pastor who can only be removed according to Article 7.5 below.

6.7 **Senior Pastor (Chairman of the Board)**. The Senior Pastor will serve as the President of the Corporation. The Senior Pastor, or an Elder designated by the Senior Pastor, shall preside at all meetings of the Eldership, shall be an ex-officio member of all boards or committees designated by the Eldership, and shall have such other powers and duties as designated by the Eldership (See Article 7). The initial Senior Pastor is Dave Patterson.

6.8 **Meetings**. The Eldership shall meet as the Board of Directors at least four times in every calendar year, and additionally as determined by the Senior Pastor. Elders shall attend at least two-thirds of all board meetings, regularly scheduled Congregational Meetings, and Membership Meetings in any calendar year.

6.9 **Tithes and Offerings**. The term “tithes” refers to the biblical admonition of regularly setting aside one-tenth of a person’s gross income and/or increase – and giving it to financially support their local church. The term “offerings” refers to the biblical admonition to give sacrificially over and above one’s tithes. Elders and their wives shall faithfully, regularly and consistently tithe and give offerings to The Father's House. (See Article 4.20)

ARTICLE 7 - SENIOR PASTOR

7.1 **Duties**. The Senior Pastor shall serve as the Chairman of the Board and the President of the Board. In addition the Senior Pastor shall be:

7.1.1 **The Spiritual Head of the Church**. As the spiritual head of the Church, the Senior Pastor is responsible for the principal vision and direction of the Church – as determined and kept current through prayer and fasting, studying of God’s Word, keeping abreast of the needs of the Congregation, and working with the Eldership. As the spiritual head of the Church, all public meetings will be under his direction or that of his appointed representatives.

7.1.2 **The General Overseer of the Church**. As the general overseer of the Church, the Senior Pastor serves as the head of the Eldership. As the chief executive officer, the Senior Pastor is responsible, personally or by delegation, for all activities and staffing required for the ongoing business of the Church.

7.1.3 **The Principal Feeder of the Congregation**. As the principal feeder of the Congregation, the Senior Pastor is responsible for all congregational ministry, personally and by delegation. The Senior Pastor is responsible for maintaining the purity and consistency of the Statement of Faith as outlined in Article 4 above.

7.2 **Qualifications**. The Senior Pastor must meet the qualifications as set forth in the Holy Bible in I Timothy 3:2-7 and Titus 1:5-9 and be capable of fulfilling the duties outlined in Article 7.1 above.

7.3 **Interim Senior Pastor**. In the event of the Senior Pastor’s resignation, disability, death, disqualification or removal, an Interim Senior Pastor shall be designated as outlined in Article 7.3.3 below, to perform all duties of the Senior Pastor as outlined in Article 7.1 above, until such time as the office of Senior Pastor is filled.

7.3.1 All Elders will be automatically nominated for the position of Interim Senior Pastor.

7.3.2 Experienced and qualified Apostolic Ministry from outside the Church, locally or geographically removed may also be nominated. Identification and invitation of any such individuals will be by a two-thirds vote of the Eldership.

7.3.3 Selection will proceed by secret ballot until one individual has a majority of the votes.

7.3.4 An existing Senior Pastor subject to removal under Article 7.5 below shall have no voice or vote in selecting and Interim Senior Pastor.

7.4 **Appointment.** It is intended that the proceedings to select a Senior Pastor be by a unanimous vote of the Eldership. However, to avoid an impasse, a two-thirds vote of the Eldership may select the Senior Pastor. Voting by the Eldership related to any issues of appointment, unless otherwise noted, shall conform to this requirement. The appointing of the Senior Pastor by the Eldership must also be confirmed by a majority vote of a quorum of Church Members at a duly announced Membership Meeting. The new Senior Pastor will then be 'ordained,' 'set in,' or 'appointed' by the Eldership at a Congregational Meeting chosen by the Eldership. In the event that a Senior Pastor must be selected for any reason, the following procedure will be followed:

If the Senior Pastor honorably resigns or retires, he will nominate his replacement to be elected by a two-thirds vote of the Eldership and the process outlined in Article 7.4 above will be followed. In the event that the Senior Pastor's recommendation is rejected by the vote of the Eldership, new nominations will be made by the Senior Pastor until an election is made by a vote of the Eldership.

7.4.1 If the existing Senior Pastor is not able to participate, the Interim Senior Pastor will preside at any and all appointment proceedings.

7.4.2 The Eldership may call for the assistance of experienced and qualified Apostolic Ministry from outside the Church, locally or geographically removed. Identification and invitation of any such ministry will be determined by a two-thirds vote of the Eldership.

7.4.3 The entire Church Membership may be called to three days of fasting and prayer.

7.4.4 If the former Senior Pastor has unexpectedly died – his recommendation for his replacement shall be read to the entire Eldership.

7.4.5 Discussion will follow. A vote of the Eldership will then be taken to determine whether to accept the recommendation of the Senior Pastor.

7.4.6 In the event that the former Senior Pastor's recommendation is rejected by the vote of the Eldership, a new candidate must be selected by discussion and vote by the Eldership.

7.4.7 In the event of an impasse in the process of selecting a Senior Pastor, Apostolic Ministries with prior knowledge and/or input in this Church may be brought in to assist in the matter.

7.5 **Removal.** The Senior Pastor may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the Eldership at any time when, in their view, he is no longer fulfilling the qualifications for the office as outlined in Article 7.2 above. However, the vote by the Eldership to remove the Senior Pastor must be confirmed by a majority vote of a quorum of Church Members at a duly announced Membership

Meeting. In the event that the Eldership has voted by a two-thirds vote to remove the Senior Pastor on biblical grounds, the following procedure will be followed:

7.5.1 The Senior Pastor will be given the opportunity to submit a written letter of resignation. However, such letter of resignation shall not relieve the Eldership of the biblical responsibility to address the situation with the Church Membership according to 1 Timothy 5:20.

7.5.2 The Eldership may call for the assistance of experienced Apostolic Ministry from outside the Church, locally or geographically removed, and preferably related to and familiar with the Church. Identification and invitation of any such ministry will be determined by a two-thirds vote of the Eldership.

7.5.3 The Interim Senior Pastor will preside at any and all removal proceedings.

7.5.4 The Senior Pastor will be relieved of all preaching responsibilities until after the vote of the Church Membership.

7.5.5 The Interim Senior Pastor will address the situation at each of the next regularly scheduled weekend Congregational Meetings, reporting to the regularly attending Congregation.

7.5.6 The Interim Senior Pastor will duly announce a special Church Membership meeting at least one full week after the initial announcement. The announcement will be in the form of a verbal notice given at a meeting of the Church Members delivered during regularly scheduled public weekend worship services and in writing delivered by physical or electronic mailing to Church Members. Failure for any reason of any member to receive such notice does not invalidate the meeting.

7.5.7 A special “quorum” will be required for any Membership Meeting called under this section and will include any Church Members present (but not less than sixty percent (60%) of Church Members listed in the current Membership Roll).

7.5.8 The Interim Senior Pastor will chair the special Church Membership meeting.

7.5.9 The charges will be presented at the Church Membership meeting and the Senior Pastor may be given an opportunity to respond to the charges at the discretion of the Eldership and/or Apostolic Ministry advisors. (see 7.5.2 above)

7.5.10 Questions of ‘clarification only’ will be received from the floor.

7.5.11 A secret written ballot will be taken of Church Members only, who must be in attendance at the meeting.

7.5.12 The counting of the ballots shall be performed by three people: the Interim Senior Pastor, a person selected by the Senior Pastor subject to removal, and an independent senior pastor from another local church in the community as selected by a two-thirds vote of the Eldership. The results are to be announced before the meeting is dismissed.

7.5.13 If the majority of the Church Members present at the meeting vote to remove the Senior Pastor, his responsibilities will terminate immediately.

7.5.14 In the event of an impasse in the process of removing a Senior Pastor, Apostolic Ministry agreed on by a two-thirds vote of the Elders may be brought in to assist and offer counsel to the Eldership and Church Membership. (See 7.5.2 above)

ARTICLE 8 - OFFICERS

8.1 **Officers**. The officers of the corporation (Church) shall be a President and a Secretary. These officers shall be solely derived from the Eldership. The office of President and the office of Secretary may not be held by the same person.

8.2 Duties of Officers.

8.2.1 **President**. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the corporation.

8.2.2 **Secretary**. The Secretary shall provide for the keeping of the minutes of all Eldership meetings, shall sign necessary corporate documents and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the President and/or a two-thirds vote of the Eldership.

8.3 **Election and Term of Office**. The Senior Pastor of the Church will automatically serve as the President of the Corporation. The Secretary of the Church shall be elected by a majority of the Eldership and hold office at his own or the Eldership's discretion. The officers shall have such duties, in addition to those expressed herein, as the Eldership may, at their discretion, specify from time to time.

8.4 **Resignation or Removal**. Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the President or to the Secretary. Such resignation, which may or may not be made contingent on formal acceptance, shall take effect on the date of receipt or at any later time specified therein. The Secretary or any other appointed officer may be removed at any time by a two-thirds vote of the Eldership, with or without cause. The President may only be removed under the provisions of Article 7.5.

ARTICLE 9 - DEACONS

9.1 **Duties**. Deacons are assigned to administrate a specific charge by the Eldership or the Senior Pastor, assisting them in meeting the needs of the Congregation.

9.2 **Qualifications**. Deacons shall be qualified individuals chosen from the Church Membership, meeting the qualifications as set forth in the Holy Bible in Acts 6:3 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

9.3 **Appointment and Removal**. Deacons shall be appointed and removed as deemed necessary by a majority vote of the Eldership.

ARTICLE 10 – MEMBERSHIP

10.1 **Members**. Membership in the Church shall consist of all persons who have met the Qualifications for Membership and are listed on the Membership Roll.

10.2 Qualifications for Membership.

10.2.1 A personal commitment of faith in Jesus Christ for salvation.

10.2.2 Water Baptism by immersion.

10.2.3 Completion of the Church membership class.

10.2.4 A commitment to abide by The Father's House Membership Commitment.

10.2.5 Acceptance by the Eldership of their written membership application.

10.2.6 Attend regular Congregational Meetings at The Father's House.

10.2.7 Maintain a faithful record of consistent giving to The Father's House.

10.3 **Church Membership Roll**. A Church Membership Roll is to be prepared and maintained, under the direction of the Secretary of the Corporation, listing those who meet the Qualifications for Membership. The Church Membership Roll is to be updated when deemed necessary by the Eldership, and specifically before calling a special Membership Meeting (see Article 13.1) or announcing any meeting requiring a confirmational vote.

10.4 **Membership Benefits and Duties**.

10.4.1 Church Members are invited and expected to participate in all Membership Meetings, for information, and for confirmational votes as outlined in 10.4.4 below.

10.4.2 Church Members have access to the use of Church facilities when appropriate and available.

10.4.3 Church Members have access to the ministry provided by the Church staff.

10.4.4 Church Members, at least 18 years old, and physically present, shall have confirmational voting responsibilities during Membership Meetings, as follows:

- the confirmation of appointment of the Senior Pastor
- the confirmation of the sale of the main building
- the confirmation of the decision to dissolve the Corporation
- the confirmation of the disposition of funds in the event of the dissolution of the Corporation
- the confirmation of the removal of the Senior Pastor on biblical grounds
- the confirmation of any other issues when requested by resolution of the Eldership

Members shall have no other voting responsibilities.

10.4.5 Church Membership does not afford the members with any property, contractual, or civil rights based on principles of democratic government. Although the general public is invited to all of the Church's Congregational Meetings, the Church property remains private property. The Pastor (or in his absence, an individual designated by the Eldership) has the authority to suspend or revoke the right of any person, including a Member, to enter or remain on Church property. If after being notified of such a suspension or revocation, the person enters or remains on Church property, the person may, in the discretion of the Pastor (or in his absence, an individual designated by the Eldership), be treated as a trespasser.

10.5 **Receiving New Members**. Qualifying individuals will be received into Church Membership by written notification from the Senior Pastor. The Senior Pastor may choose to have new members received by the congregation at a regularly scheduled meeting.

10.6 **Removal of Members**. The Membership of any individual Member shall be automatically terminated without notice if the Member in question has not attended a regular Congregational Meeting in the preceding six months. Additionally, Members who cease to fulfill the Qualification for Membership may be removed by a majority vote of the Eldership when, in their

sole judgment, a Member has become detrimental to the purposes for which the Church was organized.

10.7 Reinstatement of Removed Members. An individual may be reinstated to Membership by a majority vote of the Eldership, when the Eldership has determined that the individual in question is again meeting the Qualifications for Membership and any other criteria established by the Eldership. There is no automatic reinstatement to Church Membership.

10.8 Discipline of a Member.

10.8.1 There shall be a discipline committee consisting of the Pastor and the Eldership. They shall have sole authority in determining heretical deviations from the Statement of Faith and violations of the church commitment. If the Pastor or an Elder is the subject of a disciplinary matter, he shall not sit as a member of the discipline committee. The pastor and deacons shall be entitled to the same steps as other church members and be subject to the same discipline.

10.8.2 Members are expected to demonstrate special loyalty and concern for one another. When a member becomes aware of an offense of such magnitude that it hinders spiritual growth and testimony, he is to go alone to the offending party and seek to restore his brother. Before he goes, he should first examine himself. When he goes, he should go with a spirit of humility and have the goal of restoration.

10.8.3 If reconciliation is not reached, a second member, either an Elder or the Pastor, is to accompany the one seeking to resolve the matter. This second step should also be preceded by self-examination and exercised in a spirit of humility with the goal of restoration.

10.8.4 If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in subsections (B) and (C) have been taken, the discipline committee, as the church representatives Biblically responsible for putting down murmuring, shall hear the matter. If the matter is not resolved during the hearing before the discipline committee, the committee shall recommend to the members of the church that they, after self-examination, make an effort personally to go to the offending member and seek that member's restoration.

10.8.5 If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in subsections (B), (C), and (D) have been taken, such members who refuse to repent and be restored are to be removed from the membership of the church as stated in Section 10.6 with a majority vote of the Eldership.

10.8.6 No matter may be heard by the discipline committee or the church unless the steps outlined in subsections (B) and (C) have been taken, except in the case of a public offense.

10.8.7 If an unrepentant offending party is removed from the church membership, all contact with him from that point forward (except by family members) must be for the sake of restoration.

10.8.8 The procedures provided in this section are based on Matt. 18:15-20; Rom. 16:17-18; 1 Cor. 5:1-13; 2 Cor. 2:1-11; Gal. 6:1; 1 Thess. 5:14; 2 Thess. 3:6, 10-15; 1 Tim. 5:19-20; and Titus 3:10-11.

10.9 Proxies. Proxies may not be appointed to vote or otherwise act in behalf of Church Members.

ARTICLE 11 – BUSINESS PRACTICES

11.1 **Fiscal Year**. The fiscal year of the Corporation shall be the calendar year.

11.2 **Contracts**. The Eldership may authorize, in writing, any Officer 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 an on behalf of the Corporation. Such authority may be general or may be confined to specific instances and must be established by written resolution of the Eldership.

11.3 **Checks, Drafts, or Orders**. All checks, drafts, 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 Eldership. In the absence of such determination by the Eldership, such instruments may be signed by either the Secretary or the President of the Corporation in accordance with their duties outlined in these Bylaws.

11.4 **Deposits**. All funds of the Corporation shall be deposited to the credit of the Corporation in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as the Eldership may select in accordance with these Bylaws. Complete and accurate records shall be kept of all contributions and income - with an official yearly statement of contributions given to contributors according to applicable state and federal laws.

11.5 **Designated Contributions**. From time to time the Church, in the exercise of its religious, educational, and charitable purposes, may establish various funds to accomplish specific goals. The establishment of such funds can only be made by the Eldership. Contributors may suggest uses for their contributions but all suggestions shall be deemed advisory rather than mandatory in nature. All contributions made to specific funds or otherwise designated shall remain subject to the exclusive control and discretion of the Senior Pastor and the Eldership. No fiduciary obligation shall be created by any designated contribution made to the Church other than to use the contribution for the general furtherance of any of the purposes stated in Article 2.

11.6 **Books and Records**. The Corporation shall keep correct and complete books and records of all contributions and expenditures - and shall also keep minutes of the proceedings of its Eldership Meetings, Church Membership Meetings, and the proceedings of any committees which have been authorized to exercise any of the authority of the Eldership. All such records are the property of the Church and must be kept, secured and protected in the Church office. When required by the laws of the State of California, the Corporation shall file a list of the names and address of the Board of Directors (Eldership), designating the Offices held. The Corporation shall keep at the principle office a record of the names and addresses of all official Church Members responsible for Confirmational Votes.

11.7 **Budget**. The Corporation shall prepare, operate within, and evaluate a budget of anticipated expenditures, to be prepared and submitted at the direction of the Eldership on a yearly basis.

11.8 **Expenditure Authorizations**. Authorization for the expenditure of funds shall be in keeping with the approved budget, and performed only by persons designated according to Article 11.3 above.

11.9 **Annual Financial Report**. An annual financial report will be made available to the Church Membership in written form within three months after the end of the fiscal year.

11.10 **Inspection of Church Records.** A Church Member, upon five business days prior written request made upon the Church, may inspect the prepared financial statements of the Church, and/or the minutes of the proceedings of Membership Meetings. Such inspection must be made in the church office during normal office hours in the presence of a representative so designated by the Eldership. Such records may not be copied or removed from the church office. A member may not, under any circumstances, inspect or copy any record relating to individual contributions to the Church, the list of names and addresses of the Church Members, the accounting books and financial records of the Church, or minutes of Elders Meetings.

11.11 **Employment.** Those individuals receiving compensation from the Church as an employee must be Members of the Church, including attendance at Congregational Meetings and tithing to the Church. Exceptions can be made, by a majority vote of the Eldership, provided that the employee in question is a member of another local church (with a letter of confirmation from that church), and that they support the Statement of Faith recorded in Article 4. Employment may be terminated when any employee's words or actions have become detrimental to the purposes for which the Church was organized, and/or as outlined in these Bylaws. Temporary sub-contractors and/or vendors are not considered employees.

ARTICLE 12 – MINISTRY ORDINATION AND LICENSING

12.1 **Ordination of Elders.** The term “Ordination” refers to the official selection and appointment of an Elder at The Father's House. Such ordination is for the term specified in Article 6.5 above. A Certificate of Ordination shall be issued at the time of appointment and is in force so long as the Eldership determines. Final determination of all issues related to ordination shall be by a two-thirds vote of the Eldership.

12.2 **Licensing of Ministers Within the Church.** The term “Licensing” refers to the official licensing, for legal and/or community acceptance purposes, of any minister of the Gospel who is not an Elder in the Church, but meets the qualifications for an Elder, and is an official Member of the Church. A Certificate of Licensing can be issued to such a minister and shall be in force only so long as that minister meets the requirements herein, or at the discretion of the Eldership. The Certificate of Licensing shall have on its face a notice that the certificate can be revoked at any time by the proper authority. Final determination of all issues related to licensing within the Church shall be by a two-thirds vote of the Eldership.

12.3 **Licensing of Missionaries.** For legal and/or community acceptance purposes, missionaries meeting the following qualifications are eligible to be licensed by the Church, subject to a two-thirds vote by the Eldership.

12.3.1 The Missionary must meet the qualifications for and Elder and be capable of fulfilling the duties required at their place of ministry as determined and approved by the Eldership.

12.3.2 The Missionary need not be a member, but must meet the general Qualifications for Church Membership at The Father's House, as outlined in Article 10.2 above. The requirements to faithfully attend and tithe to their local Church will be fulfilled at the Missionary's Church at their geographical location. In the event there is no local Church at their location, the Missionary will tithe to The Father's House.

12.3.3 A Certificate of Licensing can be issued to a missionary when approved by the Eldership, and shall have on its face a notice that the certificate can be revoked at any time

by the proper authority. Requests for renewal must be made by, or confirmed with, the Missionary and then approved for renewal by a two-thirds vote of the Eldership according to the provisions herein,

12.4 Licensing of Outreach Ministers. For legal and/or community acceptance purposes, ministers of the Gospel meeting the qualifications for an Elder, and being 'sent out' from The Father's House to plant new Churches or take the Senior Pastor position at an existing Church, are eligible to be licensed by this Church. Such licensing will be in force only until such time as their new Church can legally ordain or license them, based on the laws in their jurisdiction, but not longer than two years from the date of licensing by The Father's House. A Certificate of Licensing will be issued to such a minister and shall be in force according to the terms specified herein. Final determination of all issues related to outreach ministry licensing shall be by a two-thirds vote of the Eldership.

12.5 Application Through the Eldership. Application for ordination and/or licensing as a minister of the Gospel shall be on the form provided by the Eldership. An application shall be either approved or denied within thirty days of the completion of the investigation of the applicant by the Eldership. Those applicants who are approved shall receive a Certificate of Ordination or Licensing as noted herein.

12.6 Termination of Licensing. The Eldership, by a two-thirds vote, may terminate a license at any time, with or without cause. In the event a license is terminated, the licensee shall be notified in writing and be requested to return the Certificate of Licensing to the Eldership.

ARTICLE 13 - MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

13.1 Special Meetings. A special meeting of the Church Members can be called at any time by the Senior Pastor or a majority of the Eldership to handle any matter of business as long as it has been duly announced. Timely notification to the Church of their current mailing address is the responsibility of each Church Member. Failure for any reason of any member to receive notification of the Special Meeting does not invalidate the meeting.

ARTICLE 14 - SALE OF BUILDING

14.1 Sale of Building. Prior to the sale of the principal Church building, the same must be approved for sale by two-thirds of the Eldership and a confirmational vote of the Church Membership.

ARTICLE 15 - INDEMNIFICATION

15.1 Actions Subject To Indemnification. The Church may indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative, including all appeals (other than an action by or in the right of the Church) by reason of the fact that the person is or was a Pastor, Elder, Deacon, Officer, employee, or agent of the Church, against expenses, including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with the action, suit, or proceeding; and if that person acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Church and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable

cause to believe his conduct was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit, or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or on a plea of nolo contendere (no contest) or its equivalent, shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner that he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Church and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful.

15.2 **Expenses Subject To Indemnification.** To the extent that a Pastor, Elder, Deacon, Officer, employee, or agent has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit, or proceeding referred to in this Article, or in defense of any claim, issue, or matter in that action, suit, or proceeding, he or she may be indemnified against expenses, including attorneys' fees, actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with the action, suit, or proceeding.

15.3 **Limitations Of Indemnification.** Any indemnification made under this Article, may be made by the Church only as authorized in the specific case on a determination that indemnification of the Pastor, Elder, Deacon, Officer, employee, or agent is proper in the circumstances because he has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in Section 1 of this Article. The determination shall be made (a) by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of the Pastor and Eldership who were not and are not parties to or threatened with the action, suit, or proceeding; (b) if the described quorum is not obtainable or if a majority vote of a quorum of disinterested Elders so directs, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion; or (c) by a majority vote of the Church Members.

15.4 **Timing Of Indemnification.** Expenses of each person seeking indemnification under this Article, may be paid by the Church as they are incurred, in advance of the final disposition of the action, suit, or proceeding, as authorized by the Eldership in the specific case, on receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the Pastor, Elder, Deacon, Officer, employee, or agent to repay the amount if it is ultimately determined that he or she is not qualified to be indemnified by the Church.

15.5 **Extent Of Indemnification.** The indemnification provided by this Article shall be deemed to be discretionary unless otherwise required as a matter of law or under any agreement or provided by insurance purchased by the Church, both as to action of each person seeking indemnification under this Article in his official capacity and as to action in another capacity while holding that Office, and may continue as to a person who has ceased to be a Pastor, Elder, Deacon, Officer, employee, or agent and may inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors, and administrators of that person.

15.6 **Insurance.** The Church may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a Pastor, Elder, Deacon, Officer, employee, or agent of the Church against any liability asserted against him and incurred by him in that capacity, or arising out of his status in that capacity, whether or not the Church would have the power to indemnify him against liability under the provisions of this Article.

ARTICLE 16 - BINDING ARBITRATION

16.1 **Submission to Arbitration.** Believing that lawsuits between believers are prohibited by Scripture, all members of this church agree to submit to binding arbitration any matters which

cannot otherwise be resolved, and expressly waive any and all rights in law and equity to bringing any civil disagreement before a court of law, except that judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof.

16.2 Notice of Arbitration. In the event of any dispute, claim, question, or disagreement arising out of or relating to these bylaws or any other church matter, the parties shall use their best efforts to settle such disputes, claims, questions, or disagreement as befits Christians. To this effect, they shall consult and negotiate with each other in good faith and, recognizing their mutual interests not to disgrace the name of Christ, seek to reach a just and equitable solution. If they do not reach such solution within a period of sixty (60) days, then upon notice by either party to the other, disputes, claims, questions, or differences shall be finally settled by arbitration as described in section 16.01, above, and such Procedures for Arbitration as are adopted pursuant to Section 16.04, below.

16.3 Limitations on Arbitration Decisions.

16.3.1 Should any dispute involve matters of church discipline, the arbitrators shall be limited to determining whether the procedures for church discipline as outlined under Section 10.8, were followed.

16.3.2 Should any dispute involve the removal from office of the pastor or any church officer, the arbitrators shall be limited to determining whether the procedures set forth in Section 10.8, were followed.

16.4 Arbitration Procedures. The Procedures for Arbitration shall be as adopted by the Pastor and the Eldership.

ARTICLE 17 - AMENDMENTS

17.1 Amendments. Amendments to the Bylaws or Articles of Incorporation may be made by a two-thirds vote of the Eldership.

ARTICLE 18 - DISSOLUTION

18.1 Dissolution. Dissolution of the corporation (Church) will be determined by a two-thirds decision of the Eldership and a confirmational vote of the Church Membership.

18.2 Dispersion of Assets. The property of this Corporation is irrevocably dedicated to charitable purposes and no part of the net income or assets of this Corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, officer or member thereof or to the benefit of any private persons. Upon the dissolution of the Corporation, its assets remaining after payment, or provision for payment, of all debts and liabilities of this Corporation shall be distributed to a religious nonprofit fund, foundation or corporation which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable, religious purposes and which has established its tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Such disbursements shall be determined by a majority vote of the Eldership and a confirmational vote of the Church Membership.