

## **By-Laws**

**of**

### **Oak Hill Bible Church of Santa Clarita**

**Incorporated as a non-profit corporation in the State of California.**

#### **Article I Our Corporation**

The name of this Corporation is Oak Hill Ministries, Inc. It is a California non-profit religious corporation with the principal offices located in Castaic.

#### **Article II Our Purpose Statement**

At every level of ministry – adults, youth, and children – we affirm the following as our purpose and guide:

1. Holding fast to a ministry model that is simple, authentic, faithful to Scripture, and trusts God alone for the results (*1 Corinthians 3:5-7*).
2. Passionately pursuing a greater understanding of the truth through the relentless study of God's Word (*Colossians 1:9-12*).
3. Conforming every aspect of our lives to biblical truth and living out the will of God in wisdom and depth of insight (*Philippians 1:9-11*).
4. Worshipping our holy God as living sacrifices set apart for Him, giving Him all that we have and all that we are (*Romans 12:1-2*).
5. Proclaiming the Word of life with grace and truth to dying souls in our local community and beyond (*1 John 1:1-3*).

This Corporation is organized for exclusively religious purposes.

#### **Article III Our Statement of Faith**

##### **Section 1: Bibliology (Inerrancy)**

The Bible is the inspired Word of God (*theopneustos*). God superintended the human authors of Scripture so that, using their own personalities, they composed without error God's revelation to mankind. The Bible is completely true and correct as originally written. It is the complete revelation of God's will for the salvation of His elect, sufficient and authoritative for faith and life, and there are no other writings similarly inspired by God. (2 Tim 3:16-17, 2 Pet 1:20-21)

## **Section 2: Theology Proper (Trinity)**

God is one, yet exists eternally in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three eternal Persons who equally share one infinite, undivided divine nature. They are one (*against Tri-thesim*), distinct (*against Unitarianism*), and simultaneous (*against Modalism*). God has revealed Himself in nature, in Scripture, and in man's conscience as the Creator, Lawgiver, and Judge. He is absolutely sovereign over all aspects of His creation and in the lives of His creatures. He sustains all things and by His providence He orders the affairs of men and nations according to His perfect decree and for His eternal purposes. He is infinite in power, knowledge, and presence (*omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent*). He is holy, immutable, perfectly righteous, and loving in all His ways. (Deut 6:4, 1 Cor 8:6, Jn 1:1-3)

## **Section 3: Anthropology (Inherent Corruption & Guilt)**

Human beings were created in the image of God to have perfect fellowship with Him. Tempted by Satan, man rebelled against the command of God and fell into sin. In our natural state, we are all "in Adam" as his descendants. As a result of his failure in the Garden, every human being is born corrupted and guilty before a holy God. We are in bondage to the law of sin, inclined toward self, and disobedient to God's moral law. Until God regenerates our hearts, we are incapable of inclining ourselves toward God in repentance. (Rom 1:18-32, 3:10-18, 3:23, 5:12-21, Eph 2:1-5)

## **Section 4: Christology (Person & Work of Messiah)**

As outlined at the Council of Chalcedon in A.D. 451, there are four essential principles that constitute a proper understanding of Christ: (1) Jesus Christ is true God, consubstantial (*homoousia*) with the Father regarding His divinity. (2) Jesus Christ is true Man, consubstantial (*homoousia*) with man regarding His humanity, yet without sin. (3) Jesus Christ is One Person who possesses a divine nature and a human nature. (4) The two natures of Christ remain distinct, without division or separation (*against Nestorianism*) and without change or confusion (*against Eutychianism*). Jesus Christ became fully human by a miraculous conception and virgin birth. He retained His attributes as deity, yet gave up the voluntary use of those attributes and took on an additional (human) nature in order to experience life as a human being and to live a life of perfect obedience to the Father. He voluntarily laid down His life on the Cross as a substitutionary atonement for mankind. He rose bodily from the grave, having satisfied God's divine justice and accomplishing salvation for those who trust in Him. He achieved victory over death and the power of evil and ascended into heaven where, as the mediator between God and man, He continually intercedes for His people. (Jn 1:1-3, Col 1:15-23, Phil 2:5-11, Heb 1:1-4, 1 Jn 2:1-2)

## **Section 5: Soteriology (By Faith Alone)**

The Bible uses the term salvation to refer to our deliverance from the ultimate calamity – the judgment of God. In a positive sense, it has to do with our ultimate redemption from sin and reconciliation with our Creator. This is the central purpose of God's revelation – to call mankind back into fellowship with Him through the Gospel message. Salvation originates with God Himself and is based on Christ's saving work on the Cross. God's saving grace is received by man through faith

alone, not by any work or any foreseen merit in man. Before the foundation of the world, God decreed that His elect will be called, regenerated, saved, justified, adopted, sanctified, and, ultimately, glorified. (Eph 1:3-4, 2:8-9, Rom 3:21-28, 6:23, 8:1-2, 9:10-16, Titus 3:3-5, 2 Tim 1:8-9)

### **Section 6: Pneumatology (Ministry of the Spirit)**

The Holy Spirit is true God just as the Father and Son are true God. In the *functional* hierarchy of the Trinity, the specific role of the Holy Spirit is to bring glory to the Son and manifest the active presence of God on earth, and particularly in the church. From the beginning of time the Spirit's work has been to complete and sustain what the Father has planned and what the Son has begun. During the present age, the Holy Spirit indwells the true believer as the agent of sanctification. He is active in conviction of sin, instruction, empowerment, and in the gifting of the saints for service in the church. (John 14:16-17, 16:7-15, 1 Cor 12:4-11, Gal 5:16-18, 22-23)

### **Section 7: Ecclesiology (The Body of Christ)**

The Church is the living body of Christ, the community of all believers who are united to Christ. The Church is built upon the apostles and prophets with Christ Himself as the chief cornerstone. We, as the people of God, are called to maintain a spirit of unity so that with one heart and one mouth we may glorify Him. We are to demonstrate the gracious character of God in the world, proclaiming the saving message of the Gospel and making disciples of all nations. We are called to observe the ordinances of the Church (baptism and the Lord's Supper) until Christ returns. (Matt 28:18-20, Jn 17:20-26, Eph 4:3-6, 11-13, 1 Pet 2:9)

### **Section 8: Eschatology (The Last Things)**

According to the decree of the Father, Christ will, at the close of this age, return to earth in bodily form and consummate His Kingdom. At the end of all things, He will serve as the righteous Judge over all. Those who have rejected the Son will be separated from God and experience everlasting conscious torment in hell. Those who are truly found "in Christ" will be received into heaven and will experience everlasting life and fellowship with God. (Matt 24:36-44, 1 Thess 4:13-5:11, Rev 19:11-16, 20:11-15, 21:1-5)

## **Article IV Church Governance: Elders & Deacons**

### **Section 1: Derivation of Authority**

The sole source of all authority, whether in heaven or on earth, is the God who has spoken in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. According to the New Testament, the Lord Jesus Christ has all authority in heaven and on earth (Matt 28:18; Eph 1:18-23; Col 2:9-10) and is the supreme authority for Oak Hill Bible Church of Santa Clarita in all matters.

In the remaining days prior to Jesus' return to reign over the earth, the local church represents the visible expression of His will to mankind. In this regard, the church

relates to Jesus as His body, of which He is the head (Eph 1:22-23). The New Testament teaches that while all believers are of equal worth to God and have equal access to Him for personal guidance and provision (Gal 3:26-28), the corporate oversight and direction of the church is mediated by Christ through a plurality of godly servants. These servants are called elders and deacons in the Holy Scriptures. They are responsible to lead in the power of the Spirit of Christ and according to His Word (1 & 2 Timothy; Titus; 1 Peter). The New Testament does not give a clear directive as to the exact number of elders and deacons but does clearly vest authority in a plurality of servants. Therefore the authority of the elders and deacons is derived from their reflection of Christ's character and obedience to the Scriptures (1 Tim 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Pet 5:1-3).

The elders are to be men only qualified in character according to the Scriptures (1 Tim 3:1-7; 1 Tim 2:12-14), called by Christ to sacrificially shepherd (John 10:11-15) the flock of God, leading primarily by example (1 Pet 5:1-3) as servants (Matt 20:25-28) and exercising a teaching ministry in some capacity. Their primary emphasis is to devote themselves to prayer and to the ministry of the Word (Acts 6:4). The congregation is called to be subject to their elders (1 Pet 5:5), to obey and submit to their leaders (Heb 13:17), and to appreciate those who labor on their behalf (1 Thess 5:12-13).

The deacons may be men or women qualified in character according to the Scriptures (1 Tim 3:8-13), full of faith and of the Holy Spirit (Acts 6:5). Their primary emphasis is to take leadership over specific tasks as delegated by the elders (Acts 6:3).

## **Section 2: Authority and Responsibilities**

Oak Hill Bible Church of Santa Clarita is incorporated under the laws of the State of California and operates within the restrictions of the Corporations Code of the State of California, the California Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law, Internal Revenue Code for 501(c)(3) corporation regulation, et al. As such, Oak Hill Bible Church of Santa Clarita voluntarily submits to these legal requirements.

The activities and affairs of the Corporation shall be exercised by or under the direction of the Elder Team, who are responsible for overseeing and shepherding the congregation.

The Elder Team shall have, but is not limited to, the following authority and powers (in addition to those enumerated in other sections of these By-laws):

1. To establish and maintain the Operations and Procedures Manual (OPM) for the church;
2. To engage in all financial transactions relative to the operation of the church;
3. To adopt, make, use or alter a corporate seal;

4. To delegate authority for the day-to-day operational decision-making responsibilities of the church; and
5. To call and conduct meetings for the purposes of carrying out the organizational or operational business of the church; to include the church membership in these processes as stated in these By-laws or as the elders see fit.

### **Section 3: Number and Tenure of Elders and Deacons**

There shall be a minimum of two (2) voting elders and no maximum number of voting elders. They shall serve a three (3) year voting term as long as the qualifications listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, and 1 Peter 5:1-3 are met prior to and during that term. After a one (1) year non-voting break is completed, they may be appointed to serve another voting term. A periodic evaluation of individual elders shall take place to ensure that all elders remain biblically qualified. Staff pastors may serve as elders. The Elder Team shall always be comprised of the greater of one (1) lay elder or two-thirds (2/3) lay elders.

While the establishment of an elder team is mandated in Scripture, there is no such requirement for a deacon team. However, the existence of deacons in the apostolic church is undeniable. If and when a deacon team is established, there shall be a minimum of two (2) voting deacons and no maximum number of voting deacons. They shall serve a three (3) year voting term as long as the qualifications listed in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 are met prior to and during that term. After a one (1) year non-voting break is completed, they may be appointed to serve another voting term. A periodic evaluation of individual deacons shall take place to ensure that all deacons remain biblically qualified.

### **Section 4: Other Issues Relative to Elders and Deacons**

*Selection:* The Elder Team shall provide a process to select new elders and deacons.

*Removals:* Any elder or deacon may be removed from office at any regular or special meeting of the Elder Team if he is found to be physically or mentally incapacitated, or spiritually unqualified (according to Scripture). His removal must be agreed upon by a majority of the Elder Team.

*Sabbaticals:* An elder or deacon may request in writing to the Elder Team a 6-month sabbatical as long as the request is not a disqualifying issue (according to Scripture).

*Vacancies:* An elder or deacon vacancy shall exist upon an elder or deacon's death, resignation, or removal at the end of the term. An elder or deacon shall give notice of resignation to the Chairman of the Elder Team subject to the applicable sections of the California Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law.

*Elder Meetings:* The Elder Team shall meet at least once a month. Records of elder meetings shall constitute the legal minutes of the corporation. A majority of elders

present at any given meeting under the provisions of this section may adjourn a meeting and continue the meeting until a later date.

*Deacon Meetings:* The Deacon Team shall meet at least once a month and accurate records of deacon meetings shall be kept.

*Quorum and Decisions of the Elder Team:* A quorum shall be defined as half the Elder Team or two elders, whichever is greater. Decisions may be reached based upon three-fourths of the votes cast by the quorum. The Elder Team shall make decisions in a spirit of unity following a thorough and honest discussion characterized by gentleness, self-control, and sound doctrine (1 Timothy 3:2-3; Titus 1:7-9; Ephesians 4:1-3). Decisions may be made on behalf of the church without a formal meeting if all elders vote through personal contact by the Chairman with assistance from the Vice-Chairman and/or Secretary. The discussion that is communicated to each elder must be the same in content and request for action. Any action taken through this manner shall be recorded in a separate set of minutes by the Secretary. At the next regularly scheduled elder meeting, these minutes shall be reviewed and presented for approval.

*Inspection of Books and Records:* Every elder shall have the right at any reasonable time to inspect all financial information (including the books, records and documents) as well as the physical properties of Oak Hill Bible Church of Santa Clarita for the purpose reasonably related to such person's interest as an elder. These rights will not include the inspection of personal property or individual giving records.

## **Article V Church Membership**

### **Section 1: Membership**

Membership in Oak Hill Bible Church of Santa Clarita will be open to all persons eighteen (18) years of age or older who confess Christ as their Lord and Savior, who have been baptized by immersion, and have completed the following requirements for membership:

1. Filled out a membership application;
2. Completed the membership class and/or pastoral interview;
3. Read and agreed to abide by our Doctrinal Statement;
4. Read and agreed to these Bylaws;
5. Signed a membership covenant; and
6. Approved by an affirmative vote of the Elder Team.

### **Section 2: Voting Rights of Membership**

Membership in this church shall not vest in any member any proprietary rights in the Corporation, but shall entitle the member to vote at a meeting of the members on those matters stated in these bylaws or that the Elder Team chooses to submit

to the church membership for affirmation. In such cases, voting privileges are restricted to members who are in good standing and who are not under any disciplinary action. Each member is entitled to one vote. Voting by proxy is prohibited.

### **Section 3: Denial of Membership**

The Elder Team has complete authority to deny a person membership if they determine that the applicant does not confess Jesus Christ as his or her Lord and Savior, or that there is a lack of evidence of a Godly lifestyle. The decision made by the Elder Team shall be final and there shall be no appeal to any court from that decision.

### **Section 4: Responsibilities of Members**

Members shall seek to exercise their spiritual gifts for the mutual benefit of all the church body and shall submit to the authority of the Elders.

### **Section 5: Church Discipline/Restoration**

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).

Members of this church who err in doctrine, or who engage in conduct that violates Scripture as determined by the Elder Team, shall be subject to church discipline/restoration. The discipline/restoration process will follow the biblical four (4) stage process as commanded by Jesus in Matthew 18:15-18.

The members of this church agree that there shall be no appeal to any civil court because of membership dismissal or because of public statements to the congregation at the third or fourth stages of church discipline/restoration.

### **Section 6: Termination of Membership**

Membership may be terminated by the Elder Team under the following conditions:

1. Upon the death of the member;
2. Upon issuance of a letter of recommendation for transfer of membership to another church;
3. Upon a member's personal request in writing that he or she be removed from the roll;
4. Upon a member's unjustifiable absence, determined by the Elder Team, after due notice and effort to reclaim; or
5. Upon withdrawal of fellowship by the Elder Team from a member as a matter of church discipline/restoration as delineated under Article V, Section 5.

Any member who seeks a transfer of membership or any other removal of their name from membership while involved in any stage of discipline/restoration process will not be acted on until the discipline/restoration process has come to a clear conclusion.

## **Article VI Corporate Membership**

The corporate structure for organization, authority and responsibility rests first with the Elder Team and then delegated as the Elder Team will see fit.

### **Section 1: Membership Approval**

Corporate organization, authority, and responsibility rest with the Elder Team. However, three-fourths (3/4) of the votes cast by church members (18 years or older) is required to approve:

- any and all pastoral candidates;
- elder and deacon nominees;
- the proposed annual church budget;
- any non-recurring church expenditure exceeding \$3,000.00; and
- any proposal to buy, sell, incur indebtedness on the property owned by Oak Hill Bible Church of Santa Clarita, to trade, pledge, hypothecate or secure any land or assets owned by Oak Hill Bible Church of Santa Clarita.

### **Section 2: Quorum**

The members present during the annual and any specially called meetings shall constitute a quorum.

### **Section 3: Annual Meeting**

A regular annual meeting of the church members shall be held. At such annual meeting the members shall consider reports of the affairs of the Corporation and transact such other business as the elders determine shall be brought before the meeting.

### **Section 4: Special Meetings**

Specially called meetings may be called by the Lead Pastor or the majority of the Elder Team at any time deemed necessary.

### **Section 5: Designated Representatives**

For the purposes of meetings and other such procedures, the Elder Team may appoint or otherwise delegate representatives to conduct such business.

## **Article VII Lead Pastor**

The Lead Pastor shall be selected by the Elder Team and approved by the members of the church at a special membership and such approval shall be a three-fourths (3/4) majority of all the votes cast. He shall remain in office an indefinite period of time unless recommended for dismissal by a unanimous vote of the Elder Team and approved by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the members at a special membership meeting. If the Lead Pastor has scripturally disqualified himself (according to I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9), then he can be dismissed by unanimous vote of the Elder Team. If the Lead Pastor is dismissed, he must be given one month's written notice of the intention to dismiss. The Lead Pastor must also give one month's notice if he intends to resign. The time limit of the Lead Pastor's resignation or dismissal is subject to a lesser time if both the Lead Pastor and the church by mutual agreement provide otherwise.

## **Article VIII Corporate Records and Reports**

All corporate records of meetings, transacted business, records of voting results, and any and all such corporate business activity of Oak Hill Bible Church of Santa Clarita shall be kept in the form of duly noted and approved minutes. The Elder Team shall ensure that the minutes are accurate and approved by a quorum. All records and reports of the corporate business of Oak Hill Bible Church of Santa Clarita shall be kept in a safe and complete manner. Other than personnel issues and those that the Elder Team declares to be sensitive in nature, all records and reports will be made available for inspection by any member 18 years of age or older.

## **Article IX Officers**

### **Section 1: Officers**

In Sections 1-9, "officers" shall refer to: the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer.

The officers of Oak Hill Bible Church of Santa Clarita, selected from the Elder Team, shall be a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. Other officers, as deemed necessary by the Elder Team and not requiring elder status, may be appointed in accordance with Section 9 of this article. All officers shall have signature authority for all legal and financial documents and may designate others for signature authority by unanimous vote of the Elder Team.

### **Section 2: Election**

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer, shall be chosen annually by the Elder Team.

### **Section 3: Resignation and Removal**

Resignation of an officer shall be effective upon written notice to the Elder Team specifying an effective date. Should any officer fail to perform the duties of his office, removal from office may be deemed appropriate by the Elder Team.

### **Section 4: Vacancies**

In the event of a vacancy, the Elder Team shall name a replacement for the remaining term of office.

### **Section 5: The Chairman**

The Chairman shall, subject to the wishes of the Elder Team, give general supervision and direction to all other officers. He shall preside at all meetings of the Elder Team and have such authority and duties as prescribed by the By-laws or Elder Team. In the absence of a Lead Pastor, the Chairman shall be responsible for church leadership and governance.

### **Section 6: The Vice-Chairman**

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman shall assume his duties. As needs exist, other duties and authority may be authorized by the Elder Team.

### **Section 7: The Secretary**

The Secretary shall keep, or cause to be kept, a record of minutes of all congregational meetings, all meetings of the Elder Team and all meetings of authorized committees. These minutes shall record those present, the time, the location, the type of meeting and a summary of matters under consideration.

### **Section 8: The Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall keep and maintain, or cause to be kept and maintained, adequate and correct accounts of the property and business transactions of Oak Hill Bible Church of Santa Clarita. In the name of Oak Hill Bible Church of Santa Clarita, the Treasurer shall deposit all moneys and other valuables as well as disburse all funds necessary to the operation of the church.

The Treasurer shall make, or cause to be made, regular financial reports to the Elder Team as to the financial status of the church. These reports shall also be available, upon request, to the individuals in the congregation.

As deemed appropriate, he shall serve as a member of any committee dealing with property, financial and budgetary activities of Oak Hill Bible Church of Santa Clarita.

The Treasurer shall keep and maintain, or cause to be kept and maintained, a confidential account of each giver of record. A record of such contributions for the calendar year shall be supplied to each giver.

## **Section 9: Other Officers and Committees**

The Elder Team may appoint additional officers and/or committees as deemed necessary to conduct the ministries of Oak Hill Bible Church of Santa Clarita or promote the ministries of our Lord Jesus Christ. Term of office and authority shall be provided elsewhere in these By-laws or as determined by the Elder Team.

## **Section 10: Hiring of Paid Church Staff**

Hiring of all paid staff is the responsibility of the Elder Team. When a vacancy occurs in a pastoral position – or if a pastoral position is being filled for the first time – the Elder Team shall appoint a search committee for the purpose of filling the position. The search committee will include one elder or more at the discretion of the Elder Team. The search committee will collect and sift through the available candidates until they are able to make a single recommendation to the church, at which time the candidate will appear before the membership of the church for final affirmation. The terms of Article VI, Section 1 herein shall govern the final approval of the candidate.

## **Article X Dissolution**

### **Section 1: Assets**

The property of this corporation is irrevocably dedicated to religious purposes and no part of the net income or assets of this organization shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, officer, or member thereof, or to the benefit of any private person.

### **Section 2: Distribution**

On the dissolution or winding up of the corporation, the Elder Team shall distribute its assets remaining after payment of or provision for payment of all debts and liabilities of this corporation to a nonprofit fund, foundation or corporation which is organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes and which has established its tax-exempt status under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). These assets shall be distributed to an entity most similar in intent to the Mission Statement and Statement of Faith of Oak Hill Bible Church of Santa Clarita.

## **Article XI By-laws Amendment Process**

These Bylaws may be amended and new and additional Bylaws may be made at any time by unanimous approval of the Elder Team.

## **Article XII**

## **Implementation Process**

Oak Hill Bible Church of Santa Clarita is a new church plant that will transition as soon as possible to a biblically elder-led church as described in these Bylaws under Articles IV and IX. During this implementation time, Article XII shall supersede Articles IV and IX based on the following organizational parameters. A Leadership Team consisting of a minimum of two (2) church members chosen by the Lead Pastor shall function as an advisory team to the Lead Pastor. This Leadership Team by unanimous vote shall have the authority to recommend the removal of the Lead Pastor by a 3/4 vote of the congregation if the occasion requires. During this implementation time the Lead Pastor shall serve as President of the advisory board. The Lead Pastor shall serve as the President of the corporation and be able to appoint official officers of the corporation.

## **Amendment to By-Laws**

**On October 28, 2009** an amendment was made to **Section 3 of Article IV.**

It previously read: "*The Elder Team shall always be comprised of the greater of one (1) lay elder or two-thirds (2/3) lay elders.*"

It is hereby amended to read: "*The Elder Team may consist of an equal number of lay elders and staff elders, however, the Elder Team is never to consist of a majority of staff elders.*"

**On June 12, 2012** an amendment was made to **Article III.**

The following is hereby added:

### **Section 9: Marriage**

We believe the term "marriage" has only one meaning. Marriage is a monogamous, heterosexual union instituted and ordained by God joining one man and one woman in an exclusive, covenantal relationship.

We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman in the context of marriage, and that *any* form of sexual immorality, including adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, and polygamy, is sinful and offensive to God.

We believe that God offers redemption and hope to all those enslaved by sexual sin, provided they repent and seek forgiveness and mercy through Jesus Christ. Further, we believe that God calls His people to extend compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity to all people. Hateful and/or harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual or group are to be repudiated and are not in accord with the Scriptures nor the doctrine and practices of this church.

We believe that any civil recognition of same-sex marriage is contrary to God's law and detrimental to society. Such a re-definition of marriage devalues the sacred institution of marriage, the family, and the unique role of both a man and a woman in a child's life. Any civil government's sanction of a union will be recognized as a legitimate "marriage" by this church only to the extent that it is consistent with the beliefs stated above.

We reserve the right to decline the request of any person to use Oak Hill Bible Church facilities, property, or pastoral staff for a ceremony when, in our judgment, there are significant concerns that one or both of the applicants may not be qualified to enter into the sacred union of marriage for theological, doctrinal, moral or legal reasons. (Gen. 1:27-28, 2:21-24, Matt 19:3-6, Rom 1:24-27, 1 Cor 7:2-5, Heb 13:4)