

ANGEL FIRE BAPTIST CHURCH BYLAWS

Preamble

We, the members of Angel Fire Baptist Church, true believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, in order to unite in this common bond of fellowship, to fulfill the commission by the Lord Jesus Christ to his church, and to govern this church in a manner consistent with the character of God and his commandments to his church, do declare and establish these Bylaws for the regulation of the internal affairs of the church and to which we voluntarily submit ourselves.

Article I. Organization

Section 1. Incorporation

The articles of incorporation were filed with the Secretary of State of New Mexico on May 23, 1989. The articles were amended and filed on _____.

Section 2. Affiliation

This church recognizes and sustains the obligations and mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Baptist churches and will be affiliated with, cooperate with and support the Northeastern Baptist Association, the Baptist Convention of New Mexico, and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Article II. What We Teach

This church affirms the doctrinal statement set forth in the 2000 edition of the *Baptist Faith and Message*. A summary of some of the key points of that statement is given below, the full text of which can be viewed at www.angelfirebaptistchurch.org or <http://www.sbc.net/bfm/bfm2000.asp>.

I. The Scriptures

The Bible is the inspired word of God, being the revelation of God to man, with God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter.

II. God

There is one and only one living and true God, who reveals himself as trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe, infinite in holiness, all powerful and all knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures.

A. Father

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all knowing,

all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men.

B. Son

Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. In His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead, ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.

C. Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Savior, and effects regeneration. At the moment of regeneration He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

III. Man

Man is created male and female in God's own image; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race, whereby his posterity inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. Therefore, as soon as they are capable of moral action, all men become transgressors and are under condemnation.

IV. Salvation

There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord. Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes

A. Regeneration, a work of God's grace whereby believers through repentance towards God and faith in Jesus Christ become new creatures in Christ Jesus.

B. Justification, a work of God's grace whereby believers are brought into a once for all relationship of peace and favor with God.

C. Sanctification, a work of God's grace whereby believers are set apart to God's purposes and growth in grace, and

D. Glorification, a work of God's grace encompassing the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

V. God's Purpose of Grace

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

VI. The Church

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper given by Christ to his church; governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its scriptural officers are elder and deacon. The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

VII. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in Jesus Christ, the believer's death to sin and resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership. The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Jesus Christ and anticipate His second coming.

VIII. Evangelism and Missions

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle.

IX. The Family

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption. Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race. The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit

herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation. Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalm 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9 Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1;18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8,14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.

X. Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Genesis 1:26-27). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Genesis 2:18-25). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Corinthians 6:18; 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4). We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matthew 15:18-20; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Angel Fire Baptist Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to Angel Fire Baptist Church's members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Angel Fire Baptist Church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality (Matthew 5:16; Philippians 2:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:22).

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19-21; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Angel Fire Baptist Church.

X. Statement on the Sanctity of Human Life

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically and mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life.

Psalm 139

XI. Final Authority for Matters of Belief and Conduct

The statement of faith above does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of Angel Fire Baptist Church's faith, doctrine, practice, policy and discipline, our Elders are Angel Fire Baptist Church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

Article III. Church Covenant

Having been led as we believe by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God and this assembly most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge and holiness; to promote its health and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, doctrines, and discipline; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, and the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We encourage members to maintain family and private devotions; to consistently educate our children in the Christian way of life; to seek the salvation of our relatives and acquaintances; to conduct our affairs in a Christian manner; to be just and honest in our dealings, faithful in our responsibilities, and exemplary in our conduct; to oppose in the Spirit of Christ every form of greed, selfishness, and vice; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the teachings of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We moreover agree that when we move from this church we will as soon as possible unite with some other New Testament church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

Article IV. Church Government

Section 1. Authority

This church acknowledges the Lord Jesus Christ as its Head, the bible as its guide, and the Holy Spirit as its teacher.

Section 2. Governance

The governance of this church is vested in its members (See Art. IV, Sec 3 of these Bylaws) under the lordship of Jesus Christ (See Art. IV, Sec 1 of these Bylaws). A two thirds vote (except as otherwise required by these Bylaws) of the membership present at a duly convened meeting will be final. The governance of this church is delegated by the membership to the officers of this church (See Art. IV., Sec 4 of these Bylaws). The authority of these officers is derived from these bylaws and the desires of the membership under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Section 3. Church Membership

A. General

Angel Fire Baptist Church is a congregational Baptist church under the lordship of Jesus Christ. The membership retains unto itself the exclusive right of self-government including all phases of the spiritual and temporal life of this church.

The membership reserves the exclusive right to determine who shall be members of this church and the conditions of such membership. The types of memberships available are full and seasonal.

B. Candidacy for Membership

Any person may come as a candidate for membership in this church. After meeting with a pastor or an elder, all such candidates will be presented to the Church at any regular service for membership in any of the following ways:

1. by profession of faith and baptism;
2. by a letter of recommendation from another Baptist church;
3. by statement of baptism (according to the bylaws of this church), affirmation of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and substantial agreement with the statement of faith of this church;
4. in absentia, same as 2 or 3 above, if a person is providentially hindered from attending a service in person.

Once presented to the church for membership, the candidate will be affirmed in membership by a vote of 85% of the church members present.

C. Rights of Membership

Every member of the Church is entitled to vote at all meetings provided the member is present or provision has been made at a previous business meeting for absentee balloting.

Every member is eligible for consideration for positions of leadership and service in the church according to the guidelines established in these bylaws.

Every member is encouraged to live by the church covenant as stated in the bylaws.

Seasonal members are defined as members who reside for the majority of the calendar year away from Angel Fire and surrounding areas. As such, when they are in Angel Fire, they will be treated as members of Angel Fire Baptist Church. They are entitled to vote at all meetings where they are present or when an absentee vote has been called.

D. New Member Orientation

All persons desiring to become members of the Church will attend a New Member Orientation. This orientation is detailed in the Operations Manual of the Church.

E. Termination of Membership

Membership, whether full or seasonal, will be terminated in any of the following ways:

1. death of the member;
2. upon receipt of letter from another church;
3. exclusion by action of this church according to the guidelines established in these bylaws under Art. IV., Sec. 3., F. Discipline;
4. upon relocation and/or loss of contact for one year.

F. Discipline

It shall be the practice of this church to emphasize to its members that every reasonable measure will be taken to assist any troubled member. The Pastor and other members so trained will be available for counsel and guidance. Mutual exhortation will be encouraged between the members in accordance with the Scripture and the Church Covenant. The attitude of the membership towards one another will be guided by a concern for repentance (where necessary), restoration and reconciliation.

Should a situation arise whereby the lifestyle of a member is causing harm to the reputation of God and this church, the situation will be resolved according to the principles set forth in Matthew 18.

The church may restore to membership any member previously excluded upon request of that person and evidence of repentance.

Section 4. Church Officers

All who serve as officers of this church will be members of Angel Fire Baptist Church and faithfully uphold the statement of “What We Teach” and other principles found in the bylaws of this church. Specific duties and responsibilities will be identified in job descriptions found in Operations Manual of this church.

The church officers will be:

- Elders
- Senior Pastor
- Deacons

Other positions include:

- Ministry staff
- Treasurer
- Clerk

A. Elders

The Elders include the Senior Pastor.

The qualifications of Elder are set forth in 1st Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. Consistent with its understanding of these verses, Angel Fire Baptist Church holds that the office of Elder may only be filled by qualified men. The church will have no less than three Elders.

The purpose of the Elders is to lead the church as under-shepherds of Jesus Christ, the head of the church. This leadership will be characterized by an attitude of service consistent with Jesus’ words to the apostles in Matthew 20:25-28. The Elders will assist the Senior Pastor in:

- Equipping the church membership for the work of ministry for the building up of the body of Christ (consistent with Ephesians 4:11-12);
- Providing spiritual counsel to the Senior Pastor and ministry staff;
- Developing and maintaining the long term vision of the church that encompasses the maturity of the members and the ministry to the local community and to the world;
- Teaching God’s word;
- Shepherding God’s church.

Specific areas directly under the leadership of the Elders will include:

- Teaching and education
- Missions

- Finances (including preparation of the annual church budget in communication with the Deacons and ministry staff)
- Church discipline (consistent with Matthew 18)

As the need arises to add or replace Elders, the process will be as follows:

- The Elders will review the current members to determine which men appear to be qualified for the office of Elder according to 1st Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. Seasonal members are eligible. In addition to the biblical qualifications, any potential candidate for Elder must have been a member of Angel Fire Baptist Church for a minimum of one year.
- Potential candidates will be asked to prayerfully consider the office of Elder.
- Those accepting will be asked to submit a detailed questionnaire to be reviewed by the Elders.
- Candidates will be interviewed by the current Elders to discuss the candidate's responses and any other related issues.
- After the interviews are completed the Elders will submit a list of nominations to the church during any Sunday service.
- The church membership will be given two weeks to prayerfully consider the nominees and communicate any questions or misgivings to the Elders. Any questions arising during this period will be resolved by further nominee interviews. Any lack of resolution will cause the removal of the nominee from consideration.
- After questions are resolved, the remaining nominees will be voted on at a duly called business meeting for a six month testing and training period. A vote of 85% or greater of the members present at the meeting will be required. At the end of the training period, the Elders, the church, and the nominee Elders will have the opportunity to review the qualification of the nominee Elders.
- The nominee Elders who remain will be ordained as Elders of Angel Fire Baptist at a service designated for that purpose.

The Elders will meet at least monthly. The first meeting of the year will be the official meeting of the corporation. They will elect their own secretary who will keep minutes of the Elder's meetings, and a Chairman who will officiate at the Elders meetings and Church business meetings. The Elders will be required to report at all quarterly business meetings. The secretary will serve as the secretary of the corporation. The Chairman will serve as the president of the corporation.

Those selected to the office of Elder will serve a three-year term. The terms of Elders will be staggered. After such a term, an elder is eligible to serve a second three-year term. Except for the Senior Pastor, if an elder serves two consecutive three-year terms, he will be required to take a minimum one-year sabbatical from service as an Elder, provided there are enough Elders to meet the church's needs.

B. Senior Pastor

As the Senior Pastor is an elder, the qualifications for the Senior Pastor will be the same as those for an Elder (see above).

The Senior Pastor will join in the purpose of the Elders (see above).

A distinctive role of the Senior Pastor from the other Elders will be the primary responsibility of and devotion to the ministry of the word, especially in the preaching of the word consistent with the example of the Apostles in Acts 6:4 and the words of Paul to Timothy in 2nd Timothy 3:1-4:5, especially 4:2. As such, this church expects the Senior Pastor to devote a significant amount of his time to the study of God's word and the preparation of sermons. Another distinctive role of the Senior Pastor from the other Elders is to lead in pastoral ministry, including hospital and home visitation.

Other areas specifically under the leadership of the Senior Pastor will include:

- Worship
- Supervision of ministry staff

The Senior Pastor will be required to report at all quarterly business meetings. He will also be an ex-officio member of any board or committee.

The Senior Pastor will serve as the vice president of the corporation.

As the need arises to replace the Senior Pastor, the process will be as follows:

- A Search Committee will be elected by the church composed of five members; not less than one and not more than three will be Elders and the remaining will be church members with a minimum of one-year church membership.
- This Committee will be responsible to the Elders to investigate and recommend candidates for Senior Pastor. The elders will furnish this committee with the guidance necessary to perform their task.
- A candidate will be recommended by the Search Committee to the church.
- The new pastor will be chosen by a minimum 85% vote of the members present at any regular or special business meeting of this church. He will be called for an indefinite period of time and a two months' notice must be given by the Senior Pastor or by the Church for the termination of his ministry unless there is a mutual agreement between the Pastor and the Elders.
- During any such time that the church is without a Senior Pastor, the Elders will be responsible for any necessary ministries normally handled by the Senior Pastor. Any proposal regarding an interim pastor will be presented by the Elders to the church for approval and vote at a meeting of the church for that purpose.

C. Deacons

The qualifications of Deacon are set forth in Acts 6:1-3 and 1st Timothy 3:8-13. Consistent with its understanding of 1st Timothy 3:8-13, Angel Fire Baptist Church holds that the office of deacon may be filled by qualified men and women who desire to “serve the Lord with gladness.” (Psalm 100:2)

The purpose of the Deacons is to lead the church members in service and to manage the ongoing ministry of the church so that the Elders can devote their energies to spiritual leadership and teaching. The areas under the immediate leadership of the deacons will include the following:

- Buildings and grounds (including care and upkeep)
- Membership (including visitation)
- Church ordinances (with the Elders)
- Personnel
- Other ministries of the church including but not limited to: Angel’s Attic, ALMs, nursery, ushering, greeting, and fellowship.

As the need arises to add or replace Deacons, the process will be as follows:

- The church members will be asked to prayerfully review the current members to determine which men and women appear to be qualified for the office of Deacon according to Acts 6:1-3 and 1st Timothy 3:8-13. Seasonal members are eligible. In addition to the biblical qualifications, any potential candidate for Deacon must have been a member of Angel Fire Baptist Church for minimum of six months.
- A two week period will be given to receive nominations by the Elders from the church members. From these nominations a list of potential candidates will be compiled.
- Potential candidates will be asked to prayerfully consider the office of Deacon.
- Those accepting will be asked to submit a detailed questionnaire to be reviewed by the Elders.
- Candidates will be interviewed by at least two current Elders to discuss the candidate’s responses and any other related issues.
- After the interviews are completed the Elders will submit a list of nominations to the church during any Sunday service.
- The church membership will be given two weeks to prayerfully consider the nominees and communicate any questions or misgivings to the Elders. Any questions arising during this period will be resolved by further nominee interviews. Any lack of resolution will cause the removal of the nominee from consideration.
- After questions are resolved, the remaining nominees will be voted on at a duly called business meeting for a six month testing and training period. A vote of 85% is required.
- At the end of this period, the Elders, the Deacons and the church will have the opportunity to review the qualification of the nominee Deacons. After the six month period, the nominee Deacons who remain will be ordained as Deacons of Angel Fire Baptist Church at a service designated for that purpose.

Those elected to the office of Deacon will serve a three-year term. Deacon terms will be staggered. After such a term, a deacon is eligible to serve a second three-year term. If a deacon serves two consecutive three-year terms, he or she will be required to take a minimum one-year sabbatical from service as Deacon.

There will be two annual meetings with the Elders, Deacons and ministry staff. One shall occur in the months of June/July and the other will occur in the months of November/December. The main purpose for the second meeting will concern the next year's budget.

D. Ministry Staff

Pastoral Assistants and Associate Pastors

Pastoral Assistants and Associate Pastors will have the same biblical qualifications as the Senior Pastor and will minister and oversee the areas of their calling in accordance with their job description as determined by the Operations Manual or the membership. They will be responsible to the Senior Pastor, Elders, and the membership. They will be ex-officio members of any boards or committees.

Other Staff

As the need arises other staff may be hired or serve the church as volunteers. These will minister in the areas determined by their hiring or service in accordance with the job description as determined by the Operations Manual or the membership. They will be responsible to the Senior Pastor, the Deacons and the membership.

E. Other Offices and Positions

Treasurer

The Treasurer will be elected annually and may serve an indefinite number of consecutive one-year terms, at the pleasure of both the church and the treasurer. Upon termination of service, the Treasurer will turn over to the next treasurer all monies, documents, and records belonging to the church.

The Treasurer will receive and hold in trust all monies of the Church and will keep an account in the name of the Church in a bank selected by the Elders and will disburse the same as directed by the Church or the deacons. The Treasurer will keep an account of the sources of the receipts and of the purposes of the disbursements. Financial reports will be made whenever so directed by the Elders and at all quarterly business meetings. The Treasurer will assist the Elders and Deacons in the preparation of the annual church budget.

There will be a financial review performed by an external accountant every five years.

The Treasurer will serve as the treasurer of the corporation.

Clerk

The Clerk will be elected annually and may serve an indefinite number of consecutive one-year terms.

The Clerk will keep accurate minutes, including a record of the proceedings and decisions, at all business meetings of the Church. The Clerk will preserve the records of the Church and will assist the Deacons in keeping an accurate record of the membership of the church.

Other Committees

The Deacons will have the authority to appoint any other committees they deem necessary to maintain the various activities of the Church. The appointment and term of these committees will be at the approval of the Elders.

Article V. Church Ordinances

Section 1. Baptism

This church will receive for baptism any person who is trusting in Jesus Christ alone for their salvation, who professes him publicly at any worship service and who indicates a commitment to follow Christ Jesus as Lord.

Baptism will be by immersion in water. The Pastor or whomever the church shall authorize shall administer the baptism. The Deacons will assist in the preparation for and observance of the baptism. Baptism will be administered as an act of worship during any worship service of the Church.

Section 2. The Lord's Supper

The Church will observe the Lord's Supper at least quarterly. The Pastor or whomever the Elders will authorize will administer the Lord's Supper and the Deacons will assist with preparations and service. The Lord's Supper will be available to all disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Article VI. Church Meetings

Section 1. Worship Services

The Church will meet regularly for the worship of Almighty God. Prayer, praise, scripture reading, preaching, and instruction will be among the ingredients of these services. The Pastor or his designee will direct the services.

Section 2. Regular Business Meetings

The Church will hold regular business meetings at least quarterly and pertinent Church business discussed during the monthly Elders and Deacons meetings will be reported to the church membership as needed.

Section 3. Special Business Meetings

The Church may conduct special called meetings to consider matters of special nature and significance. A one-week notice must be given for these meetings unless extreme urgency renders such notice impractical. This notice must be given in such a manner that all members have the opportunity to know of the meeting and attend if able.

Section 4. Quorum

The quorum consists of those members who attend the above meetings provided the meeting has been properly called. If an unusual situation arises which prevents members from attending a meeting, the elders may decide if the meeting needs to be rescheduled. Examples include weather, fire and community emergencies.

Section 5. Parliamentary Rules

The primary authority for conduct for all church meetings will be Christ-like character as revealed in the Bible.

Article VII. Church Finances

Section 1. Budget

The Elders in consultation with the Deacons and Staff will prepare and submit to the Church for approval an inclusive annual budget. It is understood that membership involves financial obligation to support the Church and its causes with regular cheerful giving.

Section 2. Accounting

All funds received for any and all purposes will pass through the hands of the church treasurer (to be clarified under offices) and be properly recorded on the books of the church. The Church will maintain a system of accounting that will adequately provide for the handling of all funds.

Article VIII. Amendments

Changes in these bylaws may be made at any regular or called business meeting of the Church provided each proposed amendment as well as copies of existing bylaws will have been provided in writing to church members at a previous business meeting or in a special mailing. Amendments to the bylaws will be by two-thirds vote of church members present and voting.

**ARTICLES OF AMENDMENT TO THE
ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
OF
ANGEL FIRE BAPTIST CHURCH**

Pursuant to the provisions of the New Mexico Nonprofit corporation Act, the undersigned corporation adopts the following Articles of Amendment for the purpose of amending its Articles of Incorporation:

ARTICLE ONE: The name of the corporation is Angel Fire Baptist Church, PRC Number 1440668.

ARTICLE TWO: All of the articles are repealed and amended to substitute the following articles:

ARTICLE 1. NAME

The name of the Corporation (hereinafter referred to as “the Church”) is ANGEL FIRE BAPTIST CHURCH.

ARTICLE 2. DURATION

The Church shall have perpetual existence.

ARTICLE 3. PURPOSES

The purposes for which this Church is formed are as follows:

1. To establish, operate, and maintain a church affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention in order to carry out the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded in Matthew 28.19-20, Mark 16.15 and Acts 1.8.
2. Under the lordship of Jesus Christ, to make the word of God fully known, to proclaim Christ and Him alone, to present every disciple mature in Christ.

3. To do any and all work necessary on behalf of the Christian religion and in performance of the ordinances of the Church.

4. To make contributions to, or receive contributions from, any organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code of 1986 or its successor.

5. In the furtherance of, and not in limitation of the objects and purposes hereinbefore stated, it is expressly provided that the Church is organized for the purposes and objects to engage in any lawful act or activity for which a nonprofit corporation may be organized under the New Mexico Nonprofit corporation Act and which is consistent with its Federal tax exempt status.

ARTICLE 4. RESTRICTIONS

No part of the net earnings of the Church shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the church shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article 3, above. No substantial part of the activities of the Church shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Church shall not participate in, or intervene in (including publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the Church 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 the corresponding provision of any future federal tax code).

ARTICLE 5. REGISTERED OFFICE AND AGENT

The address of the registered office of the church is 63 S Angel Fire Rd, Angel Fire, NM 87710. The name of the registered agent of the Church at that address is Nancy Hooker.

ARTICLE 6. DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution or other termination of the church, the Board of Trustees shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the Church, dispose of all of the assets of the Church exclusively for the purposes of the Church in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future federal tax code, as the Board of Trustee shall determine.

Should a division of membership occur because of a doctrinal difference, the title to and possession of all Church assets shall remain with the group holding the doctrinal position common to churches of the Southern Baptist Convention.

ARTICLE 7. MEMBERS

The government of the Church shall be vested in the body of believers who compose its membership. The requirements and qualifications for membership, as well as the voting rights of members, shall be set forth in the Bylaws of the Church

ARTICLE 8. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors shall be known and referred to as the Board of Elders. The Board of Elders shall consist of the persons named below. Thereafter, the Board of Elders shall consist of the elders of Angel Fire Baptist Church as fixed by the Bylaws. The Elders shall have power to carry out only such ministerial functions as the Church authorizes in accordance with its Bylaws.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
Brian Nystrom	PO Box 1048, Angel Fire, NM 87710
Richard Frith	PO Box 1048, Angel Fire, NM 87710
Randy Smith	PO Box 1048, Angel Fire, NM 87710
Steve Mulkey	PO Box 1048, Angel Fire, NM 87710

ARTICLE 9. INDEMNIFICATION

The Church will indemnify any elder or officer or employee or staff member made a party, or threatened to be made a party, to any threatened, pending, or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative, except as indicated below. The indemnification shall cover judgments, amounts paid in settlement, and reasonable expenses, including attorney's fees, actually and necessarily incurred as a result of such action, suit or proceeding or any appeal therein. This indemnity is contingent upon the indemnified person's successful defense and only if such person acted in good faith, in the reasonable belief that such action was in the best interests of the Church, and in criminal actions or proceedings, without reasonable ground for belief that such action was unlawful.

This indemnification shall not apply in a situation in which the Church, or anyone lawfully acting on behalf of the Church, seeks to procure a judgment in favor of the Church against the indemnified person for an act alleged to have been committed by such person in his or her capacity as a trustee or officer of the Corporation.

The Board of Elders shall have the sole discretion to determine whether amounts for which an elder or officer seeks indemnification were properly incurred, whether a settlement in either a civil or criminal proceeding is considered a successful defense, and whether such elder or officer acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in the best

interest of the Church and whether, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, he or she had reasonable ground for belief that such action was unlawful. The Board of Elders shall make such determination by a majority vote. An elder seeking indemnity shall not be entitled to vote on this issue unless all of the currently serving elders are seeking indemnification under this provision, in which case the Board of Elders shall make the determination by a majority vote.

ARTICLE 10. PROVISIONS FOR REGULATION OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE CHURCH

The Church shall adopt Bylaws for the regulation of the internal affairs of the Church.

ARTICLE 11. AMENDMENTS

These Articles may be amended by a vote of three-fourths of the Church members present at any meeting called for that purpose in accordance with the Bylaws.

ARTICLE THREE: Upon resolution of the Elders recommending adoption of these Articles of Amendment, the members, acting at its business meeting on _____, adopted these Articles of Amendment. A quorum of the members entitled to vote was present and the amendment received at ***least three fourths (3/4) of the votes*** which members present at the meeting were entitled to cast.

ARTICLE FOUR: These Articles of Amendment are effective upon filing with the Secretary of State.

DATED: _____

Angel Fire Baptist Church_____

By_____

By_____
