

By-Laws of Genesis Church

PREAMBLE

The New Testament teaches that the local church is the visible organized expression of the Body of Christ. The people of God are to live and serve in obedience to the Word of God and under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

The Christian and Missionary Alliance operates on the presupposition that the congregation finds broader meaning and outreach in fulfilling its biblical responsibilities within the life and witness of the denomination.

This document constitutes the Bylaws for Genesis Church of The Christian and Missionary Alliance (the "Church"). These Bylaws shall govern the nonprofit corporation or association through which the Church operates legally. As used herein, the term "Church" shall refer to such legal entity.

The Church is an integral part of the district, national, and worldwide fellowship of The Christian and Missionary Alliance and is united in governance, fellowship, and service in order to promote unity of faith in the fullness of Jesus Christ as Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King, and to facilitate the spread of the gospel at home and abroad under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The Church is organized and shall be operated exclusively as a member church of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, a church denomination which operates legally as a Colorado nonprofit corporation (the "C&MA"). Accordingly, the Church shall operate under the sole ecclesiastical authority of, and be subject to the usages, doctrines and teachings of, the C&MA as set forth in The Manual of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, as such manual may be amended from time to time by the C&MA (the "Manual").

This Preamble and Part 1 (General Bylaws) shall apply at all times. Part 2 (Developing Church Bylaws) shall apply at any time in which the Church is not an Accredited Church. Part 3 (Accredited Church Bylaws) shall apply at any time in which the Church is an Accredited Church.

By-Law I: Ecclesiastical Authority

The ecclesiastical authority of the C&MA shall be exercised through the district of the C&MA having jurisdiction over the Church, as such district may be determined from time to time by the C&MA (the "District"). Without limiting the foregoing, the District shall at all times have the responsibility to determine the status of the Church as either a "Developing Church" or an "Accredited Church" in accordance with and subject to the requirements of the Manual.

By-Law II: Name

The name of this church is Genesis Church of the Christian and Missionary Alliance, and shall be known locally and for advertising purposes as Genesis Church or Genesis.

By-Law II: Relationship

This church is connected with and subordinate to its parent religious organization, The Christian and Missionary Alliance, a Colorado nonprofit corporation. Should this Church cease to exist as a corporate body, or cease to be subject to the purposes, urges, doctrines, and teachings of the Parent Body, then the terms of Article XV of the Uniform Constitution for Accredited Churches of the Christian & Missionary Alliance (hereafter referred to as the Constitution) relating to the reversion of property of accredited churches shall take effect.

The Governance Authority is authorized to appoint and certify lay delegates to District Conference and General Council, according to the guidelines set forth in the Manual (Article II, Section I, paragraph (a) in the Uniform Constitution for Districts, and Article VI, Section 6.2, paragraph (a) in the Bylaws of the Christian & Missionary Alliance, respectively).

This congregation is a legal corporation in the state of Alabama, where it was organized as a corporate body on September 15, 1927. The Articles of Incorporation were amended on February 27, 1972. They were amended again on April 7, 2004

By-Law III: Membership

As Christ followers, we are encouraged and compelled in scripture to be actively engaged and connected to a local church body. By being an officially recognized full-participating member of a local church, an individual publicly affirms responsibility to fulfill their place in the local Body of Christ and alignment with the mission, vision, doctrine, and leadership of that local church.

Section 1: Procedure

Those desiring to be full-participating members of Genesis Church shall:

- a) Complete the membership class.
- b) Complete and submit a signed membership application and covenant.
- c) Be interviewed by one or more elders regarding his/her personal testimony, alignment with the mission, vision and doctrine of Genesis Church, and agreement with the membership covenant.
- d) Be approved by the Board of Elders acting as the Committee on Membership.
- e) Be publicly received into membership at a corporate gathering.

Section 2: Requirements

Candidates for membership shall meet these requirements:

- Confession of faith in Jesus Christ and evidence of regeneration
- Belief in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; in the verbal inspiration of the Holy Scriptures as originally given; in the vicarious atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ; in the eternal salvation of all who believe in Him and the eternal punishment of all who reject Him

- Acceptance of the doctrines of the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King
- Full sympathy with the mission and core values of The Christian and Missionary Alliance and cooperation by systematic support of its work
- Completion of a membership preparation class
- Agree to support this church by regularly attending worship services, participating in church life, contributing financially, and serving in some capacity
- Members of this church shall be of legal age.

Section 3: Membership Types and Lists

1. Active members are members who adhere to the conditions stated in the Constitution and Bylaws of this church.
2. Inactive members are members who, except for disability or temporary absence, have not attended the regular worship services of this church or who have not been actively engaged in the mission & vision via time, talents, and treasures for a period of six (6) months. Inactive members are not eligible to vote.
3. The Committee on Membership shall maintain the membership lists and examine them at least twice per year. Any members moved to inactive status will be notified. If, after another six month period they have not become actively engaged, they will be removed from the official membership list.

By-Law IV: Biblical Character and Standards

Section 4.1. Exercise and Expression of the Church's Biblical Beliefs. *As described in the Preamble, the Church is a Christian community of faith that exists to exercise and express its biblical beliefs within the broader community of the C&MA. These beliefs are grounded in a shared understanding of Holy Scripture including those beliefs and standards specifically addressed in the Manual. The Church exercises and expresses its biblical beliefs and standards in the following ways:*

- a) *As a Community. The Church understands that the local church is the visible organized expression of the Body of Christ and that the local church finds broader meaning and outreach in fulfilling its biblical responsibilities within the life and witness of the denomination. In addition, those who participate in the life of the Church, including the Church's members and employees, are following the biblical command to live out their faith in community and association with other believers. Accordingly, the Church community is itself an exercise and expression of the Church's biblical beliefs and standards.*
- b) *Through its Activities. The Church believes that all Church activities, including the responsibilities of every Church member and employee, should be rendered in service to God as a form of worship. Therefore, the Church as a community of faith exercises and expresses its biblical beliefs and standards in every activity, action, and responsibility.*

Section 4.2. Standards for Church Activities and Facilities. *The Church shall engage in activities and use its facilities solely to exercise and express the biblical beliefs of the Church and the C&MA and to further the mission of both. In furtherance of this mission, the Church may provide services or goods to, and may allow use of its facilities by, other groups and persons who are not members of the Church. But no Church activity, nor any use of Church facilities by another group or person, may be conducted or permitted if the Church determines that such activity or use expresses a message of support by the Church for any view contrary to the biblical beliefs of the Church and the C&MA. The determination as to whether any particular activity or use of Church facilities is not permitted requires both spiritual discernment and an understanding of C&MA beliefs and standards which are applied to each particular circumstance. Such determination shall be made in conformance with this discernment and these beliefs and standards in the sole discretion of the spiritual leaders of the Church designated by either the governance authority of the Church or the senior pastor and elders. With respect to uses by other groups or persons, the Church may consider without limitation both the content of the proposed activities and whether the group or person is generally perceived as advocating views contrary to the biblical beliefs of the Church and the C&MA.*

By-Law V: Ordinances

Baptism and the Lord's Supper are recognized as the two ordinances of the church.

Believers' baptism by immersion is taught and practiced as the scriptural mode. The pastoral staff or elders shall oversee baptism. They shall provide the instruction about baptism and shall administer the baptisms themselves or choose other spiritually respected people to do these ministries.

The Lord's Supper is administered regularly. The pastoral staff or other elders shall oversee Communion. They shall provide the instruction about Communion and shall administer the Communion themselves or choose other spiritually respected people to do these ministries.

By-Law VI: Government

There shall be an annual meeting of the active members of the church in November of each year at which members shall elect elders, 2 members of the Nominating Committee for the following year, and other positions as necessary and shall vote on the budget for the coming fiscal year.

Upon at least two weeks written notice, the Governance Authority may change the month of this meeting.

Ministry reports and a copy of the annual financial report shall be distributed to the church membership yearly, at a time to be determined by the Governance Authority.

Special meetings of the membership may be called by the Governance Authority or by written request of 50% of the active membership. Notice of special meetings shall be given at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting and include the purpose of the special meeting.

A quorum of any properly-called business meeting shall consist of the active members present. Unless otherwise stipulated, a majority of the quorum shall be considered valid in all votes. All active members are eligible to vote except for in matters of title or legal procedure. The age of the voter must be 18 as stipulated in the constitution of the Christian and Missionary Alliance and mandated by Alabama State Law.

The Governance Authority shall conduct the affairs of the church between annual meetings and may appoint people to fill any open Governance Authority or Nominating Committee position for the remainder of the term.

The Governance Authority is amenable to the membership of the church, and the District Superintendent.

Robert's Rules of Order shall be the guide for all matters of church business.

By-Law VII: Local Church Governance Authority

The governance authority of this church is a one-board system and shall be known as the Elder Leadership Team, responsible for the spiritual and overall leadership of Genesis Church.

The Elder Leadership Team shall consist of the lead pastor and at least four (4) active male members as determined annually by the Elder Leadership Team. Any male ordained pastoral staff members, by virtue of being considered Teaching Elders of the church (Section E3, II, A, 3 in the Constitution) will also serve without voting privileges. Any other Ministry Staff (as defined in By-Law VIII) are invited to attend.

The congregational members of the Elder Leadership Team shall be elected by the membership at the annual meeting as described in these bylaws. All ministries and teams, except the Nominating Committee, report to and are amenable to the Elder Leadership Team.

The qualifications for church overseers and elders are listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-13, Titus 1:6-9, and 1 Peter 5:1-4. Members of the Elder Leadership Team are expected to maintain a lifestyle in keeping with the spirit and intent of these passages. Members of the Elder Leadership Team shall be active members of this church. He shall be a godly man able to lead, oversee and shepherd, having a proven record of attendance, active ministry, leadership, commitment, generosity and training.

Candidates for elder/overseer shall have been a member for at least 2 concurrent years and shall have successfully completed the *Elder Training Course on Theology & Doctrine* at Genesis Church. They will also be able to clearly articulate the call of God to serve in this ministry capacity.

By-Law VIII: Officers

Members of the Elder Leadership Team shall be appointed to serve in the following positions as officers/trustees of Genesis Church: chairman (lead pastor or other elder elected by the Elder Leadership Team at the Lead Pastor's request), vice-chairman, treasurer, and secretary.

By-Law IX: Ministry Staff

Members of the ministry and administrative staff of this church shall serve under the direction of the lead pastor of this church.

The Ministry Staff shall include any individual serving in a position eligible for licensing as an "official worker" as defined by the General Regulations in the Manual of the Christian & Missionary Alliance, whether serving part-time or full-time. The calling, status, responsibilities, and resignation of these individuals shall be in accordance with the standards set forth in Article VIII of the Constitution.

The Administrative Staff shall include, but is not limited to, the secretarial staff, the custodial staff, interns, musicians and any temporary help. All non-pastoral staff personnel shall be employed or terminated by action of the Board of Elders, on terms the Board shall establish.

By-Law X: Committees and Organizations / Service Requirements

It shall be the responsibility of the Ministry Staff, as directed and empowered by the Elder Leadership Team, to ensure coordination and harmony of ministry activities in support of the mission & vision of Genesis Church. Regular updates will be given to the Elder Leadership Team, as well as to the congregation through the Annual Report as specified in By-Law V.

Any individual desiring to serve in a leadership, teaching, or discipleship ministry must be a full-participating member of Genesis Church and approved by the Elder Board.

All other ministry positions may be filled by any regular attender after completing the First Steps Class.

Care and Compassion ministries will be primarily provided through small group ministries.

By-Law XI: Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee shall consist of the lead pastor (or the chairman in the event of a pastoral vacancy), two active members in good standing elected by the membership at the annual meeting, and two additional active members in good standing elected by the Governance Authority.

The Nominating Committee shall present names of qualified persons for each of the elected positions and offices of this church as specified in these bylaws to the membership at the annual meeting.

By-Law XII: Elections

Those to be elected at the annual meeting of the membership shall be members of the Elder Leadership Team and members of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall seek to present at least four names for the two (2) Nominating Committee positions to be selected by the congregation. The list of nominees will be publicly posted at least two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.

The term of office for officers and members of the Elder Leadership Team is three (3) years. Members of the Elder Leadership Team may serve no more than two (2) terms in succession.

The Elder Leadership Team may fill any vacancy which may occur on the Elder Leadership Team or any other ministry team until the succeeding annual meeting.

Nominations may be made for the Elder Leadership Team or the Nominating Committee by an active member in good standing. The nominee must be an active member in good standing, agree to let their name stand and have the support (in writing) of at least two other active members. The nomination must be submitted to the Nominating Committee in writing at least two weeks prior to the annual meeting.

The Nominating Committee shall determine that the proposed nominee meets the necessary biblical criteria to serve in that leadership role (refer to By-Law VI: Local Church Governance Authority) before adding the additional nominee to the official ballot listing.

A written ballot will be prepared for use at the annual meeting. Those additional names nominated by the membership will be marked by an asterisk (*). The vote for election of Elder Leadership Team and Nominating Committee members shall be by secret written ballot. Where only one name is presented, the ballot may be waived by the unanimous consent vote of the members present.

No nominations will be accepted from the floor during the election process of the annual meeting.

By-Law XIII: Audits

An Audit committee will be chosen every two years to provide accountability and balance of all financial matters concerning Genesis Church. If the committee deems it necessary they may seek assistance from an outside accounting firm. The committee is amenable to the Governance Authority, and is formed by the Nominating Committee.

By-Law XIV: Reversion of Property

Recognizing the purpose of the members of this congregation to support both the doctrines and the mission of The Christian and Missionary Alliance through the contribution of their tithes, offerings, and special gifts, and to ensure that the future use of such assets and real property as this church may from time to time acquire shall not be diverted from this purpose, this church adopts the C&MA property reversion clause.

1. Property Reversion Events. Any of the following shall constitute a “property reversion event:” (a) the decision or action of this church to disaffiliate or otherwise separate itself from The Christian and Missionary Alliance without the prior written approval of such decision or action by the District Executive Committee (or its equivalent) of the district in which this church is located, (b) the failure for any reason of this church to be subject to or abide by any of the purposes, usages, doctrines, or teachings of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, (c) the failure for any reason of this church to qualify as an “accredited church” of The Christian and Missionary Alliance (as such term is defined in the Bylaws of The Christian and Missionary Alliance), or (d) the termination of this church’s existence for any reason.

2. Determination of a Property Reversion Event. The determination of whether a property reversion event has occurred shall be considered and decided by the District Executive Committee (or its equivalent) of the district of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in which this church is located in accordance with procedures established from time to time by the Board of Directors of The Christian and Missionary Alliance. The decision of such District Executive Committee (or its equivalent) shall be final and binding on The Christian and Missionary Alliance, the district of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in which this church is located, and this church, and may not be challenged by any party in the absence of fraud, collusion, or arbitrariness.

3. Consequences of a Property Reversion Event. Upon the occurrence of a property reversion event as determined in accordance with item 2 above, legal title to all real and personal property (tangible and intangible), appurtenances, fixtures, and effects of whatever type then owned, held, or used by this church, without regard to how or from whom acquired, shall, upon the demand of the district of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in which this church is located, revert to and become the property of such district of The Christian and Missionary Alliance. During the period of time between the occurrence of the property reversion event and the complete and final transfer of legal title to the district of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in which this church is located, this church shall hold such property in trust for such district to be used exclusively to further the purposes, usages, doctrines, and teachings of The Christian and Missionary Alliance.

4. Waiver of Certain Property Reversion Events. In the event of a property reversion event attributable to differences in doctrine between this church and The Christian and Missionary Alliance, the property reversion process set forth above may be waived upon the approval of (a) at least two-thirds of the members in good standing of this church, (b) the District Executive Committee (or its equivalent) of the district of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in which this church is located, and (c) the Division of National Church Ministries of The Christian and Missionary Alliance.

By-Law XV: Amendments

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast at any official

meeting of the membership.