BYLAWS OF PARAGON CHURCH

Amended February 1, 2026

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of these bylaws is to define the rules and procedures of how Paragon Church will operate and be governed to carry out the ministry and mission of our Lord.

ARTICLE I. IDENTIFICATION

Section A. Name. The name of the Corporation is Paragon Church (the "Church"). Paragon Church is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation under the umbrella of the Baptist Convention of New Mexico as authorized by the Internal Revenue Service of the United States.

Section B. Registered Office and Registered Agent. The address of the Corporation's registered office is 103 Rio Rancho DR NE, Building D-1, Rio Rancho NM 87124. The location of the office may be changed without requiring a revision of these bylaws. The name of the registered agent at that address is Matt Sellers.

Section C. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the Church shall begin on the first day of January in each year and end on the last day of the following December.

Section D. Church Government. The government of the Church shall be vested in the body of believers who compose its membership and executed through its Elders (Article V) and Trustees (Article VII). All members of the Church are equal in calling and are equal in their biblical identity as part of a "priesthood of believers" (1 Peter 2:4-5; 9-10). The Church shall not be subject to the control of any other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the benefits of mutual counsel and cooperation with churches of like faith and order.

Section E. Corporate Officers. The Elders, Trustees and Pastoral staff together form the Board of Directors of the corporation. The Chief Officer and Chairman of the Board of Directors is the Senior Pastor of the Church; if the Senior Pastor role is vacant, the Chairman of the Elders will fill those roles. The corporation's Secretary is the President of the Trustees.

Section E. Cooperation. The Church cooperates with the Central Baptist Association, the Baptist Convention of New Mexico, and the Southern Baptist Convention. Such cooperation is predicated on respect for the autonomy of the Church and the doctrines it has adopted.

Section F. Mission. The mission of the Church is to passionately connect people with God, encourage believers, and spiritually equip them in the next steps of their faith journey with Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

Section A. Membership. The Church membership shall be comprised of individuals who:

1. Have placed their faith in Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior
2. Have publicly professed their spiritual new birth in baptism by immersion in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
3. Are of like mind, faith and committed to understanding and applying the Bible.
4. Support the vision and leadership of the Church.
5. Are at least 16 years of age.

Section B. Procedure for Membership.

1. All applicants for membership shall attend a membership class taught by a pastor, an elder or another individual appointed by the Elders. Upon completion of the class, the applicant shall express their desire to become a member of the church by completing and returning the application for membership found in their class materials. This application shall allow the candidate to indicate their agreement with the vision, mission, basic doctrines, and practices of the church. The Elders shall review these completed applications and conduct any additional vetting they deem necessary prior to accepting an individual as a member. An applicant for membership shall be accepted as a member upon approval by the Elders. The Elders have 30 days from the submittal of new member applications to personally contact all prospective members to inform them of the status of their application for membership in the Church.
2. It is understood that children under the age of 16 may accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior and will follow in obedience and experience baptism by immersion as a demonstration of their faith in Christ. These individuals will come into the family of believers and be encouraged to grow spiritually as part of the family of faith. These Bylaws distinguish between membership in the Church as an organization and becoming part of the family of faith. This distinction deals with the required grasp of the responsibilities of organizational life and being able to fully participate in the organizational life of the Church. The maturity level or interest of most children under the age of 16 to comprehend the organizational life of the Church and to meet those responsibilities is not fully developed. Therefore, children may apply for membership in compliance with Article II, Sections A, and B.1 upon reaching the age of 16.

Section C. Duties of Members. Members shall be faithful in all duties essential to the Christian life, including but not limited to, attendance at services, faithful stewardship, and voting at meetings.

Section D. Discipline of Members

1. Purpose: The purpose of Church discipline is to glorify God by maintaining:
    a) Purity in the Church (1 Corinthians 5:6).
    b) Protecting believers by confronting and deterring sin (1 Timothy 5:20).
    c) Promoting the spiritual welfare of the offending believer by calling him or her to return to biblical standards of doctrine and conduct (Galatians 6:1).
2. Process: Members and all other professing Christians who regularly attend or fellowship at Paragon Church and err in biblical doctrine or conduct shall be subject to discipline according to Matthew 18:15-18.
3. Reinstatement: If such a dismissed member heeds the warning, demonstrates repentance, and requests reinstatement, Elders will review evidence and testimony and determine if reinstatement to the Church is appropriate. If reinstatement is approved, they will be publicly restored to Church membership.

Section E. Termination. Church membership is terminated upon:

1. Death of the member
2. Request of the member
3. Action of the church due to:
    a) Departure from their previous expressed agreement with the Church beliefs.
    b) Conduct that mars the testimony of the Church or evidence of a continued unrepentant departure from biblical morality. (See Article II, Section D)
    c) Manifesting disinterest and/or inactivity in the life of the Church.

ARTICLE III. ORGANIZATION

Section A. Organization. The Church organization shall consist of Pastors, Elders, Deacons, Trustees, and Staff. The purpose and responsibilities of each are presented in these bylaws. The Church is an organization of willing believers, any member appointed to any role may resign at any time.

Section B. Additional Ministries. The leadership may expand the Church's organizational model to include other short-term committees or ministries without modifying these bylaws. These additional committees or ministries will be detailed in the Policies and Procedures Manual with purpose statements and clarifying job descriptions.

ARTICLE IV. CHURCH STAFF AND EMPLOYEES

Section A. Purpose. The Senior Pastor is the Church's leader in carrying out its Vision, Values and Mission through its various programs and ministries. Associate Pastors and other Ministerial Staff serve as ministers and teachers of the Church. Other Non-Ministerial Staff carry out regular functions of the Church not suitable for volunteers.

Section B. Number. The staff of the Church consists of a Senior Pastor and other staff positions that have been defined jointly by the Trustees and Elders and approved by the Senior Pastor. These position descriptions are maintained by the Trustees. All hiring actions must be approved by the Trustees to ensure sufficient budget to support the required compensation. The Senior Pastor is the hiring and firing authority for all non-Pastoral staff. Pastors are hired and fired through the process described in these bylaws.

Section C. Senior Pastor. The Senior Pastor shall be a duly ordained minister of the gospel or be willing to become ordained and shall cooperate with the Southern Baptist Convention. Qualifications for a pastor are based upon Biblical qualifications for overseers and elders found in the Bible (1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9, and 1 Peter 5:1-3). The pastor shall lead and administer the general program of the Church, supervise all Church staff, and coordinate with the Elders, Deacons, Trustees, and other appropriate organizations in planning, coordinating and implementing the overall Church program. All Associate Pastors and Elders have as their primary responsibility to be a supporting partner under the leadership of the Senior Pastor. (1 Timothy 5:17).

Section D. Senior Pastor Search Committee. When a vacancy occurs in the office of Senior Pastor, the Elders shall appoint a pastor search committee. The committee shall consist of at least five committee members, of which two are Elders, one Trustee, and two members-at-large from the congregation. The committee shall recommend one or more candidates to the Elders for their consideration. The Elders shall present only one name at a time before the Church to consider. The call of the pastor shall take place at a special meeting of Church members called for that purpose. A notice of at least two weeks shall be given for this meeting. The candidate must receive at least three-fourths vote from the membership to extend an invitation to become the next Senior Pastor.

Section E. Associate Pastors. The Church may have one or more Associate Pastors who shall carry such title and perform such duties as designated by the Elders. Associate Pastors shall meet the same requirements as specified above for the Senior Pastor. The Elders shall select and approve proposed Associate Pastors.

Section F. Removal of any Pastor. Any pastor may be removed with cause by a vote of at least three-fourths of the Elders. Any Pastor may be removed from office for any of the following reasons:

1. Physically or mentally incapacitated.
2. Spiritual or moral failure or failure to fulfill his responsibilities or meet the qualifications outlined in the Bible for overseers and elders. (See Article 5, Section C for a summary)
3. If his removal is because of sin and he refuses to repent, he is to be dealt with as outlined under Article II, Section D and is to be "rebuked in the presence of all, so that the rest may be fearful of sinning" (I Timothy 5:20).

Section G. Compensation of paid staff. The Trustees shall determine the compensation of all paid staff.

ARTICLE V. ELDERS

Section A. Purpose. According to the New Testament, Elders are responsible for the primary leadership and oversight of a church. Elders lead the church; teach and preach the Word; protect the church from false teachers; exhort and admonish the saints in sound doctrine; visit the sick and pray; and judge doctrinal issues. In biblical terminology, Elders shepherd, oversee, lead, and care for the local church. [1 Tim 5:17; Titus 1:7; 1 Peter 5:1–2; 1 Timothy 3:2; 2 Timothy 4:2; Titus 1:9; Acts 20:17, 28–31; 1 Timothy 4:13; 2 Timothy 3:13–17; Titus 1:9; James 5:14; Acts 6:4; Acts 15:6].

Section B. Role. The Elders are responsible to lead and shepherd the Church in all decision-making matters, unless otherwise identified within these bylaws.

Section C. Qualifications. The Elders shall be comprised of men who satisfy the qualifications for the office of Elder set forth in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9 and 1 Peter 5:1-3.

1. The Elders shall lead in a Christ-like example by:
    a) Consistently modeling spiritual character, attitudes, values, and behavior among the congregation.
    b) Providing and inviting the opportunity for frequent and ongoing contact with members of the congregation.
    c) Conducting the affairs of the Church in an atmosphere of openness and mutual sensitivity, focusing as much on nurturing one another as on decision-making.
    d) Willing to make the necessary time commitments to fulfill his responsibilities as an Elder.
    e) An Elder candidate shall be an active member of the Church for a minimum of one (1) year prior to serving, (1 Timothy 3:6, 5:22) but is strongly preferred to have been an active member for at least three (3) years. If the candidate has previously served as an Elder, this past service can be considered by Elders in lieu of three years of membership.
2. All Elders must agree with the Paragon Statement of Faith.

Section D. Appointment. The selection of a new Elder shall, at minimum, follow the four (4) steps below:

1. Candidate Identification – Elder candidates shall be identified and recommended by the Elders. The Elders will prayerfully consider if the nominee fits the biblical qualifications of an Elder (Article V, sections A & C).
2. Notification of the nominee – The Elders shall notify the nominee that he is being considered to hold the office of Elder for the church. The nominee shall submit himself to a time of prayer concerning God's call upon his life and his possible service as an Elder of the Church.
3. Validation – Upon confirmation by the nominee of God's call on his life, accompanied by faithful consistent service to Paragon Church, the Elders shall begin a validation process which consists of: the candidate's completion of an oral interview to determine whether he meets the biblical qualifications of an Elder, adequate time to evaluate the candidate is doctrinally sound (Titus 1:9b), affirmation that the candidate is in agreement with the beliefs and governance of this Church, and various interviews with third parties concerning the candidate's character, life, service within the body, and Christian witness.
4. Confirmation – Upon satisfactory completion of the validation process, the Elder candidate shall be presented to the Church members for comment on his character, qualifications, or any other issue that would affect his suitability to serve as an Elder of the Church. The Church members will be given two weeks to submit comments, questions, or concerns about any candidate to the Elder body. The Elder body will spend a minimum of two weeks investigating and praying through the feedback received. Following this period, if the candidate qualifications to serve as an Elder are affirmed by the existing Elders, the candidate shall be presented to the Church at a special member's meeting for a vote. The candidate must receive a three-fourths affirmative vote of the membership to be added to the Elders.

Section E. Number. The number of Elders serving at any one time shall not be less than three (3). The number of elders shall be assessed by the Elders and adjusted to appropriately minister to the church membership. The number of Elders must exceed the number of Pastoral Staff.

Section F. Pastoral Staff. The Senior Pastor and all qualifying Associate Pastors <u>are not Elders</u> for the purposes of these bylaws but shall be voting members of the Elders and Board of Directors, except in the case of voting to remove a Pastor.

Section G. Term of Appointment. Elders shall serve for an active term of three years if they maintain the responsibilities of an Elder and affirm the doctrines and standards of the Church, the bylaws, and all policies and procedures. At the completion of his term an Elder may choose to seek reelection immediately or step away. If he chooses to step away, the Elders shall not renominate him for at least 1 year after the end of his last term. An Elder may serve a second term but must take a one-year break in service following their second term before they can be appointed as an Elder again.

Section H. Removal. In accordance with 1 Timothy 5:19-20, any accusation against an Elder must be brought by two or more witnesses. (For these bylaws Pastors are not Elders, for Pastoral Removal see Article IV. Section F.)

A Elder may be removed from office for any of the following reasons:

1. Physically or mentally incapacitated.
2. Spiritual or moral failure or failure to fulfill his responsibilities or meet the qualifications outlined in this document under Article V, Sections A & C.
3. If his removal is because of sin and he refuses to repent, he is to be dealt with as outlined under Article II, Section D and is to be "rebuked in the presence of all, so that the rest may be fearful of sinning" (I Timothy 5:20).

The Trustees shall oversee the inquiry regarding any accusation of an Elder. Any Elder may be removed with cause by a vote of at least three-fourths of the Trustees.

Section I: Organization. The Elders shall annually elect a Chairman and a Secretary from their members. (Note that the Secretary for the Elders is different from the Secretary of the Corporation). The Chairman of the Elders will, on behalf of the Board, report to the membership when called upon and the Secretary will record the minutes of each meeting. The Elders must meet at least once per quarter. All decisions made by the Elders shall be reached after prayerful consideration, voting in a spirit of humility, with each Elder regarding one another before himself and moving toward a goal of unity. (Philippians 2:3-4).

Section J: Communication to Membership. The Elders shall communicate to the congregation any concerns as they feel necessary. The Elders will report at the Church's Annual Meeting (Business Meeting) concerning the activities of the Elders during the past year regarding strategy to reach the Vision, Values, and Mission of the Church in the coming year. At times, the Elders will gather the entire congregation for open discussion, proposals, information, prayer, and/or voting (Acts 6, Acts 15). At other times, the Elders will solely make decisions.

ARTICLE VI. DEACONS

Section A. Purpose. As described in Acts 6, the purpose of a deacon is to serve the physical needs of the body of the Church, particularly the needs of widows. There is an explicit intent stated in Acts 6 that this is to relieve the apostles of this responsibility to enable them to teach and to preach. As Paul's instructions to Timothy in 1 Timothy 3 regarding the Church at Ephesus and his greeting to the Church at Caesarea Philippi in Philippians 1:1 make clear, we believe deacons today still serve to enable the elders of the Church to preach and to teach. Implied in Acts 6 as well is the intent of bringing unity to the Church by eliminating even the impression of favoritism and by addressing grievances within the body.

Section B. Role. Deacons are not members of the Board of Directors and do not lead the corporate Church.

Section C. Qualifications. Deacons shall be comprised of men or women who satisfy the qualifications laid out in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:3.

Section D. Appointment. Deacons shall be appointed by a unanimous vote of the Elders after careful validation. The Elders shall announce consideration of individual(s) to the congregation and allow at least two weeks to receive comment on his or her character, qualifications, or any other issue that would affect suitability to serve as a deacon. After prayerful consideration of any inputs, deacons will be appointed through praying and the laying on of hands in front of the congregation.

Section E. Number. The number of deacons shall be assessed by the Elders and adjusted to appropriately minister to the Church membership.

Section F. Specific Duties. To serve the practical needs of the Church, Deacons shall:

1. Oversee benevolence ministries, ensuring the needs of the congregation are met.
2. Minister to all Church members to include Church leadership:
   a. Support the ministry of the word under the guidance of pastoral staff,
   b. Visit and provide spiritual and practical support to the sick, poor, homebound, and widows,
   c. Provide conflict mediation (Matt 18:17),
   d. Lead in prayer for the elders, staff, and congregation during gatherings (Phil 4:1-3)
   e. Encourage (Gal 6:5),
   f. Distribute communion as called upon
3. Coordinate practical support for sponsored missionaries. (Phil 4:10-20)

Section F. Term of Appointment. Deacons shall serve for an active term of three years if they maintain the responsibilities of a deacon and affirm the doctrines and standards of the church, the bylaws, and all policies and procedures. At the completion of his or her term, a Deacon may volunteer to seek renewal of their appointment immediately or step away. A Deacon may serve a second term but must take a one-year break in service following their second term before they can be appointed as a Deacon again.

Section G. Removal. Any Deacon may be removed by the Elders at any time with cause and with notice by a vote of at least three-fourths of the Elders. The Elders shall oversee the inquiry regarding any accusation of a Deacon.

A Deacon may be removed from office for any of the following reasons:

1. Physically or mentally incapacitated.
2. Spiritual or moral failure or failure to fulfill his/her responsibilities or meet the qualifications outlined in this document.
3. If their removal is because of sin and they refuse to repent, they are to be dealt with as outlined under Article II, Section D, and are to be "rebuked in the presence of all, so that the rest may be fearful of sinning" (I Timothy 5:20).

ARTICLE VII. TRUSTEES

Section A. Purpose. Trustees oversee the Church's administrative responsibilities.

Section B. Role. The Trustees exercise oversight of the business, financial, and legal affairs of the Church and develop and implement any necessary policies and procedures related thereto. The Trustees develop and maintain the Church's Policies and Procedures Manual which includes other specific responsibilities and job descriptions. When authorized by the Church members and the Trustees, any member of the Board of Directors may execute, in the name of the Church, deeds, mortgages, bonds, or other contracts.

Section C. Qualifications. Trustees shall be members of the Church, with qualities required for holding a position of special trust within the Church. Staff (including Pastoral) cannot be Trustees.

Section D. Appointment. Trustees are appointed by the Elders, and may be appointed at any meeting of the Elders.

Section E. Number. The number of Trustees serving at any one time shall not be less than five (5). The number of Trustees shall be assessed by the Elders and adjusted to appropriately oversee the Church's administrative responsibilities.

Section F. Compensation. The Trustees shall not receive compensation for their services as Trustee. Trustees may be reimbursed for expenses incurred in connection with the performance of their duties.

Section G. Term of Appointment. Trustees shall serve a term of three (3) years. At the completion of his or her term, a Trustee may volunteer to seek renewal of their appointment immediately or step away. A Trustee may be appointed for a second term but must take a one-year break in service following their second term before they can be appointed as a Trustee again.

Section H. Removal. Any Trustee may be removed by the Elders at any time with cause and with notice. The Elders shall oversee the inquiry regarding any accusation of a Trustee. Any Trustee may be removed with cause by a vote of at least three-fourths of the Elders.

A Trustee may be removed for any of the following reasons:

1. Physically or mentally incapacitated.
2. Spiritual or moral failure or failure to fulfill his/her responsibilities or meet the qualifications outlined in this document.
3. If their removal is because of sin and they refuse to repent, they are to be dealt with as outlined under Article II, Section D, and are to be "rebuked in the presence of all, so that the rest may be fearful of sinning" (I Timothy 5:20)

Section I: Organization. The Trustees shall annually elect a President and Secretary from their members.

1. *Quorum.* At all meetings of the Trustees, the presence of two-thirds (three members minimum) of the Trustees shall be necessary and sufficient to constitute a quorum.
2. *Voting.* All matters shall be decided by the majority vote of Trustees.
3. *Meetings.* The Trustees will meet at least quarterly. The President shall preside over all meetings of the Trustees or may delegate another Trustee to preside in his or her absence. Minutes of all meetings shall be made available to those who request it (sensitive information may be removed).
4. *Records.* The Secretary of the Trustees shall record minutes of the Trustee meetings and any Church Business Meetings.
5. *Other Matters*. The Trustees may consider other decisions between meetings that can be conducted through electronic means so long as record is kept by the Secretary of the Trustees.

Section J: Communication to Membership. The Trustees shall communicate to the congregation any concerns as they feel necessary. The Trustees must present at the Church’s annual meeting (Business Meeting) a financial report for the previous year and the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

ARTICLE VIII. INDEMNIFICATION

Section A. Indemnification. The Church will indemnify any member of the Board of Directors made a party, or threatened to be made a party, to any threatened, pending, or completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative, except as indicated below.

The indemnity shall cover judgments, amounts paid in settlement, and reasonable expenses, including attorneys' fees, actually and necessarily incurred as a result of such action, suit or proceeding or any appeal therein. This indemnity is contingent upon the indemnified person's successful defense and only if such person acted in good faith, in the reasonable belief that such action was in the best interests of the Church, and in criminal actions or proceedings, without reasonable ground for belief that such action was unlawful.

This indemnification shall not apply in a situation in which the Church, or anyone lawfully acting on behalf of the Church, seeks to procure a judgment in favor of the Church against the indemnified person for an act alleged to have been committed by such person in his or her capacity as a trustee or officer of the Corporation.

ARTICLE IX. STATEMENT OF FAITH

Section A. A Living Faith. Christians are a people who profess a living faith. This faith is rooted and grounded in Jesus Christ who is "the same yesterday, and today, and forever." Therefore, the sole authority for faith and practice among Christians is Jesus Christ whose will is revealed in the Holy Scriptures.

Section B. The Family. God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption. Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

Section C. Doctrinal Guideline. The 2000 statement of *The Baptist Faith and Message* shall serve as the doctrinal guideline for the Church. Further doctrinal statements or guidance may be instituted and maintained by the Elders.

ARTICLE X. ORDINANCES

Section A. Baptism. A person who receives Jesus Christ as Savior by personal faith, who is willing to profess him publicly, and who indicates a commitment to follow Christ as Lord shall be received for baptism. Baptism shall be administered by the pastoral staff or any individual authorized by the Senior Pastor or Elders.

Section B. The Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the body of Christ, through partaking of the bread and fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of Jesus Christ and anticipate his second coming. Those persons receiving the Lord's Supper, if not members of this Church, should be Christ Followers. The Lord's Supper shall be administered by the pastoral staff or any individuals authorized by the Senior Pastor or Elders.

ARTICLE XI. MEETINGS

Section A. Worship services. The Church shall meet regularly at times determined by the Elders and/or Senior Pastor to accomplish its purposes. These meetings shall be open for the entire membership of the Church and the public and shall be conducted under the direction of the pastoral staff and the Elders.

Section B. Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting (Business Meeting) of the Church shall be held in December for hearing annual reports, recognizing new officers, reporting the budget, and transacting all business that may properly come before the meeting. The date and time shall be determined by the Board of Directors and announced from the pulpit and through the bulletin a minimum of two weeks prior to the date.

Section C. Special Meetings. A special meeting may be called to consider any special matters which need to be attended to. Notice of special meetings, including the date, time, location, and purpose of the meeting, shall be made at regularly scheduled worship services or meetings of the Church for no less than two weeks prior to the meeting. Special meetings shall be called at the direction of the Elders. The Elders shall be required to call special meetings to approve the following decisions: calling a Senior Pastor (per Article VII, Section C); purchasing or selling real estate.

Section D. Moderator. The Trustees shall appoint a moderator to preside over meetings of the membership.

Section E. Quorum. Members age 16 and older present and voting at a meeting duly noticed and called shall constitute a quorum of the membership for the transaction of business.

Section F. Conduct of Business and Voting. Unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws, the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall serve as a guideline to govern the conduct of business meetings and a simple majority vote shall be required for the approval of all business.

Section G. Voting Rights. Every member of the Church age 16 and older is entitled to vote at all business meetings on all questions submitted to the Church, provided the member is present. There shall be no absentee or proxy voting.

Section H. Virtual Meetings. Unusual or extreme circumstance may prohibit in-person assembly to conduct required Church business. If such circumstances exist, the Board of Directors may, by majority vote of their membership, schedule a virtue business session. Church members may not request this as a personal option if regular in-person business meetings are being held. This option requires that all the requirements of *Article XI, Section C. Special Meetings* be used to notify Church members. Included in a "Special Notice" will be a list of the electronic media that is required to attend a Virtual Business Meeting as well as outline as to the special procedures required to fully participate. If a Church member does not have the required electronic media or their electronic connection fails or if their technological skills cause them to be unable to participate fully during the virtual meeting the Church member will waive their right to attend and participate. This waiver would be the same as if an illness or other hindrance would cause them to be unable to attend an in-person business meeting.

ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS

These Bylaws, may be altered, amended or repealed, or new Bylaws may be made, only by a majority vote of the members of the Church at a special meeting called for that purpose.

ARTICLE XIII. DISOLUTION CLAUSE

The property, assets, profits, and net income of this corporation are irrevocably dedicated to Southern Baptist purposes. No part of the net income, profits or assets of this organization shall ever come to benefit a trustee, officer or member of the corporation, or the benefit of any private individual.

Upon the dissolution of this corporation, after paying or adequately providing for the debts and obligations of the corporation, the remaining assets shall be distributed to the BAPTIST CONVENTION OF NEW MEXICO. The Baptist Convention of New Mexico is a non-profit corporation organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes, which has established its tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

ARTICLE XIV. SUPERCESSION CLAUSE

These Bylaws supersede all previous Constitutions and Bylaws and all provisions contained therein are declared null and void.

Certificate of Secretary

I, the undersigned, certify that I am the elected and acting Secretary of Paragon Church, Rio Rancho, New Mexico, a New Mexico Nonprofit Religious Corporation. The above Bylaws, consisting of 14 pages, are the Bylaws of this Corporation as revised by a vote of the Members of this Corporation, with a legal quorum being present and participating.

Executed at Rio Rancho, New Mexico on 1 Feb 2026

Signed Julene Heppe Julene Heppe

Members present: 30

Members voting in favor of revision: 30

Members voting in opposition of revision: 0