



RICH FORK BAPTIST CHURCH

BY-LAWS



Revised April 3rd, 2021

Table of Contents

I.	Name and Purpose	2
II.	Statement of Covenant	2
III.	Articles of Faith.....	2
IV.	Membership.....	3
V.	Services and Meetings.....	4
VI.	Church Ministries.....	4
VII.	Church Leadership.....	5
	▪ Senior Pastor	5
	▪ Additional Pastoral Staff.....	6
	▪ Other Non-Pastoral Staff.....	6
	▪ Elders.....	6
	▪ Deacons.....	9
	▪ Church Committee Leadership.....	10
VIII.	Use of Church Property	10
	▪ Cemetery.....	10
IX.	Adoption and Amendments	10
X.	Arbitration	11
XI.	Indemnification	11
XII.	Conflicts of Interest.....	12
XIII.	Investments.....	12
XIV.	Exempt Activities.....	13
XV.	Dissolution.....	13



(I.) NAME AND PURPOSE

This membership constituted on December 28, 1884, is known as Rich Fork Baptist Church of Thomasville, North Carolina Inc. The Church is a Section 501(c)(3) corporation, affiliated with the Liberty Baptist Association of Davidson County, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Church is organized for the purpose of worshiping God, preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ, providing spiritual training and serving the needy. We rely on the guidance of the Holy Spirit and adhere to the teachings of the Old and New Testaments of the Holy Bible.

We establish and adopt these By-Laws for the purpose of operating and functioning as a church in all of its religious, charitable and educational dimensions, including but not limited to the following purposes:

- Declaring our loyalty to the principles of our faith
- Governing ourselves in an orderly manner
- Clarifying the relationship of this body to other organizations
- Engaging in any lawful activity within the purposes for which the Church may be organized which are incidental to and in furtherance of the purposes of the Church

(II.) STATEMENT OF FAITH

As members of the Body of Christ, we have received the grace of God by accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. We have been led by the Holy Spirit to joyfully and solemnly enter into a covenant relationship with this membership.

We affirm God's covenant commandment to love Him with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength (Luke 10:27). We express our continuing trust in His promises through obedience to His commandments.

We commit ourselves to seek to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Evidence of this commitment is:

- Conducting ourselves in a way that honors our Lord (Proverbs 3:5,6)
- Supporting God's work with our presence, our financial gifts and our spiritual gifts (Hebrews 10:25, Malachi 3:10)
- Watching over and cooperating with one another in brotherly love (Philippians 2:1)
- Lovingly leading those who seek to grow spiritually (2 Peter 3:18)
- Willingly submitting to those whom God appoints over us (Matthew 8:8-10)

We admit our total dependence on the Holy Spirit for the fulfillment of this Covenant.

(III.) ARTICLES OF FAITH

The Articles of Faith of this membership are the same as those adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention as described in "The Baptist Faith and Message" (written in 1963 and revised in 1988) which are fully incorporated herein and made an integral part of these By-laws. Copies are available.



(IV.) MEMBERSHIP

Classes of Membership

The Church shall have one class of members, who shall be voting members.

Becoming a Member

A person may become a member of the Church by either joining the Church directly or by transfer of membership as set forth below:

1. Becoming a member by joining directly requires completion of all four following steps:
 - Publicly professing their faith in Jesus Christ (John 3:16)
 - Being baptized by immersion (Acts 2:38)
 - Receiving a vote of affirmation by the members
 - Completing the New Member's Class *

2. Becoming a member by transferring membership requires completion of all three following steps:
 - Providing a letter of membership from a church of like faith and baptism by immersion OR providing a statement of fact of membership in a church of like faith and baptism by immersion when a letter is not available
 - Receiving a vote of affirmation by the members
 - Completing the New Member's Class*

**The New Member's Class provides instruction in basic Baptist doctrine.*

Rights of Membership

Every member shall be entitled to attend all meetings of members. Every member of the Church is entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote at a meeting of members, provided the member is present at such meeting. Absentee and proxy voting are not permitted.

Member List

The Church shall maintain an alphabetical list of the names of all members. The list shall show mailing addresses for each member and the date and method of admission and dismissal of each member.

Discipline of a Member

The discipline of a member may occur if their conduct dishonors the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Matthew 18:15-17 and Galatians 6:1-2 outline the necessity of and procedure for the discipline of a member. As detailed in these scriptures, reconciliation is always to be sought, but will not always occur.

If the member's reconciliation fails, the Board of Elders shall consult with the Senior Pastor and vote regarding the member's exclusion (termination of membership). The Board of Elders shall exclude a member from membership by unanimous affirmative vote at a properly called Elder meeting. The potentially excluded member shall receive written notice of the exclusion vote meeting at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting. If the vote is to exclude, the Church clerk sends written notification of the termination of membership to the excluded party.



Restoration may occur when the Board of Elders receives a request for restoration from the excluded member including a confession of error, evidence of repentance, and reaffirmation of commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The Board of Elders may restore the previously excluded member to membership by unanimous affirmative vote at a properly called Elder meeting. If a member resigns during a discipline process, and later desires to become a member again, he/she must complete the portions of the restoration process deemed necessary by the Board of Elders.

Termination of Membership

Membership in the Church is terminated in any one of the following ways:

- Through the request for a letter of transfer from another church
- By the written request of the member
- Upon the death of the member
- As the final act of church discipline as outlined above

(V.) SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Worship Services

Worship services are held regularly unless otherwise announced. Additional services are scheduled as necessary. The Lord's Supper (Luke 22:19) is observed as the Senior Pastor directs.

Business Meetings

The membership will be given written notice of quarterly business meetings, pursuant to the schedule set by the Board of Elders. Notice shall be deemed sufficient and timely if provided at least two (2) consecutive Sundays prior to the meeting.

The Senior Pastor, or his designee, shall serve as the presiding officer during the Church's business meetings. If requested by the Senior Pastor, committees and organizations may present information and requests. The Church clerk will record minutes, voting information and decisions made by the Church. The Church clerk will present the records for approval at the next business meeting. Only members in attendance are eligible to vote. No vote can be cast by absentee ballot or by proxy. When an additional business meeting is necessary, the membership is given written notice in the same manner as any other business meeting, which includes the purpose and time of the business meeting. Decisions of the Church and motions are passed with an 85% affirmative vote of the members in attendance.

Special Called Business Meetings

Special business meetings may be called by the Elders, the Senior Pastor, or by at least 10% of the membership making a written request to the Elders for such a meeting. Only the stated purposes of the special called business meeting shall be discussed.

(VI.) CHURCH MINISTRIES

The Church is a ministering organization beginning and ending ministries as directed by the Board of Elders, Senior Pastor, and staff. Examples include Sunday School, Bible Study, Worship Ministries, and Missions.



(VII.) CHURCH LEADERSHIP

----- SENIOR PASTOR -----

Responsibilities and Duties

The Senior Pastor is the head Elder/shepherd of the Church and oversees the spiritual welfare of the membership. He shall be an ex officio voting member of the Board of Elders, fulfilling the role of Teaching Elder. As an Elder, his qualifications are the same as those of the Elder Board. His responsibilities include:

- Preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- Providing spiritual leadership in all areas of Church life
- Being responsible for the pulpit ministry
- Administering the ordinances of the Lord's Supper and Baptism
- Providing for the needs of the membership through visitation or counseling
- Providing direction for responsibilities of the Church staff as outlined by their job descriptions
- Serving as, or appointing a staff member to serve as an ex-officio member of Church committees, councils, etc. as needed

Selection and Call

In the event of a vacancy in the office of Senior Pastor, the Elders shall appoint a Pastor Search Committee to seek out and recommend to the Elders, who shall then recommend to the Church, a person whose qualifications have been examined and are found to fit the needs of the membership. The Elders shall inform the Church of the names of the members of the Pastor Search Committee.

The call of the Senior Pastor shall take place at a special called business meeting set aside for that purpose. The extension of a call shall be by an 85% affirmative vote of members in attendance. The vote shall be by secret ballot.

Interim Leadership

The Elders shall be responsible for ensuring the performance of the duties and responsibilities of the Senior Pastor until a new Senior Pastor has started.

Resignation and Termination

The Senior Pastor shall serve until the pastoral relationship is dissolved at the request of the Senior Pastor or the membership. The Senior Pastor must give at least four weeks' advance notice in writing of his intention to resign his position, unless otherwise mutually agreed.

If two-thirds (2/3) of the active Elders are convinced that it would be in the best interest of the Senior Pastor and the membership to dissolve the relationship, the Elders shall call a meeting of the Elders and the Senior Pastor to resolve the differences. If agreement cannot be reached, two-thirds (2/3) of the active Elders may call a special business meeting in order to recommend to the Church that the membership vote to terminate the pastoral relationship. Termination shall be by an 85% affirmative vote of members at a properly called business meeting. Arrangements for a severance agreement, if applicable would be made at the discretion of the Elders.



----- **ADDITIONAL PASTORAL STAFF** -----

Additional Pastoral Staff members may be called when it is in the best interest of the ministry of the Church.

Duties and Responsibilities

The duties and responsibilities for these positions will be formulated by the Senior Pastor or the Pastoral Staff, approved and recommended by the Elders.

Selection

The Elders may appoint either a Search Committee to recommend a person to fill the position, or assign the responsibility to the Senior Pastor. The Search Committee or the Senior Pastor shall present recommendations to the Elders for approval. The Elders will then recommend the person to the membership at a business meeting. The extension of a call shall be by an 85% affirmative vote of members at a properly called business meeting. The vote shall be by secret ballot.

Resignation and Termination

Additional Pastoral Staff shall serve until the membership or the staff member requests otherwise. The Staff member must give four weeks advance notice in writing of his intention to resign his position, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon.

Alternatively, the Senior Pastor, with the unanimous approval of the Elders, may terminate Pastoral Staff when convinced that such action will be in the best interests of the ministry of the Church. Such action shall be reported to the membership.

----- **OTHER NON-PASTORAL CHURCH STAFF** -----

The Church may employ other Non-Pastoral Church Staff (e.g. Support Staff) as it deems in the best interest of the ministry of the Church. The duties and responsibilities for these positions will be recommended by the Personnel Committee and approved by the Elders.

Selection and Termination

The selection and termination of Non-Pastoral Church Staff will be the responsibility of the immediate supervisor and the Senior Pastor with review by the Personnel Committee.

----- **ELDERS** -----

Qualifications

Elders shall be selected from the male members of Rich Fork Baptist Church and meet the Biblical qualifications prescribed for their office. Elders may not serve concurrently as a Deacon.

Elders shall be persistent in striving towards, and conforming to these standards found in scripture: Hebrews 13:17, 1 Timothy 3:1-7, 1 Peter 5:1-3, Titus 1:5-9



The Senior Pastor shall be an ex officio voting member of the Elders fulfilling the role of Teaching Elder. Other paid staff may not be selected as Elders.

Each Elder must have been a member of Rich Fork Baptist Church for at least five (5) years, with the exception of the Teaching Elder.

Responsibilities and Duties

The Elders shall imitate Jesus Christ through the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God as they undertake the work of overseeing the ministry of the Church.

The Biblical responsibilities outlined for the Elders are:

- To shepherd the flock of God (1 Peter 5:2; Acts 20:20; 1 Timothy 3:5)
- To be an example to the flock, not lording it over those allotted to their charge (1 Peter 5:3)
- To teach and exhort, equipping the flock for ministry (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9; Ephesians 4:12)
- To refute those who contradict truth (Titus 1:9,11)
- To manage the Church in their role as overseers (1 Timothy 3:5, 5:17)
- To pray for the sick (James 5:14-15)

As the Church is incorporated under the laws of the State of North Carolina, the Board of Elders shall be the Board of Directors of the Church, and the Chairman shall serve as President of the Corporation. The Board of Elders shall exercise all corporate powers and manage the business and affairs of the Church, or may delegate such under its authority, on behalf of the membership of the Church, unless otherwise directed in these By-laws or the Articles of Incorporation.

The Board of Elders shall handle the Church's business and legal matters regarding Church properties, deeds, insurance policies, contracts, or other legal documents, unless otherwise directed by the Articles of Incorporation or these By-laws.

Term and Number

Elders shall be elected for a term of three (3) years each. No Elder shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms. After serving two (2) consecutive terms, an individual must wait at least one (1) year before further service on the Board of Elders. The three (3) year term will begin as soon as the designated month of rotation.

There shall be a minimum of five (5), and not more than twelve (12), Elders at all times, excluding the Senior Pastor.

Selection

The selection process for new Elders will take place annually, and at other times when the active Elders determine that new Elders are needed. The Board of Elders will supervise the selection process. The Elders shall select a Chairman annually.

- 1- Notice of the beginning of the nomination process shall be given in writing to the membership. Nominations shall be received from the membership for four (4) weeks from the date of notice.
- 2- The vetting process of the nominees shall follow these general guidelines:



- a- At the conclusion of the nominating process, the church secretary shall prepare a list of all nominees. The secretary will make notes for each nominee that may include: Giving regularity (not amount, but pattern of regularity), number of years in membership of the Church, roles the individual has filled in the past (such as Sunday School teacher, small group leader, committee member, etc.)
 - b- The list of nominees will then be reviewed by the church staff. The staff shall add any additional notes for each nominee.
 - c- After the list has been notated by the secretary and staff, reviewed and discussed by the staff, and reviewed by the Senior Pastor, the list of nominees shall be passed to the Nomination Review Committee (see #3 below).
- 3- The Nomination Review Committee shall be composed of the following six (6) members:
- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Chairman of the Elders as Chairman | Chairman of the Deacons |
| Two (2) additional Elders | One (1) additional Deacon |
| Senior Pastor | |
- 4- The Nomination Review Committee will review nominations and prepare a final list to be confirmed by the membership who meet qualifications for the office and agree to serve, if confirmed.
- 5- Notice of the beginning of the confirmation process shall be given in writing to the membership. Confirmation forms will be received from the membership for a period of two (2) weeks after the nominees are presented to the membership. The names of new Elders confirmed by the membership will be published in advance of their ordination and/or installation.
- 6- Following confirmation, nominees shall be ordained and/or installed by the Church prior to the beginning of their service as Elders.
- 7- **Initial Elders** - The following individuals shall be installed as the Church's Initial Elders immediately upon adoption of these By-laws by the Church membership: Keith Thompson, Casey Hearn, and Kevin Black. The Initial Elders' terms, including duration and limitation, shall be consistent with these By-laws.

Vacancies

If a vacancy occurs on the Board of Elders by resignation or otherwise, and the Elders determine a replacement is necessary, the Board of Elders may fill the vacancy by majority vote where a quorum of Elders is present. The Board of Elders shall fill the vacancy with an individual that has previously served as Elder. Once elected, the acting Elder shall serve until the next annual selection process concludes.

Discipline

The Board of Elders shall be responsible for discipline of Elders. If the Board of Elders finds that an accused Elder has erred in doctrine or conduct, it shall charitably admonish him. If this does not bring the desired results, or the accused Elder ceases to be qualified for spiritual leadership (1 Timothy 3, Titus 1), the Board of Elders shall have the right to discipline the accused Elder, up to and including dismissal from the Board of Elders, in accordance with scripture (1 Timothy 5:19-20).

If an Elder ceases to be qualified for spiritual leadership (1 Timothy 3, Titus 1), the Board of Elders shall have the right to terminate the term of an Elder by a majority vote of the Elders.



DEACONS

Qualifications

Deacons shall be selected from the male members of Rich Fork Baptist Church. Deacons may not serve concurrently as an Elder. The Deacons shall select a Chairman annually.

Deacons must be servant minded and able to help facilitate many important functions across ministry areas of the Church.

Deacons shall strive to conform to and model the Biblical qualifications noted in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

Responsibilities and Duties

- Leading the membership in meeting needs within the body and in the community
- Preparing and assisting in the administration of the Lord's Supper
- Providing candidate names to fill the Nominating Committee
- Care and visitation of widows and shut-ins
- Assisting the staff with hospital visits
- Serve on the Elder Nomination Committee as needed
- Be available to assist in the invitation process as needed during worship services
- Aid in the acclimation of new members

Term and Number

Deacons shall serve three-year terms and are eligible for re-election after a one (1) year absence from office. The number of Deacons is determined by the Board of Elders, based on the needs and size of the membership.

Selection

One-third (1/3) of the Deacon body is elected annually on a rotating basis. The membership is given a list of male members who are 21 years of age or over and may nominate those they believe will best serve as Deacons. The Senior Pastor, Elder Chair, and Chairman of Deacons consider the nominees, interview those who meet the qualifications, and prepare a final list to be confirmed by the membership who meet qualifications for the office and agree to serve if confirmed.

Notice of the beginning of the confirmation process shall be given in writing to the membership. Confirmation forms will be received from the membership for a period of two (2) weeks after the nominees are presented to the membership. The names of new Deacons confirmed by the membership will be published in advance of their ordination and/or installation. Following confirmation, nominees shall be ordained and/or installed by the Church prior to the beginning of their service as Deacons.

Vacancies

If a vacancy occurs among the Deacon body, by resignation or otherwise, and the Board of Elders determine a replacement is necessary, the Board of Elders may fill the vacancy by majority vote where a quorum of Elders is present. The Board of Elders shall fill the vacancy with an individual that has previously served as Deacon. Once elected, the acting Deacon shall serve until the next annual selection process concludes.



Discipline

The Board of Elders shall be responsible for discipline of Deacons. If the Board of Elders finds that the accused Deacon has erred in doctrine or conduct, it shall charitably admonish him. If this does not bring the desired results, or the accused Deacon ceases to be qualified for spiritual leadership (1 Timothy 3, Titus 1), the Board of Elders shall have the right to discipline the accused Deacon, up to and including dismissal from the Deacon body, in accordance with scripture (1 Timothy 5:19-20).

If a Deacon ceases to be qualified for spiritual leadership (1 Timothy 3, Titus 1), the Board of Elders shall have the right to terminate the term of a Deacon by a majority vote of the Elders.

CHURCH COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

The Board of Elders shall establish, maintain, or dissolve committees as needed.

(VIII.) USE OF CHURCH PROPERTY

Cemetery

As long as space remains, the following persons may be buried in the Church cemetery:

- Members and dependent children of members
- Former Rich Fork Baptist Church pastors and spouses

As long as space remains, the following persons may be buried in the Church cemetery at a cost determined by the Cemetery Committee:

- Spouse of a member, or spouse of a former member who is buried in the cemetery
- Former members who requested and paid for a space within 30 days of the termination of their membership, pending the former member's proof of payment

Arrangements made prior to the adoption of these By-laws will be honored, subject to the production of tangible and satisfactory evidence that is clear and convincing of the prior arrangement.

(IX.) ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS

These By-laws are in effect immediately after adoption by the Church membership. Adoption of these By-laws nullifies any previous version. Any part of this document may be amended or repealed in accordance with an 85% affirmative vote at a properly called business meeting, provided that the proposed amendment or action has been unanimously approved by the Board of Elders for consideration to membership and that membership has received at least fourteen (14) days notice of the proposal, by the Church's standard method for such amendment or action. A copy of this document will be kept in the Church office and made available upon request.



(X.) ARBITRATION

Inasmuch as the scriptures require Christians to take their disputes to the saints and not to the civil courts (1 Corinthians 6:1-8), any claim or dispute which may arise (1) between any member of the Church and the Church itself, or (2) between any member of the Church and any Pastor, Officer, Director, Trustee, Deacon, employee, volunteer, or other member of the Church, shall be settled by mediation and, if necessary, legally binding arbitration, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for Christian Conciliation of the Institute for Christian Conciliation. No party shall have the right to seek redress in a secular civil court. Such arbitration shall be held in North Carolina unless otherwise agreed to by both parties. Judgment upon an arbitration award may be entered in any court otherwise having jurisdiction.

This Agreement shall be governed, construed, and interpreted under the laws of the State of North Carolina. Venue on any dispute arising from this Agreement shall be at Davidson County, North Carolina, unless otherwise agreed by the parties.

The arbitration process is not a substitute for any disciplinary process set forth in the By-laws of the Church, and shall in no way affect the authority of the Church to investigate reports of misconduct, conduct hearings, or administer discipline.

(XI.) INDEMNIFICATION

Any person who at any time serves or has served as an Officer, Director, Trustee, or Deacon of the Church, or who, while serving as an Officer, Director, Trustee, or Deacon of the Church, serves as a Trustee or Administrator under an employee benefit plan for Church employees, shall have a right to be indemnified by the Church to the fullest extent permitted by law against (a) reasonable expenses, including attorney fees, incurred by him in connection with any threatened, pending or completed civil, criminal, administrative, investigative or arbitrative action, suit or proceeding (and any appeal therein), whether or not brought by or on behalf of the Church, seeking to hold him liable by reason of the fact that he is or was acting in such capacity, and (b) reasonable payments made by him in satisfaction of any judgment, money decree, fine (including an excise tax assessed with respect to an employee benefit plan), penalty or settlement for which he may have become liable in any such action, suit or proceeding, provided such Officer or Director did not act fraudulently or with gross negligence.

The Board of Elders shall take all such action as may be necessary and appropriate to authorize the Church to pay the indemnification required by this by-law, including, without limitation, making a determination that indemnification is permissible in the circumstances and a good faith evaluation of the manner in which the claimant for indemnity acted and of the reasonable amount of indemnity due him. The Board of Elders may appoint a committee or special counsel to make such determination and evaluation.

Any person who at any time after the adoption of this by-law serves or has served in the aforesaid capacity for or on behalf of the Church shall be deemed to be doing or to have done so in reliance upon, and as consideration for, the right of indemnification provided herein. Such right shall inure to the benefit of the legal representatives of any such person and shall not be exclusive of any other rights to which such person may be entitled apart from the provision of this by-law.



(XII.) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

All Elders, Deacons, officers, agents and employees of the Church shall disclose all real or perceived conflicts of interest that they discover or that have been brought to their attention in connection with the Church's activities.

A "conflict of interest" occurs where a person is responsible for promoting the interest of the Church at the same time he or she is involved in a competing personal interest (financial, business, personal or relational).

"Disclosure" means providing properly, to the Senior Pastor or Board of Elders, a written description of the facts comprising the real or apparent conflict of interest. An annual disclosure statement shall be circulated to the Pastoral staff, or other individual(s) designated by the Church, to assist them in considering such disclosures, but disclosure is appropriate and required at any time conflicts may occur. The written notices of disclosures shall be filed with the Senior Pastor and the Board of Elders.

An individual Elder, member, officer, agent or employee who believes that he or she or an immediate member of his or her family might have a real or perceived conflict of interest, in addition to filing a notice of disclosure, must abstain from:

- Participating in discussions or deliberations with respect to the subject of the conflict (other than to present factual information or to answer questions)
- Using his or her personal influence to affect deliberations
- Making motions on the subject of the conflict
- Voting on the subject of the conflict
- Executing agreements on the subject of the conflict
- Taking similar actions on behalf of the Church where the conflict of interest might pertain By-law, agreement or otherwise

At the discretion of Pastoral Staff or the Board of Elders, a person with a real or perceived conflict of interest may be excused from all or any portion of discussion or deliberations with respect to the subject of the conflict.

(XIII.) INVESTMENTS

The Church shall have the right to retain all or any part of any securities or property acquired by it in whatever manner and to invest and reinvest any funds held by it, according to the judgment of the Board of Elders, without being restricted to the class of investments which the Board of Elders is or may hereafter be permitted by law to make or any similar restriction; provided, however, that no action shall be taken by or on behalf of the Church if such action is a prohibited transaction or would result in the denial of the tax exempt status of the Church.



(XIV.) EXEMPT ACTIVITIES

Although the Church shall have all the powers, rights and privileges granted non-profit corporations under the laws of North Carolina, notwithstanding any other provision of these By-laws, no substantial part of the activities of the Church shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Church shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these By-laws, the Church shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, (or the corresponding provision of any future U.S. Internal Revenue law) or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, (or the corresponding provision of any future U.S. Internal Revenue law).

No part of the net earnings of the Church shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, Elders, officers or other private persons, except that the Church shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes as set forth in these By-laws.

(XV.) DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of the Church, the Board of Elders shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the Church, deliver, disburse and convey all of the residual assets of the Church to such organization(s) organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, literary or educational purposes which themselves at the time are exempt as organizations described under Section 501(c)(3) and Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law, or to the federal, state or local government for exclusive public purpose, as the Board of Elders shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disbursed by a Court of competent jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the Church is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations as said Court shall determine which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

APPROVED AND RECOMMENDED TO THE MEMBERSHIP BY THE DEACONS AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

CHAIRMAN OF THE DEACONS

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

APPROVED BY THE MEMBERSHIP the _____ day of _____, 2019

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

