

1 FAITH BIBLE CHURCH OF NAPLES, INC.
2 BYLAWS

3 (Accepted October 2014)
4

5 Preamble

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7 We, the members of Faith Bible Church, desiring to honor the Lord Jesus Christ, do hereby establish the
8 following Biblical principle of government and order and adopt these By Laws as a declaration of our
9 commitment to carry out the work of the Lord in a proper and Biblical fashion.
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11 **Article I - Name**

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13 The name of our fellowship shall be Faith Bible Church.
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15 **Article II - Purpose**

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17 This church is organized to glorify God in reverent and orderly worship, systematic teaching and practice
18 of the principles embodied in His Holy Word, growth in Christian unity and in the grace and knowledge
19 of His Son, and the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world.
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21 **Article III - Statement of Faith**

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23 Section 1 - Concerning the Holy Scriptures

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25 We believe that the Bible, consisting of a total of sixty-six books in the Old and New Testaments, is
26 without error in the original manuscripts. The author of the Bible was God the Holy Spirit who guided
27 the human authors without distorting their person or character so that the writings they produced were
28 verbally and plenary inspired. The Bible is the supreme revelation of the will of God for men and, as
29 such, has been preserved through faithful translations in many languages, assuring us that we can have
30 absolute confidence in the Word of God. We believe that the Bible is the sole authority for faith and
31 practice. The Bible is not just the highest authority, it is the sole authority. It is not a matter of Baptist
32 Doctrine, Nazarene Doctrine, Alliance Doctrine, etc., but a matter of Bible Doctrine-nor is it traditions, it
33 is the inscribed WORD OF GOD.
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35 Prov 30:5-6, Jn 17:17, II Peter 1:19-21, Heb 1:1-2, II Sam 23:2, Acts 1:16, II Thes 3:17, Mt 5:18, Jn
36 10:35, II Tim 3:16, Mt 5:18, Jn 10:35, II Tim 3:16, 6Acts 17:11, I Cor 10:6-12, Eph 6:17, II Tim 3:15-17, Jn
37 4:1.
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39 Section 2 - Concerning the True God

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41 We believe that there is only one living and true God who is an eternal, self-existing, perfect Spirit. He is
42 a personal Being and the Creator and Upholder of the universe. Though one God, He exists in three
43 Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These Persons are equal in essence and in every
44 divine perfection, but each has His own distinct work to perform. Some cults and religious groups teach
45 that when Jesus says in John 14:28, "the Father is greater than I" it means that Jesus is somehow
46 inferior to the Father in His being and essence. What Jesus is talking about is that there is a "chain of
47 command" in the Trinity. All members are equal in being and essence, but there is subordination and
48 distinction in terms of role and responsibility. The members of the Trinity are equal in their essence and
49 complimentary in their roles and tasks.

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Dt6:4-5, Jer 10:10, Heb 1:12, Jn4:24, James 1:17, Gen 1:1-25, Heb 1:10, Col 1:15-17, Mt 3:16, 28:10, II Cor 13:14, Jn 10:30, 14:10, 17:5, I Cor 8:6, Phil2:5-6, Eph 1:3-4, 6-7, 13-14, Jn 14:26, 15:26.

Section 3 - Concerning Creation

We believe that the Genesis account of creation is to be accepted literally and not figuratively. We believe that the six days of creation mentioned in Genesis chapter one were solar hour days. We believe that all animal and vegetable life was made directly and that they follow God's law in multiplying "after their kind." We believe that the entire human race sprang from one man, Adam, and one woman, Eve, literal people, who were created directly in God's image and after His likeness and did not evolve from any lower form of life. By this affirmation, we oppose all forms of theistic evolution, progressive creationism, and the day-age theory of origins, all three of which integrate certain aspects of evolution into their systems.

Gen 1:1-2, 25, Neh 9:6, Pr 33:6-9, Jn 1:3, Heb 11:3, Col 16-17, Ex 20:11, 31:17, Gen 1:11,12,21,24,25. Gen 1:26-27,5:2.

Section 4 - Concerning the Fall of Man and Sin

We believe that man was originally created a sinless being. By voluntary transgression he fell from that sinless state, and, as a result, all mankind are now sinners by nature and by conduct and are justly under divine condemnation. He fell through disobedience, incurring both physical and spiritual death and severely marring the image of God in man.

Gen 1:27,31, 2:16-17, Eccl 7:29, Gen 3:6-7, Rom 5:12,19, Pr 51:5, Is 53:6, Rom 3:9-18, 23, 5:15-19, James 2:10, Jn 3:36, Rom 1:20.

Section 5 - Concerning the Lord Jesus Christ

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God who is today both truly God and truly man. His literal human body was miraculously conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and He was born of a human mother who was a virgin. At conception He became the God-Man with two natures, divine and human. After His birth He lived a sinless life on earth, died on a cross as a substitute for sinners and bearing the judgment of their sins, and was raised bodily from the tomb as a testimony to the sufficiency of His sacrifice and as a guarantee of His people's future resurrection. He now is in heaven as the great High Priest of His people. He will return at the Rapture for His church, and later to the earth to reign following the tribulation period.

Heb 1:1-2, Pr 2, Jh 10:30, Phil 2:5-8, Is 7:14, Lk 1:26-38, He was "begotten" (Jn 1:18; 3:16), born of a virgin (Mt 1:23), conceived by the Holy Spirit (Jr 1:35), Jh 1:1-2, Jn 8:58, Phil2:7-8, Sinless: Heb 4:15, Righteous for Unrighteous: I Peter 3:18, Substitute: II Cor 5:21, Is 53:6, Shed Blood and Forgiveness: Rom 3:22-25, I Jn 1:7, Eph 1:7, Relevant terms: Substitute- He took the place of the offending sinner and bore his/her guilt and punishment; Redemption (Eph 1:7) - He purchased us out of the slave market of sin; Propitiation - God's wrath against sin was turned aside and satisfied by Jesus' death; Reconciliation (Coll:22; Rom 5:11)- the enmity and separation between God and man is removed and the believer's status changes from condemnation to acceptance. Heb 4:14. II Thes 4:16-17; I Cor 15:51-52; Mt 24:25-31.

100 Section 6 - Concerning the Holy Spirit

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102 We believe that the Holy Spirit is an eternal and divine Person, co-equal with God the Father and God
103 the Son. He was active in creation? He convicts men of sin. He permanently indwells each believer. He
104 performs various ministries such as regenerating, sealing, guiding, teaching, sanctifying and
105 strengthening.

106 Each believer has been sanctified positionally in Christ, is being sanctified by the continuing work of the
107 Spirit, and ultimately at Christ's coming will be completely sanctified. While the believer can have victory
108 over sin through the power of the Spirit, his sin nature will not be eradicated in this life.

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110 It is the believer's privilege to be filled with the Spirit and thus to produce fruit unto God and to live a
111 joyous and productive Christian life.

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113 II Cor 13:14, Gen 1:1-2, Jn 16:8-11, I Cor 6:19-20, Jh 3:3, Rom 8:14, Ezekiel 1:13, I Cor 1:2, 12:4-7,11, II
114 Cor 3:18, Rom 7:18-25, I Jn 1:8, Eph 5:18, Gal 5:22,23.

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116 Section 7 - Concerning Personal Godliness

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118 We believe that the result of being filled with the Spirit is a life of personal godliness. The believer is to
119 repudiate the world and its patterns of life and thought, and to present himself as a living sacrifice to
120 God. Christians must guard against the notion that holiness is produced by obedience to rules and
121 regulations, as well as the concept that life under grace permits us to indulge in the sins of the flesh. Life
122 under grace does not allow the believer to live as he wishes. He is under a divine mandate to be Holy.
123 The teaching of Scripture regarding the Christian life is not merely positive in nature, but is also negative,
124 warning the believer against sin. A fruitful Christian life is produced through daily fellowship with the
125 Lord and the control of the Holy Spirit.

126
127 We stand against immorality as is so often condemned in God's Word. We believe that the marriage
128 bond is holy and that there should be no sexual relationships between persons who are not married to
129 one another as husband and wife. We believe that any sexual relationship outside the bounds of a
130 biblical marriage is contrary to the explicit teachings of Scripture and is to be condemned.

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132 Titus 1:1, 2:11-12, Jn 2:15-17, Rom 12:1-2, Rom 6:1-2, 12-13, Titus 2:11-14, I Peter 1:16, Gal 5:16-24,
133 Ex 20:14, I Cor 6:18, Prov 5:1-21, Heb 13:4, Lev 20:13, Rom 1:26-27.

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135 Section 8 - Concerning Angels

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137 We believe in the existence of angels who are mighty spiritual beings that were created by God. They
138 serve Him in various ways and are specially appointed to watch over and minister to God's people.

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140 We believe that at some time in the past a large number of angels, under the leadership of him who is
141 called Satan, rebelled against God and were removed from His presence. They now roam the universe
142 and are especially active on earth, opposing God and His purposes and ruling over the spiritual darkness
143 of this world. Satan, also called the Devil, is a real personality who has tremendous power and is the
144 enemy of God's people. He is destined to be judged by Christ at His return, and finally to be eternally
145 incarcerated in the lake of fire.

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147 Heb 1:6,14, Rev 12:4, Mt 25:41, Jude 6, Is 14:12-14, Ezekiel 28:12-19, I Tim 4:1, Eph 6:12, Rev 20:1-
148 3,10.

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150 Section 9 - Concerning Salvation

151
152 Salvation is made free to all by the Gospel. It is initiated by God, and is accomplished by grace apart
153 from any human works. It is the duty of all persons to repent and believe. All who have faith in the Lord
154 Jesus Christ are forgiven, regenerated, and justified. The perfect righteousness of Christ is imputed to
155 them. They are given spiritual life (sanctification) which is manifested in their growth in grace. True
156 believers are saved forever and can never be lost.

157
158 Rom 3:24, I Tim 2:4; 4:10, Christ died for everyone (I Jn 2:20; I Tim 4:10; II Peter 2:1). Salvation by grace
159 alone through faith in Christ alone (Eph 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-6; II Tim 1:9) Jh 3:16; Acts 16:31, Rom 5:1, Eph
160 1:7, I Peter 1:23. Regenerated- impartation of eternal life to one who was spiritually dead (Jh 3:3-6).
161 Justification- the judicial act of God in which He declares the sinner to be righteous and no longer under
162 condemnation on account of the merit of Jesus Christ (Rom 3:21-26, 5:1-9). II Cor 5:21, II Pet 3:18,
163 Sanctification- being set apart to God from sin is threefold (1) Positional Sanctification (1 Cor 1:2;6:11)
164 set apart the believer from sin unto a Holy God; Christ died to deliver us from the penalty of sin; (2)
165 Progressive Sanctification (Phi12:12-13; II Cor 3:18) set apart the believer from sin unto a Holy purpose,
166 Christ lives to deliver us from the power of sin; (3) Prospective/Permanent Sanctification (I Jn 3:1-3) -
167 setting apart the believer from sin unto a Holy Hope; Christ is coming again to deliver us from the
168 presence of sin. Jh 10:27-30; Rom 8:1, 35-39.

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170 Section 10 - Concerning the Church

171
172 We believe that the Church, the Body of Christ, is composed of all true believers who are placed into
173 that Body by the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit. The Church is distinct from Israel.

174
175 We believe that a local, visible church is an organized congregation of baptized believers, associated
176 together by a common faith and fellowship in the Gospel, to glorify God in reverent and orderly worship.
177 Such a church is to be governed by the Word of God, and to observe the ordinances of baptism (the
178 immersion of true believers only) and the Lord's Table. Its Scriptural officers are male believers referred
179 to in Scripture as elders and deacons. The qualifications of the church officers are defined in the Epistles
180 to Timothy and Titus.

181
182 A local church is autonomous, is not subject to the control of any outside persons or organizations, and
183 has the power and right to confess its own faith and conduct its own affairs in accordance with the
184 teachings of the New Testament. On all matters of membership, polity, government, discipline, and
185 benevolence the will of the local church is final.

186
187 We believe that both Christian baptism and the Lord's Supper are each a symbolic memorial and a
188 prophecy. We believe that Christian baptism is the single immersion in water of a believer, in the name
189 of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It shows forth, in solemn and beautiful figure, our faith in the
190 crucified, buried, and risen Savior, and our death to sin and resurrection to a new life. Baptism is
191 prerequisite to the privileges of church membership. At the Lord's Supper, which is not optional for the
192 church member, the members of the Church, by the use of bread and the fruit of the vine,
193 commemorate together the death, resurrection, the second coming of Christ. This commemoration
194 should always be preceded by careful self examination.

195
196 The church and its members should have as primary goals the evangelization of their own area, the
197 extension of the gospel to the ends of the earth through Biblical missionary methods, and the edification
198 of believers.

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200 Mt 16:18; I Cor 12:13; Eph 1:22-23. Eph 3:3-6; I Cor 10:32. Acts 2:41-42. II Tim 3:16-17. Mt 28:19-20; I
201 Cor 11:23-24. I Tim 3:1-16; Titus 1:5-9. Mt 18:15-18; Acts 6:3-5; I Cor5:4-5, 13; I Tim3:15, Rom 6:3-4, I
202 Cor 11:26, Acts 8:36-39, Mt 28:19 Rom 6:3-4, Acts 2:41-42, Mt 28:19-20, I Cor 11:26, Mt 26:29, I Cor
203 11:28, Acts 8:4, Acts 1:8, 11:19-26, 13:1-14:28, Eph 4:11-12.

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205 Section 11 - Concerning Theological Error

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207 We believe that the Word of God predicts widespread departure from the revealed Word of God as the
208 time of Christ's coming draws nearer, and that obedient believers and local churches are to practice
209 complete separation from these who deny the faith. The Scripture teaches that we are not to seek to win
210 them back to the faith by fellowshipping with them, but rather we are to identify them, rebuke them, and
211 withdraw ourselves from any spiritual communion with them.

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213 We also believe that we are to refuse ecclesiastical fellowship and organizational cooperation with those
214 who are truly born again, but who espouse doctrines that are contrary to Scripture or are engaged in
215 practices that are not consistent with the Word of God.

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217 I Tim 4:1-3, II Pet 2:1-3, I Jn 4:1, Pr 1:1, Rom 16:17, II Cor 6:17, Titus 1:13, Gal 2:11-21, II Thes 3:6-12.
218 Ecclesiastical separation is meant that the local church and its members are to withdraw themselves
219 from any group that denies any of the fundamentals of the faith (II Cor 6:14-17; Gall :6-9; II Tim 3:1-5,
220 4:2-3).

221

222 These include:

223 (a) the inspiration, infallibility and inerrancy of the Scriptures

224 (b) the Trinity

225 (c) the pre-existence, deity, virgin birth, bodily resurrection, and visible return of Christ

226 (d) Jesus' substitutionary death on the cross for sin

227 (e) salvation by grace alone through faith in Christ alone.

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229 Section 12 - Concerning the Charismatic Movement

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231 We believe that the modern day Charismatic movement is theologically incorrect. We believe
232 miraculous signs and supernatural events occurring in the New Testament church were gifts that
233 authenticated the ministry of the apostles and were not intended to continue with regularity in the post-
234 apostolic church.

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236 I Cor 12-14; I Peter 4:7-11; II Peter 3:15-17. Gifts defined-a sovereign, God-given, Holy Spirit energized
237 ability, whether natural or supernatural, temporary or permanent, given for service within the ministry of
238 the local church. Temporary gifts are those "grace gifts" in the early church designed to authenticate
239 the gospel message and provide direction for Christians before the completion of the New Testament
240 Accrediting the early preachers- Mk 16:15-17. Sign to unbelieving Jews- I Cor 14:21-22. Revealing
241 truth to the early church- I Cor 14:3,26-31. Laying foundation of the church- Eph 3:20-22. These
242 temporary gifts have passed from use and include prophecy, tongues, interpretation of tongues, healing,
243 apostles and the working of various miracles (I Cor 13:8-10). God still works miracles and heals today,
244 but does so through the avenue of prayer (in some cases anointing of oil- James 5:14-15) in accordance
245 with His sovereign will, I Jh 5:14-15.

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250 Section 13 - Concerning Civil Government and Religious Liberty

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252 We believe that civil government is of divine appointment and is for the maintenance of good order in
253 human society. Believers are to pray for, honor and obey civil authorities except where to do so would
254 be to violate plain commands and principles of the Word of God. The Church and the State have
255 separate spheres of authority and the state has no valid jurisdiction over the ministry of the Church. The
256 state should not favor one ecclesiastical group over another nor should the state impose taxes for the
257 support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal.

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259 Rom 13:1-7, Titus 3:1, I Pet 2:13-14, Acts 4:18-20, 5:29, Mt 22:21.

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261 Section 14 - Concerning World Evangelization and Missions

262
263 We believe that God has given a "great commission" to every Christian to be a personal witness of the
264 resurrected and living Christ. We understand this mandate as follows:

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- 267 A. The Strategy of the Commission Matt 28:19-20
268 To make disciples through baptism and teaching.
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 - 270 B. The Scope of the Commission Mark 16:15
271 To reach every creature in all the world.
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 - 273 C. The Substance of the Commission Luke 24:44-48
274 To preach repentance and remission of sins based upon the death, burial and resurrection of
275 Jesus Christ.
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 - 277 D. The Submission of the Commission John 20:21
278 To submit to the commission as Christ submitted to the will of the Father.
279
 - 280 E. The Strength of the Commission Acts 1:8
281 To rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish the task of the great commission.
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283 Section 15 - Concerning Future Events

284
285 We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked. (Mal
286 3:18, Jn 3:16-17) Those who are righteous will enter into eternal bliss with Christ and those who are
287 wicked will be lost forever.

288 We believe that the Scriptures teach that at death the spirit/soul of the believer pass into the presence of
289 Christ and remain in conscious joy until the resurrection of the body when Christ comes for His own (I
290 Cor 15:51-57, II Cor 5:8). The blessed hope of the believer is the imminent, personal, pretribulational,
291 premillennial appearance of Christ to rapture the Church, His bride, prior to the seventieth week of
292 Daniel. God's righteous judgments will then be poured out upon an unbelieving world during the seven
293 years of tribulation. The climax of this fearful era will be the physical return of Jesus Christ to the earth in
294 great glory to reestablish the Davidic kingdom. Israel will be saved and restored as a nation. Satan will
295 be bound and the curse essentially will be lifted from the physical creation. Following this thousand year
296 reign of Christ (the Millennium), the great White Throne judgment will occur, at which time the bodies
297 and souls of the wicked shall be reunited and cast into the lake of fire, a divinely-appointed place of
298 eternal torment. The saved will enter into the city which God has prepared for His own and will live with
299 the Lord in resurrected and glorified bodies forever.

300
301 The next event in the prophetic calendar is the rapture of the church in which all believers in Christ will
302 be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. This includes the bodily resurrection of every member of the
303 church who has died from its inception at Pentecost. The bodies of all living believers will be instantly
304 transformed. This is known as the "pre-tribulation" rapture of the church, which is the teaching of the
305 Scriptures, based upon these texts: Rev 3:10; I Thes 1:8-10, 5:9; II Pet 2:3-9; Titus 2:11-14. The
306 tribulation is a literal seven-year period of unprecedented, unequalled and worldwide outpouring of
307 God's wrath and judgment upon the earth. It is intended for Israel (Dan 9:24-27) not the church and will
308 include all those alive in the earth (not raptured with the church). Israel will enter the "70th week" in order
309 to be severely disciplined by the Lord for their unbelief and prepared for the second advent and
310 millennial kingdom. Rev 19:11,20:6. Christ will return to earth with His saints (the church) and will
311 overcome the anti-Christ (i.e. the beast), false prophets and armies aligned with them (Armageddon). The
312 Old Testament saints along with tribulation martyrs will be resurrected (Dan 12:1; Rev 20:4). Also, at this
313 time the Gentile nations will be judged ("separation of the sheep and goats": Mt 25:34-36). Those who
314 remained true to Christ and His people (the sheep) will enter the Millennial Kingdom along with part of
315 Israel that survived the tribulation (Mt 25:1-13). Rom 11:26-27, Is 35:1-7, Rev 20:1-3, Rev 20:7-15,
316 Phil3:20-21, Rom21:1-3.

317 318 Section 16 - Concerning Contemporary Issues

319 320 Male and Female

321
322 We believe that God created both male and female in the image of God and that they are equal in every
323 aspect as to their humanity, being, and essence. In Christ, there is no male or female; both have equal
324 standing before God. At the same time, the Bible affirms that God has established distinctive roles for
325 both male and female. In the family, God has ordained that the male be both husband and father and
326 carry out his distinctive responsibilities, and that the female be both wife and mother and carry out her
327 distinctive responsibilities. The Scriptures declare that the husband is to be the loving/leader of the
328 home and that the wife is to be in subjection to her husband for the Lord's sake. The Scriptures also
329 clearly indicate that the offices of elder and deacon have been entrusted to men, while at the same time
330 affirming the absolute indispensability of women's ministries. Gen 1:27, 5:2, Gal 3:28

331
332 Although there is equality in their standing before God, there is subordination in terms of "role" and
333 "responsibility" as it relates to the home and in the church. Eph 5:21-33, Col 3:18-19, I Cor 11:3, I
334 Tim2:11-15, 3:1-13, I Cor 14:33-34, Titus 2:3-5, Phil 4:3, Euodia and Syntyche who stood by Paul's side
335 in the Gospel, Acts 18:18-19 - the prominent ministry of Priscilla and Phoebe in Rom 16:1.

336 337 Homosexuality

338
339 Contrary to the increasingly accepted view of our fallen culture and the dishonest attempts to interpret it
340 otherwise, the Bible consistently and unequivocally condemns the practice of homosexual relations. As
341 with the rest of fallen humanity, homosexuals are in need of the redemption and forgiveness of sins that
342 are made available through faith in Christ. However, as God's obedient children, we strive to manifest
343 the love of Christ in the hopes of wooing them (as well as everyone else outside of Christ) to faith in Him.
344 All are welcome to attend our services and hear the gospel message of freedom through Christ. We also
345 condemn any hate crimes that have been perpetrated against human beings because of their lifestyle.

346
347 Gen 18-19, Lev 18:22, Rom 1:24-27, I Cor 6:9, I Cor 6:11 makes it clear that God delivers the person
348 from this and other wicked lifestyles- I Cor 6:9, Lk 6:35, II Tim 2:24-26, Jn 3:16.

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350 Racism

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352 As the church of Jesus Christ, we vigorously condemn all forms of racism and ethnic prejudice. We are
353 all one body in Christ in which and in whom there is no difference. We do not discriminate among our
354 membership on the basis of race, color, or ethnicity.

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356 Gal3:28, Eph 2:11-22, Acts 10:34-35.

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358 **Article IV - Membership**

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360 Section 1 - Eligibility for Membership

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362 Membership shall be limited to those who profess faith in Jesus Christ, a believer who has been
363 baptized by immersion and is willing to subscribe to the Statement of Faith and By-Laws of Faith Bible
364 Church (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 2:41).

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366 Section 2 - Procedure for Membership

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368 All individuals desiring membership shall:

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- 370 1. Indicate their desire to become a member by filling out an application form for membership.
- 371 2. Confess personal faith in Jesus Christ before two elders and if not already baptized, be willing
372 to undergo believer's baptism by immersion.
- 373 3. Attend and complete the new membership classes.
- 374 4. Be in agreement with the by-laws of this church.
- 375 5. Be at least eighteen (18) years of age.
- 376 6. Be actively involved in the ministry of Faith Bible Church.
- 377 7. Be presented for membership and receive a simple majority vote of the membership present.

378

379 The present membership of Faith Bible Church Naples and those hereafter admitted to membership
380 shall constitute the membership of this corporation. Children of members may make application for
381 membership at the age of eighteen, at which time they must go through the process for membership.

382

383 Section 3 – Responsibilities of Membership

384

- 385 1. To Themselves- as disciples of Christ, to strive
 - 386 a. To acquire knowledge and progress in spiritual disciplines (I Peter 3:18),
 - 387 b. For consistency in conduct, moral excellence, and growth in the graces of the Spirit (Gal
388 5:22-23; II Peter 3:11),
 - 389 c. For spiritual ministry so as to benefit others.
- 390 2. To their Leaders- pray for them, follow them as they submit to Christ, and guard their
391 reputations. (Eph 4:14-16; Hebrews 13:7,17)
- 392 3. To Fellow Members- to cultivate and cherish love for all, to pray for and with them, to visit and
393 sympathize with those in affliction, to administer relief to the needy, to guard each other's
394 reputations, to admonish each other privately and affectionately for faults and improprieties, to
395 accept with grace the admonition of a brother or sister in Christ, to strive by all proper means to
396 promote one another's spiritual welfare and unity within the church.(James 5:16; Gal6:1-2;
397 James 1:27; Rom 15:14; Eph4:32)

- 398 4. To Unbelievers -to be exact in fulfilling obligations and carrying out promises, to live in a
399 peaceable and neighborly manner, to perform acts of kindness, and share the gospel of Christ
400 with them. (Rom 12:18; Col4:5-6;Acts 1:8; Gal6:9-10)
401 5. To the Church - be willing to submit to the government and discipline of the church; to support
402 willingly the ministry with their regular attendance at worship services and to participate in
403 observation of the Lord's Supper. They shall contribute their offerings to support the Church, its
404 ministry and missions. They shall be willing to personally participate in the work of ministry
405 according to their God given gifts and abilities. (Romans 12; I Corinthians 12-14; II Corinthians 8
406 and 9) (I Cor 12:5,11; Rom 12:3-9; Heb 10:24-25; I Cor 16:1-2; II Cor 9:6-8) Jn 13:34-35.
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408 Section 4 - Privileges of Membership 409

410 Faith Bible Church functions as a body under the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 5:23)
411 and the leadership of the Elders who are duly elected to conduct the spiritual and business affairs of the
412 church. Membership in this Church does not afford those individuals any rights to property, contract or
413 civil rights based on the principles of democratic government. Determinations of the internal affairs of
414 this Church are ecclesiastical matters and shall be determined exclusively by the Church's own
415 constitution consisting of The Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws. The final authority in all matters is
416 The Holy Bible (II Timothy 3:16-17).
417

418 Church members shall have the use of the church facilities for weddings, funerals and fellowship
419 activities when approved by the Elders. Members are entitled to vote upon the call of the Senior Pastor,
420 Assistant Pastors and the admission of new members; purchase and sale of real church property;
421 elections; approval of amendments to, or changes of, the Bylaws. Any member may appeal to an Elder
422 on an issue for consideration by the Elder Board.
423

424 Section 5 - Discipline and Restoration of a Member: 425

426 The Elder Board shall have sole authority in determining the need for church discipline and shall base
427 those determinations on Scripture and the Statement of Faith. Once the process of discipline has begun
428 of any member, resignation of membership will not end the process. The spirit of discipline must always
429 be that of restoration through repentance, with the objective of maintaining the purity and unity of
430 Christ's Church. (I Corinthians 5:1-7, Titus 3:9-11)
431

432 If a Pastor, Elder, or Deacon is the subject of a disciplinary matter, he shall not sit as a Board member.
433 He shall be entitled to the same Biblical process of discipline and restoration as other Church members.
434 Two or more witnesses must substantiate an accusation brought against an Elder (I Timothy 5:19).
435

436 Members are expected to demonstrate special loyalty to God, with love and concern for one another.
437 Scripture outlines the biblical process of discipline and restoration as follows:
438

439 1. When a member becomes aware of another member engaged in persistent sin, he is to go alone to
440 the offending party and seek to restore his brother. Before he goes, he should first examine himself.
441 When he goes, he should go with a spirit of humility and have in mind the goal of restoration. (Matthew
442 18:15; James 5:19-20; Galatians 6:1-2)
443

444 2. If restoration is not reached, then "By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be
445 established." These witnesses are to accompany the one seeking to resolve the matter. This second
446 step should also be preceded by self-examination, and exercised in a spirit of humility with the goal of
447 restoration. (Matt 18:16, Deut 19:15-20, II Cor. 12:20-13:6)

448 3. If there is no repentance after taking these steps, the matter shall be brought before the Elder Board.
449 If the Elder Board determines there is an offense with no confession of sin and repentance, the Elders
450 will “tell it to the church.” At that point subsequent contact should focus on admonishment and calling
451 the person to repentance. (Matthew 18:17-20; II Thessalonians 3:14-15)
452

453 4. If the person refuses to hear the Church an announcement will be made to the Church of their refusal
454 to repent, the member's name will be removed from the church roll and they shall be to the Church “as
455 an unbeliever.” If an unrepentant offending party is removed from the Church membership, contact with
456 the person from that point forward should be for the sake of salvation or restoration.
457

458 In the case of a substantiated accusation against a member in leadership, that person shall step down
459 until such a time that the Elder Board deems the accusation false or the matter to be closed. The Elder
460 Board must then review the accusation and seek restoration of all parties.
461

462 In the instance of a divisive person who comes into the church the Elders may act quickly to reject them
463 so as to protect the unity and purity of the church as instructed in Titus 3: 9-11.
464

465 Should the restoration process be successful, an announcement will be made to the membership.
466

467 Removal from Membership - A member who is physically able and fails to show a willingness to meet
468 the responsibilities of membership shall be contacted by the Elders. Based upon the person's response
469 and approval by the Elder Board, the person's membership may be revoked. In addition, members who
470 have not responded to church discipline shall have their names removed from the roll. The removed
471 members shall be advised of the action by letter. Upon request for removal of membership, the Elders
472 will be advised and a letter of confirmation sent. Members who permanently move from the area will be
473 removed from the membership after six months unless they notify the church office.
474

475 Section 6 - Membership Classification 476

477 Active: A member who is regularly in attendance (unless hindered by infirmities) and active in exercising
478 the privileges and responsibilities of a member. This would include persons on the mission field, serving
479 in the military or temporarily assigned to distant places in their occupation.
480

481 Associate: A person who meets all the requirements of membership, and are members of a Bible
482 believing church of like mind, and are temporarily located in the Naples area due to occupation or
483 education. Associate Members have all the privileges and responsibilities of Active Members, but would
484 not have the right to vote or serve in elected leadership.
485

486 **ARTICLE V - Meetings and Elections** 487

488 Section 1 – Annual Membership Meeting 489

490 The church shall hold an Annual Meeting of the membership in the month of January of each year.
491 Notice of the Annual Meeting must be published in the churches announcement system and disclosed
492 from the pulpit two (2) consecutive Sundays prior to the date of the meeting. The meeting shall be led
493 by the Chairman of the Elders.
494

495 The meeting agenda shall include:
496

- 497 1. Submission of the previous annual meeting as well as all Special Meetings.

- 498 2. A written report and comments from the Chairman of the Elders on the activity from the past
499 year and vision for the future.
500 3. A written report from all pastors regarding their past year's ministry and vision for the future.
501 4. Submission of prior year financial statements and current year budget with comments from the
502 church treasurer along with a report from the audit committee.
503 5. Written reports from all standing committees.
504 6. Other information deemed important to the body.
505

506 **Section 2 – Special Membership Meeting**

507
508 Special meetings of the membership shall be held upon the call of, and at the time and place designated
509 by the Board of Elders. Notice of the Special Meeting shall state the purpose of such a meeting and
510 must be published in the churches announcement system and disclosed from the pulpit two (2)
511 consecutive Sundays prior to the date of the meeting.
512

513 **Section 3 - Voting Members**

514
515 Active members who have been absent from the church for eight consecutive weeks forfeit their right to
516 vote.
517

518 **Section 4 - Taking a Vote**

519
520 At any duly called Annual or Special meeting, a quorum shall consist of twenty percent (20%) of the
521 membership eligible to vote.
522

523 **Section 5 - Rules of Order**

524
525 Except where it is contrary to these Bylaws, Roberts Rules of Order shall govern the conduct of
526 meetings.
527

528 **Section 6 - Services**

529
530 Faith Bible Church will:

- 531
532 1. Endeavor to offer regular educational and discipleship opportunities for every member of the
533 church.
534 2. Conduct regular worship services on Sunday (Acts 20:7; I Cor 16:1-2).
535 3. Have Bible Study and prayer meetings on Wednesdays and/or at other times.
536 4. Develop other ministries and services as the need arises.
537

538 **ARTICLE VI - Leadership and Organizational Structure**

539 **Section 1 - Overview**

540
541
542 While Scripture does not provide a precise leadership or organizational structure, it does provide two
543 official offices of leadership, the Elder and the Deacon. Scripture also provides many principles that are
544 to be honored within a leadership and organizational structure. These principles include: authority,
545 accountability, work ethic, biblical qualification, service, order, unity, and love.
546
547

548 Section 2 - Elders

549

550 Responsibility – The Elders shall have full authority and responsibility over care and oversight of the
551 body and ministry of Faith Bible Church. A secondary responsibility is the interpretation of the language
552 used in these By-Laws.

553

554 Qualification - Elders shall be men who are members of Faith Bible Church, of high Christian character
555 and shall maintain an exemplary reputation in all aspects of their lives both in the church and in the
556 world. They shall be the spiritual leaders of the church and shall meet the qualifications and fulfill the
557 responsibilities as set forth in Titus 1:5-9, 1Timothy 3:1-7 and 1 Peter 5:1-3. Each elder shall
558 understand, fully support and affirm the By-Laws of Faith Bible Church.

559

560 Election and Tenure – Elders shall seek, observe, test, and thoroughly prove potential candidates for
561 Elder. Elders, by unanimous consent, will present new candidates for Elder to the members at the
562 Annual Meeting or at a special meeting. Affirmation by the membership is completed by not less than a
563 two-thirds (2/3) majority of those present and voting. Elders shall be elected for a term of three years
564 with their terms being arranged on a rotating basis so that as nearly as possible, the terms of one-third
565 (1/3) of the Elders shall expire each year. There shall be a minimum of three Lay Elders plus the Senior
566 Pastor. Lay Elders will maintain a one-vote majority over Vocational Elders. The Senior Pastor will be
567 given a vote with other Vocational Elder votes based on majority and tenure. Any Elder serving as a paid
568 staff member shall abstain from voting on employee compensation.

569

570 Section 3 - Deacons

571

572 Responsibility - The Deacons are responsible to the Elders in the fulfillment of their office. They shall
573 specifically assist the Elders in:

574

- 575 1. The administration of the approved annual budget.
- 576 2. The protection of all church cash and investments.
- 577 3. Oversight over all church property and equipment.
- 578 4. Administration of all church benevolence.
- 579 5. Administration of the care and concern of our supported missionaries.
- 580 6. Other tasks as requested by the Elders to assist them in the work of ministry.

581

582 Qualification - Deacons shall be men who are members of Faith Bible Church, of high Christian character
583 and shall maintain an exemplary reputation in all aspects of their lives both in the church and in the
584 world. They shall meet the qualifications and fulfill the responsibilities set forth in Acts 6:3 and in I
585 Timothy 3:8-13. Each Deacon shall understand, fully support and affirm the By-Laws of Faith Bible
586 Church.

587

588 Election and Tenure - Elders shall seek, observe, test, and thoroughly prove potential candidates for
589 Deacon. Elders, by unanimous consent, will present new candidates for Deacon to the members at the
590 Annual Meeting or at a special meeting. Affirmation by the membership is completed by not less than a
591 two-thirds (2/3) majority of those present and voting. Deacons shall be elected for a term of three years
592 with their terms being arranged on a rotating basis so that as nearly as possible, the terms of one-third
593 (1/3) of the Deacons shall expire each year. There shall be a minimum of three Deacons. Any Deacon
594 serving as a paid staff member shall be a non-voting on employee compensation.

595

596 Section 4 - Staff

597

598 Senior Pastor

599

600 Responsibility – The Senior Pastor shall be an Elder for his entire tenure. As such, he shall, along with
601 the other Elders, have full authority and responsibility over care and oversight of the body and ministry of
602 Faith Bible Church. As an Elder who has devoted both his vocation and ministry to the body at Faith
603 Bible Church, he shall demonstrate a significant work ethic in ministry and act as a leader and visionary
604 among the Elders, Deacons, and Staff drawing them toward unity in purpose and ministry. He shall take
605 a prominent role in Services, Ordinances, Ceremonies, and formal teaching of the church body.

606

607 Qualification – Upon the acceptance of a call, the Senior Pastor shall become a member of Faith Bible
608 Church, of high Christian character and shall maintain an exemplary reputation in all aspects of their
609 lives both in the church and in the world. He shall be a spiritual leader of the church and shall meet the
610 qualifications and fulfill the responsibilities as set forth in Titus 1:5-9, 1Timothy 3:1-7 and 1 Peter 5:1-3.
611 He shall exhibit spiritual giftedness in both teaching and preaching. He shall understand, fully support
612 and affirm the By-Laws of Faith Bible Church.

613

614 Election and Tenure – The Elders shall oversee the selection process of a Senior Pastor. Whereas the
615 other elders come to office from amongst the body of Faith Bible Church, the Senior Pastor, prior to
616 coming to the church, will typically not have any history or understanding of the church or its members.
617 Therefore when the need for a senior pastor arises, the church should take extreme caution, proceeding
618 with great purpose in measuring the qualifications and heart of the man. The process should lead to
619 significant assurance that the candidate has a spirit of unity with the Elders, the mission and methods of
620 ministry, and the purposed direction of the church. Once the Elders are unanimously in agreement to
621 issue a call to the candidate, a special congregational meeting for the purpose of extending a call to the
622 candidate will be announced. Only active members, as outlined in these By-laws, are eligible to vote. A
623 minimum of 90% majority vote is necessary to extend a call to a candidate to become Senior Pastor.
624 The Pastor shall serve until such time as he resigns or has disqualified himself from ministry (gross moral
625 failure) at which time the elders will release him from His responsibilities and the congregation will be
626 informed. Additionally, the Senior Pastor can be removed if, through the process of accountability, he is
627 unwilling to fulfill the responsibilities of the Senior Pastor set forth in these By-laws. The Pastor will be
628 removed from office based on a recommendation of the Elders and a majority vote of the members.

629

630 Other Staff

631

632 The Elders of the church may determine the need for additional staff. Assistant Pastors shall have
633 specific responsibilities per a formal written job description, shall meet the qualifications of the Elders,
634 and shall be called in a similar fashion as the Senior Pastor. Other staff may be added by unanimous
635 approval of the Elders and hold qualifications both spiritually and vocationally that are appropriate to
636 their formal job description. All staff serve at the will of the Elders but may also be under an additional
637 authority structure as designated by the Elders.

638

639 Section 5 - Boards and Committees

640

641 The church shall maintain and operate at all times under the authority of certain boards and committees.
642 From time to time and as need arises, the Elders may organize additional committees.

643

644 Elder Board

645

646 The Elder Board shall be comprised of the Elders and shall be the structure by which the Elders exercise
647 their authority and responsibility of care and oversight of the body and ministry of Faith Bible Church.

648 They shall meet regularly to oversee all church function in an organized and unified manner. Every effort
649 shall be made by the Elder Board to maintain a focus toward the edification of the church body through
650 prayer and the Word of God. The officers of the church shall be elected by the Elders at its first meeting
651 immediately following the Annual Meeting of the membership and consist of a Chairman, Vice
652 Chairman/Secretary and Treasurer. Each shall serve at the pleasure of the Elders and otherwise for a
653 term of one (1) year and until his successor is elected and qualified. Any vacancy in any such office shall
654 be filled promptly by the Elder Board.

655
656 Chairman - The Chairman shall represent the Board of Elders in concert with and subject to the shared
657 leadership responsibilities and collective oversight of the Board of Elders. He shall preside at all
658 meetings of the Elder Board and the membership, He may sign, with the Secretary or any other duly
659 authorized corporate officer, any deeds, mortgages, bonds, contracts or other instruments which the
660 Elder Board has authorized to be executed, except in cases where signing and execution shall be
661 expressly delegated by the Elder Board or by these Bylaws or by statute to some other office or agent of
662 the corporation. In general, He shall perform all duties incident to the office of Chairman and such other
663 duties as may be prescribed by the Elder Board from time to time.

664
665 Vice Chairman/Secretary - In the absence of the Chairman or in the event of the Chairman's inability or
666 refusal to act, the Vice Chairman/Secretary shall perform the duties of the Chairman and, when so
667 acting, shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the Chairman.
668 Additionally, the Vice Chairman/Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Elder Board and
669 the membership; see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these By-laws
670 or as required by law; be custodian of the corporate records and of the seal of the corporation and see
671 that the seal is affixed to all necessary documents, the execution of which on behalf of the corporation is
672 duly authorized in accordance with the provisions of these by-laws; and in general perform all duties
673 incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the
674 Chairman or by the Elder Board.

675
676 Treasurer - The Treasurer shall be responsible for the oversight of the entire financial function of the
677 corporation and shall discharge his duties in accordance with the directives of the Elder Board. He shall
678 have charge and custody of and be responsible for the safe keeping of all funds and securities of the
679 corporation; maintain oversight over bookkeeping, the accounting system and the internal control
680 structure; provide for timely and accurate reporting to the Elder Board; oversee the budgeting process
681 and the corporation's adherence to the approved budget; oversight over all employee compensation,
682 benefits and the employee review process; and in general perform all the duties incident to the office of
683 Treasurer and such other duties as from time to time are assigned by the Elder Board.

684 685 Deacon Board

686
687 Shall be comprised of the Deacons and shall meet regularly for the purpose of carrying out both their
688 designated responsibilities and other tasks as requested by the Elders to assist them in furthering their
689 ministry. They shall elect at its first meeting immediately following the Annual Meeting of the
690 membership a chairman who will shall be responsible to organize and head all meetings and to organize
691 the Deacons so that they function in an organized and unified manner.

692 693 Committees

694
695 The following Committees shall be established as permanent functioning committees of the church.
696 Membership on these committees is limited to those who are active church members with interest in and
697 gifts that would enhance being part of the respective committee.

698
699 Audit Committee –The Audit Committee shall operate on a continual basis to ensure that all church
700 assets, liabilities, income, and expenses are accurately reported to the church membership. They shall

701 additionally monitor and report both their safekeeping and their assurance that all financial activity of the
702 church is above reproach. The committee shall report and be accountable to the Elders, and shall
703 additionally have a responsibility to report directly to the members at the annual meeting and at any
704 other time, via special meeting as the Elders deem necessary.

705
706 The Elders may, from time to time establish additional temporary committees. The Elder Board shall
707 determine duties, responsibilities, and accountabilities of these committees.

708
709 **Section 6 – Operational Contingency Plan**

710
711 Should the church be unable to adequately fill all required lay Elder Positions, the church shall enter a
712 state of operational emergency until such time that all positions are filled.

713
714 During this state, if there are some lay Elders able to serve, yet not enough to fill all positions, the
715 existing Elders shall consider and transfer on a temporary basis, all responsibilities that are Biblically
716 appropriate to the Deacon Board. If necessary, the existing Elders shall appoint the most qualified,
717 available Deacon to temporarily serve as the corporate treasurer and as such he shall attend a portion of
718 all Elder Board meetings as is required to adequately perform his responsibility. The existing Elders shall
719 not transfer their responsibility for the accountability of the Pastoral Staff and shall maintain its oversight
720 over all corporate financial matters. The existing Elders shall immediately and until such time that a
721 sufficient number of Elders exist to meet the requirements of these By-laws, begin a process of
722 identifying and training additional Elder candidates who shall become the unified leadership of the
723 church.

724
725 Should there be no lay Elders able to serve, The Deacon Board shall serve as the Elder Board until such
726 time as the Church has a lay Elder. The Deacons and Pastor shall then immediately and until such time
727 that an Elder exists begin a process of identifying and training additional Elder candidates who shall
728 become the unified leadership of the church.

729
730 **ARTICLE VII - Statement Concerning Law**

731
732 Following the command of the Apostle Paul in I Corinthians 6:1-8, no member shall take any legal action
733 against Faith Bible Church or its leadership for its counsel, its practices, its ordinances, its doctrine, or
734 its disciplinary action for any reason whatsoever.

735
736 **ARTICLE VIII - Amendments**

737
738 These By-laws may be amended, altered or repealed, in whole or in part, at an Annual or Special
739 Meeting of the membership.

740
741 As a working flexible document, these By-laws may be amended, altered or repealed, at an Annual or
742 Special Meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present.

743
744 Proposed amendments to these By-laws may be presented in writing to the Elder Board. If accepted,
745 the amendment shall be presented to the church for vote at an Annual or Special Meeting. The meeting
746 will follow the procedure for calling such meetings under Article V. In addition, the proposed
747 amendment will be conspicuously posted in the churches announcement system two (2) weeks prior to
748 the meeting.

749
750
751

752 **ARTICLE IX - Dissolution**

753

754 In the event of dissolution of this organization, proceeds shall be used for a non-profit organization
755 chosen by the membership that meets the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code, Section 501(c)3
756 of 1954.

757