

TEXAS AVENUE COMMUNITY CHURCH CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

It is the hope of every member of the Board of Elders that this document serve not only as a guide to doctrinal unity, but also as a guide in the day to day organizational conduct of Texas Avenue Community Church. We fully recognize that the Bible, God's Written Word, is the final authority in faith and conduct. However, Scripture tells us that everything is to be done 'decently and in order'. Therefore this Constitution and these By-laws have been enacted to aid us in carrying out that imperative.

We are looking forward to seeing what God will do in the days ahead, as we seek to be obedient to His Holy Word in every area.

*The Board of Elders
Texas Avenue Community Church*

"Let all things be done decently and in order."

1 Corinthians 14:40

Constitution

of TEXAS AVENUE COMMUNITY CHURCH

PREAMBLE

In order that the witness of this Church may be born and carried out in accordance with Scriptural doctrines; that its worship, teachings, ministry and fellowship may be conducted in harmony with Christian principles; and that its business affairs may be administered in an orderly fashion and in a responsible manner consistent with Biblical teachings, we do adopt and set forth this constitution and its accompanying bylaws.

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this Church organization and corporation shall be Texas Avenue Community Church of League City, Texas Inc. (“Church”)

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of this church is to glorify the God of the Scriptures in promoting His worship, evangelizing sinners, and edifying saints. Therefore, we are committed to the proclamation of the glorious Gospel of His grace through all the world and to the defense of "the faith once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3).

ARTICLE III - STATEMENT OF FAITH

THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

We teach that the Bible is God’s written revelation to Man, and thus the sixty-six books of the Bible given to us by the Holy Spirit constitute the plenary (inspired equally in all parts) Word of God (I Cor. 2:7-14), and is the only infallible rule of faith and practice (Matt. 5:18; 24:35; Jn. 16:12-13; 17:17; I Cor. 2:13; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; Heb. 4:12; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

GOD

We teach that there is but one living and true God (Deut. 6:4; Isa. 45:5-7; I Cor. 8:4), infinite, all-knowing Spirit (Jn. 4:24), perfect in all His attributes, one in essence, eternally existing in three Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14).

God the Father

We teach that God the Father, the first person of the Trinity, orders and disposes all things according to His Own purpose and grace (Ps. 145:8-9; I Cor. 8:6). He by Jesus Christ created all things (Gen. 1:1-31; Eph. 3:9). As the only absolute and omnipotent ruler in the universe, He is sovereign in creation, providence, and redemption (Ps. 103:19; Rom. 11:36).

God the Son

We teach that Jesus Christ, the second person of the Trinity, possesses all the divine excellences, and in these He is co-equal, co-substantial, and coeternal with the Father (Jn. 10:30; 14:9).

We teach that our Lord Jesus Christ was virgin born (Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:23, 25; Lk. 1:26-35); that He was God incarnate (Jn. 1:1,14); and that the purpose of the incarnation was to reveal God, redeem men, and rule over God's kingdom (Ps. 2:7-9; Isa. 9:6; Jn. 1:29; Phil. 2:9-11; Heb. 7:25-26; I Pet. 1:18-19).

We believe in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and in glory.

God the Holy Spirit

We teach that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, eternal, underived, possessing all the attributes of personality and deity. In all the divine attributes He is co-equal and co-substantial with the Father and the Son (Matt. 28:19; Acts 5:3-4; 28:25-26; I Cor. 12:4-6; 2 Cor. 13:14; and Jer. 31:31-34 with Heb. 10:15-17).

The broad scope of His divine activity includes convicting the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment, glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ and transforming believers into the image of Christ (Jn. 16:7-9; Acts 1:5; 2:4; Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 2:22).

We teach that God the Holy Spirit is sovereign in the bestowing of all His gifts for the perfecting of the saints today and that prophetic revelations and the working of sign miracles in the beginning days of the church were for the purpose of pointing to and authenticating the apostles as revealers of divine truth. (I Cor. 12:4-11; 13:8-10; 14:4,12; 2 Cor. 12:12; Eph. 4:7-12; Heb. 2:1-4).

MAN

We teach that man was directly and immediately created by God in His image and likeness. Man was created free of sin with a rational nature, intelligence, volition, self-determination, and moral responsibility to God (Gen. 2:7, 15-25; Jas. 3:9).

We teach that because all men were in Adam, a nature corrupted by Adam's sin has been transmitted to all men of all ages, Jesus Christ being the only exception. All men are thus sinners by nature, by choice, and by divine declaration (Ps. 14:1-3; Jer. 17:9; Rom. 3:9-18,23; 5:10-12).

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SALVATION

We teach that salvation is wholly of God by grace on the basis of the redemption of Jesus Christ, the merit of His shed blood, and not on the basis of human merit or works (Jn. 1:12; Eph. 1:7; 2:8-10; I Pet. 1:18-19)

Election

We teach that election is the act of God by which, before the foundation of the world, He chose in Christ those whom He graciously regenerates, saves, and sanctifies (Rom. 8:28-30; Eph. 1:4-11; 2 Th. 2:13; 2 Tim. 2:10; I Pet. 1:1-2).

We teach that sovereign election does not contradict or negate the responsibility of man to repent and trust Christ as Savior and Lord (Ezek. 18:23, 32, 33:11; Jn. 3:18-19, 36; 5:40; Rom. 9:22-23; 2 Thess. 2:10-12; Rev. 22:17).

Regeneration

We teach that regeneration is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit in which the divine nature and divine life are given (Jn. 3:3-7; Tit. 3:5). It is instantaneous and is accomplished solely by the power of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God (Jn. 5:24).

Justification

We teach that justification is an act of God (Rom. 8:33) where He declares the unrighteous to become righteous through faith in Christ alone, for the remission of sins (Isa. 55:6-7; Lk. 13:3; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 11:18; Rom. 2:4; 2 Cor. 7:10; I Cor. 12:3; 2 Cor. 4:5; Phil. 2:11). This righteousness is apart from any virtue or work of man (Rom. 3:20; 4:6).

Security

We teach that all the redeemed once saved are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever (Jn. 5:24; 6:37-50; 10:27-30; Rom. 5:9-10; 8:1, 31-39 I Cor. 1:4-8; Eph. 4:30; Heb. 7:25; 13:5; I Pet. 1:5; Jude 24).

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THE CHURCH

We teach that there are two uses of the word church as it applies to the New Testament church:

The catholic (not to be confused with the Roman Catholic Church), or universal church, which (with respect to the internal work of the Spirit and truth of grace) may be called invisible, consists of the whole number of the elect, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one, under Christ, the head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fullness of him that fills all in all.

Heb. 12:23; Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:10,22,23, 5:23,27,32

The local church, made up of local believers who come together for worship, ministry, and fellowship.

Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2; Acts 2:41,42, 5:13,14

We teach that the one, supreme authority for the church is Christ (I Cor. 11:3; Eph. 1:22; Col. 1:18) and that church leadership, gifts, order, discipline, and worship are all appointed through His sovereignty as found in the Scriptures. The biblically designated officers serving under Christ and over the assembly are elders (also called bishops, pastors, and pastor-teachers; Acts 20:28; Eph. 4:11) and deacons, both of whom must meet biblical qualifications (I Tim. 3:1-13; Tit. 1:5-9; I Pet. 5:1-5).

We teach the autonomy of the local church, free from any external authority or control, with the right of self-government and freedom from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations (Tit. 1:5). We teach that it is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other for the presentation and propagation of the faith. Each local church, however, through its elders and their interpretation and application of Scripture, should be the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation. The elders should determine all other matters of membership, policy, discipline, benevolence, and government as well (Acts 15:19-31; 20:28; I Cor. 5:4-7,13; I Pet. 5:1-4).

LAST THINGS (Eschatology)

We teach the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life (Jn. 6:39; Rom. 8:10-11, 19-23; 2 Cor. 4:14), and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (Dan. 12:2; Jn. 5:29; Rev. 20:13-15).

We believe in the literal, bodily return of Jesus Christ to earth, to establish his Messianic Kingdom.

ARTICLE IV - GOVERNMENT

The government of this church shall be under the Lordship of Christ and under the leadership of the Holy Spirit as exercised through a Board of Elders comprised of those who the Lord has gifted and called to serve as Elders. The Elders will be assisted in this capacity by various officers, committees and staff as set forth in the bylaws.

ARTICLE V - MEMBERSHIP

Any individual who has made a genuine profession of faith in Jesus Christ as his Savior and Lord, followed by Scriptural Baptism, may under the procedures outlined in these by-laws, and upon approval of the Board of Elders, become a member of Texas Avenue Community Church.

ARTICLE VI - AMENDMENTS

All changes shall be guided by a desire to reflect Biblical attitudes and principles.

ARTICLE VII - OTHER

Texas Avenue Community Church is organized exclusively for religious, charitable, and educational purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

No part of the net earnings of Texas Avenue Community Church shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, directors, officers or other private persons, except that Texas Avenue Community Church shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of Section 501(c)(3) purposes. No substantial part of the activities of this organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Texas Avenue Community Church shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code (or corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

The term for which this organization is to exist is perpetual, except that upon dissolution of Texas Avenue Community Church the Board of Trustees shall:

1. Pay or make provisions for the payment of all the liabilities of Texas Avenue Community Church.
2. Dispose of all the assets of Texas Avenue Community Church exclusively for the purposes of the church.
3. Dispose of the church's assets in such a manner, or to organizations which are organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, or religious purposes, as at the time shall qualify as an exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law). Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas, as said Court shall determine, to organizations which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

By-laws

TEXAS AVENUE COMMUNITY CHURCH

ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 101 - Qualifications

All candidates for membership are contingent upon the approval of the Board of Elders, requests being based on any of the items below.

Baptism. One who has experienced a scriptural baptism by the authority of this church.

Letter. Any person to whom the ordinance of baptism has been administered, in harmony with the representatives set forth in the ordinance section of this Church's Constitution and By-laws, by a satisfactory statement of faith and order, may become a member of this Church. No person may become a member of this Church who is under the disciplinary action of another church.

Statement. Any person, including those whose membership was terminated because of inactivity, to whom the ordinance of baptism has been administered by a church of like faith, as required by this Church, and who has a satisfactory statement of faith in Christ.

Restoration. Any person whose membership has been terminated, may in repentance and public confession of his sins and errors, and upon their request, must be reinstated into the membership in this Church.

SECTION 102- Termination of Membership

Membership may be terminated in the following ways:

A. **By Death**

B. **By Transfer**

Any member in good standing who wishes to affiliate with another church of like faith, will be granted a Letter of Recommendation upon request by the church with which he desires to associate. The Letter will be forwarded upon recommendation of the Board of Elders.

C. **By Request**

Any member who requests termination of membership for whatever reason will be granted that request. If there are unresolved problems between the requesting member and the Church, efforts will be made by the Board of Elders to resolve any points at

issue prior to the granting of the request.

D. By Disciplinary Action

Should any member of this Church be found to be flagrantly negligent in living the Christian life, the Church reserves the right to administer Scriptural forms of church discipline, as outlined in Matthew 18:15-17 through the Board of Elders. Should faithful efforts by the Elders render no promise of reform or manifest no spirit of repentance on the part of the member in question, membership may be terminated upon the decision of the Board of Elders.. A member removed from fellowship by disciplinary action may be reinstated upon approval of the Board of Elders.

ARTICLE II - OFFICERS

SECTION 201 - Elders

A. Selection

Elders shall be appointed by the existing Board of Elders and shall serve in that capacity for an indefinite period of time. Elders may be removed from office upon their own request or by two thirds vote of the Board of Elders.

B. Qualifications

Elders shall meet the Biblical qualifications of I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. An Elder shall be ordained by this Church with the laying on of hands by the Elders.

C. Responsibilities

In addition to the responsibilities stated in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9, elders must meet with the other elders of the church at stated times for the purpose of prayer, discussion, examination of potential members, making decisions related to the life of the church, and other such duties as may be part of the responsibilities of the Board of Elders.

SECTION 202 - Trustees

A. Definition

For purposes of this document, trustees shall be defined as 'Appointed Legal Representatives' who fulfill the responsibilities listed in section 302.

B. Election

Trustees shall be appointed by the Board of Elders, and shall serve in that capacity for an indefinite period of time. The Board of Trustees shall be comprised of a minimum of three Trustees. Trustees may be removed from office upon their own request or by the decision of the Board of Elders.

Pastoral staff may not serve as Trustees.

C. Qualifications

Trustees shall be members of the Church and men or woman of sound business judgment and spiritual discernment whose personal lives demonstrate mature Christian experience.

D. Responsibilities

Responsibilities of individual Trustees shall be those of the Board of Trustees as defined in SECTION 302.

SECTION 203 - Deacons

A. Selection

Deacons shall be appointed by the Board of Elders, and shall serve in that capacity for an indefinite period of time. Deacons may be removed from office upon their own request, or by the decision of the Board of Elders.

B. Qualifications

Deacons and their spouses must be members of the church and shall be willing to be servants of the Church and shall be qualified in accordance with the guidelines in I Timothy 3:8-13. A Deacon shall be ordained by this Church with the laying on of hands by the Elders.

C. Responsibilities

Responsibilities of individual Deacons shall be those of the Deacon Body as defined in SECTION 303.

SECTION 204 - Treasurer

A. Election

The Treasurer shall be a volunteer, confirmed by the Board of Elders. The Treasurer may be removed from office upon his own request or by the decision of the Board of Elders.

B. Qualifications

The Treasurer shall be a member of the Church and an individual of sufficient numerical and accounting skill so as to carry out the responsibilities of the position.

C. Responsibilities

The Treasurer shall be responsible for:

1. The holding in trust all moneys belonging to the Church in the appropriate checking, savings, or other type account.
2. The maintenance of appropriate records of all expenditures of the Church.
3. Preparation of timely financial reports to the Board of Elders upon request.
4. The preparation of Financial Reports to be made available to church members upon

request.

5. Assist in the collection of the gifts of the Lord's people. This includes the counting and depositing of money collected in Church offerings or received by other means, under the leadership of the church treasurer.

Cash disbursements:

1. The payment from the receipts on hand of all authorized salaries and fixed expenses, and other amounts within the designated Budget of the Church, when authorized by the appropriate Board, Committee, Officer, ministry group or individual.
2. The payment of amounts in excess of the Church Budget when authorized by the Board of Elders (See SECTION 605C).
3. The actual disbursement of funds may be delegated by the Treasurer to another individual with the approval of the Board of Elders.
4. Shall count receipts and contributions from the membership with the aid of at least one other church officer, approved by the Board of Elders.

D. Accountability

The Treasurer shall, in general, be accountable to the Membership and specifically to the Board of Elders.

ARTICLE III - GOVERNMENT

SECTION 301 - Board of Elders

A. Membership

The Board of Elders shall be comprised of no less than three (3) Elders, selected as stated in SECTION 201).

B. Responsibilities

The Board of Elders is responsible for the administration of the Church under God's authority and in particular is responsible for the development of the spiritual life of the Church and its members. All pastoral staff hiring, job descriptions, and dismissals are under the leadership and authority of the Board of Elders.

C. Organization and Procedures

Procedures for the conduct of Elder business shall be as determined by that Board. The Chairman shall be appointed by the Board of Elders, to serve as Chairman for one year.. Each elder receives one vote in a Board of Elder's meetings.

D. Meetings

The Board of Elders shall meet as and when necessary to conduct its business. Meetings shall be called by the Chairman who will contact members of the Board. A quorum for the transaction of business shall be a majority of the Board membership.

Official record of minutes shall be kept.

E. Authority

On the basis of the Scriptures and ARTICLE IV of the CONSTITUTION, the administration of authority in the Church is given by the Holy Spirit to the Elders who are to administer God's authority and be responsible for His will being put into practice. The Board of Elders, therefore, shall have the authority to interpret this Constitution and By-laws and implement actions consistent with it.

SECTION 302 - Board of Trustees

A. Membership

The Board of Trustees shall be comprised of a minimum of three Trustees nominated in writing by the body, confirmed by the Board of Elders and elected by the Membership (See SECTION 202).

B. Responsibilities

In general, it shall be the duty of the Board of Trustees to hold in trust all deeds to Church property, to care for and maintain all Church property, to oversee the use of all Church property, and to attend to all legal matters related to the above. Church property as referenced in these By-laws shall include land, buildings, furnishings, easements, fixed assets and vehicles. Specifically, the Board of Trustees shall:

1. Act in behalf of the Membership in areas involving the buying, selling, mortgaging, leasing or renting of real property.
2. Maintain property and liability insurance coverage for all Church property and facilities.
3. Provide input to the Board of Elders relative to planning for future expenditures on property and facilities.

C. Organization and Procedures

Procedures for the conduct of Trustee business shall be as determined by that Board. A Chairman shall be selected by the Board of Trustees, to serve as Chairman for one year. The Chairman's responsibilities are to oversee meetings and to act as spokesman for the Board to the Membership, the Board of Elders, and others as appropriate. The Board of Trustees shall be accountable to the Board of Elders.

D. Meetings

The Board of Trustees shall meet as and when necessary to conduct its business. Meetings shall be called by the Chairman who will contact members of

the Board. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the elected trustees and this quorum shall be necessary for the transaction of business and the expenditure of funds, except for emergency situations. In such emergency situations where a meeting of the Board of Trustees is not possible, one Trustee in conjunction with one Elder will be authorized to conduct business in the best interest of the Church.

The Board of Trustees shall maintain accurate minutes of all meetings, a copy provided to be Board of Elders.

E. Authority

The Board of Trustees will have the authority to buy, sell, lease, rent, mortgage, encumber and convey real property when authorized and approved by the Board of Elders.

SECTION 303 - Deacon Body

A. Membership

The Board of Elders shall maintain a Deacon body, gifted and called by the Holy Spirit, nominated in writing by the Body, confirmed by the Elders. (See SECTION 203).

B. Responsibilities

The Deacons shall assist the Board of Elders and be responsible for various temporal ministries of the Church. Specifically, the Deacon Body shall:

1. Provide leadership to the congregation as an example in the areas of faith, prayer, spiritual growth in the home, and boldness in proclaiming the Gospel.
2. Visit the sick, the elderly, the prisoners and others in the Church requiring contact with the Church.
3. Become aware of the physical needs of those in the Church and the community at large, and assist in meeting those needs.
4. Assist in the benevolent consistent with Biblical guidelines and procedures established by the Deacon Body.
5. Assist in the preparation and distribution of the elements of the Lord's Supper, as required.
6. Assist the Pastor and Elders in baptismal services, as required.

C. Organization and Procedures

Procedures for the conduct of Deacon Business shall be as determined by that Body. A Chairman shall be selected by the Deacon Body, to serve as Chairman for one year, and is limited to three consecutive years. The Chairman's responsibilities are to oversee meetings and to act as Spokesman for the Board to the Congregation, the Board of Elders and others as appropriate. The Deacon Body shall be accountable to the Board of Elders.

D. Meetings

The Deacon Body shall meet when necessary to conduct its business. Meetings shall be called by the Chairman who will contact members of the Deacon Body. A quorum for the transaction of business shall be a majority of the Board membership.

The Deacon Body shall maintain accurate minutes of all meetings, with a copy provided to the Board of Elders.

ARTICLE IV - STAFF

SECTION 401 - Pastors

A. Number

The full-time and part-time pastoral ministry of the Church shall be the responsibility of the Board of Elders.

B. Qualifications

The Pastor shall meet the qualifications of the office of Elder, and who, without mental reservation, agrees to the Constitution and By-Laws of Texas Avenue Community Church.

The Pastor shall become by virtue of his office, a member of the Board of Elders, receiving one vote in the Elder meetings.

C. Selection

Selection of pastors shall be subject to the unanimous approval the Board of Elders.

D. Conditions of Employment and Responsibilities

All paid staff salaries, employment packages and job descriptions shall be set by the Board of Elder.

SECTION 402 – Other Staff

Other staff shall be determined by the Board of Elders based on need.

ARTICLE V – MEETINGS AND COMMITTEES

SECTION 501 - Regular Meetings

Texas Avenue Community Church is not a 'Congregational Rule' church. Texas Avenue Community Church is an 'Elder Rule' church. Decisions effecting the church at large are the final decision of the Board of Elders.

ARTICLE VI - FINANCES

SECTION 601 - Financial Policies and Goals

We believe that the way an organization handles itself in the financial area is a reflection of its integrity in every area. Luke 16:11 teaches that the person who is untrustworthy in handling money cannot be trusted to handle spiritual riches either. Likewise, if we are trustworthy in the use of monetary riches, then God will be able to entrust spiritual riches and blessings to us as a church (Luke 16:10). Therefore, we have established the following financial policies and goals to guide us in proper stewardship of God's monetary riches:

1. This church and ministry belongs to God. It is neither a monument to anyone's ego nor a legacy to anyone's memory. The ministry does not bear anyone's name. The buildings are not dedicated to anyone, but Jesus Christ. The pastor, elders and other members are merely stewards and fellow-servants in the work of the Kingdom.
2. We consider the contributions we receive to be like the widow's mite (Luke 21:1-4). We will view each contribution as a sacrificial gift from Christian people who love God. Our obligation, therefore, is to spend that money conservatively and wisely. Every penny will be stretched as far as possible to serve the needs of the ministry and the extension of Christ's kingdom.
3. The Scriptures teach that "the borrower is a slave to the lender" (Proverbs 23:7). In order that we might be free to act, minister and to give as we are led by the Lord, it is our goal to remain financially free from debt, as much as possible. If debt is incurred we will work to repay the obligation as soon as possible.
4. The church is not a lending institution. Therefore, at no time will church funds be loaned to any individual or organization.

SECTION 602 - Accounts

The Financial Accounts shall be established through the Board of Elders.

SECTION 603 - Offerings

A. Regular Offerings

Regular offerings shall be applied to the General Fund.

B. Special Offerings

Special offerings shall be specifically identified as to their purpose and shall either be taken separate from regular offerings or provision made for the separating of special offerings from regular offerings by means of an identification procedure.

C. Designated Offerings

Designated offerings shall be applied to the General Fund.

D. Accounting of Offerings

All offerings shall be communicated to the membership on a regular basis or upon request.. Offerings shall be counted in the presence of two or more people appointed by the Board of Elders.

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SECTION 604 - Financial Statements

Financial statements shall be made available to the membership annually. Staff compensation shall be listed as total staff funds. Staff compensation details shall be available to a member upon individual request.

SECTION 605 - Church Budget

A. Preparation

The Church budget shall be prepared and submitted by the Board of Elders.

B. Submittal and Approval

A copy of this budget as prepared shall be made available to the Membership before final approval.

C. Use and Implementation

The Annual Church Budget shall serve as a guide for the expenditure of funds in all areas of the Church's ministry. Expenditures in excess of the budget by Boards, Committees, Officers, ministry groups, or individuals require the prior approval of the Board of Elders. The expenditure of funds for budgeted items which exceed the Budget amount may be approved by the Board of Elders as long as these expenditures are consistent with the needs of the Church, the recent financial position of the Church, and the extent of funds on hand.

D. Budget Oversight \ Finance Committee

The Church finances shall be reviewed quarterly by the Finance Committee of at least three (3) members, one of whom shall be an elder. The finance committee will be appointed by the Board of Elders. This committee will review all financial records and ensure that the books are balanced, and make any recommendations to the Board of Elders. The Treasurer will provide all pertinent documents required by the Finance Committee. Pastors cannot serve as a Finance Committee member, but will serve as ex-official member.

SECTION 606 – Missions Support

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Mission Objective

It is the desire of Texas Avenue Community Church to be active in the support of missions locally as well as abroad, as taught in Scripture. It is our desire that we be sensitive to God's leading in this area.

Guidelines to Missions Selection and Support

1. Missionary support shall be considered on an individual basis.
2. All candidates seeking support must agree with and hold to the Statement of Faith under Article III of the Texas Avenue Community Church Constitution.
3. All supported missionaries will fall under the oversight of the Board of Elders.
4. Individuals being considered for mission support (financial support by this body), shall

first be reviewed and approved by the Board of Elders.

5. All missionaries receiving support by this body must regularly submit a report indicating how the provided funds have been applied to ministry and/or personal needs.
6. All supported missionaries shall be reviewed annually by the Board of Elders, at which time a decision will be made whether or not to continue support.
7. Termination of support for any supported missionaries do to miss-appropriation of funds, or misconduct, shall be made effective by majority vote of the Board of Elders.
8. All supported missionaries must be members of and under the authority of a local church. Any exceptions to this must be unanimously approved by the Board of Elders.

ARTICLE VII – ORDINANCES AND ORDINATIONS

SECTION 701 - The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper shall be administered as frequently as the Board of Elders shall order.

SECTION 702 - Baptism

Baptism shall be administered by men designated by the Board of Elders. Baptism, by immersion, shall be administered after salvation.

SECTION 703 - The Ordination Ceremony

Ordination ceremonies shall be authorized by, called by, and their content determined by the Board of Elders on an individual basis.

ARTICLE VIII – STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

SECTION 801 – Physical Contact / Immorality

Demonstrations of romantic involvement between students, youth, or children on church property are forbidden. Hand holding, embracing or any other contact that would contribute to undue familiarity will not be tolerated. This type of behavior will result in removal from church sponsored activities. Behavior should be above reproach. In accordance with the ministry's statement of faith and in recognition of Biblical commands, no immoral conduct will be tolerated. The Bible strictly forbids such conduct which includes immoral actions as well as advocating sinful behavior. The following will not be tolerated in any form and will constitute grounds for church discipline by the Board of Elders: any actions or identifying statements concerning fornication, adultery, homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, or pornography. Gen. 2:24; Gen 19:5, 13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4)

SECTION 802 – Working with Children

All prospective children's workers are to be submitted to and approved by the Board of Elders. All applicants must have received the necessary state certification. All applications will be decided on an individual basis.

Bellow are general guidelines to those planning to work with children in this local body:

1. **Making Verbal Threats** – Workers are not to make verbal threats to children for the purpose of trying to maintain control due to an undisciplined child. Rather, the child's parents are to be notified immediately of their child's misbehavior.
2. **Spanking a child not your own** – At no time is a child that is not that of the worker, to be spanked for any reason. If the child's behavior is such that the worker would resort to spanking, the child's parents are to be notified immediately. If the matter then does not get resolved by the child's parent, the parent must remove their child from the present activity.
3. **Restraining a child** – Never restrain a child, unless the restraint is necessary to protect the child from immediately harming himself or others. The child's parents must me asked to remove their child, rather than using restraint.
4. **Secluding a child** – Secluding a child means placing him alone in a room from which he is physically restrained from leaving, either by the door being locked or the child being restrained so that he will be unable to summon help if he should need it. Do not seclude a child, as defined above, at any time.
5. **Hugging or kissing a child not your own** – Always demonstrate caution and constraint when showing affection to children not your own. A lingering physical contact is never appropriate.
6. **Being alone with a child not your own** – An adult worker should never be left alone with a child not their own. Another adult must be present if a worker would otherwise find themselves alone with a child not their own.
7. **Holding a child on your lap** – Men are particularly vulnerable for allegations of abuse when they hold small children on their laps. If the child needs to be held, call an adult woman to do the holding.
8. **Engaging in church-sponsored activity with a child** – Before the child is permitted to attend an activity, the staff member or volunteer directing the activity should be certain the child has returned a signed consent and liability waiver form. If there is no signed release form in hand for a child at the time of the activity, do not permit him/her to take part in the activity.
9. **Baptizing a child** – A child is never to be baptized by any authority in this church without first receiving written permission from that child's parents. Even if the parents are present during the baptism, written permission from the parent is still required before the baptism can take place.

ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENTS

SECTION 901 - Procedures

These Constitution / By-laws may be amended by the Board of Elders.

That such amendments, proposed by either boards, committees, officers, ministry groups, or members of Texas Avenue Community Church must be reviewed and approved by the Board of Elders.

Amendments will be posted via. Newsletters, email, etc.

DEFINITIONS

BODY OF CHRIST - The Church of Jesus Christ, made up of all of the redeemed past, present, and future, including those in the local church.

CHURCH - In every case in these By-laws, Church refers to this particular local church called Texas Avenue Community Church.

CONGREGATION - All those who fellowship with Texas Avenue Community Church on a regular basis including both members and non-members.

MEMBERS - A member of Texas Avenue Community Church as per ARTICLE I of these By-laws.

MARRIAGE – The union of a man and a woman, as defined throughout scripture. Same sex marriages, defined by the union of two men, or two women, will not be recognized by this body.

COUPLES – Couples as used in any part of this constitution and by-laws, and as used in any activity of this church, refers to the pairing or joining of a male and a female, used in ways such as ‘single couples’, ‘young couples’, ‘couples class’, ‘married couples’, etc. It shall not be construed to mean anything other than a man identified with a woman. At no time will any relationship between two men or two women be considered a part of or approved by this definition.

HUMAN SEXUALITY - We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God’s gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one’s gender by surgery or appearance. (Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5, 13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4)

IMMORAL ACT – Bodily contact, outside of marriage between a man and a woman, actively undertaken or passively permitted, between members of the opposite sex or members of the same sex for the purpose of satisfying sexual desires, and any bodily

contact that a reasonable person would understand to demonstrate a propensity or intent to engage in an immoral or homosexual act.