

PLACERIA BIBLE CHURCH

Bylaws

Adopted December 7, 2014

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Printed in the United States of America

Placerita Bible Church
22004 Placerita Canyon Road
Newhall, California 91321

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SECTION 1

Location of Offices

The name of this Corporation is Placerita Bible Church. It is a California nonprofit religious Corporation with its principal offices in Newhall California.

SECTION 2

Purpose

This Corporation is organized for exclusively religious purposes (including charitable and eleemosynary purposes common to a pastoral church ministry as defined by Scripture). Our commission is summarized as follows: “And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age’” (Matthew 28:18–20)

SECTION 3

Statement of Faith

The statement of faith of this Corporation is that which is incorporated in its Articles of Incorporation as filed in the Office of the Secretary of State of the State of California.

At the direction of the Elders, the statement of faith is supplemented and clarified by *What We Teach*, “The Elders Statement on Marriage, Divorce, Remarriage and Sexuality,” (See APPENDIX A) the Doctrinal Distinctives issued by the Elders, and such other doctrinal statements as may be subsequently issued by the Elders.

SECTION 4

Corporate Membership

Section 4.1 Corporate Members

The Corporation shall have no members. Any action which would otherwise require approval by a majority of all members shall only require approval of the Board of Elders (also known as the ‘Board’). All rights which would otherwise vest in the members shall vest in the Board of Elders.

Section 4.2 Members of the Fellowship

Nothing contained in Section 1 of this Article shall be construed to limit the right of the Corporation to refer to persons associated with the Corporation as ‘church members’ even though such persons are not members of the Corporation, and no such reference in or outside of these Bylaws shall constitute anyone being a member, within the meaning of Section 5056 of the California Nonprofit Corporation Law. The Corporation may confer by amendment of its Articles or of these Bylaws some or all of the rights of a member, as set forth in the California Nonprofit Corporation Law, upon any person or persons who do not have the right to vote for the election of officers or on a disposition of substantially all of the assets of the Corporation or on a merger or on a dissolution or on changes to the Corporation’s Articles or Bylaws, but no such person shall be a member within the meaning of said Section 5056.

SECTION 5

Church Membership

Section 5.1 Purpose of the Fellowship

The congregation of Christian believers who have applied for church membership and have been duly accepted shall constitute a spiritual body, united for the spiritual purposes set forth in the Articles of Incorporation at Article II, and in Article II of these Bylaws.

Section 5.2 Active Membership

Active church membership in the Placerita Bible Church shall be open to all persons over the age of 13 who confess Christ as their Lord and Savior and who have been baptized by immersion. Any exception to the age limit will be at the discretion of the Board of Elders.

Section 5.3 Voting Privileges

Membership in this church shall not vest in any church member any proprietary rights in the Corporation, but shall only entitle the church member to vote at a meeting of the church members on those matters that the Board of Elders chooses to submit to the church membership for affirmation. In such cases, voting privileges are restricted to church members who are in good standing, who are not under any disciplinary action, and who have passed their sixteenth (16) birthday. Membership shall not be assignable inter vivos by any church member nor shall that membership vest to any personal representative, heir, or devisee.

Section 5.4 Applications for Membership

All requests for membership shall be made to a Pastor, Elder, or Deacon. Upon making such a request, the person shall be given an application for membership, along with a copy of the Statement of Faith contained in the Articles of Incorporation and a copy of the Bylaws. A Pastor, Elder, or Deacon shall meet with the applicant following receipt of the application. Each applicant shall assent to the Statement of Faith, subscribe to the Bylaws, and shall testify publicly before a duly appointed Committee of the Board, per Article VI, Section 17 of these Bylaws, at a regularly held meeting for prospective church members. Any questions about or disagreements with the Statement of Faith or Bylaws must be indicated on the membership application. A duly appointed Committee of the Board will evaluate these questions or disagreements to determine whether the request for membership will be approved.

Section 5.5 Denial of Membership

If, upon review of an application for membership or after meeting with a prospective church member, the Board of Elders determines that the applicant does not confess Jesus Christ as his or her Lord and Savior, or that there is a lack of evidence of a godly lifestyle, membership shall be denied. The decision made by the Board shall be final and there shall be no appeal to any court from that decision.

Section 5.6 Admission of Applicants

Applicants admitted to membership shall, if possible, present themselves at a worship service designated by the Pastor-Teacher and Board of Elders, at which service such applicants shall publicly affirm their membership commitment and be publicly acknowledged as church members.

Section 5.7 Responsibilities of Members

Church members shall seek to exercise their spiritual gifts for the mutual benefit of all the church body and shall submit to the loving rule of the Elders.

Section 5.8 Church Discipline

- (a) The threefold purpose of church discipline is to glorify God by maintaining purity in the local church (1 Corinthians 5:6), to edify believers by deterring sin (1 Timothy 5:20), and to promote the spiritual welfare of the offending believer by calling him or her to return to a biblical standard of doctrine and conduct (Galatians 6:1).
- (b) Members of this church and all other professing Christians who regularly attend or fellowship with this church who err in doctrine, or who engage in conduct that violates Scripture as determined by the Board of Elders, shall be subject to church discipline, including dismissal according to Matthew 18:15–18. Before such dismissal, however, (1) it shall be the duty of any member of this church who has knowledge of the erring individual's heresy or misconduct to warn and correct such erring individual in private, seeking his or her repentance and restoration. If the erring individual does not heed this warning, then (2) the warning church member shall again go to the erring individual, seeking his or her repentance, but accompanied by one or two individuals who shall confirm that the sin has occurred or is continuing to occur, and/or that the erring individual has been appropriately confronted and has refused to repent. The first and second warnings may occur with no specified time interval. If the erring individual still refuses to heed this warning, then (3) it shall be brought to the attention of the Board of Elders (or a duly appointed Committee of the Board, per Article VI, Section 17 of these Bylaws, at the sole discretion of the Board). If the Board of Elders (or a duly appointed Committee of the Board, per Article VI, Section 17 of these Bylaws, at the sole discretion of the Board) determines—after thorough investigation in accord with the procedures prescribed by pertinent Scripture, including Matthew 18:15–18 and 1 Timothy 5:19—that there is corroborating evidence that the erring individual has sinned or is continuing to sin, that he or she has been appropriately confronted, and that he or she has refused to repent, then the Elders shall inform the church and the congregation thereof at a regularly scheduled worship service in order that the church may call the erring individual to repentance. If the erring individual demonstrates repentance, then notice to that effect may be given at a regularly scheduled worship service. If, however, the erring individual does not repent in response to the church in its collective call to repentance, then (4) he or she shall be publicly dismissed from the fellowship and/or membership of the church and the congregation thereof at a regularly scheduled worship service. If the erring individual, after such dismissal, heeds the warning, demonstrates repentance, and requests reinstatement before the Board of Elders (or a duly appointed Committee of the Board, per Article VI, Section 17 of these Bylaws, at the sole discretion of the Board), then he or she shall be publicly restored to all the rights, duties, privileges, and responsibilities of fellowship and/or membership.
- (c) Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Elders in the exercise of their discretion may proceed directly to the third stage of church discipline, (i.e. the informing of the church and the congregation thereof at a regularly scheduled worship service in order that the church may call the erring individual to repentance) or to the fourth stage of church discipline, (i.e. the dismissal from the fellowship and/or membership of the church) when one or more of the following have occurred:
 - (i) Where the transgression and the refusal to repent have been public, i.e. openly and to the offense of the whole Church (1 Cor. 5:15);
 - (ii) Where the disciplined party has taught or otherwise disseminated doctrine deemed false or erroneous by the Elders, then chosen to disregard the direction and reproof of the Elders (Romans 16:17); or
 - (iii) Where the disciplined party has been warned twice to cease from factious and divisive conduct and has chosen to disregard that warning (Titus 3:10–11).

- (d) The members of this church, and all other professing Christians who regularly attend or fellowship with this church, agree that there shall be no appeal to any court because of the dismissal or because of public statements to the congregation at the third or fourth stages of church discipline. Members of this church who are under discipline by the church, as defined in the previous paragraphs, forfeit and waive the right to resign from this church. Resignations from membership are possible only by church members who are in good standing and who are not under any disciplinary action.
- (e) Separate and apart from the process of church discipline, but subject to the discretion and approval of the Elders (or a duly constituted subcommittee thereof), a church member, non-member regular attender, or other individual may be notified that he or she is not to be present upon church premises for such a period of time as is deemed necessary for the safety and well-being of others on church premises. Such required absence may, but need not, be concurrent with church discipline of that person.
- (f) Separate and apart from the process of church discipline, but subject to the discretion and approval of the Elders (or a duly constituted subcommittee thereof), the names of any church members who have not attended a worship service, Sunday School class session or Fellowship Group meeting at Placerita Bible Church for a period of six months or longer may be removed from the membership rolls.

Section 5.9 Special Meetings

Special meetings of church members may be called at any time by order of the Pastor Teacher, the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Board of Elders, or by a quorum of the members of the Board of Elders.

Section 5.10 Notice of Meetings

Notice of special meetings shall be given from the pulpit at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting and shall also be published in the regular church bulletin on the Sunday immediately preceding the meeting.

Section 5.11 Quorum

At all meetings of church members, the church members present shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 5.12 Voting Rights

Those admitted to church membership do not constitute a legislative body, nor do they constitute members of the Corporation, and they cannot vote, pass resolutions binding upon the Corporation, nor shall they have any equity in the real property of the Corporation, or rights to vote on its disposal. Said property of the Corporation is dedicated to religious and charitable purposes as outlined in the Articles of Incorporation.

SECTION 6 Elders

Section 6.1 Powers

Subject to the limitations of the Articles and these Bylaws and of pertinent restrictions of the Corporation Code of the State of California, all the activities and affairs of the Corporation shall be exercised by or under the direction of the Board of Elders, who are responsible for shepherding and having oversight of the flock. Without prejudice to such general powers, but subject to these same limitations, it is hereby expressly declared that the Board shall have the following powers in addition to the other powers enumerated by these Bylaws:

- (a) To select and remove all the officers, agents, pastors, staff, and employees of the Corporation; prescribe such duties for them consistent with the Scriptures, with law, with the Articles of Incorporation, or with these Bylaws; and fix the terms of their offices and their compensation.
- (b) To make such disbursements from the funds and properties of the Corporation as are required to fulfill the purposes of this Corporation as are more fully set out in the Articles of Incorporation, thereof and generally to conduct, manage, and control the activities and affairs of the Corporation and to make such rules and regulations consistent with the Scriptures, with law, with the Articles of Incorporation, or with these Bylaws, as they may deem best.
- (c) To adopt, make and use a corporate seal, and to alter the form of such seal from time to time as they may deem best.
- (d) To establish policies and practices for the church consistent with the purposes of this Corporation.
- (e) To assist the Pastor-Teacher in the administration of the ordinances of Baptism and Communion. Each serving Elder is authorized to solemnize marriages.
- (f) To borrow money and incur indebtedness for the purposes of the Corporation and to cause to be executed and delivered, in the corporate name, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, deeds of trust, mortgages, pledges, hypothecations, or other evidences of debt and securities.
- (g) To carry on a business and apply any such profit that results from the business activity in which it may legally engage.

Section 6.2 Number of Elders

In accordance with the provisions of Section 9151 of the California Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law, the authorized number of directors of the Corporation shall not be less than five (5), with the majority being Lay, until changed by an amendment to the Articles of Incorporation or by an amendment to these Bylaws.

Section 6.3 Nomination, Selection, and Tenure of Office

Recommendations to fill the office of Elder shall be requested once a year from all church members. The Board may then add to the list of nominees and shall then approve or disapprove each nominee at its sole discretion. The newly selected Elders shall assume office immediately. Notwithstanding the foregoing, an Elder may be selected by the Board at any time and begin to serve immediately. Provided the Elder meets all biblical requirements for service in that capacity, there are no required, or defined, limits on an Elder's term of office.

Section 6.4 Qualifications

Each member of the Board of Elders must be an active member of this church and possess the qualifications described in 1 Timothy 3:1–7 and Titus 1:6–9. He shall be:

- (a) Blameless as a steward of God; above reproach (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6–7)
- (b) Husband of one wife; a one-woman man (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6)
- (c) Temperate, sober, vigilant (1 Timothy 3:2)
- (d) Sober-minded, prudent (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8)
- (e) Of good behavior; orderly, respectable (1 Timothy 3:2)
- (f) Given to hospitality (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8)
- (g) Apt to teach; able to teach; he can exhort believers and refute false teaching (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9)
- (h) Not given to wine (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7)
- (i) Not violent; not pugnacious (1 Timothy 3:3, Titus 1:7)
- (j) Patient, moderate, forbearing, gentle (1 Timothy 3:3)
- (k) Not a brawler; uncontentious; not soon angry or quick-tempered (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7)
- (l) Not covetous; not a lover of money; not greedy of base gain (1 Timothy 3:3, Titus 1:7)
- (m) Rules well his own house; the children in his home are faithful, not accused of rebellion to God (1 Timothy 3:4; Titus 1:6)
- (n) Not a novice; not a new convert (1 Timothy 3:6)
- (o) Has a good report or reputation with outsiders (1 Timothy 3:7)
- (p) Not self-willed (Titus 1:7)
- (q) A lover of good men and things (Titus 1:8)
- (r) Just, fair (Titus 1:8)
- (s) Holy, devout (Titus 1:8)
- (t) Self-controlled (Titus 1:8)

Section 6.5 Resignation

Subject to the provision of Section 9226 of the California Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law, any Elder may resign effective upon giving written notice to the Chairman of the Board or the Secretary of the Board, unless the notice specifies a later time for the effectiveness of such resignation. If the resignation is to take effect at some future time, a successor may be selected before that time.

Section 6.6 Removal of Elders

Any Elder may be removed from office at any regular or special meeting of the Board if he is found to be physically or mentally incapacitated or spiritually unqualified (according to pertinent Scripture, including 1 Timothy 3:1–7 and Titus 1:5–9), after thorough corroborating investigation by the Elders (or a duly appointed Committee of the Board, per Article VI, Section 17 of these Bylaws, at the sole discretion of the Board), in accord with the procedures prescribed by pertinent Scripture, including Matthew 18:15–18 and 1 Timothy 5:19. When an Elder is removed because of sin that is deemed sufficient to disqualify him from shepherding, the removal shall be accompanied by a public rebuke, and notice shall be made before the church and the congregation thereof at a regularly-scheduled worship service as prescribed in 1 Timothy 5:20.

Section 6.7 Place of Meetings

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary provided in these Bylaws, any meeting (whether regular, special, or adjourned) of the Board of Elders of the Corporation may be held at any place within or without the State of California.

Section 6.8 Regular Meetings

Regular meetings of the Board shall be held without call or notice on the first Tuesday of each month, unless otherwise modified by the Board. Regular meetings shall be open to church members. At its sole discretion, the Board of Elders may at any time designate a portion of any or all regular meetings as "Elders only" or "Lay Elders only," at which time only the Elders or Lay Elders, respectively, may attend and participate.

Section 6.9 Special Meetings

Special meetings of the Board of Elders may be called at any time by order of the Chairman or Vice-Chairman or the Secretary of the Board of Elders or by a quorum of the members of the Board of Elders. At its sole discretion, the Board of Elders may at any time designate a portion of any or all special meetings as "Elders only" or "Lay Elders only," at which time only the Elders or Lay Elders, respectively, may attend and participate.

Section 6.10 Notice of Special Meetings

In accordance with the provisions of Section 9211 (a)(2) of the California Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law, special meetings of the Board shall be held upon four days' notice by first-class mail or a forty-eight-hour notice given personally or by telephone, email or other similar means of communication. Any such notice shall be addressed or delivered to each Elder or at such Elder's address as it is shown upon the records of the Corporation or as may have been given to the Corporation by the Elder for such purpose of notice.

Section 6.11 Quorum

Except as otherwise provided herein, a majority of the Elders currently serving shall constitute a quorum. A majority of the Elders present, whether or not a quorum is present, may adjourn any meeting to another time and place. Whenever the matter to be considered concerns calling or dismissing a pastor, or buying or selling real estate, a quorum shall consist of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Board currently serving. Whenever the matter to be considered is of a nature to require action by Lay Elders only, a majority of the Lay Elders currently serving shall constitute a quorum.

Except as the Articles of Incorporation, these Bylaws and the California Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law may provide, the act or decision done or made by the Elders present at a regular or special meeting duly held at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board of Elders.

Section 6.12 Participation in Meetings by Conference Communication

Members of the Board may participate in a meeting through use of conference telephone or similar communications equipment so long as all members participating in such meeting can hear one another.

Section 6.13 Adjournment

A majority of the Elders present, whether or not a quorum is present, may adjourn any Elders' meeting to another time and place. Notice of the time and place of holding an adjourned meeting need not be given to absent Elders if the time and place is fixed at the meeting adjourned, except as provided in the next sentence. If the meeting is adjourned for more than forty-eight (48) hours, notice of any adjournment to another time or place shall be given prior to the time of the adjourned meeting to the Elders who were not present at the time of the adjournment.

Section 6.14 Action Without Meeting

Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Board may be taken without a meeting if all members of the Board shall individually or collectively consent in writing to a duly prepared resolution to such action. Such consent or consents shall have the same effect as a unanimous vote of the Board and shall be documented by attaching the signed resolution with the minutes of proceedings of the Board.

Section 6.15 Rights of Inspection

In accordance with the provisions of Section 9513 of the California Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law, every Elder shall have the absolute right at any reasonable time to inspect and copy all books, records, and documents of every kind and to inspect the physical properties of the Corporation of which such person is an Elder, for a purpose reasonably related to such person's interest as an Elder.

Section 6.16 Decisions of the Board of Elders

Decisions shall be reached after prayerful consideration by unanimous vote in a spirit of humility, with each Elder regarding one another before himself.

Section 6.17 Committees

Committees of the Board may be appointed by resolution passed by a majority of the entire Board currently serving. Committees shall be composed of two or more members of the Board and shall have such powers of the Board as may be expressly delegated to it by resolution of the Board of Elders, except with respect to:

- (a) The approval of any action for which the California Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law also requires member approval (which must be approved by the Board as a whole, as the Corporation has no members pursuant to Article IV, Section 1 of these Bylaws).
- (b) The filling of vacancies on the Board or on any committee.
- (c) The amendment or repeal of Bylaws or the adoption of new Bylaws.
- (d) The amendment or repeal of any resolution of the Board which by its express terms is not so amendable or repealable.
- (e) The appointment of other committees of the Board or the members thereof.
- (f) The approval of any self-dealing transaction, as such transactions are defined in Section 9243(A) of the California Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law. The Board shall have the power to prescribe the manner in which proceedings of any such committee shall be conducted. In the absence of any such prescription, such committee shall have the power to prescribe the manner in which its proceedings shall be conducted. Unless the Board or such committee shall otherwise provide, the regular and special meetings and other actions of any such committee shall be governed by the provision of this Article applicable to meetings and actions of the Board. Minutes shall be kept of each meeting of each committee.

Section 6.18 Fees and Compensation

Elders (as such) shall not receive any stated or fixed salary for their services, however, nothing herein contained shall be construed to preclude any Elders from serving the Corporation in any other capacity and receiving compensation in that capacity. Any person receiving compensation directly or indirectly from Placerita Bible Church shall not be in a position to determine the nature or amount of said compensation.

SECTION 7

Other Councils and Committees

Section 7.1 Deacons

The Deacons shall consist of church members possessing the qualifications described in 1 Timothy 3:8–13 and shall be nominated annually by members of the church. The Board of Elders will compile, review and, at its sole discretion, confirm or disapprove each of the nominations. The Deacons shall serve until they resign or are removed by the Board of Elders. The Deacons shall assist the Elders in the shepherding of the saints, assist the Pastor at Communion and baptismal services, aid in the general spiritual care of the church, care for the sick and needy, and perform other duties as assigned by the Board of Elders. A Deacon shall be a man of dignity, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not fond of sordid gain, holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience, first tested and found above reproach.

Section 7.2 Councils and Committees

To promote efficient handling of Board matters, the Board may appoint various councils and committees from within its membership, the staff, and from the church at large. These councils and committees shall perform tasks solely in accordance with the duties and with powers specifically delegated by the Board. The general functions of councils and committees are:

- (a) To bring considered recommendations to the Board concerning ministries.
- (b) To provide a wider base of counsel to the Elders having the oversight of specific ministries.

All councils and committees shall exist for the period specified by the Board.

SECTION 8

Officers

Section 8.1 Officers

The officers of the Corporation shall be a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, and a Secretary. The Corporation may also have, at the discretion of the Board of Elders, other officers as may be appointed in accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of this article.

Section 8.2 Election

The officers of the Corporation, except such officers as may be appointed in accordance with the provisions of Section 3 or Section 5 of this Article, shall be chosen annually by, and shall serve at, the pleasure of the Board of Elders. Each officer shall hold his office until he shall resign, be removed, or become otherwise disqualified to serve, or until his successor shall be elected and qualified.

Section 8.3 Subordinate Officers

The Board of Elders may appoint, and may empower the Chairman to appoint, such other officers as the business of the Corporation may require, each of whom shall hold office for such period, have such authority, and perform such duties as are provided in the Bylaws or as the Board of Elders may from time to time determine.

Section 8.4 Removal and Resignation

Any officer may be removed upon disqualification and removal as an Elder per Article VI, Section 6 of these Bylaws. In accordance with the provisions of Section 9213 (b) of the California Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law, any officer may resign at any time without prejudice to the rights, if any, of the Corporation under any contract to which the officer is a party, by giving written notice to the Board of Elders, or to the Chairman, or to the Secretary of the Corporation. Any such resignation shall take effect at the date of the receipt of such notice or at any later time specified therein; and, unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

Section 8.5 Vacancies

A vacancy in any office because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or any other cause shall be filled in the manner prescribed in the Bylaws for regular election or appointment to such office, provided that such vacancies shall be filled as they occur and are not required to be filled on an annual basis.

Section 8.6 Inability to Act

In the case of absence or inability to act of any officer of the Corporation and of any person herein authorized to act in his place, the Board of Elders may from time to time delegate the powers or duties of such officer to any other officer or other person whom the Board may select.

Section 8.7 The Chairman

The Chairman shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation and shall, subject to the control of the Board of Elders, have general supervision, direction, and control of the activities and officers of the Corporation. He shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Elders, which are to be conducted according to the scriptural principles such as set forth in Philippians 2:2–8. He shall be an ex officio member of all the standing committees, if any, and shall have powers and duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Elders or the Bylaws.

Section 8.8 Vice-Chairman

In the absence or disability of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman shall perform all the duties of the Chairman, and when so acting shall have all the powers of, and be subject to all the restrictions upon, the Chairman. The Vice-Chairman shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as from time to time may be prescribed for him by the Board of Elders or the Bylaws.

Section 8.9 Secretary

The Secretary shall keep, or cause to be kept, a book of minutes at the principal office or such other place as the Board of Elders may order, of all meetings of church members, the Board and its committees, with the time and place of holding, whether regular or special, and if special, how authorized, the notice thereof given, the names of those present at the meetings, the Board and committees' meetings, and the proceedings thereof. The Secretary shall keep, or cause to be kept, at the principal office in the State of California the original and a copy of the Corporation's Articles and Bylaws, as amended to date. The Secretary shall give, or cause to be given, notice of all meetings of the Board and any committees thereof required by these Bylaws or by law to be given, shall keep the seal of the Corporation in safe custody, and shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as prescribed by the Board. The Secretary shall keep, or cause to be kept at the principal office of the Corporation, a church membership register, or a duplicated membership register, showing the names of church members and their addresses.

Section 8.10 Treasurer

The Treasurer shall ensure the stewardship of the physical and financial resources of the Corporation, "taking precaution that no one should discredit us in our administration...for we have regard for what is honorable, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men" (2 Corinthians 8:20–21). He shall select "men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom" (Acts 6:3) to implement and accomplish this responsibility. The Treasurer shall ensure that all financial activities and transactions are consistent with Articles I, II, III, VI, XII, XIII, XIV, XV, XVI, and XVII of these Bylaws as well as Sections 9230 (d) (Use of Designated Contributions), 9243 (Self-Dealing Transactions), and 9244 (Interlocking Directorates) of the California Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law. The Treasurer shall keep and maintain, or cause to be kept and maintained, adequate and correct accounts of the properties and business transactions of the Corporation. The books of account shall at all reasonable times be open to inspection by any Elder as provided in Section 9513 of the California Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law. The Treasurer shall deposit, or cause to be deposited, all monies and other valuables in the name and to the credit of the Corporation with such depositories as may be designated by the Board of Elders. He shall disburse, or cause to be disbursed, the funds of the Corporation as may be ordered by the Board of Elders, shall render, or cause to be rendered, to the Chairman and the Elders, whenever they request it, an account of all the transactions and of the financial condition of the Corporation, and shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Elders. He shall make, or cause to be made, the financial reports at each regular Board meeting and at any meetings of church members where such financial reports are to be provided.

SECTION 9

Ordination, Licensing, and Commissioning

Section 9.1 Ordination

Ordination refers to the unanimous recognition by the Board of Elders of a man's call to the ministry, preparation as a shepherd, and qualification to serve. Ordination shall be conferred for life, so long as the man continues to manifest the qualifications of the office.

Section 9.2 Licensing

The license is issued by the Board of Elders and is given in recognition of a man's service in a ministry. Its aim is to allow a man to perform the ecclesiastical duties and functions of the church. Licenses will be regularly evaluated and are subject revocation at any time at the sole discretion of the Elders. Licenses are to be issued only to church members of Placerita Bible Church.

Section 9.3 Commissioning

When local-church certification is required for ministry or where ordination would otherwise be unnecessary or inappropriate, a person may be commissioned by the Board of Elders to minister. This commissioning continues as long as the opportunity to minister remains in effect and as long as the person maintains the qualifications for ministry, or until the Board of Elders in its sole discretion revokes the commissioning.

Section 9.4 Marriages and Weddings

All who are ordained, licensed, commissioned or otherwise authorized by this church to solemnize marriages may do so, in the exercise of religious freedom, only where the participants are one man and one woman (Gen. 2:21–24; Matt. 19:4–6; Mark 10:6–9). Church facilities may be used for weddings only where both prospective spouses meet the guidelines in Section 9.4 and are in full agreement with it; church facilities are not available to the general public for that purpose.

SECTION 10 The Pastor-Teacher

Section 10.1 Election

The Pastor-Teacher shall be selected and confirmed by the Board of Elders at its sole discretion. He shall remain in office an indefinite period of time subject to the following reservations: the Elders reserve the right to dismiss the Pastor-Teacher upon giving him one month's written notice of its intention to dismiss. The Pastor-Teacher must give one month's notice if he intends to resign. The time limit of a Pastor-Teacher's resignation or dismissal is subject to a lesser time if both the Pastor-Teacher and the church by mutual agreement provide otherwise.

Section 10.2 Duties

The Pastor-Teacher shall be an ex officio member of all councils and committees, and he shall be responsible to the Board of Elders. The Pastor-Teacher shall arrange for and conduct all public and regular services of the church and shall be responsible for general oversight of the spiritual welfare of the church. In the absence of the Pastor-Teacher, the Board of Elders (or a duly appointed Committee of the Board, per Article VI, Section 17 of these Bylaws, at the sole discretion of the Board), shall be responsible to arrange for the public and regular services of the church.

SECTION 11 Settlement of Disputes

In any dispute arising between church members, pastors, or staff pertaining to any matter of spiritual teaching or practices, church finances, or title to property purchased with church contributions, the dispute shall be resolved by the Board of Elders of the church (or a duly appointed Committee of the Board, per Article VI, Section 17 of these Bylaws, at the sole discretion of the Board). A decision shall be reached after prayerful consideration, in a spirit of humility, with each Elder regarding one another before himself and striving to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:1–3).

SECTION 12 Other Provisions

Section 12.1 Endorsement of Documents, Contracts

The Board of Elders, except as in the Bylaws otherwise provided, may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents, to enter into any contract or execute any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Corporation. Such authority may be general or confined to specific instances. Unless so authorized by the Board of Elders, no officer, agent or employee shall have any power or authority to bind the Corporation by any contract or agreement, or to pledge its credit, or to render it liable for any purpose or to any amount. Subject to the provisions of applicable law, any note, mortgage, evidence of indebtedness, contract, conveyance, or other instrument in writing and any assignment or endorsement thereof executed or entered into between this Corporation and any other person, when signed jointly by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman, and the Secretary and the Treasurer of this Corporation, shall be valid and binding on this Corporation in the absence of actual knowledge on the part of the counter party or counter parties that the signing officers had no authority to execute the same.

Section 12.2 Representation of Shares of Other Corporations

The Chairman or any other officer or officers authorized by the Board are each authorized to vote, represent, and exercise on behalf of the Corporation all rights incident to any and all shares of any other Corporation or corporations standing in the name of the Corporation. The authority herein granted may be exercised either by any such officer in person or by any other person authorized to do so in proxy or power of attorney duly executed by said officer.

Section 12.3 Construction and Definitions

Unless the context otherwise requires, the general provisions, rules of construction and definitions contained in the general provisions of the California Nonprofit Corporation Law and in the California Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law shall govern the construction of these Bylaws.

Section 12.4 Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended and new and additional Bylaws may be made from time to time at any time by the Board of Elders in the exercise of the power granted to said Board of Elders in these Bylaws.

Section 12.5 Record of Amendments

Whenever an amendment or new Bylaw is adopted, it shall be copied in the book of minutes with the original Bylaws, in the appropriate place. If any Bylaw is repealed, the fact of repeal with the date of the meeting at which the repeal was enacted or written assent was filed shall be stated in said book.

SECTION 13

Receipt, Investment, and Disbursement of Funds

Section 13.1

The Corporation shall receive all monies or other properties transferred to it for the purposes for which the Corporation was formed (as shown by the Articles of Incorporation). However, nothing contained herein shall require the Board of Elders to accept or receive any money or property of any kind if it shall determine in its discretion that receipt of such money or property is contrary to the expressed purposes of the Corporation as shown by said Articles.

Section 13.2

The Corporation shall hold, manage, and disburse any funds or properties received by it from any source in a manner that is consistent with the expressed purposes of this Corporation.

SECTION 14

Corporate Records and Reports

Section 14.1 Records

The Corporation shall maintain adequate and correct accounts, books, and records of its business and properties. All such books, records, and accounts shall be kept at its principal place of business in the State of California, as fixed by the Board of Elders from time to time.

Section 14.2 Inspection of Books and Records

Every Elder shall have the absolute right at any reasonable time to inspect all books, records, documents of every kind, and the physical properties of the Corporation, and also of its subsidiary organizations, if any.

Section 14.3 Fiscal Year of the Corporation

The fiscal year of the Corporation shall begin on the first day of January and end on the last day of December in each year.

SECTION 15

Dissolution

Upon dissolution of this Corporation, the Board of Elders shall cause the assets herein to be distributed to another Corporation with purposes similar to that identified in Article II of these Bylaws and Article II of the Articles of Incorporation as amended.

SECTION 16

Miscellaneous Provisions

Section 16.1 Instruments in Writing

All checks, drafts, demands for money and notes of the Corporation and all written contracts of the Corporation shall be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents, as the Board of Elders may from time to time by resolution designate.

SECTION 17

Pension

The Board of Elders shall appoint, as deemed necessary by the Board, a pension and retirement review committee consisting of three or more members of the Board, and their findings shall be presented, whenever requested, to the Board of Elders.

APPENDIX A

What We Teach, “The Elders’ Statement on Marriage, Divorce, Remarriage and Sexuality,”

To gain a biblical understanding of divorce and remarriage, it is first necessary to consider what Scripture teaches about marriage itself. Contrary to the popular opinion of our day, marriage is not merely a legal agreement between two people. It is more than just a man-made, cultural convention. The Bible teaches that God Himself instituted marriage as a sacred, life-long union between a man and a woman. Once married, a husband and wife truly become one in His sight. Genesis 2:24 expresses this reality stating, “For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become *one flesh*.”

God abhors anything that threatens the institution of marriage. He especially despises divorce. In Malachi 2:14-16, the Lord reprimands Jewish men for their unfaithfulness to their marriage covenant and then exclaims, “I *hate* divorce.” Why is He so strongly opposed to divorce? There are two reasons.

First of all, God hates divorce because it is always a result of sin. The Bible teaches that a husband and wife are to love and humbly serve one another (cf. Eph. 5:22-29; Col. 3:18-19). When a divorce occurs, it is evidence that one or both partners have violated these principles. They have endeavored to please self rather than God and their spouse. In addition to this sin, they are also at fault for breaking their own marriage vows and covenant. Scripture says that it is better not to vow at all, than to make a vow and not fulfill it (cf. Eccl. 5:5; Matt. 5:33). At some point these marriage partners stood before God, and possibly a crowd of people, and declared their solemn commitment to one another. Indeed, they promised to be faithful to death. Pursuing divorce involves a sinful breach of this covenant.

The second reason that God hates divorce is because it severs the unique bond He created in the marriage union (cf. Gen. 2:24). In Matthew 19:5-6, Jesus reiterates the fact that God merges two marriage partners into “one flesh” and then issues a stern command saying, “What therefore God has joined together, *let no man separate*.” Tragically, divorce separates this sacred bond that God has formed.

Though the Lord hates divorce, it is important to recognize that He does allow it under certain limited conditions. The only two biblical grounds for divorce are: (1) Sexual infidelity; and (2) Departure of an unbeliever.

Divorce Due to Sexual Infidelity

The first condition for which God permits divorce is sexual infidelity. In both Matthew 5:32 and 19:9 the Lord Jesus explains that people who divorce and then remarry are guilty of adultery—with only one exception. Those who divorce due to sexual unfaithfulness (“unchastity” in 5:32; “immorality” in 19:9) are excused. In other words if one partner has been faithful, but the other has sinned sexually, divorce is permissible. One question remains at this point. How is “sexual unfaithfulness” to be defined? The same Greek word, *porneia*, is translated as “unchastity” in 5:32 and “immorality” in 19:9. This term can refer to a wide array of illicit sexual activities. However, since the term is found in a marital context in these passages, it is best to see it pointing specifically to any adulterous act, including homosexuality, bestiality, and incest. Therefore, the point of these passages is that divorce is permissible when one partner has been guilty of adulterous sexual activity.

Now, in spite of this fact, it is critical to keep in mind that forgiveness is always the best option. The partner who has been sinned against should still seek to reconcile and mend the relationship if possible. The fact that divorce is *permissible* does not mean it is *preferable*. God only allows divorce because of “[people’s] hardness of heart” (Matt. 19:8).

Divorce Due to Departure of an Unbeliever

The second circumstance in which God allows divorce is when an unbelieving spouse abandons a believer. In 1 Corinthians 7:12-15, Paul explains that there are two possible outcomes when a Christian and a non-Christian are married to one another. Either, the non-Christian will agree to remain married to the Christian, in spite of their differences of belief, or the non-Christian will grow intolerant and will abandon the marriage altogether.

In the first scenario, the teaching is clear. If the unbeliever is willing to remain married, the believer is to stay in the relationship (cf. 7:12-13). Paul explains that such a commitment has a sanctifying effect on the non-Christian spouse and on the children as well (cf. 7:14). Since staying together does not guarantee the salvation of the unbeliever, however, the Christian should continue to pray for his or her spouse and should strive to live a life of humility and obedience before them. The Lord often uses such faithfulness to draw unbelievers to Himself for salvation (cf. 1 Pet. 3:1-2).

On the other hand, if the unbelieving spouse refuses to remain with their Christian husband or wife, they should be permitted to depart. Paul explains that the believer is not “under bondage” in such cases (7:15). He or she is free to allow the unbeliever to leave. There is no constraint to fight in order to preserve the marriage.

An important clarification is in order here. Some in the church today, teach that divorce is permissible even for *emotional* abandonment. In other words, if the unbelieving spouse has emotionally and relationally neglected the believer while living

under the same roof, the believer is free to pursue a divorce. This teaching is flawed. The Apostle Paul clearly had physical abandonment in mind when he wrote 1 Corinthians 7:15 saying, “if the unbelieving one *leaves*, let him [or her] *leave*.”

Remarriage

At this point, an important question remains. What about remarriage? Some teach that remarriage is never permissible by God, even when the divorce occurred on biblical grounds. In their thinking, the two people continue to be married from God’s perspective and will be so until one dies. Consequently, people of this persuasion clarify that the only time a person can marry someone other than their original spouse is when the original spouse has died. And, if the living spouse does decide to remarry, he or she is to do so “only in the Lord”—that is, he or she can only marry another Christian (cf. 1 Cor. 7:39; Rom. 7:3).

While we would affirm the conclusion that remarriage is allowable after the death of one spouse “only in the Lord,” we disagree with the assertion that this is the sole case in which remarriage is permissible. On the contrary, the evidence from Scripture is in favor of the fact that a legitimately divorced person is free to remarry again. For example, Paul mentioned in 1 Corinthians 7:15 that the believing spouse is not “under bondage” if the unbeliever leaves. The Christian is released from their attachment to that person, and it seems that the implication is that he or she is free to pursue another. Furthermore, the claim that two living people are permanently married in God’s eyes contradicts the words of Jesus in Matthew 19:6. In this passage, Jesus commands, “What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.” This prohibition loses all its force if people are not really able to separate from one another. It would make no sense for Jesus to warn against impossibility!

The Bible does recognize the fact that divorce breaks the union between two people. Consequently, it also allows for remarriage when there has been a biblical divorce. However, such a decision should be made with extreme caution. Recently divorced people should never hastily pursue another relationship. Rather, they should first strive for a deeper relationship with God and their own spiritual growth. And, if after time, a mature believer does decide to remarry, they should only do so under the watchcare and guidance of the church elders. There is wisdom and safety in many counselors (cf. Prov. 11:14).

Past Sins & Forgiveness

What if there have been sinful choices in the past? What if a person has already followed through with a sinful divorce and or remarriage, what then? Thankfully, we serve a God of abundant grace. While the Lord despises all sin, He demonstrates tremendous compassion on those who have repentant hearts (cf. Ps. 103:8, 13-14). Neither unbiblical divorce nor unbiblical remarriage is an unpardonable offense. These too can be covered by the blood of Christ.

The guilty person should first of all ensure that he or she has entered into a saving relationship with Christ. One must have confidence that he or she has truly repented of sin and by faith trusted in the Lord Jesus, for the Bible promises that there is “no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 8:1). Secondly, the person continuing to experience guilt over such a sin, should make certain that he or she has confessed the specific sin to the Lord. First John 1:9 says, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Consequently, the repentant believer should rest securely in the forgiveness and cleansing of God. From this point on, the Christian has no reason to fear that God will ever bring the sin up to them again. Indeed, He has removed the transgression from the person “as far as the east is from the west” (Ps. 103:12).

Conclusion

Reconciliation is always the high road! If a separation or divorce has occurred, or if either is currently in process, the believer must understand that the best option is always reconciliation—even if one’s spouse is an unbeliever (cf. 1 Cor. 7:12-14). So long as neither of the two is currently remarried, they should seek to restore the relationship. Doing so will demonstrate a sincere recognition of God’s hatred for divorce and a humble submission to His will.

If remarriage has occurred and the marriage is irreparable, the only option is to seek the Lord’s forgiveness. As explained above, God is willing to forgive those who repent of their sin and have embraced Christ as Lord and Savior. If one has genuinely dealt with such sin before God, he or she should move on in the grace of God and should refuse to harbor feelings of guilt.

Finally, one must understand the importance of the local church in such circumstances. God has appointed leaders in the church to watch over their flock of believers and to offer guidance in situations such as these (cf. 1 Tim. 3:1-7; Tit. 1:5-9). Therefore, their biblical counsel should always be sought and heeded when matters as serious as divorce and remarriage are considered (cf. 1 Thess. 5:12-13; Heb. 13:17).

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, being the Secretary of the Placerita Bible Church, do hereby certify that the above Bylaws were adopted as the Bylaws hereof on the 7th day of December, 2014, by the Board of Elders of said Corporation in a regularly called meeting on the same date, to wit, the 7th day of December, 2014. I do further certify that the above Bylaws were adopted as the Bylaws hereof on the 7th day of December, 2014, by the members of the church in a regularly called meeting on the same date, to wit, the 7th day of December, 2014. Said Bylaws are, as of the date of the certification, the duly adopted and existing Bylaws of this Corporation.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 7th day of December, 2014.

SIGNATURE

Jim Sojka, Elder Board Secretary
Placerita Bible Church
22002/22004 Placerita Canyon Road
Newhall, CA 91321
661-259-2913