

**BYLAWS OF
THE VINE CHURCH, INC.
A NONPROFIT CORPORATION
WITNESSETH:**

**ARTICLE ONE
INTRODUCTION**

1.01. These Bylaws constitute the code of rules adopted by The Vine Church, Inc. (hereinafter the "Church") for the regulation and management of its affairs.

Purposes and Powers

1.02. The Church will have the purposes or powers as may be stated in its Articles of Incorporation, and such powers as are now or may be granted hereafter by law. The vision of the Church is to connect the world to Jesus Christ so the world may experience true life and purposeful living in him. The primary ways that we connect people to God are through corporate worship, connect groups, and compassionate outreach.

**ARTICLE TWO
DEFINITIONS**

2.01. The Church Board, known as the Leadership Accountability Team (LAT) oversees the operations, programs and ministries of the Church. This team consists of four teams as outlined below:

2.02. The Trustees Team is the group charged with the responsibility of oversight of any and all plans related to property and equipment owned by the church as well as the purchase or lease of new properties and equipment. Before being acted upon, such plans from the Trustees must be presented to the full LAT for approval. The staff liaisons for this team are the Business Administrator and the Lead Pastor.

2.03. The Finance Team shall work with the Business Administrator and the Lead Pastor to create an annual budget for the Church to be submitted to the full LAT for final adoption. The Finance Team shall be charged with the responsibility of reviewing and approving any out of budget expenses as well as recommending plans that will raise sufficient income to meet the budget adopted by the LAT. The staff liaisons for this team are the Business Administrator and the Lead Pastor.

2.04. The Staff Team provides oversight for the pastors and staff concerning their relationship with the congregation and the entire work of the Church. This team is in essence the personnel team of the church. The team is to be sensitive to the opinions and concerns of the congregation concerning the pastors and staff. The staff liaison for this team is the Lead Pastor.

2.05. The Nominations Team is responsible for identifying, developing, deploying, evaluating, and monitoring Christian spiritual leadership for the Church congregation. This team will annually recommend new LAT team members for approval by the full LAT. They will also recommend replacements for any LAT member who is unable to complete a term. The staff liaison for this team is the Lead Pastor.

2.06. Member or Membership in the Church shall consist of all persons who have met the requirements for membership as established by the Church.

ARTICLE THREE OFFICES AND AGENCY

Principal and Branch Offices

3.01. The principal office of the Church is 1897 Highway 211 NW, Suite 106, Hoschton, GA 30548. The Church may maintain other offices either within or outside the State of Georgia as the LAT may from time to time designate or the business of the corporation may require or make desirable. The chairperson/leader of the Trustee Team shall serve as the CEO of the Church.

Location of Registered Office

3.02. The location of the registered office of the corporation is 525 Candler Street, Suite 6 Gainesville, GA 30501. The registered agent is Stacey Gravitt, CPA. The corporation may amend this Article at any time to change its registered office or registered agent, without further action of its officers or directors, by filing with the Secretary of State a notice of such change, in accordance with Section 14-3-502 of the Code, or any successor statute.

ARTICLE FOUR MEMBERSHIP

Qualifications of Members

4.01. The Church Members' qualifications and rights, by classification, are as follows: After attending a membership class, a person may join the Church and become a Member by profession of faith or by reaffirmation of vows if transferring membership from another Christian Church. Candidates for Membership must agree with the Church's Statement of Faith and agree to faithfully participate in the life and ministries of the Church through their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

Rights of Members

4.02. Membership shall consist of active and inactive members. An "inactive member" is defined as a member who is attending another church, or a member who has not upheld the

membership vows of the Church in twelve months with the exception of those members who are homebound due to medical reasons or age.

Only active Members of the Church are entitled to vote or serve on the LAT.

Termination of Membership

4.03. Members shall be removed from the Church roll for the following reasons:

1. Death
2. Transfer of membership to another church as communicated in writing
3. By request of the member

ARTICLE FIVE ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

Organization

5.01. The Church organization shall include the following standing boards, councils, and teams: a Leadership Accountability Team which is subdivided equally into four standing subteams: a Trustees Team, a Finance Team, a Staff Team, and a Nominations Team. These subteams should maintain membership representing both genders and all campuses. The Church may be organized to include standing and *ad hoc* commissions, councils, task forces, or teams as the LAT may establish from time to time, or as set forth in these Bylaws as amended.

1. All other administrative and programmatic structures of the Church shall be amenable to the LAT.
2. Members of the LAT or alternative structure shall be persons of genuine Christian character who love the Church, are morally disciplined, are loyal to the ethical and theological standards of the Church set forth in the Statement of Faith and are competent to administer its affairs. All voting persons shall be Members of the Church and uphold their membership vows to faithfully participate in the life and ministries of the Church through prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.
3. The Lead Pastor shall be the administrative officer of the Church and, as such, shall be an *ex officio* member of all conferences, boards, councils, commissions, teams, and task forces. The Lead Pastor may appoint other staff members to aid in *ex officio* duties and responsibilities.

ARTICLE SIX LEADERSHIP ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM

Number and Distribution

6.0.1 There shall be a Leadership Accountability Team consisting of twelve laypersons of legal age, as determined by law, and who shall be active members of the Church. The LAT membership should include equal representation from all campuses and equal representation of women and men.

A quorum consists of at least 50% of total LAT members.

Term

6.02. The LAT shall be divided into four teams with an equal number of members as closely as possible. Each year, the LAT—based on nominations from the Nominations Team or from the floor—shall elect the necessary number of members to replace those whose terms are expiring. Elections will take place at the end of the calendar year or at another time set by the LAT. Each elected member will serve a three-year term or until a successor is elected and qualified.

Removal

6.03. Removal of an LAT member shall be affected as follows:

1. Should an LAT member's membership in the Church be terminated, LAT membership therein shall automatically cease from the date of such withdrawal or exclusion.
2. Should an LAT member refuse to execute properly a legal instrument relating to any property of the Church when directed so to do by the LAT and when all legal requirements have been satisfied with reference to such execution, the said LAT may by majority vote declare that member's membership on the LAT vacated.
3. Vacancies occurring on LAT should be filled by nomination for the unexpired term. Such nominations shall be held in the same manner as for all LAT members.

Meetings

6.04. The LAT shall meet approximately every month for the purpose of conducting Church business. It may meet at other times as indicated for the purposes defined below in LAT Powers and Duties. The Lead Pastor shall preside over LAT Meetings, or in the event of their absence in the case that the Lead Pastor is unable to attend, the LAT in consultation with the Lead Pastor, may reschedule the meeting or appoint another representative who shall preside. A quorum consists of 50% of LAT members.

Special sessions may be called by the Lead Pastor or the LAT after consultation with the Lead Pastor. The purpose of such a session shall be stated in the notice, and only such business shall be transacted as is in harmony with the purposes stated in the notice.

Duties and Obligations

6.05. The LAT shall organize and provide oversight to the Church according to these Bylaws. When the membership size, program scope, mission resources, or other circumstances so require, the LAT, may, in consultation with the Lead Pastor, modify the organizational plans, provided that the beliefs of the Statement of Faith are observed. Such other circumstances may include, but not be limited to, alternative models for the conception of the Church. Changes may be initiated by the Lead Pastor or following a written request to the Lead Pastor by one of the following: the LAT, or 10 percent of the active membership of the Church. The general provisions relating to the LAT are that:

The powers and duties of LAT are as follows:

1. The LAT shall have general oversight of a Staff Team, a Trustees Team, a Finance Team, a Nominations Team, and such other elected leaders, commissions, councils, task forces, or teams as the LAT may determine.
2. The primary responsibilities of the LAT shall be to review and evaluate the total mission and ministries of the Church, receive reports, and vote on objectives and goals recommended by the staff or other LAT members.
3. The LAT shall designate a recording secretary who shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings and shall be the custodian of all records and reports.
4. The LAT shall determine the number of members at large and other membership considerations to serve on the LAT. The current structure consists of 12 members including with the goal/intent that there should be equal representation from each campus and equal representation of male and female members.
5. The LAT may set term limits for any or all the appointed LAT members of the Church except where otherwise mandated. It is recommended that no LAT member serve more than three consecutive years with a maximum of four years in the case of midyear transitions.
6. The LAT shall have the supervision, oversight, care, protection, and policies pertaining to all real property owned by the Church and of all property and equipment acquired directly by the Church or by any society, board, class, commission, or similar organization connected therewith; provided, further, that the LAT shall not prevent or interfere with the pastor(s) in the use of any of the said property for religious services or other proper meetings or purposes recognized by the law, usages, and customs of the Church, or permit the use of said property for religious or other meetings without the consent of the pastor(s).

Nominations and Elections

6.06. The LAT shall elect upon recommendation from the Nominations Team of the LAT at least the following leaders:

1. The Nominations Team
2. The Staff Team
3. The Finance Team
4. The Trustees Team

ARTICLE SEVEN LEAD PASTOR

Appointment

7.01 The pastor is the leader of pastoral ministries of the Church. He shall work with the LAT and church staff in achieving its mission. The Lead Pastor serves based on the Pastor Agreement document. The Lead Pastor shall be appointed and approved by the LAT team.

Duties

7.02. The Lead Pastor is accountable to the LAT and shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Serve as an ex-officio member of all Church boards, teams and councils.
2. Organize the Church staff and direct its activities.
3. Facilitate and effectuate these Bylaws, including the Church Vision and Statement of Faith set forth herein.

Term

7.03 The Lead Pastor shall serve until one of the following:

1. Death
2. Resignation
3. Removal for cause as stated in the Pastor Employment Agreement
4. End of term as outlined in the Pastor Employment Agreement

ARTICLE EIGHT STATEMENT OF FAITH

Precedence

8.01. In any case where the Statement of Faith and these Bylaws may conflict, the Statement of Faith shall be deemed to control. And, in any case where the Bylaws do not address an issue, matter or concern affecting the beliefs of the Church, those portions of the Statement of Faith which provide guidance, direction or the policy of the Church shall be controlling.

Revisions

8.02. If revisions to the Statement of Faith are deemed necessary, these will be initiated by the Lead Pastor and approved by the LAT.

ARTICLE NINE OPERATIONS

Fiscal Year

9.01. The fiscal year of this Church shall be the calendar year.

Execution of Documents

9.02. Except as otherwise provided by law, promissory notes, orders for the payment of money, and other evidences of indebtedness of this Church shall be signed by two Staff Members. This may include the Lead Pastor or, in Lead Pastor's absence and with the Lead Pastor's consent, Staff the Lead Pastor selects. Contracts, leases, or other instruments executed in the name of and on behalf of the Church shall be signed by Business Administrator or another staff member as named by the Lead Pastor.

Executors of Documents

9.03. The executors of documents pertaining to the powers and duties granted in this document shall be the LAT.

Books and Records

9.04. The Church shall keep correct and complete books and records of account, and minutes of the proceedings of its Members and LAT gatherings.

Financial Authority

9.05. The Business Administrator and/or financial staff members shall be named as account owner on financial accounts. Oversight of the church budget and financial statements is the responsibility of the Finance Team and is done in consultation with the Lead Pastor and the Business Administrator.

ARTICLE TEN AMENDMENTS

Amendment of Articles of Incorporation

10.01. The power to alter, amend, or repeal the Articles of Incorporation of this Church is vested in the LAT.

Modification of Bylaws

10.02. The power to alter, amend, or repeal these Bylaws, or to adopt new Bylaws, insofar as is allowed by law, is vested in the LAT.

10.03. The Bylaws shall be reviewed as necessary.

ADOPTION OF NEW BYLAWS

Adopted by the Leadership Accountability Team by resolution and vote of ____ to ____ on DATE, 20XX, in Hoschton, Georgia.

Leadership Accountability Team

Approving:

Dissenting:
