

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS OF REDEEMER CHURCH

(Adopted January 4, 2004; Revised March 25, 2018)

PREAMBLE

Since it pleased Almighty God, by His Holy Spirit, to call certain of His servants to unite here under the name Redeemer Church in Graham, Texas, for the worship of God and the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ, we, the members of Redeemer Church do hereby organize ourselves and adopt this Constitution as our articles of governance, to be interpreted at all times to reflect the character of and bring glory to Jesus Christ, as revealed in the Holy Bible and articulated in the Confession of Faith and Covenant of this church.

ARTICLE I – NAME AND PURPOSE

Section A. NAME

Part 1. This body shall be known as Redeemer Church, Incorporated, of Graham TX, located at 118 FM 61.

Part 2. Originally constituted as Graham Bible Church, this body adopted the name Redeemer Church on March 25, 2018.

Section B. PURPOSE

Part 1. This church exists by the grace of God, for the glory of God, which shall be the ultimate purpose in all its activities. This church glorifies God by loving Him and obeying His commands through: worshipping him; equipping the saints through Bible instruction and study; proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ through preaching and personal evangelism, and any other means consistent with the teachings of Holy Scripture; encouraging, supporting, and participating in missions work, local, domestic, and international; administering the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper; encouraging biblical fellowship among believers; serving other individuals, families, and churches by providing for physical, emotional, and spiritual needs, in the name of Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP

Section A. QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Part 1. To qualify for membership in this church, a person must be a believer in Jesus Christ who gives evidence of regeneration; who has been baptized, in obedience to Christ, following his or her regeneration; and who wholeheartedly believes in the Christian faith as revealed in the Bible.

Part 2. Each member must agree to submit to the teaching of Scripture as expressed in the Confession of Faith and must promise to keep the commitments expressed in the Covenant.

Part 3. The elders shall be responsible for determining each person's qualification for membership. In making this determination, they may rely on a person's profession of faith, or such other evidence, as the elders deem appropriate.

Section B. ADMISSION OF MEMBERS

Part 1. An applicant shall be received as a member of the church upon the recommendation of the elders and the subsequent agreement of at least two-thirds of the members present and voting on the question at any Members' Meeting.

Part 2. No member of this church shall retain membership in any other church.

Section C. DUTIES AND PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP

Part 1. Members shall be expected to participate actively in the life of the church by regularly attending its Lord's Day meetings;

Part 2. By faithfully observing its ordinances, namely Baptism and the Lord's Supper;

Part 3. By submitting to its discipline and instruction;

Part 4. By attending its Members' Meetings; and

Part 5. By voting on the election of officers, on decisions regarding membership, and on all other matters submitted to the congregation's vote.

Part 6. No person who is not a member shall lead any ministry or hold any office of the church.

Section D. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Part 1. The church shall recognize the termination of a person's membership following his or her death, and may do so at the recommendation of the elders and the subsequent agreement of at least two-thirds of the members present and voting on the question at any Members' Meeting following his or her voluntary resignation or joining with another church.

Part 2. The church shall have authority to exercise discipline over its members, which may involve excluding from its membership any member consistently neglectful of the duties enumerated in Article II, Sections A and C, or guilty of scandalous conduct by which the reputation of Christ or His church is dishonored. Any such action shall be done in accordance with the instructions of the Lord Jesus in Matthew 18:15-17 and those of the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 5:1-5 and 2 Corinthians 2:6-8.

Part 3. The church shall have authority to refuse a member's voluntary resignation or transfer of membership to another church, either for the purpose of proceeding with a process of church discipline, or for any other reason the church deems necessary or prudent.

Part 4. A member shall be removed from membership as a matter of church discipline upon the recommendation of the elders and the subsequent agreement of at least three-quarters of the members present and voting on the question at any Members' Meeting.

Section E. WATCHCARE MEMBERSHIP

Part 1. Those temporarily residing in Graham who are members of an evangelical church may apply for watchcare membership. Qualifications are identical to those for full membership as set out above, except that home church membership must be retained. A letter of commendation will be sought from the applicant's home church.

Part 2. Duties and privileges of watchcare members are the same as for other members except that:

- A. When absent from Graham for extended periods of time, they are released from the responsibility to attend our church services;
- B. While they will be encouraged to participate in members' meetings, they will not be eligible to stand for any office or to vote.

Part 3. Termination of watchcare membership as a disciplinary measure will be as it is for other members, except that the elders (pastors) shall notify the pastor or elders of the home church of that termination. Watchcare membership will normally terminate immediately upon the ending of the period of temporary residence in Graham.

ARTICLE III - MEETINGS

Section A. WORSHIP MEETINGS

Part 1. The church shall meet together for public worship each Lord's Day and at other times throughout the week as the church may determine.

Section B. MEMBERS' MEETINGS

Part 1. In every meeting together, members shall act in that spirit of mutual trust, openness, and loving consideration which is appropriate within the body of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Part 2. There shall be a regular Members' Meeting, at some time apart from the Sunday morning service, and at a time acceptable to the membership. The elders shall see that the stated meetings of the church are regularly held and that required reports are submitted to the church by the responsible members.

Part 3. Special Members' Meetings may be called as requested by the elders, or at the written request, submitted to the elders, of ten percent of the voting membership. In the event of a written request from the members, the elders shall call a special meeting to be held within one month of their receipt of the request.

Part 4. An elder designated by the elders shall preside as moderator at all Members' Meetings of the church. The date, time, and purpose of any regular or special meeting shall be announced at all public services of the church at least two weeks preceding the meeting. Provided all constitutional provisions for notification have been met, a quorum shall be understood to be met by those members present.

ARTICLE IV - GOVERNMENT

Section A. CONGREGATIONAL AUTHORITY

Part 1. The biblical offices in the church shall be elders and deacons, but final earthly authority is vested in the assembled congregation.

Section B. ELDERS

Part 1. Oversight of the ministry, resources, and facilities of the church shall be vested in the elders, which shall be comprised of men who satisfy the qualifications set forth in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9.

Part 2. Elders shall be selected as follows: The elders shall at any regular Members' Meeting present to the church a list of nominees for the office of elder. For a period of at least one month, the church shall consider whether such nominees are qualified for the office. If any member believes one or more of the nominees to be unqualified, that member shall express such concern to the elders, who may on the basis of that advice remove names from the list of nominees. No name shall be added to the list of nominees which was not included on the initial list. When a period of one month has elapsed, the elders shall at the next regular Members' Meeting present a final list of nominees to the church, who shall vote on each of the nominees in turn. The moderator or his delegates shall count the votes, and any nominee having the approval of at least three-quarters of the members present and voting on his nomination shall be an elder, which men the church shall in due haste publicly recognize and set apart as such.

Part 3. In accordance with 1 Timothy 2:12 and 3:2, women shall not serve as elders.

Part 4. With the exception of staff elders (elders who are employed by the Church for the purpose of vocational pastoral ministry), elders shall be reaffirmed by vote of the church triennially, and having served two consecutive three-year terms, shall not be eligible for re-election for one year.

Part 5. No elder shall hold the office of deacon during his tenure.

Part 6. The elders shall choose their chairman and other officers. The elders shall serve as the Board of Directors of the Corporation, and the chairman of the elders shall serve as the president of the corporation.

Part 7. The elders shall, in keeping with the principles set forth in the Scriptures, especially Acts 6:1-6, 1 Timothy 3:1-7, 5:17, Titus 1:5-9, James 5:14, and 1 Peter 5:1-4, undertake the responsibility of shepherding God's flock by devoting themselves to prayer and the ministry of the Word. They shall have particular authority:

- A. To plan and oversee worship services;
- B. To oversee the ordinances, namely Baptism and the Lord's Supper;
- C. To examine and instruct prospective members;
- D. To oversee the process of church discipline;

- E. To examine and recommend candidates for all offices and positions;
- F. To oversee the work of the deacons and all other agents of the church;
- G. To hire, oversee, evaluate the performance of, and when necessary terminate non-elder church staff; and
- H. To take any other action which shall be necessary and proper for faithfully overseeing and shepherding the church.

Part 8. An elder shall be removed from office upon the vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting on the question at any Members' Meeting. Any such action shall be done in accordance with the instructions of the Lord Jesus in Matthew 18:15-17 and those of the Apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 5:17-21.

Section C. SENIOR PASTOR

Part 1. Primary responsibility for preaching and teaching the Scriptures in public meetings of the church may be vested in a Senior Pastor. The Senior Pastor will also be responsible to oversee the church staff.

Part 2. A Senior Pastor shall be selected as follows: The elders shall at any regular Members' Meeting present to the church the name of one nominee for the position of Senior Pastor. For a period of at least two weeks, the church shall consider the nominee's gifts in preaching and teaching, and his commitment to minister personally to the members of this church. If any member believes the nominee to be unqualified, that member shall express such concern to the elders. When a period of two weeks has elapsed, the elders shall at the next Members' Meeting present the nominee for Senior Pastor to the church, who shall vote on his selection as such. The moderator or his delegates shall count the votes, and if the nominee receives the approval of at least three-quarters of the voting members present, he shall be a member of the church, an elder, and the Senior Pastor, whom the church shall in due haste publicly recognize as such.

Part 3. A Senior Pastor shall meet all the qualifications and hold all the rights and responsibilities of a member of the church. He shall satisfy all the qualifications and hold all the duties and responsibilities of an elder. In terms of formal authority, there shall be no distinction between an elder and the Senior Pastor.

Part 4. A Senior Pastor shall not be subject to a reaffirmation vote, nor to any term limit.

Part 5. A Senior Pastor shall be removed from office upon the vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting on the question at any Members' Meeting. Any such action shall be done in accordance with the instructions of the Lord Jesus in Matthew 18:15-17 and those of the Apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 5:17-21.

Section D. ASSOCIATE PASTORS

Part 1. Other particular pastoral responsibilities may be vested in one or more Associate Pastors.

Part 2. An Associate Pastor shall be selected as follows: The elders shall at any regular Members' Meeting present to the church the name of one nominee for the position of Associate Pastor. For a period of at least two weeks, the church shall consider the nominee's gifts in the particular area of service to which he is being called, and his commitment to minister personally to the members of this church. If any member believes the nominee to be unqualified, that member shall express such concern to the elders. When a period of two weeks has elapsed, the elders shall at the next Members' Meeting present the nominee for Associate Pastor to the church, who shall vote on his selection as such. The moderator or his delegates shall count the votes, and if the nominee receives the approval of at least three-quarters of the voting members present, he shall be a member of the church, an elder, and an Associate Pastor, whom the church shall in due haste publicly recognize as such.

Part 3. An Associate Pastor shall meet all the qualifications and hold all the rights and responsibilities of a member of the church. He shall satisfy all the qualifications and hold all the duties and responsibilities of an elder. In terms of formal authority, there shall be no distinction between an elder and an Associate Pastor.

Part 4. An Associate Pastor shall not be subject to a reaffirmation vote, nor to any term limit.

Part 5. An Associate Pastor shall be removed from office upon the vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting on the question at any Members' Meeting. Any such action shall be done in accordance with the instructions of the Lord Jesus in Matthew 18:15-17 and those of the Apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 5:17-21.

Section E. DEACONS

Part 1. Particular service to the church shall be provided by deacons, the number of which shall vary as the church has need, and who shall satisfy the qualifications set forth in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

Part 2. Each diaconate position shall serve a particular need of the church, and shall be created or dissolved upon the recommendation of the elders and the subsequent agreement of two-thirds of the members present and voting on the question at any Members' Meeting.

Part 3. Deacons shall be selected as follows: The elders shall at any regular Members' Meeting present to the church a list of nominees for the office of deacon. For a period of at least one month, the church shall consider whether such nominees are qualified for the office. If any member believes one or more of the nominees to be unqualified, that member shall express such concern to the elders, who may on the basis of that advice remove names from the list of nominees. No name shall be added to the list of nominees which was not included on the initial list. When a period of one month has elapsed, the elders shall at the next regular Members' Meeting present a final list of nominees to the church, who shall vote on each of the nominees in turn. The moderator or his delegates shall count the votes, and any nominee having the approval of two-thirds of the voting members present shall be a deacon, which the church shall in due haste publicly recognize and set apart as such.

Part 4. Deacons shall be reaffirmed triennially at the recommendation of the elders by vote of the church.

Part 5. In keeping with the principles set forth in Acts 6:1-6, deacons shall not exercise a ministry of spiritual authority, but shall support the elders' ministry of the Word, and work to maintain the unity of the church by caring for the physical needs of the church as well as serving in any other specific capacities as the church has need.

Part 6. A deacon may be removed from office by a decision of the elders, or upon the recommendation of the elders and the subsequent agreement of two-thirds of the members present and voting on the question at any Members' Meeting.

Part 7. In the event a diaconate position becomes vacant, the elders may dissolve that diaconal position, or appoint a person to fill that position and assume its responsibilities, until such time as some person can be duly recognized by the church as a deacon.

Section F. CLERK

Part 1. It shall be the duty of the clerk to record the minutes of all regular and special Members' Meetings of the church, to preserve an accurate roll of the membership, and to render reports as requested by the elders, or the church.

Part 2. In the absence or incapacity of the clerk, the elders shall appoint a member to perform the duties of the church clerk.

Part 3. The church clerk shall ensure that dated copies of the most recent revision of this constitution shall be available for all church members.

Section G. TREASURER

Part 1. The treasurer, who shall not be a paid church staff member, shall ensure that all funds and securities of the church are properly secured in such banks, financial institutions, or depositories as designated by the church. The treasurer shall also ensure that full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements are kept in books belonging to the church, and that adequate controls are implemented to guarantee that all funds belonging to the church are appropriately handled by any officer, employee, or agent of the church. The treasurer shall render to the elders annually, or whenever they may require it, an account of all transactions as treasurer and of the financial condition of the church. The treasurer shall also be responsible for presenting regular reports of the account balances, revenues, and expenses of the church at regular Members' Meeting.

ARTICLE V – STEWARDSHIP OF ASSETS

Part 1. The primary use of the facilities of Redeemer Church will be for gospel ministry. The facilities may also be used for other purposes that are not in conflict with the Confession of Faith or the Covenant. The elders will have final discretion in accepting or rejecting requests for the use of the building and may do so for biblical, theological, moral or practical reasons.

Part 2. Redeemer Church is a Texas Non-Profit Corporation. Its assets are pledged for use in performing its religious functions. On the discontinuance of this organization by dissolution or otherwise, the members will determine by simple majority of votes cast what will happen to the assets of Redeemer Church. Assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code. This vote will take place in the same meeting as the vote for dissolution.

ARTICLE VI – INDEMNIFICATION

Section A. MANDATORY INDEMNIFICATION

Part 1. If a legal claim or criminal allegation is made against a person because he or she is or was an officer, employee, or agent of the church, the church shall provide indemnification against liability and costs incurred in defending against the claim if the elders determine that the person acted (a) in good faith, (b) with the care an ordinarily prudent person in a similar position would exercise under similar circumstances, and (c) in a manner the person reasonably believed to be in the best interest of the church, and the person had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful. The church shall purchase appropriate insurance to meet these potential liabilities.

Section B. PERMISSIVE INDEMNIFICATION

Part 1. At the discretion of the elders, the church also may indemnify any person who acted in good faith and reasonably believed that his or her conduct was in the church's best interest and not unlawful.

Section C. PROCEDURE

Part 1. If a quorum of the elders is not available for an indemnification determination because of the number of elders seeking indemnification, the requisite determination may be made by the membership or by special legal counsel appointed by the membership.

ARTICLE VII – DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Part 1. Believing that the Bible commands Christians to make every effort to live at peace and to resolve disputes with each other in private or within the Christian church (see, e.g., Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 6:1-8), the church shall urge its members to resolve conflict among themselves according to biblically-based principles, without reliance on the secular courts.

ARTICLE XIII - AMENDMENTS

Section A. CONFESSION OF FAITH AND COVENANT

Part 1. The Confession of Faith or Covenant shall be amended upon the recommendation of the elders and the subsequent agreement of three-quarters of the members present and voting on the question at any regular Members' Meeting, provided the amendment shall have been offered in writing at any previous regular Members' Meeting, and shall have been announced at every public meeting of the church for two weeks immediately prior to final consideration. Any member serving under the commission of this church on an international mission field shall also be eligible to vote by correspondence on this question.

Section B. CONSTITUTION

Part 1. This Constitution shall be amended upon the recommendation of the elders and the subsequent agreement of two-thirds of the members present and voting on the question at any regular Members' Meeting, provided the amendment shall have been offered in writing at any previous regular Members' Meeting, and shall have been announced at every public meeting of the church for two weeks immediately prior to final consideration. Any member serving under the commission of this church on an international mission field shall also be eligible to vote by correspondence on this question.