

BYLAWS
of
Christ's Church
Jackson, MS



A Mississippi Nonprofit
Religious Corporation

**BYLAWS
OF
CHRIST'S CHURCH**

A Mississippi Nonprofit Religious Corporation

Adopted [5/30/2021]

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Article I: Location of Offices

The name of this corporation (the “Corporation” or “Church”) is Christ’s Church, Inc. a/k/a Christ’s Church. It is a Mississippi nonprofit religious corporation with principal offices in Jackson, Mississippi.

Article II: Purpose

This Church is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding sections of any future federal tax code.

. The Church’s commission is summarized as follows: “And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age’”
(Matthew 28:18-20).

Article III: Statement of Faith

The Statement of Faith is incorporated herein by reference.

Article IV: Corporate Membership

Section 1. Corporate Members

The Corporation shall have no members. Any action which would otherwise require approval by a majority of all members shall only require approval of the Board of Elders. All rights which would otherwise vest in the members shall vest in the Board of Elders.

Section 2. Members of the Fellowship

Nothing contained in Section 1 of this Article shall be construed to limit the right of the Corporation to refer to persons associated with the Corporation as “church members” or similar designations for convenience even though such persons are not members of the Corporation, and no such reference in or outside of the Bylaws shall constitute anyone being a member, within the meaning of § 79-11-175 of the Mississippi Nonprofit Corporation Act. The Corporation may confer by amendment of its Articles or of these Bylaws some or all of the rights of a member, as set forth in the Mississippi Nonprofit Corporation Act, upon any person or persons who do not have the right to vote for the election of officers or on a disposition of substantially all of the assets of the Corporation or on a merger or on a dissolution or on changes to the Corporation’s Articles or Bylaws, but no such person shall be a member within the meaning of Miss. Code Ann. § 79-11-175.

Article V: Church Membership

Section 1. Purpose of the Fellowship

The congregation of Christian believers who have applied for membership in the Church and have been duly accepted shall constitute a spiritual body, united for the spiritual purposes set forth in Article II of these Bylaws.

Section 2. Membership

Membership in the Church shall be open to persons who confess Christ as their Lord and Savior, who have been baptized, who wholeheartedly believe in the Christian faith as revealed in the Bible (the “Bible” as used herein refers to the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, and is sometimes referred to herein as “the Word of God” or “Scripture”), who agree to submit to the teaching of Scripture as expressed in the Statement of Faith, who agree to submit to these Bylaws, and who give evidence of a godly lifestyle to the satisfaction of the Elders.

Section 3. Voting Privileges

Membership in this Church shall not vest in any Church member any proprietary rights in the Corporation, but shall only entitle the Church member to vote at a meeting of the Church members on those matters that the Board of Elders choose to submit to the Church membership for affirmation. In such cases, voting privileges are restricted to Church members who are in good standing and who are not under any disciplinary action. Membership shall not be assignable inter vivos by any Church member nor shall that membership vest to any personal representative, heir, or devisee.

Section 4. Application for Membership

All requests for membership shall be made to an Elder, who will give the person requesting membership . an application for membership, along with a copy of the Statement of Faith and a copy of the Bylaws, and will explain the membership process. All prospective members are expected to read the Statement of Faith and Bylaws. Any questions about or disagreements with the Statement of Faith or Bylaws must be indicated on the membership application for consideration by the Elders. Upon receipt of the completed application, the Board of Elders will review the application and schedule a meeting with the applicant. As a condition to membership, the applicant must sign a statement agreeing to submit to the Statement of Faith and the Bylaws.

Section 5. Denial of Membership

If the Board of Elders determines upon review of the application or the meeting with the applicant that the applicant does not satisfy the requirements of Section 1 of this Article, membership shall be denied. The decision made by the Board of Elders shall be final and there shall be no appeal to any court from the decision.

Section 6. Admission of Applicant

Applicants admitted to membership shall, if possible, present themselves at a worship service designated by the Board of Elders, at which service such applicants shall publicly affirm their membership commitment and be publicly acknowledged as Church members.

Section 7. Responsibilities of Members

Church members shall seek to exercise their spiritual gifts for the mutual benefit of all the members of the Church and shall submit to the loving rule of the Elders. Each member shall be privileged and expected to participate in and contribute to the ministry and life of the Church, consistent with God’s leading and with the gifts, time, and material resources each has received from God. Only those who are members of Christ’s Church will be entitled to serve in the ministries of the Church, except that non-members who regularly attend the Church’s worship services may serve on an ad-hoc basis with the approval of the Elders. Non-members may be hired by the Corporation for purposes of administration and professional consultation.

Section 8 Church Discipline

- (a) The threefold purpose of church discipline is to glorify God by maintaining purity in the local church (1 Corinthians 5:6), to edify believers by deterring sin (1 Timothy 5:20), and to promote the spiritual welfare of the offending believer by calling him or her to return to a biblical standard of doctrine and conduct (Galatians 6:1).
- (b) Members of the Church and all other professing Christians who regularly attend the Church's services, Bible studies, or other meetings who err in doctrine or who engage in conduct that violates Scripture as determined by the Board of Elders shall be subject to church discipline, including dismissal according to Matthew 18:15-18. Before such dismissal, however, the following steps shall be followed except as otherwise provided herein:
- (1) it shall be the duty of any member of the Church who has knowledge of the erring individual's errant doctrine or misconduct to warn and correct such erring individual in private, seeking his or her repentance and restoration. If the erring individual does not heed this warning, then
 - (2) the warning member shall again go to the erring individual, seeking his or her repentance, but accompanied by one or two other members who shall confirm that the errant doctrine or misconduct has occurred or is continuing to occur, and/or that the erring individual has been appropriately confronted and has refused to repent. The first and second warnings may occur with no specified time interval. If the erring individual still refuses to heed this second warning, then
 - (3) the erring individual's errant doctrine or misconduct shall be brought to the attention of the Board of Elders, then
 - (4) if the Board of Elders determines—after thorough investigation in accord with the procedures prescribed by pertinent Scripture, including Matthew 18:15-18 and 1 Timothy 5:19—that there is corroborating evidence that the individual holds to errant doctrine or is engaging in misconduct and persists in such doctrine or conduct, that he or she has been appropriately confronted, and that he or she has refused to repent, then the Elders shall inform the members of the Church at a regularly scheduled worship service in order that the members may call the erring individual to repentance. If the erring individual demonstrates repentance, then notice of such shall be given at a regularly scheduled worship service. If, however, the erring individual does not repent in response to the Church in its collective call to repentance, then
 - (5) he or she shall be publicly dismissed from membership of the Church and the congregation thereof at a regularly scheduled worship service and may, at the election of the Board of Elders, be barred from attending worship services, Bible studies, or other meetings of the Church. If, however, the erring individual after such dismissal heeds the warnings, demonstrates repentance to the satisfaction of the Board of Elders, and requests reinstatement before the Board of Elders, then he or she shall be publicly restored to all rights, duties, privileges, and responsibilities of membership or attendance of services, Bible studies, or other meetings of the Church.
- (c) Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board of Elders, in the exercise of their discretion, may proceed directly to step 3 (i.e. the informing of the Church and the congregation thereof at a regularly scheduled worship service in order that the Church may call the erring individual to repentance) or to step 4 of church discipline (i.e. the dismissal and/ or barring further attendance) when one or more of the following have occurred:
- (i) Where the transgression and the refusal to repent have been public, i.e. openly and to the offense of the whole Church (1 Corinthians 5:1-5);
 - (ii) Where the disciplined person has taught or otherwise disseminated doctrine deemed false or erroneous by the Elders, and the disciplined person has chosen to disregard the direction and reproof of the Elders (Romans 16:17); or
 - (iii) Where the disciplined party has been warned twice to cease from factious and divisive conduct and has chosen to disregard that warning (Titus 3:10-11).

- (d) The members of this Church, and all other professing Christians who regularly attend or fellowship with this Church, agree that there shall be no appeal to any court because of the dismissal or because of the public statements to the congregation at the third or fourth stages of church discipline. Members of this Church who are under discipline by the Church, as defined in the previous paragraphs, forfeit and waive the right to resign from this Church. Resignations from membership are possible only by Church members who are in good standing and who are not under any disciplinary action.
- (e) Prior to the actions described under subpart (b)(4) above, not less than fifteen (15) days prior written notice, by first-class or certified mail to the individual's last address shown on the Church's records, of the proposed dismissal and bar from attendance and the reasons therefore. The individual shall be given the opportunity to be heard by the Board of Elders orally or in writing not less than five (5) days prior to the proposed dismissal and bar from attendance.
- (f) Separate and apart from the process of church discipline, but subject to the discretion and approval of the Elders, the names of any Church members who have not attended a worship service or fellowship meeting at Christ's Church for a period of six months or longer without justification acceptable to the Elders may be removed from the membership rolls.
- (g) Church members stipulate that the above procedures are fair and reasonable.

Section 9 Termination of Membership

The Church shall recognize the termination of a person's membership following his or her death, and it shall also recognize the termination of a person's membership following his or her self-professed apostasy. Additionally, the Church may recognize the termination of a person's membership after he or she has voluntarily resigned membership in this Church or joined with another church. Membership may also be terminated as an act of church discipline under Section 8 above. The Elders shall have authority to refuse a member's voluntary resignation or transfer of membership to another church, either for the purpose of proceeding with a process of church discipline, or for any other biblical reason.

Section 10 Annual and Special Meetings

Special meetings of the Church may be called at any time by notice of the Board of Elders; otherwise, at least one annual meeting shall be called on a date determined by the Board of Elders. Such meetings need not be held at a geographic location if held by means of the Internet or other electronic communications technology in format by which the members have the opportunity to read or hear the proceedings substantially concurrently with their occurrence, vote on matters submitted to the matters for affirmation, pose questions, and make comments.

Section 11 Notice of Meetings

Notice of meetings shall be given at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting: (1) orally during worship services; (2) by publication in the regular Church bulletin; and/or (3) via electronic means (such as e-mail at the address provided in the membership application, text at the number provided in the membership application, social media, or website). The notice shall include the date, time, and place of the meeting and a description of the matter or matters for which the meeting is called.

Section 12 Quorum

At all meetings of Church members, the church members present shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 13 Voting Rights

Those admitted to Church membership do not constitute a legislative body, nor do they constitute members of the Church, and they cannot vote, pass resolutions binding upon the Church, nor shall they have any equity in the real property of the Church, or rights to vote on its disposal. Said property of the Church is dedicated to religious and charitable purposes.

Article VI: Elders

Section 1 Powers

Subject to the limitations of the Articles and these Bylaws and of pertinent restrictions of the Code of the State of Mississippi, all the activities and affairs of the Church shall be exercised by or under the direction of the Board of Elders, w/ho are responsible for shepherding and having oversight of the members. Without prejudice to such general powers, but subject to these same limitations, it is hereby expressly declared that the Board of Elders shall have the following powers in addition to the other powers enumerated by these Bylaws:

- (a) To select and remove all the officers, agents, Elders/Pastors, staff, and employees of the Church; prescribe such duties for them consistent with the Scriptures, with law, or with these Bylaws; and fix the terms of their offices and their compensation.
- (b) To make such disbursements from the funds and the properties of the Church as are required to fulfill the purposes of this Church, thereof and generally to conduct, manage, and control the activities and affairs of the Church and to make such rules and regulations consistent with the Scriptures, with law, or with these Bylaws, as they may deem best.
- (c) To adopt, make and use a corporate seal, and to alter the form of such seal from time to time as they may deem best.
- (d) To establish policies and practices for the Church consistent with the purposes of this Church.
- (e) To administer the ordinances of Baptism and Communion.
- (f) To solemnize marriages.
- (g) To borrow money and incur indebtedness for the purposes of the Church and to cause to be executed and delivered, in the corporate name, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, deeds of trusts, mortgages, pledges, hypothecations, or other evidences of debt and securities.
- (h) To carry on a business and apply any such profit that results from the business activity in which it may legally engage.

Section 2 Number of Elders

The Church shall be governed by a Board of Elders. As used in these By-Laws, the terms “Elder” and “Pastor” are synonymous. In accordance with the provisions of § 79-11-151 of the Mississippi Nonprofit Religious Corporation Act, the authorized number of Elders of the Church shall not be less than two (2). The initial Board of Elders shall be comprised of the three incorporators of the Corporation.

Section 3 Nomination, Selection, Term of Office, and Sabbaticals

Recommendations from all Church members to fill the office of Elder shall be requested by the Board of Elders as needed. The Board of Elders will evaluate recommendations in light of the requirements of Scripture and consistent with these Bylaws. Prospective Elders selected by the Board of Elders shall be presented to the members for a period of comment. Unless a prospective Elder is removed from consideration at the end of the comment period, newly selected Elders shall assume office immediately upon the close of the comment period. Provided the Elder meets all biblical requirements for service in that capacity, there are no required, or defined, limits on an Elder’s term of office. As it is necessary, any Elder may, for any reason, take a time of sabbatical from active service, the length to be agreed upon by

the Board of Elders. Upon the conclusion of said time, if it is the desire for the Elder to continue serving, he may freely return to active service as long as he presently exhibits the qualifications listed in Section 4.

Section 4 Qualifications

Each member of the Board of Elders must be an active member of this Church, agree with the Statement of Faith and these Bylaws, and possess the qualifications described in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9, and 1 Peter 5:1-4. The office of Elder may be held only by males. He shall be:

- (a) Blameless as a steward of God; above reproach (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6-7)
- (b) Husband of one wife; a one-woman man (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6)
- (c) Temperate, sober, vigilant (1 Timothy 3:2)
- (d) Sober-minded, prudent (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8)
- (e) Of good behavior; orderly, respectable (1 Timothy 3:2)
- (f) Given to hospitality (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8)
- (g) Apt to teach; able to teach; able to exhort believers and refute false teaching (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9)
- (h) Not a drunkard (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7)
- (i) Not violent; not pugnacious (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7)
- (j) Patient, moderate, forbearing, gentle (1 Timothy 3:3)
- (k) Not a brawler; uncontentious; not soon angry or quick tempered (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7)
- (l) Not covetous; not a lover of money; not greedy of base gain (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:7)
- (m) Rules his own house; his children are faithful, not accused of rebellion to God (1 Timothy 3:4; Titus 1:7)
- (n) Not a novice; not a new convert (1 Timothy 3:6)
- (o) Have a good report or reputation with outsiders (1 Timothy 3:7)
- (p) Not self-willed (Titus 1:7)
- (q) A lover of good men and things (Titus 1:8)
- (r) Just, fair (Titus 1:8)
- (s) Holy, devout (Titus 1:8)
- (t) Self-controlled (Titus 1:8)

- (u) Desire the office, serve willingly, and provide a godly example (1 Tim. 3:1; 1 Peter 5:1-4).

Section 5 Resignation

Subject to the provision of § 79-11-167 of the Mississippi Nonprofit Corporation Act, any Elder may resign effective upon giving written notice to the Board of Elders.

Section 6 Removal of Elders

Any Elder may be removed from office at any regular or special meeting of the Board if he is found to be physically or mentally incapacitated or spiritually unqualified (according to pertinent Scripture, including 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, and 1 Peter 5:1-4), after thorough corroborating investigation by the other Elders in accord with the procedures prescribed by pertinent Scripture, including Matthew 18:15-18 and 1 Timothy 5:19. When an Elder is removed because of sin that is deemed sufficient to disqualify him from shepherding, and if he refuses to repent from that sin, the removal shall be accompanied by a public rebuke, and notice shall be made before the church and the congregation thereof at a regularly-scheduled worship service as prescribed in 1 Timothy 5:20.

Section 7 Place of Meeting

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary provided in these Bylaws, any meeting (whether regular, special, or adjourned) of the Board of Elders of the Church may be held at any place within or without the State of Mississippi. Meetings may be conducted electronically over the Internet.

Section 8 Regular Meetings

Regular meetings of the Board of Elders shall be held without call or notice on a regular basis as determined by the Board of Elders.

Section 9 Special Meetings

Special meetings of the Board of Elders may be called at any time by a quorum of the members of the Board of Elders.

Section 10 Notice of Special Meetings

In accordance with the provisions of § 79-11-205 of the Mississippi Nonprofit Corporation Act, special meetings of the Board of Elders shall be held upon 4 days' notice by first-class mail or a forty-eight-hour notice given personally or by telephone, email or other similar means of communication. Any such notice shall be addressed or delivered to each Elder or at such Elder's address as it is shown upon the records of the Corporation or as may have been given to the Corporation by the Elder for such purpose of notice.

Section 11 Quorum

Except as otherwise provided herein, a majority of the Elders currently serving shall constitute a quorum. A majority of the Elders present, whether or not a quorum is present, may adjourn any meeting to another time and place. Whenever the matter to be considered concerns calling or dismissing an Elder, or buying or selling real estate, a quorum shall consist of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Board of Elders currently serving. Except as these Bylaws and the Mississippi Nonprofit Corporation Act may provide, the act or decision done or made by the Elders present at a regular or special meeting duly held at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board of Elders.

Section 12 Participation in Meetings by Electronic Means

Members of the Board of Elders may participate in a meeting through the use of conference telephone, or Zoom, or similar communication equipment so long as all members participating in such meetings can hear one another.

Section 13 Adjournment

A majority of the Elders present, whether or not a quorum is present, may adjourn any Elder's meeting to another time and place. Notice of the time and place of holding an adjourned meeting need not be given to absent Elders if the time and place is fixed at the meeting adjourned, except as provided in the next sentence. If the meeting is adjourned for more than forty-eight (48) hours, notice of and adjournment to another time or place shall be given prior to the time of the adjourned meeting to the Elders who were not present at the time of the adjournment.

Section 14 Action Without Meeting

Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Board of Elders may be taken without a meeting if all members of the Board of Elders shall individually or collectively consent in writing to a duly prepared resolution to such action. Such consent or consents shall have the same effect as a unanimous vote of the Board and shall be documented by attaching the signed resolution with the minutes of proceedings of the Board.

Section 15 Rights of Inspection

In accordance with the provisions of § 79-11-285 of the Mississippi Nonprofit Corporation Act, every Elder shall have the absolute right at any reasonable time to inspect and copy all books, records, and documents of every kind and to inspect the physical properties of the Church.

Section 16 Decisions of the Board of Elders

Decisions shall be reached after prayerful consideration by unanimous vote in a spirit of humility, with each Elder regarding one another before himself.

Section 17 Committees

Any action authorized or required by these Bylaws to be performed by the Board of Elders may be delegated to a properly constituted Committee.

Article VII: Deacons

Section 1 Qualifications of Deacons

Recommendations from all Church members to fill the office of Deacon shall be requested by the Board of Elders as needed. The Board of Elders will evaluate recommendations in light of the requirements of 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and consistent with these Bylaws. A Deacon shall be a man of dignity, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain, holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience, first tested and found to be blameless. Prospective Deacons selected by the Board of Elders shall be presented to the members for a period of comment. Unless a prospective Deacon is removed from consideration at the end of the comment period, the newly selected Deacons shall assume office immediately upon the close of the comment period. Provided the Deacon meets all biblical requirements for service in that capacity, there are no required, or defined, limits on a Deacon's term of office. As it is necessary, any Deacon may, for any reason, take a time of sabbatical from active service, the length to be agreed upon by the Board of Elders. Upon the conclusion of said time, if it is the desire for the Deacon to continue serving, he may freely return to active service as long as he presently exhibits the qualifications listed in Section 1 above.

Section 2 Resignation

Subject to the provision of § 79-11-167 of the Mississippi Nonprofit Corporation Act, any Deacon may resign effective upon giving written notice to the Board of Elders.

Section 3 Removal of Deacons

Any Deacon may be removed from office at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Elders if he is found to be physically or mentally incapacitated or spiritually unqualified (according to pertinent Scripture, including 1 Timothy 3:8-13), after thorough corroborating investigation by the Elders in accord with the procedures prescribed by pertinent Scripture.

Section 4 Duties of Deacons

The Deacons shall assist the Elders in the shepherding of the members, assist with Communion and Baptismal services, aid in the general spiritual care of the church, and perform other duties as assigned by the Board of Elders.

Article VIII: Officers

Section 1 Officers

The officers of the Corporation shall be the Chairman of the Board of Elders, a Vice-Chairman of the Board of Elders, a Secretary of the Board of Elders, and a Treasurer of the Board of Deacons. The Corporation may also have, at the discretion of the Board of Elders, other officers as may be appointed in accordance with the provisions herein.

Section 2 Removal and Resignation

Any officer may be removed upon disqualification and removal per Article VI, Section 6 and Article VII, Section 3, of these Bylaws. In accordance with the provisions of § 79-11-277 of the Mississippi Nonprofit Corporation Act, any officer may resign at any time without prejudice to the rights, if any, of the Corporation under any contract to which the officer is party, by giving written notice to the Board of Elders, or to the Chairman, or to the Secretary of the Corporation. Any such resignation shall take effect at the date of the receipt of such notice or at any later time specified therein; and, unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

Section 3 Vacancies

A vacancy in any office because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or any other cause shall be filled in the manner prescribed in the Bylaws.

Section 6 Inability to Act

In the case of absence or inability to act of any officer of the Corporation and of any person herein authorized to act in his place, the Board of Elders may from time to time delegate the powers or duties of such officer to any other officer or other person whom the Board of Elders may select.

Section 7 The Chairman

The Chairman shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation and shall, subject to the control of the Board of Elders, have general supervision, direction, and control of the activities and officers of the Corporation. He shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Elders, which are to be conducted according to the scriptural principles such as set forth in Philippians 2:2-8. He shall have powers and duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Elders or the Bylaws.

Section 8 The Vice-Chairman

In the absence or disability of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman shall perform all the duties of the Chairman, and when so acting shall have all the powers of, and be subject to all the restrictions upon, the Chairman. The Vice-Chairman shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as from time to time may be prescribed for him by the Board of Elders or the Bylaws.

Section 9 The Secretary

The Secretary shall keep, or cause to be kept, a book of minutes at the principal office or such other place as the Board of Elders may order, of all meetings of church members, the Board and its committees, with the time and place of holding, whether regular or special, and if special, how authorized, the notice thereof given, the names of those present at the meetings, the Board and committees' meetings, and the proceedings thereof. The Secretary shall keep, or cause to be kept, at the principal office in the State of Mississippi the original and a copy of the Corporation's Articles and Bylaws, as amended to date. The Secretary shall give, or cause to be given, notice of all meetings of the Board and any committees thereof required by these Bylaws or by law to be given, shall keep the seal of the Corporation in safe custody, and shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as prescribed by the Board of Elders. The

Secretary shall keep, or cause to be kept at the principal office of the Corporation, a church membership register, or a duplicated membership register, showing the names of church members and their addresses.

Section 10 The Treasurer

The Treasurer shall ensure the stewardship of the physical and financial resources of the Corporation, “taking precaution that no one should discredit us in our administration...for we have regard for what is honorable, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men” (2 Corinthians 8:20-21). He shall select “men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom” (Acts 6:3) to implement and accomplish this responsibility. The Treasurer shall ensure that all financial activities and transactions are consistent with these Bylaws. The Treasurer shall keep and maintain, or cause to be kept and maintained, adequate and correct accounts of the properties and business transactions of the Corporation. The books of account shall at all reasonable times be open to inspection by any Elder. The Treasurer shall deposit, or cause to be deposited, all monies and other valuables in the name and to the credit of the Corporation with such depositories as may be designated by the Board of Elders. He shall disburse, or cause to be disbursed, the funds of the Corporation as may be ordered by the Board of Elders, shall render, or cause to be rendered, to the Chairman and the Elders, whenever they request it, an account of all the transactions and of the financial condition of the Corporation, and shall have other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Elders. He shall make, or cause to be made, the financial reports at each regular Board meeting and at any meetings or Church members where such financial reports are to be provided.

Article IX: Ordination, Licensing, and Commissioning

Section 1 Ordination

Ordination refers to the unanimous recognition by the Board of Elders of a man’s call to the ministry, preparation as a shepherd, and qualification to serve. Ordination shall be conferred for life, so long as the man continues to manifest the qualifications of the office.

Section 2 Licensing

The license is issued by the Board of Elders and is given in recognition of a man’s service in a ministry. Its aim is to allow a man to perform the ecclesiastical duties and functions of the church. Licenses will be evaluated—and issued or renewed—each year at the sole discretion of the Elders. Licenses are to be issued only to members of the Church.

Section 3 Commissioning

When local-church certification is required for ministry or where ordination would otherwise be unnecessary or inappropriate, a person may be commissioned by the Board of Elders to minister. This commissioning continues as long as the opportunity to minister remains in effect and as long as the person maintains the qualification for ministry, or until the Board of Elders in its sole discretion revokes the commissioning.

Section 4 Marriages and Weddings

All who are ordained, licensed, commissioned or otherwise authorized by this Church to solemnize marriages and may do so, in the exercise of religious freedom, only where the participants are one man and one woman according to their biological, birth genders (Gen 2:21-24; Matt 19:4-6; Mark 10:6-9). Church facilities may be used for weddings only where at least one of the prospective spouses is a church member in good standing or is related to a church member in good standing; church facilities are not available to the general public for that purpose.

Article X: Finances

Section 1 Offerings

Regular offerings will be received at the worship services each Lord's Day. Special offerings may be taken at any meeting for any cause the Elders, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit deem worthy. No one will be solicited by the Church for funds. However, the Church will preach, teach, and practice grace giving. The Church will stress the heart motive for giving as an act of worship and love, the aim as the glory of God, and the purpose as the care and growth of the members and world evangelism. Giving will always be with the attitude of cheerfulness.

Section 2 Allocations

All regular offerings will be used to support those Elders considered worthy of double honor (1 Timothy 5:17), other employed workers, to defray operating expenses, benevolence, and other funds as established by the Elders. That which remains will be used in the spread of the Gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth as determined by the Elders.

Article XI: Settlement of Disputes

Section 1 General

In any dispute arising between Church members, Elders, or staff pertaining to any matter or spiritual teaching or practices, church finances, or title to property purchased with Church contributions, the dispute shall be resolved by the Board of Elders. A decision shall be reached after prayerful consideration, in a spirit of humility, with each Elder regarding one another before himself and striving to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:1-3).

Article XII: Other Provisions

Section 1 Endorsement of Documents, Contracts

The Board of Elders, except as in the Bylaws otherwise provided, may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents, to enter into any contract or execute any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Corporation. Such authority may be general or confined to specific instances. Unless so authorized by the Board of Elders, no officer, agent or employee shall have any power or authority to bind the Corporation by any contract or agreement, or to pledge its credit, or to render it liable for any purpose or to any amount. Subject to the provisions of applicable law, any note, mortgage, evidence of indebtedness, contract, conveyance, or other instrument in writing and any assignment or endorsement thereof executed or entered into between this Corporation and any other person, when signed jointly by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman, and the Secretary and the Treasurer of this Corporation, shall be valid and binding on this Corporation in the absence of actual knowledge on the part of the counterparty or counter parties that the signing officers had no authority to execute the same.

Section 2 Representation of Shares of Other Corporations

The Chairman or any other officer or officers authorized by the Board are each authorized to vote, represent, and exercise on behalf of the Corporation all rights incident to any and all shares of any other corporation or corporations standing in the name of the Corporation. The authority herein granted may be exercised either by any such officer in person or by any other person authorized to do so in proxy or power of attorney duly executed by said officer.

Section 3 Construction and Definitions

Unless the context otherwise requires, the general provisions, rules of construction and definitions contained in the general provisions of the Mississippi Nonprofit Corporation Act shall govern the construction of these Bylaws.

Section 4 Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended and new and additional Bylaws may be made from time to time at any time by the Board of Elders in the exercise of the power granted to said Board of Elders in these Bylaws.

Section 5 Record of Amendments

Whenever an amendment or new Bylaw is adopted, it shall be copied in the book of minutes with the original Bylaws, in the appropriate place. If any Bylaw is repealed, the fact of repeal with the date of the meeting at which the repeal was enacted or written assent was filled shall be stated in said book.

Article XIII: Receipt, Investment, and Disbursement of Funds

Section 1

The Church shall receive all monies or other properties transferred to it for the purposes for which the Church was formed. However, nothing contained herein shall require the Board of Elders to accept or receive any money or property of any kind if it shall determine in its discretion that receipt of such money or property is contrary to the expressed purposes of the Corporation.

Section 2

The Church shall hold, manage, and disburse any funds or properties received by it from any source in a manner that is consistent with the expressed purposes of this Corporation.

Article XIV: Corporate Records and Reports

Section 1 Records

The Church shall maintain adequate and correct accounts, books and records of its business and properties. All such books, records and accounts shall be kept at its principal place of business in the State of Mississippi, as fixed by the Board from time to time.

Section 3 Fiscal Year of the Corporation

The fiscal year of the Corporation shall begin on the first day of June and end on the last day of May in each year.

Article XV: Dissolution

Upon dissolution of the Corporation, the Board of Elders shall cause the assets herein to be distributed to another Corporation with purposes similar to that identified in Article II of these Bylaws. Upon the dissolution of the Corporation, the Corporation's assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.

Article XVI: Miscellaneous Provisions

Section 1 Instruments in Writing

All checks, drafts, demands for money and notes of the Corporation and all written contracts of the Corporation shall be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents, as the Board of Elders may from time to time by resolution designate.

