

Bylaws of The Gathering Sonora

Article 1: Name

Section 1.1: The name of this organization shall be The Gathering Sonora (hereby referred to as “The Church”). It shall be a California Not-for-Profit religious corporation and is not organized for the private gain of any person.

Article 2: Purpose

Section 2.1: The purpose of our church is to be a community of Christ-followers that is committed through grace to love God and love all people. (*Matthew 22:36-39*)

Article 3: Priorities

Section 3.1: We are devoted to God’s word & prayer, to communion & community, and to one another. (*Acts 2:42,45*)

Article 4: Values

Section 4.1: We strive to be known for grace and embrace.¹ For generosity & service.² For transparency & unity.³ For theological humility & spiritual growth.⁴ For equality & shared leadership.⁵ For making much of God. ⁶ (¹*Hebrews 12:15, Ephesians 4:32*) (²*2 Corinthians 9:6-8, Galatians 5:13*) (³*Ephesians 4:25, 1 Corinthians 1:10*) (⁴*Proverbs 11:2, 2 Peter 3:18*) (⁵*Galatians 3:28, 1 Corinthians 12:12-30*) (⁶*2 Chronicles 16:23-24*)

Article 5: Fiscal Year

Section 5.1: The Church’s fiscal year shall be July 1st to June 30th.

Article 6: Membership

Section 6.1: God has designed all people with spiritual gifts and strengths, and we believe the Church is strongest and healthiest when people are encouraged to use those gifts. Therefore, membership shall be open to any individual who is regularly attending and contributing to the Church.

Section 6.2: We value transparency and collaboration in decision-making. Member meetings shall be held at least once annually or more frequently, as needed. All decisions that affect the church as a whole, beyond day to day operations, shall require a majority approval by the Church’s membership in attendance at a membership meeting.

At membership meetings, members shall be responsible to vote on the following items to approve:

- Adding members to the Leadership Team to fill regular seats as well as to fill any vacancies that may arise
- The annual budget as recommended by the Leadership Team
- Any amendments to these Bylaws
- The vision, direction and goals of the Church as recommended by the Leadership Team
- All decisions that affect the church as a whole, beyond day to day operations.

Article 7: Leadership Team

Section 7.1 Leadership Team Members: All members of leadership teams serve the Church in humility and grace and none are designed to operate independently.

The Officers of the Board of Directors (hereby referred to as “Leadership Team”) consist of the following roles: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. The members of the Leadership Team shall designate the officer positions among themselves annually to coincide with the fiscal year. The members of the Leadership Team consist of the following roles:

Caregiving Leader (responsible for providing physical & emotional support), Children & Youth Leader (responsible for spiritual growth of children & youth), Church Operations Leader (responsible for facilities and use), Congregational Liaison (responsible to connect the congregation to the leadership team), Discipleship Leader (responsible for spiritual growth of adults), Finance & Stewardship Leader (responsible for business administration & fiscal health), Outreach Leader (responsible to provide opportunities of service locally & globally), Worship Leader (responsible for the Sunday Morning Experience).

There is no monetary compensation for serving on the Leadership Team.

Section 7.2 Power and Duties: The Leadership Team shall:

- Shepherd the spiritual needs of the church
- Oversee all day-to-day needs associated with church operations
- Track and manage church resources (financial, physical, etc.)
- Recommend an annual budget to the membership for their approval
- Make recommendations to the church membership about all decisions for the membership's approval as referenced above in Section 6.2
- Conduct long-term and strategic planning for the direction of the church, making recommendations to the general membership for their approval
- The Chair shall be responsible for developing and distributing meeting agendas after receiving input from each Leadership Team member as well as the general membership and also facilitate Leadership Team and general membership meetings
- The Vice-Chair shall be responsible for taking on the roles of the Chair in the Chair's absence or inability to carry out normal duties
- The Treasurer shall be responsible for fiscal and reporting needs of the church
- The Secretary shall be responsible for taking minutes for Leadership Team and general membership meetings and ensuring the minutes are distributed to the Leadership Team and posted on the Church website
- The Leadership Team Congregational Liaison shall be responsible to add any requested items from the congregation to the Leadership Team meeting agendas and/or the general church membership meeting agendas for discussion and possible action.

Section 7.3 Qualifications: The requirement for serving on the Leadership Team is to be a member of the Church with a personal commitment to follow Christ. All nominees shall be approved by the Leadership Team.

Section 7.4 Elections: Members of the Leadership Team shall be elected by a simple majority of the membership in attendance at a membership meeting. Elections shall be held once a year or more frequently, if the need arises due to a vacancy or other circumstances. Prospective members of the Leadership Team may be nominated by a member of the church or may volunteer their name for consideration.

Section 7.5 Terms: Terms for members of the Leadership Team shall be for two years. Leadership Team members may only serve two consecutive terms. For continuity of leadership, the Chair is required to have served one year on the Leadership Team.

Section 7.6 Vacancies: To fill any vacancies that may arise on the Leadership Team, nominees will be approved by the Leadership Team and voted on by the membership of the Church as soon as the need arises.

Section 7.7 Quorum: In order to conduct business, including approving day to day operations, a

quorum shall consist of 50% + 1 of the Leadership Team.

Section 7.8 Leadership Team Recommendations: The Leadership Team shall make recommendations to the Church on all decisions beyond day to day operations.

Section 7.9 Meetings: The Leadership Team shall meet monthly but more frequently as needed.

Notices of Leadership Team meetings, including meeting documents and backup material, shall be distributed to the Leadership Team and posted on the church website a week in advance of the meeting. Should emergency or urgent matters present themselves after the agenda has been posted, amendments to the agenda will be permitted up to the time of the meeting. An amended agenda shall be posted on the church website. Minutes of the Leadership Team meetings shall be distributed to the Leadership Team and posted on the church website after the meeting has taken place.

Any interested member of the church may attend the entirety of the Leadership Team meetings except for those items specified on the agenda that are related to paid and volunteer personnel decisions or other legal matters that require confidentiality by law.

Section 7.10 Resignations and Dismissals: A Leadership Team member may resign by submitting written notice to the Chair, with an effective date. If all Leadership Team members resign, the congregation will elect new members.

The Leadership Team can recommend to the church for their approval the dismissal of a Team member who has stopped attending meetings or is no longer operating in unity with the other Leadership Team members.

Article 8: Other Teams and Committees

Section 8.1 – Committee formation: At any time, the church may create other teams or committees to perform functions relevant to the organization as needed.

Article 9: Amendments

Section 9.1 – Amendments: As the church changes, it may become necessary to make amendments to these bylaws for the continued health of the church. Bylaws may be amended only by approval of the majority of the membership of the Church in attendance at a member meeting. Amendment recommendations may be brought to the Church membership either through a recommendation of the Leadership Team or a member of the church requesting a bylaw amendment.


If a member of the church would like an amendment to the bylaws to be considered, they should work through the Congregational Liaison of the Leadership to have the item added to a membership meeting agenda. Bylaw amendment recommendations should be submitted in writing two weeks prior to the member meeting so that they may be distributed to the church for review before a vote is taken. Approved bylaws amendments shall be posted on the Church website.

Article 10 Dissolution

Article 10.1 – Dissolutions: In the event dissolution of the church is necessary, the Leadership Team will make a recommendation to the church, which will include a plan of dissolution detailing how the church intends to distribute its remaining assets and address its remaining liabilities. If the church dissolves for any reason, the assets net of debts owed will be donated to another local 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, per California law.

Ratification:


These bylaws were approved by the congregation, ratified and signed by the following officers of the Leadership Team:



Georgia Thomatos, Chairperson

3-6-2022

Date



Joe Skaff, Vice-Chairperson

3-6-2022


Date



Jenny Van Blaricom, Treasurer

3/9/2022

Date



Greg Dumas, Secretary

3/9/2022

Date

Approved April 3, 2020
Revised June 13, 2021
Revised February 27, 2022