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Constitution and By-laws of Las Vegas Bible Church

Preamble

We, the members of Las Vegas Bible Church, Las Vegas, Nevada, recognizing that the Word of God sets forth the divine plan of local church organization do upon this basis, ordain and establish the following articles to which we voluntarily submit ourselves.

Article I – Name

This organization shall be known as Las Vegas Bible Church

Article II – Purpose

Section A. - Phases of its ministry

The object of this church is the ministry of the Word of God for the salvation of souls, the edification of Christians, the world-wide proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the promotion of godly worship and cooperation with Christian activity consistent with the constitution, doctrine, principles and practices of Las Vegas Bible Church.

Section B. - Independence and autonomy

It is the purpose of the original incorporators of this church that it shall be and forever will remain an independent and autonomous organization, adhering to the fundamental and pre-millennial doctrines of the Christian faith as set forth in the Holy Bible and as defined in the “Statement of Faith and Doctrine” of the Independent Fundamental Churches of America as amended June, 1970.

Section C. - Nondenominational character

It is likewise the original purpose of this church, in accordance with the New Testamental example and teaching, that it shall forever remain free from denominationalism. It shall, for this reason, avoid identification with denominations or associations of churches by means of its name, or by the observance of traditions peculiar to such denominations or associations. It shall never change its name nor its policy so as to affect such identification. 1 Cor. 1:11-13; 3:1-9.

Article III – Fellowship

Section A. - Fellowship with other local churches

Fellowship with other local independent churches shall be maintained by this church. It may also enter into such cooperation with other fundamental churches as shall not jeopardize its fundamental position. To this

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end, the church shall be a member of and affiliate with the Independent Fundamental Churches of America, as long as such membership does not jeopardize its independence or fundamental character.

Section B. - Affiliation with local church councils

Affiliation or cooperation with local church councils, etc., shall be such as shall not compromise the fundamental doctrinal position of this church.

Article IV – Statement of Doctrine

Section A. - The Holy Scriptures

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally inspired Word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, and infallible. 2 Tim. 3:16-16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Matt. 5:18; John 16:12-13.

Section B. - The Godhead

We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections. Deut. 6:4; 2 Cor. 13:14.

Section C. - The Person and Work of Christ

- (1) We believe the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man without ceasing to be God, was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man. John 1:1-2; John 1:14; Luke 1:35.
- (2) We believe the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious and substitutionary sacrifice. Our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. Rom 3:24-25; 1 Peter 2:24; Eph. 1:7; 1 Peter 1:3-5.
- (3) We believe the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God; where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of our representative intercessor and advocate. Acts 1:9; Heb. 9:4; Rom. 8:34; 1 John 2:1-2.

Section D. - The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

- (1) We believe the Holy Spirit is a Person who convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. He is the supernatural agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption. John 16:11; 2 Cor. 3:6; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; Rom. 8:9; Eph. 1:13-14.
- (2) We believe He is the divine Teacher who guides believers into all truth. It is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit. John 16:13; 1 John 2:27; Eph. 5:18.

Section E. - The Total Depravity of Man

We believe man was created in the image and likeness of God; but in Adam's sin, the race fell, inherited a sinful nature and became alienated from God. Man, outside Christ, is totally depraved, and of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition. Gen. 1:26-27; Rom. 3:22-23, 5:12; Eph. 2:1-3, 12.

Section F. - Salvation

We believe salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ whose precious blood was shed on the cross for forgiveness of our sins. Eph. 2:8-10; John 1:12; 1 Peter 1:18-19.

Section G. - The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers

- (1) We believe all the redeemed are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever. John 6:37-40, 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1, 38-39; 1 Cor. 1:4-8; 1 Peter 1:5.
- (2) We believe it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word; which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion for sin to reign in the mortal body, exercising control over the body's desires. Rom. 6:12, 13:13-14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:11-15.

Section H. - The Two Natures of the believer

We believe every saved person possesses two natures, with provision made for victory of the new nature over the old nature through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. All claims to the eradication of the old nature in this life are unscriptural. Rom. 6:13, 8:12-13; Gal. 5:16-25; Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:10; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 1 John 3:5-9.

Section I. - Separation

We believe all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord. Separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations is commanded of God. 2 Tim. 3:1-5; Rom. 12:1-2, 14:13; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 9-11; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1.

Section J. - Missions

We believe it is the solemn duty of the saved to witness by life and word to the truths of Holy Scripture and to seek to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind. Mark 16:15; Acts 1:3; 2 Cor. 5:19-20.

Section K. - The Ministry and Spiritual Gifts

- (1) We believe God is sovereign in the bestowment of all His gifts; the gifts of evangelists, pastors, and teachers are sufficient for the perfecting of the saints today; and speaking in tongues and the working of sign miracles gradually ceased as the New Testament Scriptures were completed and their authority became established. 1 Cor. 12:4-11; 2 Cor. 12:12; Eph. 4:7-12.
- (2) We believe God does hear and answer the prayer of faith, in accord with His own will, for the sick and afflicted. John 15:7; 1 John 5:14-15; James 5:15.

Section L. - The Church

- (1) We believe the church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism composed of all born-again persons of this present age. Eph. 1:22-23, 5:25-27; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 11:2.
- (2) We believe the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures. Acts 14:27, 20:17, 28:28-31; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11.

Section M. - Dispensationalism

We believe in the dispensational view of Bible interpretation. However, we reject the extreme teaching known as "Hyper-dispensationalism," the teaching which opposes either the Lord's Table or water baptism as a Scriptural means of testimony for the church in this age. Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42, 18:8; 1 Cor. 11:23-26.

Section N. - The Personality of Satan

We believe Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the fall of man. He is the open and declared enemy of God and man, and shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. Job 1:6-7; Isa. 14:12-17, 25:41; Rev. 20:10.

Section O. - The Second Advent of Christ

We believe in the "Blessed Hope," the personal imminent pre-tribulation and pre-millennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones, and in His subsequent return to earth with His saints to establish His Millennial Kingdom.

Section P. - The Eternal State

- (1) We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men: the saved to eternal life and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. Matt. 25:46; John 5:28-29, 11:25-26; Rev. 20:5-6, 12-13.
- (2) We believe the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection when spirit and soul will be reunited in a new body to be glorified forever with the Lord. Luke 23:43; Rev. 20:4-6; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; 1 Thess. 4:16-17.
- (3) We believe the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection when, with soul and body reunited, they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment because of the rejection of God's Son as their Savior. Luke 16:19-26; Matt. 25:41-46; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Mark 9:43-48; Rev. 20:11-15.

Article V – Ordinances

We recognize two ordinances of the church for this age – the Lord's Supper and Water Baptism. They are not to be regarded, however, as a means of salvation nor as a means of grace by which special merit is obtained.

Section A. - The Lord's Supper

This ordinance shall be observed at least once each month and as often as the pastor and elders will decide. All who have accepted Jesus Christ as personal Savior and are walking in fellowship with the Lord will be welcome to join in this service – unless they are under the discipline of the church, as defined in Article VI, Section E. Par. 2. 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

Section B. - Water Baptism

Baptism shall be administered by immersion at the request of those who have personally acknowledged Jesus Christ as Savior. New believers will be encouraged to be baptized soon after conversion. Scriptural teaching on the meaning of this ordinance shall be conducted for all candidates prior to their baptism. This is,

however, a personal act and is not set forth in Scripture as a condition of salvation, fellowship or membership in this church. Acts 8:36-39, 10:47-48; 1 Cor. 1:14-17.

Article VI – Membership

Section A. - Qualification

Persons who give testimony to their faith in Christ as Savior, assurance of their willingness to follow and submit themselves to the Word of God as the only rule of faith, doctrine and practice, and indicate their agreement with the constitution of this church, will be eligible for membership.

Section B. - Reception of Members

- (1) Christians desiring to associate themselves with this church and who fulfill the qualification for membership will make application to the Church Council. They will then meet with the pastor and two or more members of the Church Council for a recommendation for membership.
- (2) Applicants who have been recommended for membership will be presented to the church at the following quarterly business meeting. If no valid objections are raised by any of the membership, the right hand of fellowship will be extended to them immediately. Their membership will at that moment be in force.

Section C. - Status of Membership

The membership of this church shall consist of three groups: active, associate, and inactive.

- (1) The active membership shall consist of such Christians who have been received in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and who are not members of any other church.
 - a. Active members, 18 years of age and older, will be entitled to vote in congregational meetings
 - b. No minimum age shall be set for membership.
 - c. A review of the active membership shall be conducted by the Church Council at least once per year. Those who have been absent for a period of 3 months will be placed on the Inactive Roll, provided that a reasonable attempt to contact them has first been made in the interest of restoring them to regular attendance.
- (2) Associate membership may be extended to those who meet the qualifications of active membership, but are not permanent residents of this area, such as students and missionaries who may hold regular membership elsewhere.
 - a. They will be permitted to teach a Bible school class or participate in a similar ministry.
 - b. They will have the right to attend the congregational meetings of the church but cannot vote.
- (3) Inactive membership shall consist of the following
 - a. Those members who no longer have residence in this area but still desire to hold their membership in this church.

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- b. Those who have been absent from the services of the church for a period of 3 months without giving satisfactory reasons for such absence.
- c. Those who have come under some disciplinary action of the church.
- d. Inactive members will not have the right to vote or hold office in the church.

Section D. - Letters of Transfer

- (1) Letters of transfer will be received from other churches subject to the provisions of Article VI, Sections A and B.
- (2) Letters of transfer to other churches will be granted to those on the Active Roll. Application for dismissal from this church and recommendation for membership in another church should be made by letter to the church clerk. Letters shall be granted by action of the Church Council.
- (3) The names of those members who become members of another church without a letter of dismissal shall be dropped from all roles by a vote of the council.

Section E. - Discipline of Members

- (1) The reasons for discipline are two-fold.
 - a. Doctrinal deviation or heresy. 1 Tim. 6:3-5; Titus 3:10-11; Romans 16:17-18.
 - b. Immoral conduct. 1 Cor. 5:9-13; 2 Cor. 6:14-17; 2 Thess. 3:6.
- (2) The discipline of this church in doctrinal and moral matters shall be entrusted to the Church Council. Any disciplinary action that is deemed necessary shall be in the spirit of love and meekness. 2 Thess. 3:14-15; Gal. 1:6.
 - a. No accusation shall be brought against any member except upon the testimony of two or three witnesses. Matt. 18:16; 2 Cor. 13:1; 1 Tim. 5:19.
 - b. The suspected person shall be confronted with the charges with the desire and effort to correct the difficulty and restore proper fellowship. If this does not lead to restoration of fellowship, charges shall be put in writing and placed in the hands of the suspected person, and he or she shall be summoned to meet the Church Council not later than two weeks subsequently. Failure on the part of the accused to appear will not prevent the council from examining the information and rendering a verdict in accord with the testimony received. In the event the individual being disciplined is not satisfied with the decision of the council, he or she will have the privilege of appearing before the congregation at a regularly called meeting. A simple majority vote of all members of the church present at the final hearing will make the final decision in the case.
 - c. Those who are guilty of doctrinal deviation or heresy and who refuse to repent of their error shall be deleted from the church roll. Those guilty of immoral conduct shall be placed on the Inactive Roll and forbidden to partake of the Lord's Supper. (1 Cor. 5:11-13) Persistent immorality shall result in deletion from the church roll by action of the Church Council. The names of those whose status of membership have been changed will be reported at a Sunday morning service, either by

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announcement from the pulpit or publication in the Sunday bulletin, indicating whether they have been placed on the Inactive Roll or deleted from the Roll.

- (3) The purpose of all discipline shall be to restore the individual to fellowship and active membership in the church. Such efforts shall be made in light of the following Scriptures: Gal. 6:1-2; 2 Thess. 3:14-15; Heb. 10:24-25; James 5:19-20. Restoration to fellowship shall be granted, upon due repentance, by action of the Church Council.

Article VII – Government

Section A. - The Nature of the Government

The government of the church shall be vested in the active membership and executed through the Church Council.

Section B. - The Church Council

- (1) The Church Council shall be composed of the pastor, elders and deacons of the Las Vegas Bible Church. They will be men who meet the spiritual qualifications listed in 1 Tim. 3:1-13.
- (2) The Council shall meet monthly. Each member shall be eligible to vote on all business matters. A unanimous vote shall be desired on such matters, but a two-thirds majority vote shall rule.
- (3) The process of selection of council members shall be as follows:
 - a. During the month of December, any member of the church may submit to the council, in writing, the name(s) of any male member(s) whom he/she would like to nominate for leadership. Nominees must be 18 years of age or older.
 - b. Each nominee shall be questioned by the council as to desire and qualifications. The council shall determine whether the nominee should be presented to the church as an official candidate. The council shall also decide whether the candidate should be presented as a prospective elder or deacon.
 - c. Names of the candidates approved by the council will be placed on a written ballot and submitted to the church one week before the first quarterly business meeting of the year. Voting shall take place at the business meeting. A two-thirds majority vote of members present shall be required to place each candidate into office.
 - d. Council members will serve a term of four quarters. Their term will expire at the first quarterly business meeting the following year, unless they are re-elected to office.
 - e. Write-in candidates (candidates whom the council did not present to the church) may be installed into office if two-thirds of the members present write his name on the ballot.
- (4) The Church Council shall appoint one of its number as its chairman. A treasurer, secretary, Bible school superintendent and other officers that may be needed will also be appointed by the council – these officers may be selected from among the elders, deacons, or, if necessary, from among the membership, although the latter shall not exercise a vote on council matters. Officers will give a report of their ministries at the monthly council meeting. (The duties of these officers are listed in

Article VII, Section C.) Further, the council may at its discretion invite any other individual to participate in council discussions, although such individuals will not exercise a vote on council matters.

- (5) The chairman may call council meetings whenever he deems necessary. The minutes of the meetings will be available to any active church member, and the appointment of officers or committees by the church council shall be announced to the church at the next Sunday morning worship service.
- (6) Council members will be responsible for the spiritual guidance of the church. They will arrange the details of all church meetings. They will function for the pastor in emergencies or when the church has no pastor. They will administer all business matters of the church, including the preparation and administration of the budget. All council members, excluding the pastor and/or any paid church employee, will function as the directors or trustees of the corporation in all legal transactions and will be responsible for the maintenance of all church property. One of them shall be the corporation's legal resident agent as elected by the congregation. They will, with the pastor, minister to the needy and supervise the benevolent funds of the church.

Section C. - Church Officers

- (1) The chairman shall preside at all church council meetings. He shall arrange the agenda, call for reports, hear motions and call for a vote on all matters of business. At his discretion, or at the request of a council member, the vote may be a written ballot. He shall announce the results of all votes and see that they are incorporated into the minutes.
- (2) The treasurer shall receive, safeguard, disburse and be responsible for all the funds of the church in its various ministries, and keep accurate accounts of the same. He shall deposit all moneys in the bank and shall submit a monthly report to the Church Council and a quarterly report to the church. The books of the treasurer will be audited annually under the direction of the Church Council. The treasurer may choose from the active membership an assistant for the performance of his duties in case of his absence. His choice will be submitted to and be approved by the Church Council.
- (3) The Secretary shall take minutes of the congregational meetings and council meetings, type the same, distribute them to council members and make a copy available to any active church member requesting them. The secretary shall keep an official copy of all minutes, written reports, and any other official records as the council shall deem necessary.
- (4) The Bible school superintendent shall exercise the general supervision of the Bible school. He shall serve under the supervision of the Church Council. He may choose from the active membership an assistant for the performance of his duties in case of His absence. His choice will be submitted to and be approved by the Church Council.

Section D. - Committees

Any standing or temporary committee may be appointed by the Church Council as the need arises.

Section E. - Congregational Meetings

- (1) Quarterly meetings

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- a. Membership meetings will be held on the first Sunday of the following months – January, April, July, and October.
 - b. The agenda of the business meeting shall include the quarterly budget, prospective members, and any other matter which the council deems necessary.
- (2) Emergency business meetings of the membership may be held upon call of the pastor or council, or by written request to the council of twenty-five percent of the members. The call of such a meeting and its purpose must be announced at the morning service one week before the date of the meeting. Records of these announcements must be kept in the regular minutes of the church business meetings.
 - (3) A quorum at the quarterly or emergency business meeting shall be twenty-five percent of all voting members. A two-thirds majority vote of members present shall be required to pass any measure.
 - (4) The chairman of the council shall preside at the quarterly meeting and all emergency business meetings. In the event of his absence, the council shall appoint a chairman for the meeting.

Section F. - Arbitration Board

- (1) In the event the internal affairs of the church should reach a state of controversy in which it is impossible to achieve peaceful negotiations between the pastor and the congregation and/or between factions in the membership, a Board of Arbitration shall be called in by a two-thirds majority vote by secret ballot of the council, or by a petition presented to the council bearing the names of sixty percent of the voting membership.
- (2) The board shall be composed of pastors of three independent churches named by the Church Council. The Board of Arbitration shall have the privilege of calling in two additional qualified consultants.
- (3) The decision of this board shall be binding upon the congregation, and its conclusions must be accepted by all – with the following exceptions:
 - a. It has no power to change the Constitution or Doctrinal Statement, not even to pass judgment on it. It must uphold the Constitution.
 - b. It has no power to dissolve the church nor to dispose of the church's property.

Article VIII – Ministry

Section A. - Responsibility of the Membership

- (1) All members of this church will be expected to participate in its ministry, in such measure as talents and circumstances enable them. Such service shall be voluntary and subject to the supervision of the Church Council.
- (2) The members of this church are urged to cultivate those graces in their Christian lives that will glorify the Lord, promote spiritual growth, and further the ministry of the church. They are further entreated to:
 - a. Engage in private and family Bible reading, prayer, and regular attendance at the services of the church. Heb. 10:25; 1 Tim. 4:12-16.

b. Practice daily living consistent with the Scriptural principles of the Christian life, abstain from worldliness in all its forms, avoid such alliances which would constitute an unequal yoke with unbelievers, and guard against religious apostasy and false teaching. Titus 2:11-15; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; 1 John 2:15-17.

c. Fellowship in Christian love and unity with the entire membership, in order to avoid the development of factions in the church. 1 Cor. 1:10; James 2:1-5.

Section B. - Leadership and Duties of the Pastor

(1) Qualifications

a. The pastor shall be a man who gives evidence of the call of God to the ministry of the Gospel and evidence of adherence to the Scriptural qualifications of an elder.

b. Any man to be considered as a candidate for this pastorate shall have read this Constitution and shall have signified in writing his unreserved agreement with its provisions and the non-denominational and independent position of this church. He shall remain an active member in the Independent Fundamental Churches of America.

(2) Call of the Pastor

a. The Church Council shall investigate possible candidates. Investigation of the candidate shall include a questionnaire regarding training, pastoral experience, and Scriptural qualifications. A visit by the members of the Pulpit Committee appointed by the Church Council to his present pastorate is advisable when possible.

b. When a qualified candidate has spoken at a minimum of two Sunday services, his name may be presented by the Committee for a vote at a special congregational meeting called for this purpose. A three-quarters majority vote shall be required to extend a call. Only one candidate shall be considered at a time.

c. Due consideration shall be given to the qualifications of the candidate's wife (if married) as a prospective member of the church, before the candidate is recommended to the congregation. Upon the official call of the candidate as pastor, his wife shall automatically become a member of the church.

(3) Duties

a. The pastor, by virtue of his office as a spiritual leader and shepherd of the flock, automatically becomes a member of this church. His duties shall be those generally associated with his office, including the ministry of the Word, administration of the ordinances, and the care of the spiritual welfare of the members. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and organizations within the church. No committee or board may meet without notifying him of their meeting but he shall not be required to attend all meetings.

b. Activities and ministries outside the local field such as attendance at conferences, Bible teaching and evangelistic campaigns, vacations, etc., shall be arranged in conference with the Council.

(4) Ordination

If the pastor has not been ordained by a recognized church as an elder, but is qualified, the Church Council should call a Council of Ordination in accordance with Article XI, Section A.

(5) Termination

- a. The church may vote to terminate the pastor's services immediately, after the council has made this recommendation.
- b. A two-thirds majority of the members present will be required to terminate the pastor's services.
- c. In the event of doctrinal or moral defection, the pastor's services and membership may be terminated immediately by the council. The congregation must ratify this action by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present at a meeting within 30 days.

Section C. - Paid Staff Positions

- (1) The Church Council may recommend the creation of paid staff positions as the need arises and finances are available. The recommendation shall include a job description setting forth the duties and responsibilities, qualifications, method of selection and salary range. Upon approval by the council the recommendation shall be submitted to the membership at a regular business meeting or special business meeting for final approval.
- (2) The recommended position will be created by a two-thirds majority vote of the church. Staff will be responsible to the council and/or to such other persons as outlined in the staff's job description.

Section D. - The Bible school ministry

- (1) This ministry shall be recognized as an extension of the Bible teaching ministry of the church. It shall be administered by a board composed of the Bible school superintendent, the teaching staff, and such officers as they may appoint under supervision of the Church Council.
- (2) The Bible school superintendent shall appoint the members of the teaching staff and all other Bible school officers. He/she shall fill all positions from among the active and associate membership when possible. All appointments shall be on a temporary basis until approved by the Church Council. Whenever possible, prior approval of the Church Council should be obtained.
- (3) The curriculum of the Bible school must have the approval of the Church Council.
- (4) All regular Bible school offerings and expenses shall be handled through the general fund of the church. A record of all offerings deposited with the church treasurer, and all expenditures authorized by the Bible School Board shall be kept by the Bible school secretary. Missionary gifts or allocations made by the Bible school must have the approval of the Missionary Committee.

Section E. - Deaconesses

Women members who are interested in taking an active part in the ministry of this church demonstrate, by virtue of their example, that they are servants of Christ and His people. Any woman member who is consistently involved in the work of the ministry is, Biblically speaking, a deaconess which means "servant" (Rom. 16:1). While deaconesses do not function in church leadership (1 Tim. 2:11-15), such women are considered worthy of commendation because of their labor for Christ (Rom. 16:1).

Section F. - Missionary Activities

- (1) To insure the regular activity of the church in the cause of missions at home and abroad, a Missions Committee shall be appointed by the council.
- (2) This committee is responsible to communicate with all mission fields and agencies in which the church has an interest, and to investigate and report to the church on any matters requiring action.
- (3) A stated missionary policy shall be adopted by the church and published with revisions, from time to time.

Article IX – Finances

Section A. - The financial program of this church and its sub-organizations shall be supported through the free-will offerings and unsolicited gifts of those interested in this ministry.

Section B. - The council shall prepare a recommended budget for the coming quarter and present this budget to the congregation at each quarterly business meeting. The budget, like any other business matter shall be subject to a two-thirds majority vote of the members present before being enforced.

Section C. - Any expenditures in excess of \$500 above the budgeted items, which the council wishes to undertake, must be presented to the congregation for approval.

Section D. - Designated Funds

- (1) Any temporary use of funds for purpose other than designated must have approval of the council.
- (2) If the purpose for which funds have been previously designated is to be changed, it must be done with congregational approval.
- (3) Gifts designated through the church for a specific purpose or person shall be applied as designated unless the donor approves a change. Otherwise, the gift shall be returned.

Article X – Properties

Section A. - The title to all property of this church, both real and personal shall be and remain vested in that portion of the active membership that shall remain faithful to the original purposes stated in Article II and III of this constitution and in Article V of the Article of Incorporation of this church.

Section B. - Acquisition and Sale of Property

- (1) The church shall have power to acquire and hold property, both real and personal, for the general purpose of the church. All property so acquired shall be in the name of the church. The church may purchase property for future needs and collect rent or other income from such property until it is needed.
- (2) Any purchase, sale, mortgage, or transfer of real or personal property valued in excess of \$1,000.00 shall be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting members present at a special business meeting called in accordance with Article VII, Section E.

Section C. - Use of Church Property

- (1) All properties belonging to the church (except those being leased or rented to other individuals or organizations until needed) shall be available to the membership for purpose consistent with the ministry of the church, subject to regulation by the Church Council. The Church Council may allow other individuals or organizations to use church properties for purposes consistent with the ministry of the church. Fees for such use, if any, shall be set by the Church Council.
- (2) The Pastor, council members, or their designated representatives shall have access at all times and under all circumstances to all properties owned by the church.

Section D. - Dissolution

In the event of the dissolution of this corporation, its assets shall be distributed as specified in Article IV of the Articles of Incorporation. Said article specifies that the assets which remain, after all liabilities have been met, shall be given first to Bible Church Mission, a California Nonprofit Corporation. If for any reason this is not possible, they shall be given to Independent Fundamental Churches of America, an Illinois Nonprofit Corporation.

Article XI – Ordination and Licensing

Section A. - Composition and Function of a Council of Ordination

- (1) When, in the judgment of the Church Council, a man in this membership has been called as the pastor and is not yet ordained, or has served as a deacon well and is qualified for and desires to become an elder, the church Council shall call and conduct a Council of Ordination after the approval of the church membership has been obtained by a three-quarters majority vote. The Ordination Council shall consist of the Church Council, other ordained Christian ministers, and if possible, one lay delegate from each fundamental church invited to participate.
- (2) The Council of Ordination shall thoroughly examine the applicant regarding his personal Christian experience, call to the ministry, educational training, doctrinal belief, reputation, and demonstrated efficiency in Christian Service. The applicant shall give evidence of his agreement with those provisions of the constitution of this church with respect to doctrine, independence of the local church, and scriptural qualifications of an elder.
- (3) Upon completion of the examination of the applicant, a three-quarters majority vote by the council of Ordination shall be required to recommend his ordination to the church. When so recommended, a public ordination service shall be arranged by the Council of Ordination and the approved applicant.
- (4) The minutes of the Council of Ordination and of the public service shall be incorporated into the records of church meetings, and a Certificate of Ordination shall be provided by the church for the newly ordained minister.

Section B. - Discipline of Ordained Elders

- (1) The Church Council shall have the power to discipline even to the revoking of the ordination credentials of any elder ordained by the church, if the said elder is found guilty of doctrinal or moral defection after an impartial hearing conducted in the spirit of 1 Cor. 13.

- (2) The elder under discipline shall have the privilege of appealing to the congregation within 60 days after the decision of the council.

Section C. - Licensing Men to the Gospel Ministry

- (1) The church, upon the recommendation of the Church Council, may issue a license for the ministerial duties for a period of one year. It may be extended for a longer period at the discretion of the Church Council.
- (2) The applicant for such license shall be a deacon or elder of this church, having evidence of a call to the gospel ministry, and demonstrate a valid need for the license.

Article XII – Amendments

Section A. - The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended by a three-quarters majority vote of the voting members present, with the exception of Article II, III, and IV, at an annual or special meeting called for that purpose, provided that such amendment is presented in written form at least one month previous to the meeting to all members.

Section B> - Amendments of Articles II, III, and IV shall require a ninety percent consent of the entire voting membership, either present at a meeting called for that purpose or responding by written absentee ballots received prior to the meeting. Meetings called for this purpose will be in writing to the voting membership at least one month previous to the meeting.