

**AMENDED AND RESTATED BYLAWS
of
FIRST BILINGUAL BAPTIST CHURCH**

A California nonprofit religious corporation

ARTICLE I – Name

The name of this corporation is FIRST BILINGUAL BAPTIST CHURCH. Hereinafter in these Bylaws, this corporation may be referred to as "FBBC."

ARTICLE II – Principal Office

The principal office of FBBC is located at 9133 Mines Avenue in Pico Rivera, California. The Active Members of FBBC shall have full power and authority to change the principal office from one location to another.

ARTICLE III – Purpose

FBBC is to maintain a mission statement which is to be promoted to the members. FBBC is to maintain a biblical focus in the following areas:

- 3.01 EVANGELISM/MISSIONS – To faithfully share the good news of Jesus Christ with those in our community and throughout the world, to actively support local, national and international mission efforts both short- and long-term, and to be actively involved in planting new churches on its own and/or in cooperation with others of a like faith. (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, 2 Peter 3:9)
- 3.02 EDUCATION – To help members develop toward full Christian maturity and train them for effective ministries. To promote personal spiritual growth and discipleship through Bible teaching. (Ephesians 4:11-13, Matthew 18:20, 1 Timothy 2:2)
- 3.03 WORSHIP – To participate in public worship services together and to maintain personal daily devotion to God's Kingdom and purposes. (John 4:24)
- 3.04 MINISTRY/SERVICE - To serve unselfishly, in Jesus' name-for the good of those in our membership, community and around the world in such a way that they would see our good works and glorify our Father who is in heaven. (1 Peter 4:10-11, Matthew 5:16; 25:34-40, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Galatians 5:13; 6:9-10; 1 John 3:17-18)
- 3.05 FELLOWSHIP – To encourage, support and pray for each other as members of the family of God. To share our lives together for the cause of the gospel of Jesus Christ. (1 John 1:7, Acts 2:44-47, Hebrews 10:23-25, Romans 15:5, 7, John 13:34-35)

ARTICLE IV – Statement of Faith

- 4.01 FBBC affirms the sixty-six books of the Holy Bible as the inspired Word of God and the basis of our beliefs.
- 4.02 FBBC subscribes to the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention as a general statement of our faith and teaching position.

4.03 Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality

- A. 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 (Gen 1:26-27). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.
- B. 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 (Gen 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 Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 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.
- C. 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 (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10).
- D. We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of FBBC as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the FBBC members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by FBBC in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess 5:22).
- E. 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; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11).
- F. 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 FBBC.
- G. Because God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between a man, a woman, and Himself, FBBC will only recognize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman. Further, the pastors/elders and staff of FBBC shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman. Finally, the facilities and property of FBBC shall only host weddings between one man and one woman.

4.04 **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 or 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 (Ps 139).

- 4.05 The membership of this church shall be composed of individuals who are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, and have been baptized, and affirm the tenets of the Church Bylaws, and who offer evidence, by their confession and their conduct, that they are living in accord with their affirmations and the Bylaws, and are actively pursuing and continuing in a vital fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 4.06 The ordinances of the FBBC are believers' baptism and the Lord's Supper.
- 4.07 **Statement on Final Authority for Matters of Belief and Conduct.** The statement of faith 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 FBBC's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, the Elders are FBBC's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application. Additional details concerning the governance and operations of FBBC are found in the Policies & Procedures Manual, which is an adjunct governing document alongside these Bylaws. Together, they form a fuller expression of how this church intends to conduct its spiritual and temporal affairs.

ARTICLE V – Polity and Relationships

- 5.01 Except as otherwise set forth in these Bylaws, the activities and affairs of FBBC shall be conducted by its Active Members, and all corporate powers shall be exercised by said Members.
- 5.02 FBBC is autonomous and maintains the right to govern its own affairs, independent of any denominational control. Recognizing, however, the benefits and obligations of cooperation with other churches in world missions, FBBC voluntarily affiliates with the Southern Baptist Convention in its national, state and local expressions.
- 5.03 FBBC is a sovereign Baptist church under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. As such, the membership reserves unto itself the exclusive right of self-governance in all phases of its spiritual and temporal life.

ARTICLE VI – Membership in FBBC

- 6.01 Membership in FBBC shall consist of all persons who, after meeting the prerequisites for membership, have been presented to the members at a regularly scheduled worship service and affirmed by the Elders as having met said prerequisites. The presentation to members may occur at other church meetings with the prior authorization of the Elders. All members are to be listed on the FBBC membership role.
- 6.02 The following are the prerequisites for membership. The individual shall:
- A. have made a personal commitment and public confession of faith in Jesus Christ for salvation.
 - B. have been baptized by immersion as a testimony of salvation.
 - C. have completed the FBBC membership class and made a written commitment to abide by the FBBC Membership Covenant.

6.03 Categories of membership: There shall be three categories of members: Active Members, Provisional Members and Inactive Members.

A. Active Members shall meet all the following requirements:

- (1) They shall have fulfilled the requirements for membership as stated in these Bylaws.
- (2) They shall not, due to disciplinary action, have had their names declared to the members pursuant to 6.04(B)(3).
- (3) They shall not have had their membership terminated according to Section 6.04(B)(4) of these Bylaws.
- (4) They shall have attended at least twelve (12) regular worship services of FBBC during the previous six (6) months. Exceptions due to illness or other unavoidable absence shall require the approval of the Elders upon application by the member.
- (5) They shall be eighteen (18) years of age or older.

B. Inactive Members:

- (1) Inactive Members are defined as those members who fail to satisfy any of the requirements for their membership category.
- (2) They shall not vote on any matter before FBBC in any Business Meeting so long as they are classified as an Inactive Member.
- (3) They shall automatically be restored when the requirement(s) for their membership category are fully satisfied.

C. Provisional Members are those members who meet all the requirements as Active Members except they are under the age of eighteen (18). Provisional Members have all the rights and responsibilities of Active Members except they may not vote in any business meeting. They shall automatically become Active Members upon reaching the age of eighteen (18) so long as they continue to meet the requirements for Active Members and reaffirm their commitment in writing to the Membership Covenant and these bylaws.

6.04 Discipline:

- A. The threefold purpose of church discipline is (1) to glorify God by maintaining purity in the local church (1 Cor 5:6), (2) to edify believers by deterring sin and promoting purity (1 Tim 5:20), and (3) to promote the spiritual welfare of the offending believer by calling him or her to return to a biblical standard of doctrine and conduct (Gal 6:1).
- B. Members of FBBC who err in doctrine, or who engage in conduct that violates Scripture as determined by the Elders, shall be subject to church discipline, up to and including dismissal according to the following four (4) stage process. (Matthew 18:15-18)

- (1) It shall be the duty of any member of FBBC who has knowledge of the erring individual's heresy 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 church member shall again go to the erring individual, seeking his or her repentance, but accompanied by one or two individuals who shall confirm that the sin 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 warning, then
 - (3) It shall be brought to the attention of the Elders. If the Elders determine—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 erring individual has sinned or is continuing to sin, that he or she has been appropriately confronted, and that he or she has refused to repent, then the Elders shall inform the membership at a regularly scheduled worship service in order that the church may call the erring individual to repentance. If the erring individual demonstrates repentance, then notice to that effect may be given at a regularly scheduled worship service. However, if the erring individual does not repent in response to the church in its collective call to repentance, then
 - (4) He or she shall be publicly dismissed from the membership of FBBC at a regularly scheduled worship service. If the erring individual, after such dismissal, heeds the warning, demonstrates repentance, and requests reinstatement before the Elders, then he or she shall be publicly restored to all the rights, duties, privileges, and responsibilities of membership.
- C. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Elders, in the exercise of their discretion, may proceed directly to the third (3) stage of church discipline, (i.e. the informing of the membership at a regularly scheduled worship service in order that the church may call the erring individual to repentance) or to the fourth (4) stage of church discipline, (i.e. the dismissal from the membership) when one or more of the following have occurred:
- (1) Where the transgression and the refusal to repent have been public, i.e. openly and to the offense of the whole Church (1 Cor. 5:1–5);
 - (2) Where the disciplined party has taught or otherwise disseminated doctrine deemed false or erroneous by the Elders, then chosen to disregard the direction and reproof of the Elders (Romans 16:17);
 - (3) 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 FBBC agree that there shall be no appeal to any court because of the dismissal or because of public statements to the members and others in attendance at the third (3) or fourth (4) 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 members who are in good standing and who are not under any disciplinary action.
- E. Separate and apart from the process of church discipline, but subject to the discretion and approval of the Elders, a FBBC member or any other individual may be notified that he or she is not to be present upon church premises and/or attend any FBBC sponsored event for such a period of time as is deemed necessary for the safety and well-being of others. Such required absence may but need not be concurrent with church discipline of that person.

6.05 Termination of membership: Membership is terminated in any of the following ways:

- A. The individual is deceased.
- B. The individual has received membership in another church of like faith and order.
- C. The individual has been dismissed from membership by action of FBBC, according to the provisions of Section 6.04(B)(4) of these Bylaws.
- D. The individual has become affiliated with a church of a conflicting faith as determined by the Elders.
- E. Subject to the discretion and approval of the Elders, the names of any church members who have not attended a FBBC authorized worship service, class session or fellowship group for a period of six months or longer may be removed from the membership rolls.
- F. By requesting in writing that their membership be removed, provided the individual is not currently in the discipline process.

6.06 Membership qualification for selected positions:

- A. Only Active Members qualify for the following recognized positions: elder, deacon, counselor, clerk, director of a FBBC program and/or organization, teacher, treasurer, trustee and/or a committee member.
- B. Employed ministerial leaders shall qualify as Active Members of FBBC promptly following their appointment to their respective positions.
- C. Should an individual filling any of the aforementioned positions become an inactive member or have his membership terminated, he shall automatically forfeit that position.

ARTICLE VII – FBBC Meetings

- 7.01 The term “meetings” shall include, but not be limited to, times of worship and prayer, weddings, funerals, baptisms, business meetings and the Lord’s Supper.

- 7.02 Routine, non-controversial business may be transacted at any worship service as necessary with the approval of the Elder Administrative Council. Such business is further defined as excluding business reserved for an Exceptional Business Meeting, business which involves a transaction of real property; or business which involves doctrine or denominational affiliation. A quorum shall consist of the Active Members who are present in the worship service.
- 7.03 Business meetings shall be held at the principal office of FBBC or at such other place or places within Los Angeles county California as may be designated from time to time by the Elder Administrative Council. There are three (3) classes of business meetings; General Business Meetings, Special Called Business Meetings and Exceptional Business Meetings.
- A. General Business Meeting. A General Business Meeting of the members shall be held annually at such date, time and place as determined by the Elder Administrative Council. This meeting shall be the annual membership meeting. Notice of the meeting shall be given as specified in 7.03 (B)(2) of this Article. The purpose of this meeting shall be to adopt an annual budget and receive reports. Subject to Section 7.02(B) of this Article, any other proper business may be conducted at this meeting. The quorum shall consist of the Active Members who attend the business meeting.
- B. Special Called Business Meeting. A Special Called Business meeting may be held at any time to consider special matters of significant or urgent nature, subject to the following provisions:
- (1) A Special Called Business meeting may be called by any one of the following: The Elders; the Board of Trustees; twenty-five percent (25%) or more of the Active Members.
 - (2) Notice of all Special Called Business meetings shall be given in such a way that the general nature of the business to be transacted is clearly described, in English and Spanish, along with a statement of the time, date, and place of the meeting. Notice of the Special Called Business meeting may be given by any of the following methods, and such notice shall start at least two weeks prior to the meeting:
 - a. Distribution of written matter (as stated above) to the membership in attendance at two regular Sunday worship services; and/or,
 - b. Mailing of written matter (as stated above) to those Active Members for whom it has in its records a current mailing address; and/or,
 - c. Oral announcement of the matter to the membership at two consecutive regular Sunday worship services.
 - (3) The quorum shall consist of the active members who attend the Special Called Business meeting.
 - (4) Each Active Member is entitled to one vote. Voting by proxy is prohibited.

- C. Exceptional Business Meeting. An Exceptional Business Meeting may be held as necessary. Such exceptional business meetings shall be subject to the following provisions:
- (1) Such meetings shall be limited to:
 - a. The election or removal of trustees and/or Elders.
 - b. The disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of FBBC.
 - c. The merger or dissolution of FBBC.
 - d. The amendment of the Articles of Incorporation or the Bylaws of FBBC.
 - e. Dealing with matters related to the California Nonprofit Corporations Code.
 - (2) An Exceptional Business Meeting may be called at any time by any one of the following: The Elders; the Board of Trustees; twenty-five percent (25%) or more of the Active Members.
 - (3) A minimum of Forty percent (40%) of the Active Membership shall be present at the start of the meeting to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Two-thirds of the Active Members present must vote in the affirmative to approve any action.
 - (4) The notice shall be as specified as in 7.03(B)(2).

7.04 The following general provisions shall apply to all business meetings of FBBC:

- A. Where Scripture is clear regarding any matter brought forth in a business meeting, every effort shall be made to comply with Scripture, and compliance shall not require a vote, but only the method of such compliance shall be voted on.
- B. Parliamentary procedure shall be governed so as to maintain fair, clear and orderly communication so that those members who are present understand.
- C. Only Active Members are qualified to vote and each Active Member is entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote.
- D. Cumulative voting shall not be authorized for the election of the trustees or for any other purpose.
- E. Active Members entitled to vote shall not vote or act by proxy.
- F. The Elders shall select an FBBC Active Member to act as the moderator at the business meeting.
- G. All business meetings shall be opened with prayer.

ARTICLE VIII

Trustees

8.01 The Board of Trustees shall consist of not less than three (3) members.

- 8.02 Each trustee shall be elected for a term of one (1) year, or until a successor is elected
- 8.03 Active Members may elect a trustee or trustees at any time to fill any vacancy on the Board of Trustees. Should FBBC fail to act within ninety (90) days of the creation of the vacancy, such vacancy may be filled by a majority of the trustees then in office, whether or not less than a quorum, or by the sole remaining trustee.
- 8.04 Trustees serve at the pleasure of FBBC and may be removed prior to the conclusion of the term of office at the discretion of FBBC acting in a properly called Exceptional Business Meeting.
- 8.05 The trustees are hereby designated as the directors of the corporation as that term is defined and used in the California Nonprofit Corporations Code, provided, however, that the activities and affairs of FBBC shall be conducted and its powers shall be exercised as allocated in these Bylaws, and the designation herein of the trustees as directors shall not grant to them any power which is expressly or impliedly granted by these Bylaws, or by custom and usage, to the members of FBBC or to any other board, committee, group, position, person, or combination of persons.
- 8.06 The Elders shall recommend to the members of FBBC persons for election to the Board of Trustees. Any Active Member may nominate other persons for election to the Board of Trustees. The nominees receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected as trustees.
- 8.07 The trustee officers shall also be the officers of the corporation. The officers shall be a President, a Secretary, a Treasurer (Chief Financial Officer), and such other officers as the trustees or FBBC may deem necessary for their work. Any number of offices may be held by the same person except that neither the secretary nor the Treasurer may serve concurrently as the president. The Board of Trustees shall choose the president and the secretary from among their number, unless the members should designate the officers at the time of their election. The Treasurer shall be the Chief Financial Officer. One function of the Trustees shall be to sign such instruments and documents as are necessary or advisable in the name of, on the behalf of, and at the direction of FBBC.

ARTICLE IX

Elders

- 9.01 The terms Elder, Pastor, Bishop and Overseer as used in the New Testament are different names for the same office and are often used interchangeably and/or to describe different functions within the same office. (Titus 1:5, 7; Acts 20:17, 28; 1 Peter 5:1-2) In these Bylaws, the term Elder is used and shall be considered the same as Pastor, Bishop and Overseer.
- 9.02 All Elders are to meet and maintain the Biblical qualifications of 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. Though men and women are spiritual equals before the Lord (Gal 3:25-29), the office of elder is reserved for men (1 Tim 2:12-13). All elders must demonstrate a desire to serve, an ability to teach, and a character worthy of imitation. An elder shall practice and teach the biblical principles of stewardship, as relates to personal possessions, use of time, etc.

- 9.03 When possible every two years, and on other occasions as deemed necessary, the Elders shall nominate men to become elders. All candidates to become elders, whether as lay elders or employed elders, shall be presented to the membership in an Exceptional Business Meeting and affirmed by a minimum two-thirds of those Active Members present. A new elder's term shall extend until the next General Business Meeting.
- 9.04 The term of office for lay elders ends each year at the General Business Meeting. At the discretion and approval of the Elders, current lay elders may have their office extended for an additional term without a vote of the congregation. The elders shall announce to the congregation at each General Business Meeting which elders are having their service continued for another term. Additionally, an elder's term of office may be terminated by resignation or by dismissal pursuant to 7.03(C)(1)(a).
- 9.05 Elders are responsible for discerning the will of God for FBBC, overseeing its implementation and leading the members to fulfill it.
- 9.06 Elders are to protect the body by providing pastoral leadership and guidance and are responsible for as follows: (a) Protection from false teaching and doctrine (Acts 20); (b) Protection from sin and its consequences; elders are to play a central role in FBBC member discipline; (c) Protection of the body and its members in times of difficulty and trials through prayer (James 5:13-15), practical and other means.
- 9.07 Elders are to protect the work of FBBC by ensuring that every effort is made to fulfill the Great Commission maintaining a Biblical emphasis on evangelism and discipleship.
- 9.08 Elders are to protect the body by being deeply involved in the ministry of the Word. While the primary duty of some elders may not be preaching from the pulpit, each elder is to play an active role in discerning what is to be communicated and provide constructive feedback on the content of what is taught.
- 9.09 There shall always be a plurality of elders as modeled in the New Testament. (Acts 14:23, 15:2,4,6,22,24, 16:4, 20:17-18, 1 Tim. 4:14, 5:17, Titus 1:5, James 5:14 & 1 Peter 5:1).
- 9.10 Each employed elder shall serve as such until the relationship is terminated by his resignation, by a majority of the Elders, or by the request of a majority of the FBBC Active Members in an Exceptional Business Meeting.

ARTICLE X

The Elder Administrative Council

- 10.01 The Elder Administrative Council shall maintain a majority of lay elders over employed elders and shall be composed so that it can effectively relate and communicate to the membership. Approximately once every two years all current elders shall meet to determine which lay elders and employed elders will serve on the Elder Administrative Council.

- 10.02 The Elder Administrative Council shall approve the employment of non-ministerial staff, whether the position be exempt or non-exempt, as necessary to fulfill the administrative needs of the church. Such employees shall be of distinctly Christian character and lifestyle, as defined by the Bible and the FBBC Membership Covenant. Willful violation or transgression of these principles will subject the employee to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment. The hiring of elder staff requires the approval of the Active Members pursuant to section 9.03 of these bylaws.
- 10.03 In the Elder Administrative Council's deliberations each elder is to have an equal voice.
- 10.04 The Elder Administrative Council is responsible for creating, updating and revising the FBBC Policies and Procedures Manual. The Manual shall be reviewed periodically by the Elder Administrative Council to assure that it is current.

ARTICLE XI

FBBC Ministry Leaders

Ministry leaders include all members serving in an official capacity, whether paid or unpaid, who make an equipping contribution to the life of the membership (Eph. 4:11-12). An individual's area(s) of service and responsibility shall align with his/her God-given gift(s), anointing, experience, education, skills and talents. In all cases, ministry shall be based on an individual's gifting and anointing, not elected position or title.

ARTICLE XII

Deacons

- 12.01 All deacons, whether male or female, must be Active Members of FBBC and must possess the requisite qualifications outlined in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.
- 12.02 In accordance with the meaning of the word and the practice of the New Testament, deacons are to be servants of the membership. Their work shall include but not be limited to the following:
- A. Assist the elders in the celebration of the Lord's Supper;
 - B. Assist the elders in the preparations for baptisms; and,
 - C. Assist ministry leaders in carrying out the specific ministry assigned to them.
- 12.03 The appointment of each deacon, along with the description of his/her duties and length of service, will be done by the Elders in cooperation with any ministry leaders related to that deacon position.
- 12.04 Before any deacon is approved, he/she will be presented to the congregation for two consecutive Sundays. During that time, members of FBBC may contact the elders should they feel the person is biblically unqualified. If no valid objection is brought to the elders, the person will be appointed by the Elders on the Sunday following the two-week nomination period.

ARTICLE XIII
Records and Reports

- 13.01 The following records and reports shall be maintained at FBBC's principal office or be accessible on a digital device belonging to First Bilingual Baptist Church.
- A. Adequate and correct books and records of accounts (financial records).
 - B. Minutes of the proceedings of its business meetings, Elder Administrative Council's meetings, and trustees' meetings.
 - C. A record of the membership, setting forth the members' names and addresses.
 - D. Contribution statements for contributors.
 - E. FBBC Policies and Procedures Manual.
- 13.02 Unless prohibited by law, or elsewhere in these bylaws, the FBBC records and reports listed below shall be made available to any Active Member upon request. If a record or report falls within the jurisdiction of a committee, the request will be directed to the appropriate committee.
- A. Budget, Income Statement, Balance Sheet, and Designated Fund Summary for current year and previous three years.
 - B. Minutes of the proceedings of FBBC business meetings, Elder Administrative Council's meetings, and trustees' meetings.
 - C. A record of members' names.
 - D. Contribution records specifically for the individual or household unit requesting the record.
 - E. FBBC Policies and Procedures Manual.

ARTICLE XIV
Financial Accountability

- 14.01 The Elder Administrative Council, with the approval of the Elders, shall select a finance committee which shall include the Treasurer who will serve as the chairperson of the Committee.
- 14.02 The finance committee shall oversee the receipt, preservation, and disbursement of all money or things of value given to FBBC, keeping always an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements. In general, expenditures shall be authorized in the budget as adopted by the membership at the annual business meeting (7.02A), or by other specific action of the membership, and shall conform to such system of authorization as FBBC may employ, whether by voucher or otherwise. The budget from both an expenditure and income perspective is a guide to be followed but variations as necessary are permitted.
- 14.03 The finance committee shall render to the membership at the annual business meeting a report of the receipts and disbursements for the preceding year.

- 14.04 The finance committee, with the consent of the Elder Administrative Council, may delegate some of the financial responsibilities to a financial secretary or financial institution, under the supervision of the finance committee. The finance committee may grant supervision of an outside entity or secretary to a specific member of the committee.

ARTICLE XV

FBBC Ministries

FBBC shall maintain those worship services, programs, organizations, ministry and missionary endeavors it deems necessary to fulfill its purpose as stated in Article III, including but not limited to:

- A. Regular worship services held publicly on Sunday and/or on a weekday evening of each week at the time designated by the FBBC.
- B. The Lord's Supper celebrated at least quarterly on the dates and hour as may be determined by the Elder Administrative Council.

ARTICLE XVI

Dissolution

- 16.01 If at any time FBBC shall be dissolved or should cease to function as a cooperating Southern Baptist church, the property and assets of FBBC, both real and personal, shall be distributed to the Los Angeles Southern Baptist Association or its successor.
- 16.02 FBBC shall be determined to have ceased functioning as a cooperating Southern Baptist church when any of the following conditions prevail:
- A. Should a statement to that effect be adopted by the Los Angeles Southern Baptist Association, the California Southern Baptist Convention, or the Southern Baptist Convention, or their successors. Such a statement, to be valid, must include specific mention of the basis for its adoption.
 - B. Should FBBC be denied (on the basis of not being a cooperating Southern Baptist church) in an attempt to seat messengers at the annual meeting of the Los Angeles Southern Baptist Association, or the California Southern Baptist Convention, or the Southern Baptist Convention, or their successors.
 - C. If the Active Members vote to merge the church into a non-Southern Baptist church and/or vote to no longer affiliate themselves with Southern Baptist at the national and/or state level.
- 16.03 Should FBBC be determined to have ceased functioning as a cooperating Southern Baptist church according to the provisions of Section 16.02, FBBC may appeal the decision to an ecclesiastical council of the California Southern Baptist Convention or its successor.
- A. The composition and guidelines of the council shall be agreed upon mutually by FBBC and by the organization precipitating the original determination that FBBC is not a cooperating Southern Baptist church.

- B. The decision of the council shall be binding.
- C. Should either FBBC or the precipitating organization fail to cooperate in the council's establishment or proceedings, that party shall automatically concede its position and privileges in the matter.

16.04 Section 16.02 of these Bylaws may not be amended or deleted in any way which will alter or diminish its effect.

ARTICLE XVII

Amendments

- 17.01 Changes in these Bylaws shall be made at an Exceptional Business Meeting, according to the provisions of Section 7.02C of these Bylaws.
- 17.02 Amendments to the Bylaws shall receive at least a two-thirds vote of the Active Members who are present and voting in the Exceptional Business Meeting, except that Article XVI shall require a three-fourths vote of the same.
- 17.03 Amendments to the Bylaws shall take effect immediately upon approval unless provided otherwise at the time of the vote on the amendment.

ARTICLE XVIII

Matters Subject to Alternative Dispute Resolution

- 18.01 To protect the church from unnecessary entanglement with the secular civil courts of the State of California or the federal government, the Members and employees of FBBC agree to submit any legal dispute with FBBC and/or any member of FBBC, for mediation before a mutually agreed-upon mediator, or if none can be agreed upon, one selected by Peacemaker Ministries.
- 18.02 Mediation will be governed by the *Rules of Procedure for Christian Conciliation* of the Institute for Christian Conciliation (ICC *Rules*), unless modified as stipulated by the parties.

END