

BYLAWS OF BUFFALO EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP

A. Qualifications

Two categories of membership exist at the Buffalo Evangelical Free Church: Church Member and Associate Member. The qualifications for each category of membership are:

1. Qualifications for Church Membership:
 - a. A statement of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord,
 - b. An understanding of Christian doctrine and belief consistent with the Statement of Faith,
 - c. Evidence of a desire to live a life consistent with their statement of faith,
 - d. An agreement to abide by the Buffalo Evangelical Free Church policies and constitution,
 - e. Concurrent membership in no other church, and
 - f. Willingness to support the church with faithful attendance, prayer, and material means.
2. Qualifications for Associate Membership:
 - a. Missionaries or persons who do not wish to sever connections with the BEFC may apply for associate membership by following the procedure and meeting the requirements for membership as outlined above. Associate members do not count in the member quorum calculations but shall be entitled to all the privileges and responsibility of membership, except voting, and shall be subject to church discipline.
 - b. The Elder Board shall review annually and determine the status of all associate members.
 - c. An Associate Member may be reinstated to full membership by a unanimous vote of the elder board.

B. Admission

Prospective members shall be accepted into membership into the church in the following manner:

1. Any person meeting the above stated qualifications may apply for membership. Applications shall be made in writing and submitted to the Lead Pastor or the Elder Board.
2. Applicants are required to attend a membership class when available.
3. Applicants will meet with at least two members of the Elder Board to give a personal testimony of their salvation through faith in Jesus Christ and their agreement with the Statement of Faith, the Constitution, and the Bylaws of the church. Based on this meeting, the elders may make a recommendation for membership or may recommend further follow-up.
4. Applicants shall be recommended by the Elder Board for approval by the congregation. Simple majority approval by the Elder Board is required to recommend an applicant to the congregation.
5. Applicant names shall be published at least three (3) Sundays before the business meeting to vote them into membership. If no objections to the applicant are raised within three (3) Sundays, an affirmative vote of at least seventy five (75) percent at any congregation meeting satisfying the requirements set forth in Article II shall be required to vote applicants into membership. Applicants shall not be present while the application is being considered.
6. Objections to a membership applicant shall be made in writing to the Elder Board within three (3) Sundays of initial publication of applicant names. The Elder Board shall inquire into the objection. If the objection is deemed true and valid, the decision to present the candidate for membership may be retracted.
7. The Lead Pastor, Associate Pastors, and Directors, as well as their spouse, will be recognized as members during their ministry in the church.

C. Responsibilities

With the privilege of membership come certain duties and responsibilities. As each member is enabled by God, he or she should:

1. Pray regularly for the Pastors, Staff, Elders, and other members,
2. Attend worship services and congregational meetings,
3. Actively participate in BEFC by using the gifts from the Holy Spirit to minister to others within the body of Christ,
4. Faithfully give tithes and offerings to support the work of the church, and
5. Keep the church office informed of a current permanent address.

D. Discipline

If any member is believed to be living or teaching contrary to the Word of God and the Statement of Faith of the Buffalo Evangelical Free Church, a written complaint must be submitted to the Elder Board. If after investigation, the complaint is found to be true, the member shall be admonished in love according to Matthew 18:16-17. If there is no repentance, consideration for exclusion from church membership and leadership positions shall follow according to I Corinthians 5, II Corinthians 2:5-12, Galatians 6:1-2, and Matthew 18:15-17. If the dismissed member repents, and where possible makes restitution, the dismissed member may again apply for membership in accordance with Article I.B.

E. Termination

1. Transfer – Any member in good standing desiring to join another church shall, upon written request, receive a letter of recommendation from this congregation.
2. Withdrawal – Any member wishing to withdraw their membership from the Buffalo Evangelical Free Church shall submit their request to the Elder Board. All such requests shall be granted.
3. Inactivity – Any member absent for one (1) year from whom no communication or financial support has been received, may be removed from Church Membership by an eighty (80) percent vote of the Elder Board.
4. Dismissal by Church Discipline – Dismissal from membership due to disciplinary reasons shall require a recommendation from the Elder Board and a vote by written ballot of at least seventy five (75) percent at any congregation meeting satisfying the requirements set forth in Article II.B.

ARTICLE II – SERVICES, MEETINGS, AND ELECTIONS

A. Worship and Other Services

Worship and other services shall be conducted at such times as deemed appropriate by the Lead Pastor and the Elder Board.

B. Congregational Meetings

1. Annual Congregational Meeting
 - a. Congregational meetings shall be held at least one (1) time each calendar year. The date of the annual congregational meeting shall be determined by the Elder Board. All attempts shall be made to hold this meeting in, or prior to the first (1st) quarter of the church fiscal year.
 - b. The annual church budget shall be available to the congregation at least three (3) Sundays before the annual congregational meeting.
 - c. Notice of all congregational meetings shall be given by announcements at the regular Sunday services at least three (3) Sundays prior to the meeting.

2. Special Congregational Meetings
Special congregational meetings may be scheduled as determined by the Elder Board or requested by a Church Member in good standing meeting the requirements of Article I.
 - a. Special congregational meetings called by the Elder board shall be limited to the published and/or announced agenda.
 - b. Special congregational meetings may be requested by a Church Member in good standing meeting the requirements of Article I by either:
 - i. Submitting a written request for a congregational meeting, including the desired agenda, to the Church Chairman. After review by the Elder Board, a simple majority vote by the Elder Board shall be required to call the meeting.
 - ii. Submitting a meeting agenda, signed by at least ten (10) percent of Church Members in good standing meeting the requirements of Article I to the Church Chairman

3. Quorum
A quorum shall consist of twenty (20) percent of all Church Members meeting the requirements of Article I. Absentee ballots shall not be counted when determining a quorum.

4. Decisions
A quorum shall be required to make decisions at all congregational meetings. Unless otherwise stated, all matters in regular and special congregational meetings shall be decided by a simple majority vote of Church Members in good standing meeting the requirements of Article I.

To vote, a Church Member must either be present at the meeting or must have submitted an absentee ballot.

5. Parliamentary Procedure
The overriding consideration in any procedure is the grace, fruit, and wisdom of the Holy Spirit. Parliamentary procedure shall be generally in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.
6. Minutes
Accurate minutes of all meetings must be maintained by the Elder Board Secretary. A permanent record of all congregational meetings must be maintained in the Church Office. Minutes must be made available in writing to all active church members.

7. Absentee Ballots
Absentee ballots will only be allowed if predetermined by the Elder Board.

When a Church Member cannot attend a congregational meeting, they may request an absentee ballot from either the Elder Board Secretary or from the church office. Absentee ballots must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Absentee Ballot." The name, address, and date must be written on the outside of the envelope.

Absentee ballots must be received in the church office at least six (6) hours prior to the congregational meeting. The Elder Board Secretary or designee shall check the ballots for validity and record the names in the minutes.

C. Meetings of Boards, Councils, and Committees

1. Voting Rights and Procedures
Only full and ex-officio members of that Committee may vote. When persons other than voting members of that committee are present for any action, final discussion and voting may be carried out with only voting members present at the request of any voting member.

2. Decisions
Unless otherwise stated, issues shall be decided by a simple majority vote of those present, unless otherwise approved at that meeting.
3. Meeting Minutes
Accurate minutes of all meetings must be maintained by the respective secretaries. Copies should be given to the Elder Board Secretary as soon as practicable.

ARTICLE III – STAFF

A. Lead Pastor

To fulfill its stated purpose, this church will call and support a Lead Pastor.

1. Qualifications
The Lead Pastor shall:
 - a. Be a man of established and true Christian character, and qualified to preach the Word of God, as described in I Timothy 3:1-7, 4:12-15, II Timothy 2:15, and Titus 1:5-9,
 - b. Meet the qualifications for Elder set forth in Article 5.C,
 - c. Be in full agreement with the Statement of Faith,
 - d. Be willing to perform his duties in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of this church,
 - e. Maintain his credentials with the Evangelical Free Church of America within a reasonable length of time after being called by this church, and
 - f. Possess experience, education, and abilities as deemed appropriate by the Elder Board.
2. Primary Responsibilities
 - a. Preach and teach the Word of God in complete agreement with the Statement of Faith,
 - b. Provide leadership for public church services,
 - c. Watch over the spiritual welfare of the church,
 - d. Administer the Ordinances,
 - e. Instruct the congregation in true and practical Christian living,
 - f. Perform his duties in accordance with the Bylaws of this church,
 - g. Be an ex-officio member of all councils and committees,
 - h. Enable, encourage, develop, help, and disciple the Elder Board,
 - i. Manage the pastoral and office staff,
 - j. Provide the Elder Board with at least an annual evaluation of all staff reporting to him.
This evaluation shall include current job descriptions, recommendations for staff additions, and recommendations for staff dismissals, and
 - k. Submit a comprehensive written report for the annual congregational business meeting.
3. Authority and Accountability
The Lead Pastor is accountable to the congregation through the Elder Board. He shall submit a report to the Elder Board each month at their meetings.
4. Selection
Whenever a Lead Pastor vacancy occurs, a Call Committee shall be established. The Call Committee shall consist of at least five (5) members: two (2) Elders elected by the Elder Board and at least three (3) members elected by the congregation. The members elected by the congregation shall be Church Members in good standing for at least 2 years, shall be recommended by the Nominating Committee, and shall be elected in accordance with Article II.

The Call Committee shall:

- a. Elect a chairperson,
- b. Follow the procedure recommended by the Elder Board for the selection and presentation of a candidate, and
- c. Function until a new Lead Pastor is installed.

A quorum of the Call Committee shall be a minimum of at least eighty (80) percent of all members of the Call Committee. An affirmative vote of at least seventy-five (75) percent of those Call Committee members present shall be required to recommend a candidate to the Elder Board.

The Elder Board shall review a candidate selected by the Call Committee and unanimously approve the candidate before an announcement is made to the congregation. Only one (1) candidate shall be presented to the congregation for selection at one time.

Selection of the Lead Pastor shall be decided by written ballot at any congregational meeting fulfilling the requirements set forth in Article II. An affirmative vote of at least eighty (80) percent shall be required.

5. Reviews

The Elder Board shall review the performance of the Lead Pastor at least annually.

6. Resignation

Under normal conditions, at least thirty (30) days notice of resignation must be given by the Lead Pastor if he chooses to resign. His resignation must be submitted in writing to the Church Chairman.

7. Termination

The Elder Board shall deal with any complaints or accusations made against the Lead Pastor. Dismissal action may only be initiated by the Elder Board. A vote of at least eighty (80) percent of all voting members of the Elder Board (excluding the Lead Pastor) is required to initiate dismissal action. Prior to recommending dismissal to the congregation, the Elder Board shall consider the action in light of the Bylaws, Article I, D, and I Timothy: 5:19-20.

Termination of the Lead Pastor shall only be decided by the congregation. Termination of the Lead Pastor shall require a vote by written ballot of at least seventy five (75) percent at any congregation meeting satisfying the requirements set forth in Article II.

Notice of termination shall be given in writing to the Lead Pastor by the Church Chairman.

8. Absence

The Elder Board will be responsible for pulpit supply and the continuance of other pastoral ministries during the interim period when a new pastor is being called or when the Lead Pastor is unable carry out his responsibilities.

B. Associate Pastor(s)

Associate Pastoral Staff may be needed to accomplish the ministry of this church.

1. Qualifications

Except with regard to gender and preaching ability, Associate Pastors shall be subject to the same qualifications and guidelines as the Lead Pastor.

2. **Primary Responsibilities**
The specific duties of Associate Pastors shall be prescribed by the job descriptions as part of their call to the church. Adjustments to their job descriptions may be made by the Lead Pastor, with the approval of the Elder Board.
3. **Authority and Accountability**
Associate Pastors shall be accountable to the Lead Pastor either directly or through a line of authority established by the Lead Pastor and the Elder Board. They shall work with any councils or committees that they have been given responsibility in the areas of their job description.
4. **Creation of a new Associate Pastor Position**
Should the Lead Pastor and Elder Board determine an Associate Pastoral position is needed, the need shall be presented to the congregation at any business meeting fulfilling the requirements set forth in Article II. The congregation must vote to authorize the creation of the new Associate Pastoral position and adjust the church budget appropriately.
5. **Selection**
The Elder board shall serve as the search committee to fill all vacant Associate Pastoral positions. The Elder Board may appoint an advisory group to assist in the search process. Following the interview process and receiving input from the Lead Pastor and the congregation, as necessary, the calling and hiring of an Associate Pastoral Staff person shall require a vote of at least eighty (80) percent of the entire Elder Board.
6. **Reviews**
The Lead Pastor or designee shall review the performance of Associate Pastoral Staff at least annually.
7. **Resignation**
Under normal conditions, at least thirty (30) days notice of resignation must be given by Associate Pastoral Staff. Resignations must be submitted in writing to the Lead Pastor or the Church Chairman.
8. **Termination**
The Lead Pastor and/or the Elder Board shall deal with any complaints or accusations made against an Associate Pastor. An eighty (80) percent vote of the entire Elder Board shall be required to terminate an Associate Pastor.
9. **Elimination**
Should the Lead Pastor and Elder Board determine an Associate Pastor position is no longer required, the Elder Board may vote to eliminate the position. Elimination of an Associate Pastor position shall require a vote of at least eighty (80) percent of the entire Elder Board.

C. Directors

Additional, non-pastoral staff may be needed to accomplish the ministry of this church.

1. **Qualifications**
Except with regard to gender, preaching ability, and credentials, Directors shall be subject to the same qualifications and guidelines as the Lead Pastor.
2. **Primary Responsibilities**
The specific duties of Directors shall be prescribed by the job descriptions as part of their call to the church. Adjustments to their job descriptions may be made by the Lead Pastor, with the approval of the Elder Board.

3. Authority and Accountability
Directors shall be accountable to the Lead Pastor either directly or through a line of authority established by the Lead Pastor and the Elder Board. They shall work with any councils or committees that have been given responsibility in the areas of their job description. They shall submit a written report to the Elder Board at a frequency determined by the Board.
4. Creation of a New Director Position
Should the Lead Pastor and Elder Board determine a Director position is needed, the need shall be presented to the congregation at any business meeting fulfilling the requirements set forth in Article II. The congregation must vote to authorize the creation of any new Director positions and adjust the church budget appropriately.
5. Selection
The Elder board shall serve as the search committee to fill all vacant Director positions. The Elder Board may appoint an advisory group to assist in the search process. Following the interview process and receiving input from the Lead Pastor and the congregation, as necessary, the hiring of a Director shall require a vote of at least eighty (80) percent of the entire Elder Board.
6. Reviews
The Lead Pastor or designee shall review the performance of Directors at least annually.
7. Resignation
Under normal conditions, at least thirty (30) days notice of resignation must be given by a Director. Resignations must be submitted in writing to the Lead Pastor or the Church Chairman.
8. Termination
The Lead Pastor and/or the Elder Board shall deal with any complaints or accusations made against a Director. An eighty (80) percent vote of the entire Elder Board shall be required to terminate a Director.
9. Elimination
Should the Lead Pastor and Elder Board determine a Director position is no longer required, the Elder Board may vote to eliminate the position. Elimination of a Director position shall require a vote of at least eighty (80) percent of the entire Elder Board.

D. Support Staff

Church support staff shall be hired by the Lead Pastor, or designee, in consultation with the Elder Board. Support staff shall be terminated by the Lead Pastor, or designee. Support staff shall be accountable to the Lead Pastor either directly or through a line of authority established by the Lead Pastor and the Elder Board. New support staff positions shall be approved by the Elder Board.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATION

The officers of the church shall consist of the Church Chairman, the Vice Chairman, the Secretary, and the Treasurer. Officers shall be members of, and appointed by the Elder Board. Duties and responsibilities shall be determined by the Elder Board.

ARTICLE V – ELDER BOARD

A. General

The congregation, while under the headship of Christ, governs the church ministries through the Elder Board. The congregation retains final authority, but delegates the authority to make policy decisions not specifically limited in these bylaws to the Elder Board. The congregation may rescind any decision made by the Elder Board by a vote of at least seventy five (75) percent at any congregation meeting satisfying the requirements set forth in Article II.

Elders shall be responsible, along with the Ministerial Staff, for the spiritual welfare of the congregation and doctrinal integrity of the church. Discharging this responsibility shall encompass all necessary attendant functions, including but not limited to those listed in this Article.

B. Composition and Organization

The Elder Board shall consist of at least five (5) non-staff members of the congregation and the Lead Pastor. The Lead Pastor shall be considered a voting member of the Elder Board, but shall not be eligible to be an officer of the church.

One or more Associate Pastors may be selected by the Elder Board to meet regularly with the Elder Board as non-voting members.

C. Qualifications

Members of the Elder Board:

1. Shall be male, at least 18 years of age, and active members in good standing for at least two (2) years.
2. Shall meet the qualifications set forth in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. A divorced and remarried person may serve on the Elder Board provided the divorce occurred as a result of adultery on the part of his wife, occurred as a result of desertion by his wife, or occurred prior to his conversion.
3. Shall conform to the principles set forth in such Scriptures as: Matthew 5:31-32; 19:8-9, I Corinthians 7:10-16; II Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 5:13-26; Ephesians 4:22-32; 5:1-6, 18-21, 25-27; Philippians 2:1-5; Colossians 3:5-10; I Peter 2:1; 3:7-9; 5:2-3.
4. Shall have demonstrated leadership abilities through their church ministry involvement.

D. Selection

Elders shall ordinarily be elected by the congregation at a congregational meeting fulfilling the requirements set forth in Article II. Election of an Elder shall require an affirmative vote of at least seventy five (75) percent at any congregation meeting satisfying the requirements set forth in Article II.

Elder candidates shall be recommended to the congregation by the Nominating Committee. Any member of the congregation may recommend an individual to the Nominating Committee. This recommendation must be in writing, and signed, giving reasons for believing the individual meets the qualifications for Elder. Recommendations from the membership shall be presented to the Nominating Committee at least forty-five (45) days before the scheduled election. Nominations shall not be accepted from the floor for the position of Elder.

The Nominating Committee shall present candidates to the Elder Board at least thirty (30) days before the scheduled election. All candidates shall be presented to the congregation unless the Elder Board is aware of an issue that would disqualify the individual as an Elder candidate. Candidates will be presented to the congregation at least fourteen (14) days before the scheduled election. Members of the congregation aware of issues that would disqualify an individual as an Elder should present the issue to the Elder Board. It is the responsibility of the Elder Board to investigate the issue and, if necessary remove the individuals name from consideration as an Elder.

Newly elected Elders begin serving at the beginning of the new calendar year, but may attend Elder meetings as non-voting members immediately upon election.

An unexpired term of two (2) years or less may be filled by appointment from the remaining Board members, subject to ratification by the congregation at the next congregational meeting.

E. Terms and Limitations

The term of office for Elders shall be three (3) years. Elections should be held such that approximately one-third (1/3) of the positions are filled annually. Elders shall be limited to two (2) consecutive three (3) year terms. An Elder may be selected to fill an unexpired term of two (2) years or less. In this case, the Elder shall be limited to the completion of the unexpired term, and one (1) additional, full term. Any Elder who has served two (2) consecutive terms, or has filled an unexpired term and one (1) additional term, shall not be eligible to serve as an Elder until he has been out of office at least one (1) year. The Lead Pastor is exempt from the rotation system.

F. Quorum and Unanimity

A quorum of the Elder Board shall be at least seventy-five (75) percent of its total membership.

Since the purpose of the Elder Board is to discern the Lord's will and oversee the ministries of the church for the congregation, Elders shall work toward unanimity in spirit and consensus in decisions. (Phil 1:27, Eph. 4:2-6)

G. Authority and Responsibilities

The Elder Board, in partnership with the Lead Pastor, shall provide spiritual leadership and guidance for God's vision for the church. They shall have overall responsibility for setting the direction, planning, coordination, and control of church goals and objectives. They shall meet regularly for prayer and discussion regarding the ministries of the church. They are responsible for the membership process and shall oversee the discipline and restoration policy and procedures. They will represent the congregation in relationships with the staff of the church. They shall see that the total organization operates consistently with the bylaws, policies, and procedures of the church. The Elders shall meet as often as necessary to carry out their duties. In addition, they will meet at least quarterly with the Ministry Team Leaders for communication and coordination between ministries. They shall, from time to time, establish and amend standing rules for conduct of all business of this congregation not specifically provided for in the constitution or the bylaws. These additions or amendments may be made by a majority vote of the Elder Board.

In addition to the responsibilities listed above, the Elder Board shall fulfill other responsibilities set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws.

H. Special Authority

The Elder Board shall have authority to enact limited budget deviations without prior approval from the congregation.

Individual deviations from the annual budget in excess of two (2) percent shall be made known to the congregation at the next congregational meeting. The total, cumulative deviation from the currently approved budget shall not exceed five (5) percent during any calendar year. Cumulative deviations greater than five (5) percent from the currently approved budget shall require congregational approval.

I. Removal

Any Elder may be removed from office by a vote of at least eighty (80) percent of all voting members of the Elder Board (excluding the Elder in question) or by a vote by written ballot of at

least seventy five (75) percent at any congregation meeting satisfying the requirements set forth in Article II.

ARTICLE VI – MINISTRY TEAMS

A. General

The congregation governs the church ministries through the Elder Board. The Elder Board, in turn, may delegate the authority for some of the ministry operations to Ministry Teams. Direction for Ministry Teams shall be provided by the Ministry Leader.

B. Purpose

The purpose of Ministry Teams is to fulfill the mission and vision of the church through specific areas of ministry.

Ministry Teams may be formed or disbanded as deemed necessary by the elder board.

C. Qualifications

Ministry Leaders shall be Church Members in good standing meeting the requirements of Article I and shall be approved by the Elder Board.

Should a Ministry Team require a Leadership Team, members of this Ministry Leadership Team shall be approved by the Elder Board.

D. Authority and Responsibilities

Ministry Teams remain under the authority of the Elder Board.

Ministry Leaders shall:

1. Provide leadership to the Ministry Team
2. Represent the Ministry Team on the Ministry Council
3. Infuse the ministry area with special emphasis as directed by the Ministry Council.
4. Operate the ministry team within the budget approved by the congregation and consistent with the mission and vision of the Church.

ARTICLE VII – MINISTRY COUNCIL

A. General

In response to congregational and ministry needs, the Elder Board provides direction and vision for ministry through the Ministry Council. The Ministry Council remains under the authority of the Elder Board.

B. Qualifications

Ministry Council members shall be men or women who are Ministry Team Leaders. As such they shall meet the spiritual requirements for leadership stated in Acts 6:3, I Timothy 3, and Titus. They shall be in full accord with the Statement of Faith.

C. Ministry Council Structure

1. The chairperson of the Ministry Council shall be the Lead Pastor or designee. If not the Lead Pastor, the designee shall be approved by the Elder Board.

2. The Elder Board shall assign one (1) or two (2) Elders to the Ministry Council. These individuals shall represent the Elder Board on the Ministry Council and shall act as liaisons between the Elder Board and the Ministry Council.
3. The Ministry Council chairperson shall appoint a secretary of the council from among the council members.

D. Meetings

The Ministry Council shall hold meetings at least quarterly. Meetings shall be called by the council chairperson.

E. Responsibilities

1. The Ministry Council shall meet for the purpose of leadership development, and coordination and cooperation among the various Ministry Teams.
2. The Ministry Council shall provide alignment of the various Ministry Teams with the core values and vision set forth by the Elder Board and the Lead Pastor.
3. Minutes of all council meetings shall be provided by the council secretary to each member of the council and to the Elder Board Secretary as soon as practicable.
4. A written annual report shall be presented by the Ministry Council to the Elder Board at a date to be determined by the Elder Board.

ARTICLE VIII – STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

A. General

Standing and special committees shall be established as necessary to discharge such duties as required. Standing and special committee members must meet the qualifications for Church Members set forth Article I. Standing committee members are to be elected for one (1) or two (2) year terms, as recommended by the Elder Board. Each committee shall select its own chairperson, unless otherwise specified. No person may serve more than six (6) consecutive years on a standing committee.

B. Standing Committees

These are permanent committees whose functions are required on a continuing or intermittent basis.

1. Auditing Committee

The Auditing Committee shall be responsible for securing periodic, independent audits or reviews of church financial records. The Auditing Committee shall also be responsible for and any other special audits requested by the Elder Board, including cooperation with outside audits. The Auditing Committee is accountable to the congregation. As such, the results of all audits shall be made available to the congregation.

The Auditing Committee shall consist of three (3) to five (5) members.

The congregation may choose to use a public accountant instead of electing an Audit Committee.

2. Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee shall be responsible to the congregation for choosing candidates for the position of Elder, following the guidelines set forth in Article V. The Nominating Committee shall assist with selecting candidates for Ministry Leadership Teams, as necessary.

The Nominating Committee shall consist of five (5) members, two (2) Elders and three (3) Church Members in good standing meeting the requirements of Article I. The Elders shall be selected by the Elder Board from its members. One of the Elders on the Nominating

Committee shall serve as the chairman. The at large members shall be elected by a simple majority vote at any congregational meeting fulfilling the requirements set forth in Article II.

LIMITATIONS – Members of the Nominating Committee and their spouses shall not be eligible for nomination for the positions of Elder, or Pastoral Staff during their term of service on the committee.

C. Special Committees

These are committees established by the congregation to complete an assigned task. When the task is complete, the special committee shall be dissolved.

ARTICLE IX – QUALIFICATIONS FOR CHURCH SERVICE

While many stewardship opportunities exist where church membership is not a specified prerequisite, it is nonetheless required that all who serve in a specific capacity serving the Body of Christ in this church be of one mind on fundamental issues. Therefore, it is required that any person serving in any such capacity or representing the church in any way (elected, appointed, invited, or hired) meet the spiritual qualifications for Church Member set forth in Article I and be in full agreement with the church's Statement of Faith. This does not waive the requirement for church membership as specified by the bylaws for certain offices or positions in the church.

ARTICLE X – CHURCH PROPERTY

A. Disposition

1. In case of division, the property of the church shall belong to those members who abide by the constitution of this church.
2. Should this church for any reason be dissolved or cease its activities, in harmony with the constitution, its property, both real and personal, shall become the property of the "North Central District Association of the Evangelical Free Church of America."

B. Sale, Lease, or Mortgage

No real property shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise disposed without the same having first been recommended by the Elder Board and approved by the congregation in a manner which conforms to state laws.

ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS

Any Church Member meeting the qualifications of Article I may make a proposal to amend or rescind any provisions of this constitution. Proposals shall be submitted in writing to the Elder Board. Such proposals shall be duly considered by the Elder Board. If such proposal is approved by an eighty (80) percent vote of the full Elder Board, the proposal shall be presented to the congregation at any business meeting fulfilling the requirements set forth in Article II. Copies of the proposal shall be available to the congregation at least three (3) Sundays prior to said meeting. An affirmative vote by written ballot of at least seventy five (75) percent at any congregation meeting satisfying the requirements set forth in Article II.