

CONSTITUTION OF THE BIG BEND COWBOY CHURCH

PREAMBLE:

Under the guidance and leadership of the Lord Jesus Christ, we the members of the Big Bend Cowboy Church adopt the following constitution in order to declare and preserve the principles of our faith, the freedom of our church, and the rights and responsibilities of our individual members.

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this church is the Big Bend Cowboy Church and incorporated under the laws of the State of Texas.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The church is organized and maintained to fulfill the following Mission Purpose Statement: The mission of the Big Bend Cowboy Church is to reach the lost and un-churched people in the western culture with the gospel of Jesus Christ and provide a church home where they can become more like Him. The church will accomplish this mission by holding to these values:

- We believe that Jesus Christ is the one and only Son of God the Father, born of a virgin, was crucified dead and buried. After three days he arose and ascended to the right hand of the Father paying the price for the sins of all mankind.
- We believe in God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit—Three in One.
- We believe in the baptism of believers by immersion. We believe that being a Christian means we will live our lives according to God's word, The Holy Bible.
- We believe that God has a plan for every believer and that He calls us to use our gifts, talents, and abilities to honor Him.

Simplicity – The church will strive to keep all things it does as simple as possible.

Non-judgmental approach – The church will foster a non-judgmental atmosphere in all it does, accepting people just as they are, just as Christ himself does.

Cultural relevance/Western Heritage – The church will make sure that all it does, including all of its programming and ministries will be geared toward reaching people in the western culture and those who love it.

Practice of Biblical Christianity – The church will practice biblical Christianity according to Matthew 18: 15-17. This will be practiced by the leadership and the congregation.

Elimination of barriers to the cowboy culture – The church will do all that it can to lower or eliminate the barriers preventing the Gospel of Jesus Christ from reaching the western culture.

Empowerment with accountability – The church will strive to empower as many people as it can to serve Christ through the church and bring out the giftedness in them while holding them accountable for their actions and commitments.

Power of the Gospel – The church believes in the power of the gospel unto salvation of souls and healing of body, mind, and spirit.

ARTICLE III. DOCTRINE

This church affirms the Holy Bible, the inspired word of God, as the authority in all matters of faith and practice. It further identifies itself as a distinctive body of faith by affirming the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message.

ARTICLE IV. POLITY AND RELATIONSHIP

Jesus Christ is the head of the church; the true source of all that the church is and does, and His glory is to be the objective of every act, function, and motive of the body, both individually and corporately. It is before Him that all other leadership must bow. He communicated his will for the church and through His word, the Bible. He gives additional guidance by means of the specific leading of the Holy Spirit who indwells the heart of each believer. He calls forth leaders for the church to who He gives responsibility for the oversight of the church body and the

shepherding of its members. The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose its membership and leadership. Person meeting the membership requirements and making a written request for membership shall constitute the membership. All internal groups created and empowered by the church shall exist to further the purpose of the church. They will be accountable to the church. As an autonomous local church, this church is not subject to the control of any ecclesiastical body. However, it relates to and cooperates with, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, the Texas Fellowship of Cowboy Churches and other entities of like faith in sharing the gospel with the whole world. If an entity this church cooperates with ceases to agree with or support the mission of this church, this church reserves the right to disassociate with that entity.

ARTICLE V. ORDINANCES

SECTION I. BAPTISM

A church is understood to be a fellowship of baptized believers brought together to carry out the work of Jesus Christ. A baptized believer is one who has been scripturally immersed and understands baptism to be a symbol of the salvation which has already been accepted in their life by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

SECTION II. THE LORD'S SUPPER

The church will observe the Lord's Supper on a regular basis as led by the Pastor. The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act whereby the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of Christ and anticipate His second coming. This observance is open to anyone who has accepted Jesus Christ as their personal savior and is seeking His righteousness.

ARTICLE VI. AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the members present at a church conference called for that purpose. Amendments may be proposed by the Elders or by written petition signed by 25% of the resident members and duly presented to the Elders.

Proposed amendments shall be in written form and mailed to the last know address of all resident members eligible to vote at least two weeks prior to the election. Amendments will be numbered, dated and attached to the original instrument.

BIG BEND COWBOY CHURCH BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. ESTABLISHING MEMEBERSHIP

Membership in the Big Bend Cowboy Church is open to anyone who meets the following qualifications:

- A. A member must have personal commitment of faith in Jesus Christ for salvation.

- B. A member must have been baptized by immersion after faith in Christ as a testimony of salvation.

Membership may be established in the following ways:

- A. Letter

Candidates who are members in good standing of another church of like faith and order may petition the Cowboy Church to acquire a letter of membership from their previous church.

B. Statement

Candidates who have previously been members of another church of like faith and order, but are unable to obtain a letter of membership from said church, may join by affirming that they are baptized (immersed) believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, holding to the historic teaching of Christianity, and desiring membership in the Big Bend Cowboy Church.

C. Baptism

Candidates accepting Christ as their Savior and requesting Christian baptism by immersion will be accepted as members upon baptism.

All candidates for membership shall give a verbal testimony of their conversion, baptism, and walk with Christ to a pastor or elder.

SECTION 2. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

A Person's membership in the Big Bend Cowboy Church may be terminated in one of the following ways:

A. Death

B. Letter

A letter of dismissal for any member in good standing shall be granted to any church of like faith and order upon request from said church.

C. Exclusion

If a member conducts himself in a manner which brings the name of Christ and the church into disrepute, it will be the responsibility of the elders under the guidance of the pastor to attempt to restore the member in a spirit of love according to the guidelines set forth in Matthew 18:15-17. If the member fails to respond positively to

these attempts, exclusions will require a consensus of the elder body and a written account signed by the elder body outlining the process laid out by Matthew 18:15-17 that they followed with the member. This written account will be available to members of the congregation upon request.

D. Erasure

If a member request erasure or offers proof of membership in a church of another denomination, his name will be removed from the roll.

SECTION 3. RIGHTS OF MEMBER

Each member present, 16 years of age and older, shall be entitled to one (1) vote on each matter submitted for a vote at any called church conference. The right of a member to vote shall cease upon the termination of his membership in the church. Members have the right to vote on the following matters: the call of the pastor and other professional ministerial staff, the election of elders, the annual church budget, indebtedness associated with land acquisition and/or building improvements, cumulative indebtedness for all other aspects of church business that exceeds 20% of the annual church budget, the disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of the church, the merger or dissolution of the church, and any other matter submitted by the elders to the church for a vote.

ARTICLE II. MINISTERIAL LEADERSHIP

SECTION 1. PASTOR

A. Call

Upon the pastor's termination, a church conference will be called and the church will elect a pastor search team. This team will consist of no fewer than two and no more than eight members. This team will seek out and evaluate prospective pastoral

candidates until they achieve complete consensus on a single candidate. They will then report to the elders who will set a time and date for the candidate to be received by the church. On that date, a church conference shall be called and after a full discussion, a vote will be taken by secret ballot. A three-fourths (3/4) vote of the church members present and voting is required to extend a call. If a call is not extended by the church to the candidate, or if the candidate declines to accept, then the pastor search team will begin a new search and come before the church with a second recommendation. This method will proceed until a pastor is secured.

B. Duties

The pastor shall be the spiritual leader of the congregation. In that capacity, under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the leadership of the Holy Spirit, he shall preach and teach the word of God, lead the church in regular worship service, administer the ordinance of the church, serve as moderator at church conferences, provide leadership to the ministerial staff, serve as over all administrator of the church, and generally fulfill all his pastoral duties as set forth in Scripture.

C. Termination

The pastor's duties with the church may be terminated by resignation, death, or dismissal. Such dismissal will require two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at a called business meeting. The moderator for such a meeting will be a disinterested third party appointed by the elders.

SECTION 2. PROFESSIONAL MINISTERIAL STAFF

A. Call

If it is determined that additional professional ministerial staff other than the pastor is needed for fulfilling the church's mission they may be employed by the church. The church will elect a search team. This team will consist of no fewer than two and nor more than eight members. This team will seek out and evaluate prospective candidates until they achieve complete consensus on a single candidate. They will then report to the elders who will set a time and date for the candidate to be received by the church. On that date, a church conference shall be called and after a full discussion, a vote will be taken by secret ballot. A three-fourths (3/4) vote of the church members present is required to extend a call. If a call is not extended by the church to the candidate, or if the candidate declines to accept, then the search team will begin a new search and come before the church with a second recommendation.

B. Duties

Professional ministerial staff persons will have specific and written job descriptions as outlined by the pastor and Personnel Team.

C. Termination

The minister's duties with the church may be terminated by resignation, death, or dismissal. Such dismissal will require two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at a called business meeting. The moderator for such a meeting will be a disinterested third party appointed by the elders.

SECTION 3. LAY PASTORS

A. Purpose and Function

Lay pastors shall serve as:

Extensions of the Pastor

Lay Pastors serve at the Pastor's good pleasure. They are appointed and are replaced by the pastor at his discretion.

Resource People

Lay Pastors can expect to be attached to one or more ministry teams. Lay Pastors do not run or lead the teams, they resource the team and act as a liaison between the team and the pastor.

Ministers in Worship

Lay Pastors can be expected to be called on to participate in the worship service, i.e. announcements, prayer requests, administering ordinances, assisting in baptism, etc. Lay Pastors may also be called upon to bring devotions, preach, pray or lead bible studies depending on their gifts, talents and spiritual maturity.

Ministers to the Congregation

Lay Pastors help the pastor minister to the needs of the congregation in many ways, such as, visitation, meeting member's physical needs as well as the physical needs of the church.

C. Selection

Lay pastors shall be appointed as needed by the senior pastor. If there is no pastor they may be appointed by the elders.

D. Qualifications of Lay Pastor

Lay pastors must be members in good standing, be growing in the Lord and have an active daily relationship with Jesus. While divorce is not grounds for disqualification,

Lay pastors should have a stable home life and be respected by others in the western culture and the community and not engage in activities that would bring reproach to the Lord or the church.

E. Term of Office

Lay pastors will be appointed to a one year term, but may service multiple terms by mutual consent of the senior pastor, the elders, and the lay pastor involved.

F. Removal

A Lay pastor may be removed before their term of office expires by death, resignation, or dismissal by the pastor and or elders.

SECTION 4. ELDERS

A. Purpose and Function

Elders shall serve to provide spiritual leadership and accountability to the church in accordance with scripture. They will provide a brotherhood of support and accountability for the pastor, assist the ministry teams with difficult issues, serve as arbiters in matters of conflict or church discipline, and in general provide spiritual leadership, guidance, and assistance wherever and whenever appropriate. The elder body shall be made up of three elected elders plus the pastor, who is also an elder.

Spiritual Leadership

Elders model what it means to be Christ like. Elders are an example for the congregation of how to live a Christian life, this includes how to relate to other Christians, how to relate to non-believers, how to be godly husbands and fathers, how to handle conflict and crisis and how to have an active personal relationship with Jesus.

A Brotherhood of Support for the Pastor

Elders must be committed to the Pastor. Elders act as a buffer between the Pastor and his critics; they also are an accountability group for the pastor, prayer partners for the pastor and friends of the pastor. Elders are to meet with the pastor on a consistent regular basis for consultation, prayer and fellowship.

A Limited Decision Making Body

The only time when the elders become a decision making body is when (1) they are called on by the Pastor to help him make a decision, (2) when a ministry team cannot reach consensus on an issue, (3) when the functional structure does not exist or breaks down, (4) in matters of church discipline.

Limited Visible Involvement

Elders typically do not have ongoing roles in the worship service and are not overly involved in the various ministry teams. Elders are not an oversight body for the finance, personnel or pastor. They can be enlisted by the pastor, personnel team or the audit team if it is deemed necessary by any of these.

Dual Roles

Elders cannot have dual leadership roles. When a candidate for elder is nominated he must be willing to step down from any other role in leadership that he occupies if he is elected as elder or he will be disqualified as a candidate. Other leadership roles include: lay pastor, team leader, team member, paid staff or band leader.

Spouse of an Elder

An elder's spouse may not serve as paid or volunteer staff including but not limited to church clerk, church secretary or church finance secretary.

Confidentiality

All discussions between the elders are strictly confidential; this includes not discussing elder issues with the spouses of elders or other church members. Breaking confidentiality is grounds for removal. Elders do not meet without all the elders present including the pastor if this is possible and absolutely never meet to discuss problems about the pastor or another elder without them present. The Pastor-Elder and Elder-Elder relationships must be 100% transparent.

B. Qualifications

Gods Word gives us specific qualifications, in 1 Timothy 3:1-12, for men who are called to serve as leaders in our church. Below are ten of the twelve verses and the culturally relevant qualifications that apply to Elders in the Big Bend Cowboy Church.

Verse 1 – Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone set his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task.

1. Elder should acknowledge the importance and respect God gives to someone called to lead the church.

Verse 2 – Now the overseer must be above reproach...

2. Elder should be someone with a good testimony in his home, the church, and in the culture God has called this church to reach. The church acknowledges that none are without sin; and Elder must be someone who is seeking righteousness.

Verse 2 – the husband of but one wife...

3. While this verse has been interpreted several ways, this basic message is that if a man is married and wants to be an Elder, he should have only one wife. The Big Bend Cowboy Church interprets this verse to refer to polygamy.

Verse 2 – temperate & self-controlled

4. Elders are called to handle very difficult situations at times and should be able to control their personal feelings, emotions, and actions in order to seek what God would have them to do and not their own desires.

Verse 2 – respectable...

5. An Elder should be a man who is respected in the church, at home, and in the culture. An Elder should respect people in his family, the church, and his community.

Verse 2 – hospitable...

6. An Elder should be willing to open his home and give of his time to meet and serve the people in the church.

Verse 2 – able to teach...

7. An Elder should spend time in Gods Word and be comfortable and willing to instruct others in the church in studying the Bible.

Verse 3 – not give to drunkenness...

8. An Elder should not be controlled by alcohol or anything else that impairs his ability to make sound decisions or damages his testimony in the church, home, or culture.

Verse 3 – not violent but gentle...

9. An Elder should be able to handle situations calmly without becoming verbally, physically, or emotionally abusive.

Verse 3 – not quarrelsome...

10. An Elder should never be involved in matters that cause dissension in the church.

Verse 3 – not a lover of money...

11. An Elder should be someone who is willing to put the needs of the church above his own desire for worldly possession.

Verse 4 – He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect...

12. An Elder should be leading his family the way God directs in Scripture and be involved in the lives of his family

Verse 6 – He must not be a recent convert...

13. An Elder must not be a new Christian or someone who is not maturing in his faith. While Spiritual maturity is something none of us will completely attain until we are in the presence of God, it is also something that takes time. An Elder should at least be someone who has a personal relationship with God for five years.

Verse 7 – He must have a good reputation with outsiders...

14. An Elder should be in good standing with people who are not a part of the church. He should have good credibility with the rural/western culture we are seeking to reach.

Verse 9 – They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience

15. An Elder should look only to Gods Word for the direction and words used to lead our church.

Verse 10 – They must first be tested...

16. An Elder should be someone who has led others in our church, (ministry teams, worship, etc.) or is active in church events/services.

17. The following qualifications will go into effect no sooner than 5 years following adoption of this constitution. An Elder must be an active member of the Big Bend Cowboy Church for no less than two (2) years and be in good standing with the Church.

18. An Elder should have an understanding and desire to see that the Mission of the Big Bend Cowboy Church and its values are upheld.

19. An Elder can not have a spouse or family member who serves as a paid or volunteer staff including but not limited to church clerk, church secretary or church finance secretary. The spouse of an elder may serve in other roles of leadership such as team leader or team member.

20. Elders should be willing to rearrange their daily schedules or do whatever it takes to ensure the Mission of the Church and any business necessary is fulfilled.

21. If arguments and disagreements arise in the church an Elder must be able to take a neutral position, suspend judgment, hear both sides, and seek only God's direction based on Scripture.

C Selection and Term of Office

1. On or about January 1st of each year, the church will be asked to submit in writing the names of men to serve as elders. These names will be screened by the pastor and existing elders to ensure that the nominees meet the qualifications set forth above. If it is determined that a nominee is qualified, his name will be placed before the church as a candidate. However, if the elders, the pastor, or the nominee determine that he is not qualified; he will not be a candidate.
2. Once a list of qualified candidates has been assembled, an election will be held on or before January 31st of each year. The candidates names shall be placed on a ballot and those church members present and voting shall be asked to mark three names. The three candidates receiving the most votes will serve as elders until the next election unless precluded by death, resignation, or removal. An elder may not serve more than three consecutive terms.

D. Removal

Any member of the church may bring a written scriptural reason for removal of an elder. Elders may be removed from office by their own decision or by consensus decision of the other elders. Removal shall be based upon being spiritually unqualified, the inability to serve or as a result of the process laid out in Matthew 18: 15-17.

E. Vacancies

Elder vacancies can occur by death, resignation, or removal. When a vacancy occurs, the existing elders shall select an interim to fill the vacancy until the next election.

ARTICLE III. SUPPORT STAFF

The pastor and Personnel Team will employ and terminate other employees as necessary.

ARTICLE IV. MINISTRY TEAMS

SECTION 1. GENERAL MINISTRY TEAMS

A. Purpose and Function

Ministry teams shall be organized to carry out the specialized ministries of the church. Each ministry team shall have specific functions and responsibilities as assigned or approved by the pastor and/or Elders.

B. Structure

Ministry teams will be made up of no less than 4 nor more than 10 people organized to carry out a necessary ministry or function of the church. Teams that require more people attached to them than 10 can elect representatives to act on their behalf, these representatives will be the ministry team recognized by the church. Each team member will have individual functions and responsibilities as assigned by the team. A staff member or lay pastor will be assigned to each to offer assistance and serve as a liaison between the team and the senior pastor and be team leader and will be responsible for

ensuring that the team functions properly. Teams will function by consensus, not majority vote. This means that teams must arrive at decisions that can be supported by each member of the team. If consensus cannot be reached, the matter shall either be tabled or placed before the pastor and elders for a final decision. Some ministry teams will have their own budget line. The team will make a budget request to the Audit Team for the annual budget. The ministry team should be prepared to make a case for their request and justify the budget they have requested. The ministry team is responsible for staying within their budget and giving an account of all their activities at the monthly leadership team meeting. The teams make their own decisions about what they will do in the particular areas of ministry and they will choose how to allocate their budget dollars, however, all major decision that could affect church direction or church sponsored activities should be brought before the leadership team before being implemented. Teams need to hold firmly to the Mission Statement of the church and filter everything they do through this mission statement and each team will have its own Purpose Statement to help guide its direction.

.C. Qualifications

Team members must: be members of the church in good standing, love the Lord and have a desire to see his kingdom grow, have credibility with other church members, have a passion for the mission of the team, be determined to make the team a top priority in their lives (this means that they are willing to rearrange their daily schedules or do whatever it takes to participate in team meetings and activities), and desire to use their talents and abilities to accomplish the team's mission.

D. Formation of Teams

General Ministry teams may be formed as needed by the pastor and/or elders, by the Leadership Team, or by any lay pastor, ministry team leader, or church member with the pastor's approval.

E. Selection and Term of Office

Members of general ministry teams may be appointed by the pastor and/or elders, or be enlisted by a lay pastor or ministry team leader. Ordinarily members will be enlisted by the team leader or; lay pastor directly responsible for the team. The term of office for general ministry team members will be one year, but members may serve multiple terms by mutual consent of the team leader, lay pastor, and team member involved.

F. Removal

If a team member causes conflict, fails to carry out his or her responsibility to the team, or otherwise hampers the work of the team, every effort should be made by the team leader and assigned staff person to rectify the issue in a positive redemptive manner. However, if the problem persists, a team member may be removed by the pastor and/or elders, or by consensus decisions of the other team members.

SECTION 2. STANDING MINISTRY TEAMS

A. Purpose and function

Standing ministry teams shall provide oversight of the church's regular business affairs and assist in finding and providing the tangible resources necessary to effectively carry out the church's ministries.

B. Structure

Standing ministry teams shall be composed of six members serving two year terms with two members rotating off each year. A staff member or lay pastor will be assigned to each team to offer assistance and serve as a liaison between the team and the senior pastor and elders. Each year, one member of the team shall be designated by the lay pastor or staff member to be team leader and will be responsible for ensuring that the team functions properly. Teams will function by consensus, not majority vote. This means that teams must arrive at decisions that can be supported by each member of the team. If consensus cannot be reached, the matter shall either be tabled or placed before the pastor and elders for a final decision.

C. Qualifications

Qualifications for standing ministry team members will be the same as those of General Ministry Team Members. (Article IV, Section 1.)

D. Standing Teams

The standing teams of the church shall be:

1. Personnel Team

The Personnel Team will have 6 members and will be responsible to ensure that the church has adequate support staff to effectively carry out its ministries. The team will fill staff vacancies as needed or as directed by the church, conduct periodic staff evaluations, make salary recommendations, and mediate church/staff disputes.

2. Facility Team

The Facility Team will be made up of 6 members. This team is responsible to ensure that the church has adequate facilities to effectively carry out its ministries. They will oversee the care, maintenance, and use of all facilities and grounds except the arena.

They will not oversee paid staff. Any concerns the facilities team may have with paid staff are to be taken to the personnel team and the personnel team will interact directly with paid staff. The Facility Team will also assist the pastor and elders with long range planning which will ensure that the church has adequate facilities to meet future needs.

3. Audit Team

The Audit Team is made up of no less than 3 no more than 7 members. They meet once a month to audit the financial records. They only verify and report. They have no decision making authority about how money is spent. It is the Audit Team's responsibility to get budget requests from all of the various ministry teams and church administrators and put together an annual budget to be presented to the church for a vote. When putting together the budget the team will take into account projected church income based on history and realistic growth potential, church mission statement, church needs and priorities. A proposed budget will be presented at a monthly leadership team meeting where it will be voted on by the congregation. The budget can only be adopted by a 2/3 majority vote of the congregation. The Audit Team may be enlisted by the Pastor and Elders to come up with some policies related to finances, these policies can only be adopted by a 2/3 majority vote of the congregation.

4. Arena Team

The Arena Team will be made up of no less than 6 no more than 10 members and is responsible for providing the tools, resources, and personnel necessary for the church to effectively carry out its arena ministry. They shall be responsible for the oversight, care, maintenance, and use of the arena. They will work with the Leadership Team as well as

other ministry teams to develop strategies and plan events that will utilize the arena to effectively reach the cowboy/western culture for Christ.

E. Selection and Term of Office

Members of standing ministry teams may be appointed by the pastor and/or elders, or be enlisted by others who have been given that authority by the pastor and elders and do so under their supervision. The term of office for standing ministry team members will be two years with two members rotating off each year.

F. Removal

If a standing team member causes conflict, fails to carry out his or her responsibility to the team, or otherwise hampers the work of the team, every effort should be made by the team leader and assigned staff person to rectify the issue in a positive redemptive manner. However, if the problem persists, a team member may be removed by the pastor and/or elders, or by consensus decisions of the other team members.

SECTION 3. LEADERSHIP TEAM

A. Purpose and Function

The Leadership Team will serve to provide a forum in which the various ministry teams can brainstorm, coordinate activities and events, share resources, and generally work together to enhance the overall effectiveness of the church's ministries. It will be responsible for setting the church calendar and hold all ministry teams accountable to the church's mission statement, values and constitution.

B. Structure

The Leadership team will consist of the team leaders from each ministry team, the pastor, the elders, the lay pastors and staff. In addition, its meetings will generally be open to the

participation and input of the entire church membership, however, the leadership team may meet in closed meetings but this cannot take the place of the monthly leadership team meeting which is open to the congregation. Leadership team meetings shall be moderated by the senior pastor or a person whom the senior pastor will designate.

C. Meetings

The Leadership Team will meet as often as necessary to effectively plan and coordinate the activities and events of the church. At a minimum the leadership team will meet once every 2 months.

ARTICLE V. CORPORATE OFFICERS

SECTION 1. PRESIDENT

The senior pastor shall serve as the president and overall administrator of the corporation. He will serve as moderator at church conferences and be responsible for ensuring that the daily business affairs of the church are appropriately and effectively executed.

SECTION 2. TRUSTEES

A. Purpose and function

Trustees shall sign the title to church property; all legal documents involving the sale, mortgage, purchase, or rental of property; all notes and loan instruments; and such other legal documents as may require execution on behalf of the church. There shall be three (3) trustees.

B. Selection and Term of Office

The three elected elders shall also serve as the trustees of the church. They shall remain trustees as long as they remain elders. If they are removed as elder, whether by death,

resignation, or termination, the duly appointed interim elder/trustee shall serve in their place until the next elder election.

SECTION 3. CLERK/SECRETARY

A. Purpose and function

The Church Clerk shall serve as secretary of the corporation. The responsibilities of the clerk will be to keep the minutes of all church conferences, insure that a proper file of all members is maintained.

B. Selection and Term of Office

A volunteer may be appointed by the pastor and elders. A paid staff position can be filled by the Personnel Team. The Church Secretary shall serve as Church Clerk.

SECTION 4. VACANCIES

In the event a vacancy occurs in any corporate office, the elders shall appoint a successor to till the unexpired term.

ARTICLE VI. CHURCH BUSINESS

SECTION 1. FINANCES

A. Fiscal year

The fiscal year of the church will be on a calendar year basis beginning on January 1 and ending on December 31 of each year.

B. Accounting Procedures

A system of accounting that will adequately provide for the handling of all funds shall be the responsibility of the Audit Team.

C. Budget

The Audit Team, in consultation with the pastor and ministry team leaders, shall prepare and submit a budget for congregational approval prior to the beginning of each fiscal year.

D. Checks, Drafts, Etc.

All checks, drafts or orders for the payment of money, notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the church shall be signed by at least two people who have been designated by the Audit Team for that purpose. The pastor and or the pastor's spouse, an elder and or an elder's spouse may not serve as check signers.

E. Deposits

All funds of the church shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the church in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as determined by the Audit Team.

SECTION 2. CHURCH CONFERENCES

A. Church Conferences

Church conferences may be called by the elders or by written petition of 25% of the active resident members presented to the elders. An active resident member is one who lives in or around the Big Bend Cowboy Church area and has attended the church's regular worship services at least 6 times in the 90 days preceding the circulation of the petition.

B. Notices

Notices of time and place of all church conferences shall be given not later than the Sunday prior to such meetings by publication in the church newsletter or worship bulletin, or by public announcement at a regular Sunday morning worship service.

C. Place of Church Conferences

All church conferences shall be held on the premises of the church.

D. Quorum

The church members present at any duly called church conference shall constitute a quorum.

E. Proxies

Voting by proxy at any church conference shall not be allowed or recognized.

F. Will of the Church

All Ministry Teams, officers, and organizations of the church shall carry out the will of the church on any given matter, duly expressed by its vote.

G. Rules of Procedure

The order of proceeding at church conferences shall be determined by the rules of practice contained in Robert's Rules of Order, Revised.

H. Conduct of Church Business

All business of the church shall be conducted in a manner that honors Christ and respects others. The church shall strive to seek the will of God by prayerful deliberation and common consensus.

SECTION 3. CONTRACTS

The Trustee's shall execute and deliver any contact or instrument in the name of the church which may be authorized by the church to be so executed and delivered. In this connection, the church body as a whole shall be the ultimate authority for all actions taken by the church and no other person, organizations or corporate officer shall have any authority to contract or otherwise bind the church without express authorization from the church body.

SECTION 4. BOOKS AND RECORDS

The church shall keep and maintain a complete and accurate record of all financial accounts, membership lists, and church conference minutes at its principle office. All books and records of the church may be inspected by any member, or his agent or attorney, for any purpose at any reasonable time.

SECTION 5. PROHIBITION AGAINST SHARING IN CORPORATE EARNINGS

No member, officer, or person connected with the corporation, or any other private individual shall receive at any time any of the net earnings of pecuniary profit from the operations of the corporation, provided that this shall not prevent the payment to any such person of a reasonable compensation for services rendered to or for the corporation in effecting any of its purposes as shall be fixed by the church; and no such person or persons shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the corporate assets upon the dissolution of the corporation. All members of the church shall be deemed to have expressly consented and agreed that upon such dissolution of winding up of the affairs of the corporation, whether voluntary or involuntary, the assets of the corporation , after all debts have been satisfied, then remaining in the hands of the officers of the church shall be distributed, transferred, conveyed, delivered, and paid over, in such amounts as the church may determine or as may be determined by a court of competent jurisdiction upon application of the church, exclusively to charitable, religious, or educational organizations which would then qualify under the provision of Section 501 (C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and its regulations as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended.

SECTION 6. EXEMPT ACTIVITIES

Notwithstanding any other provision of these by-laws, no member, officer, or representative of the corporation shall take any action or carry on any activity by or on behalf of the corporation

not permitted to be taken or carried on by any organization exempt under Section 501 (C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and its Regulations as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended, or by any organization contributions to which are deductible under Section 170 (C)(2) of such code and regulations as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended.

ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended by the elders or by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the members present at a church conference called for that purpose. Amendments may be proposed by the elders or by written petition of 25% of the resident membership presented to the elders.

Proposed amendments for church consideration shall be in written form and mailed two weeks prior to the church conference to the last know address of all members eligible to vote.

Amendments will be numbered, dated and attached to the original instrument.