

# AWAKEN COVENANT COMMUNITY

## ST PAUL, MN

### PREAMBLE

(An historical statement from the Preamble of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Evangelical Covenant Church as adopted by the Evangelical Covenant Church in 2002.)

The Evangelical Covenant Church is a communion of congregations gathered by God, united in Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit to obey the great commandment and the great commission. It affirms its companionship in faith with other church bodies and all those who fear God and keep God's commandments.

The Evangelical Covenant Church adheres to the affirmations of the Protestant Reformation regarding the Bible. It confesses that the Holy Scripture, the Old and the New Testament, is the Word of God and the only perfect rule for faith, doctrine, and conduct. It affirms the historic confessions of the Christian Church, particularly the Apostles' Creed and Nicene Creed, while emphasizing the sovereignty of the Word of God over all creedal interpretations.

In continuity with the renewal movements of historic Pietism, the Evangelical Covenant Church especially cherishes the dual emphasis on new birth and new life in Christ, believing that personal faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord is the foundation for our mission of evangelism and Christian nurture. Our common experience of God's grace and love in Jesus Christ continues to sustain the Evangelical Covenant Church as an interdependent body of believers that recognizes but transcends our theological differences.

The Evangelical Covenant Church celebrates two divinely ordained sacraments, baptism and the Lord's Supper. Recognizing the reality of freedom in Christ, and in conscious dependence on the work of the Holy Spirit, we practice both the baptism of infants and believer baptism. The Evangelical Covenant Church embraces this freedom in Christ as a gift that preserves personal conviction, yet guards against an individualism that disregards the centrality of the Word of God and the mutual responsibilities and disciplines of the spiritual community.

The Evangelical Covenant Church has its roots in historical Christianity, the Protestant Reformation, the biblical instruction of the Lutheran Church of Sweden, and the great spiritual awakenings of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. These influences, together with more recent North American renewal movements, continue to shape its development and distinctive spirit. The Evangelical Covenant Church is committed to reaching across boundaries of race, ethnicity, culture, gender, age, and status in the cultivation of communities of life and service.

This document, which is in harmony with the above preamble, is the Constitution and Bylaws of the Awaken Covenant Community of Lilydale, MN.

## ARTICLE I

### Name

The name of this church shall be Awaken Covenant Community (Awaken) of St. Paul, MN.

## ARTICLE II

### Affiliation

The church is a member of the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC) and its Northwest Conference (NWC). It is pledged to work in harmony with the ECC and NWC and to faithfully support the mission, ministries, and policies of each.

## ARTICLE III

### Confession of Faith

We believe in the Holy Scriptures, the Old and New Testament, as the Word of God and the only perfect rule for faith, doctrine, and conduct.

## ARTICLE IV

### Purpose

We covenant with God and with one another, to cultivate a safe place for people to journey with Jesus, live missionally, study scripture, and celebrate the sacraments together. In so doing, we covenant to equip loving, giving, growing followers of Jesus who love God with all their hearts, their neighbors as themselves, and become a blessing to the world.

## ARTICLE V

### Partnership

Partnership in the church is recognized as provided in the Bylaws to be those who trust Jesus as Lord and Savior and have been born anew by the Holy Spirit. Partners are committed to participation in the life of Awaken, through attendance, sacrificial giving of talent and resources, missional living and prayer for our vision and its leaders.

## ARTICLE VI

### Governance

The authority of the government of this church is vested in its partnership acting through duly called congregational meetings. The management, administration and oversight of business and spiritual affairs are delegated by the congregation to appropriate leadership as delineated in the Bylaws. All elected leadership specified in the Bylaws shall be partners of the church.

## ARTICLE VII

### Officers

The officers of the church shall be a chair, a vice-chair, a secretary, and a financial officer. All officers shall be members of the Advisory Team. [*for states so requiring*: The trustees of the church shall be the Advisory Team.]

## ARTICLE VIII

## Congregational Meetings

An Annual Meeting shall be held as near the first of the fiscal year as feasible. At the Annual Meeting, reports will be given by Lead Pastor, Advisory Chair & Financial Officer. Election for offices shall be held. The church budget shall be submitted for action.

Additional congregational meetings shall be held not less than semiannually. Items as required by the Constitution and Bylaws shall be submitted for congregational action.

## ARTICLE IX

### Assets of the Church

1. The congregation shall hold title to its own assets.
2. In the event of schism within the church, in which there are competing claims to the assets by various factions of the partnership, the title of all church property, real or personal, shall remain with the group which abides by the Constitution and Bylaws, as determined by the executive board of the NWC.
3. No action for the sale or transfer of assets may be taken when the closure of the church is under consideration without the prior approval of the NWC executive board. In the event the congregation votes to cease, the property and all assets of the church shall become and be the property of the ECC and the NWC shared equally for the furtherance of the mission of both in that region, primarily through church planting.

## ARTICLE X

### Amendments

Amendments in harmony with this Constitution, the Model Constitutions for Local ECC Churches, non-profit laws of Minnesota and not in conflict with ECC principles and policies may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting in an annual meeting of the congregation, providing the proposed amendment was presented in written form at the preceding annual meeting. Articles IX and X may be amended only with the approval of the NWC executive board of the regional conference.

## Bylaws - LEADERSHIP TEAM MODEL

### ARTICLE I

#### Partnership

Section 1. Purpose. The purpose of partnership is to bind individuals and families together in the work of God in the world as expressed through the unique vision and mission of Awaken and its common life. In so doing, the partners covenant to equip loving, giving, growing followers of Jesus who love God with all their hearts, their neighbors as themselves, and become a blessing to the world.

Section 2. Responsibilities. The partners of this church do covenant together by God's grace and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to live lives in a manner consistent with the life and teachings of Jesus and to support the broader mission of Christ through the ECC and NWC.

Section 3. Procedure for Partnership.

- a. Partnership in the church is recognized to be those who trust Jesus as Lord and Savior and have been born anew by the Holy Spirit. Partners are committed to participation in the life of Awaken, through attendance, regular and committed sacrificial giving of talent and resources, missional living and prayer for our vision and its leaders.
- b. Upon completion of Partnership Class, persons desiring to apply for partnership shall submit their application to the Advisory Team. Applicants shall meet with a member of the Advisory Team or Core Team. Upon completion, Advisory Team/Core Team member shall recommend to the Advisory Team for recognition of partnership. Advisory Team shall make recommendations known to Awaken partners and any partner objecting to or having concerns to recognition of partnership shall communicate in writing to Advisory Team and attend the next scheduled Advisory Team meeting with potential partner in the spirit of Jesus and Matthew 18.
- c. Final action on applications for partnership shall be reviewed by Advisory Team no later than 60 days of submission. Such action may be appealed by a partner at the next congregational meeting where the action of the Advisory Team may be overturned by a majority vote of partners present and voting.
- d. Applicants who are received into partnership of the church shall be welcomed at a gathering as designed by Lead Pastor and Worship Arts Director.

Section 4. Children. Children of Awaken shall be nurtured and cared for by their parent(s) as the primary investors in their spiritual journey. Awaken and its partners covenant to walk alongside and with parent(s) to help foster a home and life that demonstrates the love of God made known in Jesus to our children. At age 10 they may apply for church partnership as outlined under Section 3 of this article.

Section 5. Discipline.

- a. Discipline of partners. The Advisory Team shall be responsible for admonishing partners who willfully neglect their responsibilities to Awaken and/or their commitment to follow the life and teachings of Jesus.
- b. Erring partners. Any partner known to err in doctrine or conduct shall be counseled according to the procedure outlined in Matthew 18:15-18 and Galatians 6:1. Any partner having knowledge of such error shall, in the spirit of Christian love, seek to restore the erring partner. If he or she does not heed this counsel, the matter shall be brought to the attention of the Advisory Team in writing, which shall in meekness and gentleness seek to restore the partner.
- c. After the above process has been completed, dismissal of a partner remaining in gross error in doctrine or conduct may result by a two-thirds vote of all current Advisory Team members. Such action may be appealed by the partner to the congregation for consideration at the next congregational meeting. The actions of the Advisory Team may be repealed if challenged by partner in error and affirmed by a 2/3 vote of partners present at said congregational meeting.
- d. Any partner in this process is not a partner in good standing.

Section 6. Withdrawal and Removal of Partnership. Any partner desiring to transfer or withdraw from partnership shall make such request in writing to the Lead Pastor or Advisory Team. Letters of transfer shall be issued by the Lead Pastor if so requested, and the partner is in good standing. The Advisory Team shall annually review the partnership roster to determine inactivity. Those determined to have neglected their responsibilities may be approached under the process outlined in Section 5 of this article.

Section 7. Recording. The names of those joining and terminating partnership shall be duly recorded and reported to the congregational meeting following action.

## ARTICLE II

### The Advisory Team

Section 1. Purpose. The Advisory Team shall be responsible for building, maintaining and overseeing the spiritual welfare of the congregation and for directing and overseeing all ministries and business affairs of the church.

Section 2. Composition. The Advisory Team shall be comprised of not less than 5 nor more than 7 voting Advisory Team members, one of whom shall be the Lead Pastor (ex officio). The Advisory Team may appoint other pastors or staff members as non-voting advisors, and may remove the same.

Section 3. Qualification. Any partner of the church meeting the biblical standards of character and giftedness for church leaders may be nominated and elected to the Advisory Team.  
a. Spouses may not serve concurrent terms on Advisory Team.

Section 4. Election. Advisory Team members shall be nominated by partners in good standing, and elected by a 2/3 vote of those partners voting at the Annual Meeting.

Section 5. Term of Office. Advisory Team members shall be elected for a term of 2 years and shall not be elected for more than two consecutive terms. After at least one year off, a person may be eligible for subsequent service, subject again to the terms stated in this article. Terms begin July 1 in conjunction with fiscal year start.

Section 6. Vacancies and Removal. An Advisory Team member may resign. An Advisory Team member may be removed from office by a 2/3 vote of congregational partners voting at a meeting called for that purpose. Vacancies created by resignation or removal may be filled by appointment through the 2/3 vote of the Advisory Team. An Advisory Team member appointed to serve an unexpired term of less than half the remaining term shall not be precluded from being elected thereafter to two full consecutive terms.

Section 7. Notification of Meetings. All Advisory Team members shall receive a minimum 3-day advance notification of any meeting, including time and place of the meeting. In emergency situations, the 3-day notice may be waived by the 2/3 vote of the entire Advisory Team.

Section 8. Quorum. A majority of Advisory Team members shall constitute a quorum.

Section 9. Decisions. The Advisory Team shall strive for unanimity. Matters shall be determined by a majority vote of a Advisory Team quorum, unless on a matter in which the Constitution and Bylaws require a different percentage.

Section 10. Organization.

The Advisory Team shall elect from among themselves a chair, a vice chair, a secretary and a financial officer.

1. Chair. The Chair shall preside at all business meetings of the church and of the Advisory Team. The Chair shall confer with the lead pastor in preparing the agenda for such meetings, and shall utilize the counsel that the Lead Pastor can give by virtue of training, experience, and calling.
2. Vice-Chair. The Vice-Chair shall assume the duties of the Chair in the Chair's absence, and assist in the Chair's duties.
3. Secretary. The Secretary shall keep and preserve the minutes of all business meetings of the church and of the Advisory Team, conduct and preserve all official correspondence as shall be delegated, and be responsible for the official seal and documents of the church.
4. Financial Officer. The Financial Officer shall ensure proper policies, processes, reporting, and reviewing of all matters related to the finances of the church, including the submission of monthly financial reports to the Advisory Team.

Section 11. Responsibilities of the Advisory Team. In being responsible to the congregation for building, maintaining and overseeing the spiritual welfare of the church and for directing and overseeing all ministries and business affairs of the church, the Advisory team shall:

- a. Present annual mission and ministry objectives to the congregation;

- b. Affirm Core Team needed to carry out the church's mission and ministry as recommended by Lead Pastor.
- c. Approve church policies;
- d. Be responsible for representing the congregation in certain staff relationships including:
  - 1. Hiring and dismissal of staff subject to the provisions of these Bylaws. Action shall be by 2/3 vote;
  - 2. Annual appraisal of the pastoral staff, and providing godly counsel or discipline as required;
  - 3. Annual review and approval of staff compensation and compensation for new staff; and other personnel expenses for any staff member or activity;
  - 4. Establishment of personnel policies;
  - 5. Approval of changes in staff job descriptions and approval of job descriptions for new staff positions; and
  - 6. Maintenance of current job descriptions for all staff members;
- e. Be responsible for overseeing the preparation and submission of a proposed budget for each fiscal year to the partners for approval. Upon approval of the budget by the partners, the Advisory Team shall be responsible for seeing that the budget is carried out as approved. The Advisory Team shall have the authority to appropriately adjust budget items and amounts where ministry objectives necessitate but in no event shall total expenditures exceed the total authorized budget without prior notification of the partnership. The Advisory Team shall appoint a partner of the church as financial secretary (not necessarily an Advisory Team member) who shall be authorized to receive monies on behalf of the church and shall appoint a treasurer (not necessarily an Advisory Team member) to disburse funds for church purposes in accordance with standard accounting procedures for non-profit organizations. The Advisory Team shall annually appoint an independent review of the financial records of the church and report such findings to the congregation. Neither the treasurer nor financial secretary shall serve more than four consecutive years.
- f. Hear and respond appropriately to concerns of partners;
- g. Be responsible for church discipline as outlined in Article I, Section 5 of these Bylaws;
- h. Act as the trustees of the church for the advancement and protection of its assets. The Advisory Team shall designate those Advisory Team members and any other partners of the church who shall be authorized to sign legal documents on behalf of the church;
- i. Be responsible for action on applications for partnership as outlined in Article I, Section 3 of these Bylaws.

Section 12. Unity. Action by the Advisory Team shall be taken in such manner as to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Section 13. Frequency. The Advisory Team shall meet monthly.

## ARTICLE III

### Core Team

Section 1. Purpose. The Core Team shall be formed as required to implement the varied ministries of the church. The Core Team shall be led by the Lead Pastor.

Section 2. Establishment.

- a. The Core Team and its members shall be established by the Lead Pastor as he/she deems necessary and appropriate to the ministry needs of Awaken.
- b. Any additions or removals of a Core Team member must be done with full knowledge and disclosure to the Advisory Team through prayer and discernment.
- c. Ministry Teams shall be established by the Core Team to implement specific ministries.
- d. The configuration of Ministry Teams shall be the responsibility of The Core Team leaders and may include staff, partners and attendees of Awaken to carry out the ministry objectives of Awaken.

Section 3. Duties. The duties of the Core Team shall be to:

- a. Meet as required to plan and execute specific mission and ministry objectives.
- b. Recruit and train ministry personnel.
- c. Define and provide the necessary materials required for ministry.
- d. Submit annually to the Advisory Team proposed budgets and objectives for the forthcoming year and manage budgets accordingly.
- e. Report as requested to the Advisory Team.

#### Section 4. Leadership.

- a. Core Team members shall be approved by the Advisory Team in consultation with the Lead Pastor. The Core Team members will serve up to one year terms, which are reviewed annually by Lead Pastor with no specified term limits.
- b. Any removal of a Ministry Team member must be done with full knowledge and disclosure to Core Team through prayer and discernment.
- c. Core Team members may not also be Advisory Team members.

### ARTICLE IV

#### Pastoral and Ministry Staff

Section 1. Purpose. Pastoral and additional ministry staff positions are created to help the congregation fulfill Jesus's purposes in the world and among its Partners and Congregants.

Section 2. Pastoral Qualifications. Pastors of the church shall meet the qualifications for character, giftedness, and call set forth in the Holy Scriptures. The Lead Pastor shall be licensed/credentialed and in good standing with the ECC. Other pastors shall be credentialed by the ECC in accordance with their qualifications and duties. A pastor shall be a partner of the church by virtue of the call to serve the church.

Section 3. Call of the Lead Pastor. The Lead Pastor shall be invited to serve and be recognized at a regular or special congregational business meeting, the purpose of which shall be announced two weeks in advance. The Lead Pastor shall be nominated by a pastoral search committee. This committee shall be elected by the partners at a congregational business meeting. It shall be representative of the congregation and have 5 to 7 members, including the Advisory Team chair. It shall work closely with the regional conference superintendent. The Lead Pastor shall be invited by written ballot with a 2/3 vote of partners present and voting required. The invitation shall be for an indefinite period of time. When the church receives aid from the conference and/or denomination through appropriations, the invitation shall be with the approval of NWC.

Section 4. Additional Pastors and Credentialed Ministry Staff. Additional staff members to hold ministerial credentials shall be invited at a congregational business meeting, the purpose of which shall be announced at least two weeks in advance. The meeting shall include the budget implications of the proposed position. The Advisory Team will recommend one candidate for invitation, and the vote shall be by written ballot, with 2/3 vote required for invitation. The Advisory Team may establish the search committee, and may serve as the search committee. When the church receives aid from the conference and/or denomination through appropriations, the invitation shall be with the approval of NWC. The invitation shall be for an indefinite period of time unless otherwise noted.

Section 5. Duties of the Lead Pastor. The Lead Pastor shall teach the scriptures, administer the sacraments, provide missional leadership, faithfully carry out pastoral work, and lead the Core Team. The Lead Pastor shall direct the church staff, providing counsel, encouragement, and Christian discipline so as to assist in the accomplishment of objectives for each staff member. All staff shall be responsible to the Lead Pastor. The Lead Pastor shall be a member of the Advisory Team and the Core Team exercising his/her specific skills & gifts.

Section 6. Duties of Additional Pastors and Ministry Staff Members. Additional pastors and ministry staff members shall carry out specific areas of ministry under the direction of the Lead Pastor. They may be designated by the Lead Pastor in conjunction with the Advisory Team (Article III; Section 2) to be a part of the Core Team.

Section 7. Cooperation. The pastor(s) shall, both in word and precept, work in harmony with the ECC, and the NWC.

Section 8. Resignation of a Pastor or Ministry Staff Member. A pastor or ministry staff member may resign by submitting a letter of resignation to the Advisory Team. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, six weeks notice should be observed.

Section 9. Dismissal. The dismissal of a pastor or ministry staff member should be undertaken only after avenues of remediation have been pursued.

- a. Dismissal of the Lead Pastor. The dismissal of the Lead Pastor shall be by congregational vote at a special meeting called for that express purpose. Such an agenda item cannot be a part of, or added to,

the agenda of any other meeting. The congregational meeting for such a vote may be called by the 2/3 action of the Advisory Team, or through the request of the congregation accomplished by a petition for such a meeting signed by 1/2 of the partners. The quorum for such a meeting shall be 2/3 of the partners. The grounds for dismissal shall be presented. Partners shall be allowed to speak to the matter. The pastor shall be allowed to speak to the matter. The vote shall be by written ballot. A majority vote of partners present and voting is necessary to dismiss the lead pastor.

- b. Dismissal of Additional Pastors and Ministry Staff. Additional pastors and ministry staff called by the congregation may be dismissed by the 2/3 vote of the Advisory Team. A meeting to overturn the action of the Advisory Team may be called through the request of the congregation, accomplished by a petition signed by 50% of the partners. The quorum for such a meeting shall be 2/3 of the partnership. The grounds for dismissal shall be presented. Partners shall be allowed to speak to the matter. The pastor or ministry staff member in question shall be allowed to speak to the matter. The vote shall be by written ballot. A majority vote of partners present and voting is necessary to overturn the action of the Advisory Team.

Section 10. Charges Against a Pastor. Charges against a pastor shall be submitted in writing to the Advisory Team and the NWC superintendent, charging a pastor with indiscretion, immorality, doctrinal error, unethical behavior, or disloyalty to the ECC. The superintendent shall confer with the ECC executive minister of the ordered ministry. These two officers shall confer and determine the order of responsibility in pursuing the matter according to the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Ordered Ministry of the ECC regarding discipline, prior to further action by the church. A pastor or staff member credentialed by the ECC may be suspended by the ECC during this process. However, any minister who fails to become credentialed with the ECC may be suspended or recommended for dismissal at any time without prior notice by the Advisory Team.

## ARTICLE V

### Committees

Section 1. Nominating Committee.

- a. Composition. The nominating committee shall consist of one Advisory Team member designated by the Advisory Team, the Lead Pastor or staff member designated by the Lead Pastor, and at least two partners at-large elected by a majority of the members voting at a congregational meeting. The Advisory Team shall designate one of the committee members to serve as Chair of the nominating committee.
- b. Term. The terms of the partner from the Advisory Team shall be at the pleasure of the Advisory Team. The at-large partners shall serve two year terms. The initial terms of the at-large partners shall be alternated so that at least one at-large partner shall be elected each year.
- c. Quorum. A majority of partners shall constitute a quorum of the nominating committee.
- d. Responsibilities. The nominating committee shall be responsible for nominations to fill the offices of Advisory Team, the at-large partners of the nominating committee, and any other positions assigned to it either by the Advisory Team or congregation.
- e. Nominating procedure. Any partner of appropriate character, giftedness, may be considered for any position. One or more candidates for the office of Advisory Team shall be nominated by the nominating committee. One or more candidates for the office of at-large partners of the nominating committee shall be nominated.
- f. Unity. Actions by the nominating committee shall be taken in such manner as to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Section 2. Pastoral Search Committee. The Lead Pastor shall be nominated by a pastoral search committee. The nominee shall meet the criteria set out in Article IV, Section 2 of these Bylaws. This committee shall be elected by a congregational business meeting. It shall be representative of the congregation and have 5 to 7 members, including the Advisory Team chair. It shall work closely with the regional conference superintendent.

Section 3. Other Special Committees. The Advisory Team may establish a committee to address a specific task. The committee shall report back to the body which formed it unless otherwise instructed by its founding body. The committee shall terminate upon the completion of its task.

## ARTICLE VI

### Congregational Meetings

Section 1. Annual Meeting. An Annual Meeting shall be held as near the first of the fiscal year as feasible. At the Annual Meeting, written progress reports shall be submitted by the pastor(s), ministry staff, officers, and ministry teams. Reports on an independent review of financial records shall be submitted by the treasurer for the church and each of its organizations. Election for offices shall be held. The church budget shall be submitted for action.

Section 2. Other meetings. Other meetings may be called by the Advisory Team or by written request signed by 10% of the partners, unless otherwise noted in these Bylaws.

Section 3. Notification of meeting. All meetings shall be announced by written communication to the Partnership at least two weeks prior to the meeting date.

Section 4. Conduct of meeting. The Chair of the Advisory Team or such other person as may be designated by the Advisory Team in the Chair's absence shall serve as Chair of any meeting of the partners.

Section 5. Voting. Each partner, and only partners, shall be entitled to cast one vote on any matter at hand at any meeting of the partnership. Such votes must be cast in person. Vote by proxy shall not be allowed. All votes shall be by written ballot. The Chair of the meeting may call for open balloting where no objection is raised.

Section 6. Quorum. 30 percent of the partnership shall constitute a quorum for the annual meeting, with a minimum of 30 partners. Unless otherwise noted in these Bylaws, ten percent of the partnership shall constitute a quorum for any other meeting, with a minimum of 20 partners.

Section 7. Rules of order. All congregational meetings of the church and of any other committees or organizations shall be conducted according to consensus decision-making process, subject to the provisions of this Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 8. Final voice. The congregation reserves for itself final authority in any matter of its choice. A partner may advance an item to the agenda of a congregational meeting by the majority vote of the partnership at that meeting, providing that the item is not in conflict with other provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws. An item brought to the agenda in this way shall be decided by a majority vote of the partnership, unless the item requires a different percentage as outlined elsewhere in the Constitution and Bylaws, in which case that percentage shall be used.

## ARTICLE VII

### Assets

Section 1. Title. The congregation shall hold title to its own assets.

Section 2. Acquisition. Assets acquired through budgetary provisions do not need additional congregational approval. Assets acquired beyond budgetary provisions, particularly land or facility acquisition, require the approval of the partners by majority vote.

Section 3. Disputed Assets. In the event of schism within the church, in which there are competing claims to the assets by various factions of the partners, the title of all church property, real or personal, shall remain with the group which abides by the constitution and Bylaws, as determined by the executive board of the NWC.

Section 4. Assignment of Assets. No action for the sale or transfer of assets may be taken when the closure of the church is under consideration without the prior approval of the NWC executive board. In the event the congregation votes to cease, the property and all assets of the church shall become and be the property of the ECC and the NWC, shared equally for the furtherance of the mission of both in that region, primarily through church planting.

## ARTICLE VIII

## Closure

Section 1. Action Needed. The congregation may terminate its existence by a majority vote of the partnership present and voting at a congregational meeting called for that purpose.

Section 2. Meeting Provisions. The decision on whether to close the church cannot be a part of, or added to, the agenda of any other meeting. The congregational meeting for such a vote may be called by the Advisory Team or through the request of the congregation, accomplished by a petition for such a meeting signed by 20% of the partnership.

Section 3. Notification. All partners of record must be notified of the meeting through first class mail at least two weeks in advance.

Section 4. Quorum. The quorum for such a meeting shall be all partners of record who are present at the meeting.

Section 5. Asset Distribution. Upon the vote to close, the assets of the congregation shall be transferred according to Article VII, Section 4 of these Bylaws.

Section 6. Collaboration. Should congregational attendance stand below 25, the conference executive board may appoint an ex officio member to the Advisory Team.

## ARTICLE IX

### Amendments

Section 1. Procedure. These Bylaws may be amended by a vote of two-thirds of the Partnership present and voting at a duly called meeting for that purpose. A proposed amendment to the Bylaws must be presented in writing to the partnership not less than 90 days prior to the meeting called for the purpose of voting on Bylaws changes. Article VII, Sections 3 and 4, Article VIII and Article IX may only be amended with the prior approval of the NWC executive board.