

New Hanover
New Hanover

Church

Wilmington, NC

Statement of Faith and By-laws

Adopted June 2019

ARTICLE 1 – NAME AND PURPOSE

SECTION 1.01 - NAME

This congregation of believers shall be known as the New Hanover Church of Wilmington, North Carolina.

SECTION 1.02 – PURPOSE

This congregation is organized as a church exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue Law), including but not limited to the establishing and maintaining of religious worship, the building of churches, parsonages, schools, chapels, radio stations, television stations, rescue missions, print shops, daycare centers, and camps; the evangelizing of the unsaved by the proclaiming of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; the educating of believers in a manner consistent with the requirements of Holy Scripture, both in Sunday and weekday schools of Christian education, and the maintaining of missionary activities in the United States and any foreign country.

ARTICLE 2 – STATEMENT OF FAITH

SECTION 2.01—STATEMENT OF FAITH

The following comprise the Scriptural beliefs of this church and its members. This does not exhaust the extent of our faith, but it does accurately represent, we believe, what the Bible affirms in these important areas.

(A) The Holy Scriptures. We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally and plenary inspired Word of God, inerrant in the original manuscripts, infallible and God-breathed and, therefore, are the final authority for faith and life. The sixty-six books of

the Old and New Testaments are the complete and divine revelation of God to Man. The Scriptures shall be interpreted according to their normal grammatical-historical meaning. (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21)

(B) The Godhead. We believe in one triune God, eternally existing in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—each co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, coequal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections. (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; John 14:10, 26; 2 Cor. 13:14)

(C) The Person and Work of Christ.

1. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful humanity. (Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2, 14; 2 Cor. 5:19-21; Gal. 4:4-5; Phil. 2:5-8)

2. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and, that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. (Acts 2:18-36; Rom. 3:24-25; Eph. 1:7; 1 Pet. 2:24; 1 Peter 1:3-5)

3. We believe that 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 Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate. (Acts 1:9-10; Rom. 8:34; Heb. 9:24; 7:25; 1 John 2:1-2)

4. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ will return again, at a time known only to the Father, to establish His kingdom on the earth. (Zech. 14:4-11; Dan. 2:44-45; Rev. 19:11-18; Rev. 21-22)

(D) The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit.

1. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a distinct person of the Godhead who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and, that 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 16:8-11; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 3:6; Eph. 1:13-14)

2. We believe that He is the divine Teacher who assists believers to understand and appropriate the Scriptures and that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit. (Eph. 1:17-18; 5:18; 1 John 2:20, 27)

(E) The Total Depravity of Humanity. We believe that mankind was created in the image and likeness of God; but that in Adam's sin the human race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God. All individuals are totally depraved and, of ourselves, utterly

unable to remedy our lost condition. (Gen. 1:26-27; Rom. 3:22-23; 5:12; 6:23; Eph. 2:1-3; 4:17-19)

(F) Salvation. We believe that 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 Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. (John 1:12; Eph. 1:7; 2:8-10; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; 1 John 1:9)

(G) The Perseverance of the Saints and Assurance of Believers. We believe that 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 Pet. 1:4-5)

(H) The Church

1. We believe that the local church, which is the body and the bride of Christ, is solely made up of born-again persons. (1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:25-27)

2. We recognize water baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper as symbols of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ as the Scriptural ordinances of obedience for the church in this age. (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 8:36-38; 1 Cor. 11:23-26)

3. We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the church to serve as elders or pastors. (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18; 1 Tim. 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12)

(I) Human Sexuality. We believe that God created humanity in His image as male and female. God designed human sexuality to be expressed solely within the context of a marriage covenant between one man and one woman. (Gen. 1:16-17, Gen. 2:18-25, Eph. 5:22-33, 1 Cor. 7:2-4)

(J) The Eternal State. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all humanity, 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)

(K) The Personality of Satan. We believe that Satan is a real spiritual being, the author of sin and the cause of the Fall of Man; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and humanity; and that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. (Job 1:6-7; Isa. 14:12-17; Matt. 4:2-11; 25:41; Rev. 20:10)

ARTICLE 3 – MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 3.01 – HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

(A) Membership at NHC is for the purpose of identification with a local body of Christ. It is a commitment we make before the Lord to fulfill the mandates of Scripture with one another. The pathway to membership for those 18 years and older is: Attend a New Members class, complete an interview with an Elder, give testimony of salvation, approval by the Council of Elders.

(B) Children under the age of 18, who have professed a personal faith in Jesus Christ, will be considered under the umbrella of the membership of their parent/guardian, without voting rights. Upon turning 18, they may seek membership as outlined in section 3.01 (A).

SECTION 3.02 – EXPECTATIONS OF MEMBERS

I understand that the church is the body of Christ created by Jesus, equipped and empowered by the Holy Spirit for the purpose of continuing the ministry that Jesus began. It is comprised locally of my fellow believers at NHC.

I understand that I am a vital part of the body. As such, I will make it a priority to attend and participate in the life of the church. (1 Cor. 12)

I understand the importance of my participation in the body to build up one another into full maturity in Christ. (Eph. 4)

I understand the importance of relating to one another in unconditional love. (1 Cor. 13)

I will seek to cultivate humility, obedience, and service in my relationship with God and with one another. (Phil. 2)

I will seek to be a unifying member. (Phil. 2:2)

I will seek to serve, not to be served. (Gal. 5:13)

I will deal with conflict Biblically – with love and forgiveness, seeking reconciliation and restoration. (Gal. 6:1-4)

I will seek to give joyfully and sacrificially. (2 Cor. 9:7)

I will seek to pray for my church and its leaders.

I will seek to grow in my walk with the Lord.

If I choose to leave NHC, I will seek to do so in a manner that honors Jesus Christ and is edifying to others.

SECTION 3.03—PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP

(A) Members at least eighteen years of age who are physically present at a duly called meeting of the church shall be entitled to vote. There shall be no proxy or absentee voting.

Members may not vote to initiate any church action, rather the vote of a member is to confirm and ratify the direction of the church as determined by the Council of Elders.

(B) Determinations of the internal affairs of this church are ecclesiastical matters and shall be determined exclusively by the church's own rules and procedures.

(C) Membership in this church does not afford the members with any property, contractual, or civil rights based on principles of democratic government. Although the general public is invited to all of the church's worship services, the church property remains private property. The Council of Elders has the authority to suspend or revoke the right of any person, including a

member, to enter or remain on church property. If after being notified of such a suspension or revocation, the person enters or remains on church property, the person may, at the discretion of the Council of Elders be treated as a trespasser.

(D) A member may inspect or copy the prepared financial statements of the church and the minutes of the proceedings of church meetings and of Council of Elders' meetings, provided he shall have made a written request upon the church and the church has received the written request at least five business days before the requested inspection date.

1. A member may not, under any circumstances, inspect or copy any record relating to individual contributions to the church, the list of names and addresses of the church members, or the accounting books and financial records of the church.

2. The church may impose a reasonable charge, covering the costs of labor and material, for copies of any documents provided to the member.

SECTION 3.04—DISCIPLINE OF A MEMBER

(A) There shall be a discipline committee consisting of the Council of Elders. These men shall have responsibility in determining issues of Biblical truth and sin within the body of the church. If a Pastor/Elder is the subject of a disciplinary matter, he shall not sit as a member of the discipline committee. The Pastors/Elders shall be entitled to the same steps as other church members and be subject to the same discipline.

(B) Members are expected to demonstrate special loyalty and concern for one another. When a member becomes aware of an offense of such magnitude that it hinders spiritual growth and testimony, he is to go alone to the offending party and seek to restore his brother. Before he goes, he should first examine himself. When he goes, he should go with a spirit of humility and have the goal of restoration.

(C) If reconciliation is not reached, a second member, a Pastor/Elder, is to accompany the one seeking to resolve the matter. This second step should also be preceded by self-examination and exercised in a spirit of humility with the goal of restoration.

(D) If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in subsections (B) and (C) have been taken, the discipline committee, as the church representatives Biblically responsible shall hear the matter. If the matter is not resolved during the hearing before the discipline committee, the committee shall recommend to the members of the church that they, after self-examination, make an effort personally to go to the offending member and seek that member's restoration.

(E) If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in subsections (B), (C), and (D) have been taken, such members who refuse to repent and be restored are to be removed from the membership of the church upon the decision of the discipline committee.

(F) No matter may be heard by the discipline committee unless the steps outlined in subsections (B) and (C) have been taken, except in the case of a public offense.

(G) If an unrepentant offending party is removed from the church membership, all contact with him from that point forward (except by family members) must be for the sake of restoration.

(H) If the offending party repents, confesses, and seeks forgiveness, then comfort, forgiveness, and encouragement will be extended in all wisdom under the direction of the Council of Elders to achieve full restoration and reconciliation.

(I) The procedures provided in this section are based on Matt. 18:15-20; Rom. 16:17-18; 1 Cor. 5:1-13; 2 Cor. 2:1-11; Gal. 6:1; 1 Thess. 5:14; 2 Thess. 3:6, 10-15; 1 Tim. 5:19-20; and Titus 3:10-11.

SECTION 3.05—TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

Members not under the disciplinary process of Section 3.04 may request that letters of transfer be sent to another church.

SECTION 3.06—TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

The membership of an individual may be terminated for cause as may be identified elsewhere in this document by a vote of the Council of Elders.

ARTICLE 4 – OFFICERS

SECTION 4.01—CHURCH OFFICERS

The church officers are Pastor/Teacher (5.01), Pastor/Elder (5.02), Deacon (see Section 5.03), minister of records (see Section 5.04), and minister of finance (see Section 5.05). One person may hold two or more offices, except that of Pastor/Teacher. The Council of Elders, from time to time as they deem appropriate, may appoint other church officers, subject to a confirmation vote of the Council.

SECTION 4.02—DESIGNATION OF CORPORATE OFFICERS

As an accommodation to legal relationships outside the church, the Pastor/Teacher shall serve as president of the corporation; the minister of records shall serve as secretary of the corporation; the minister of finances shall serve as treasurer of the corporation; and the chairman of the Council of Elders shall serve as vice president of the corporation.

SECTION 4.03—ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE

(A) Only church members are eligible for appointment to any church office. The church shall not install or retain an officer who fails to adhere to or expresses disagreement with the Statement of Faith.

(B) All church officers will be approved initially by the Council of Elders in order for them to commence in their offices.

SECTION 4.04—TERMS OF OFFICE

(A) The relationship between the Pastor/Teacher and the church shall be permanent unless dissolved at the option of either party by the giving of a month's notice, or less by mutual consent. The calling of a Pastor/Teacher or severance of the relationship between him and the church may be considered at a specially called meeting of the church, provided notice to that effect shall have been given from the pulpit to the church two Sundays prior to said meeting. A two thirds majority of the eligible members present and voting shall be required to call a Pastor/Teacher or to sever the relationship between him and the church. Disciplinary removal of the Pastor/Teacher from office automatically terminates his membership. A restoration to membership after disciplinary removal will be subject to the requirements of Section 3.04.

(B) The term of service for all offices and positions in the church, except the Pastor/Teacher, shall be one year, at the expiration of which the officers may be re-appointed.

(C) A vacancy occurring in any office or position in the church, except in the case of the Pastor/Teacher, may be filled at any regular or specially called meeting of the Council of Elders. All appointed officers shall serve until their successors are duly appointed.

(D) Any individual holding an office or position in the church, except for the Pastor/Teacher, may be removed from office for unbiblical conduct, as determined by the other Council members, upon a majority vote of the remaining members of the Council.

SECTION 4.05—APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

The annual appointment of officers shall occur during the month of April. Procedures for processing these appointments shall be determined by the sitting Council of Elders.

ARTICLE 5 – DUTIES AND POWERS OF OFFICERS

SECTION 5.01—THE PASTOR

(A) The Pastor/Teacher shall preach the Gospel regularly and shall be at liberty to preach the whole counsel of the Word of God as the Lord leads him. He shall supervise the teaching ministries of the church, and tenderly watch over the spiritual interests of the membership.

(B) The Pastor/Teacher shall serve as the president of the corporation. He shall publicly inform all newly appointed officers of the particular function and the responsibilities of their respective offices. He shall extend the right hand of fellowship to all new members on behalf of the church Council and perform such other duties as generally appertain to such a position. The Pastor/Teacher shall be free to choose the means and methods by which he exercises the ministry that God has given him.

(C) The Pastor/Teacher shall become an Elder upon acceptance of his call. He shall have no term.

SECTION 5.02—THE COUNCIL OF ELDERS

(A) The Council of Elders shall be comprised of the sum total of individuals designated as Pastors/Elders and shall be considered for office in keeping with 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9. They shall in concert assist the Pastor/Teacher to promote the spiritual welfare, overseeing the spiritual health of the body, conduct the religious services, and oversee all other work of the church, especially as it relates to the correct teaching of the Word of God. They shall pray for the body of believers. They shall make provision for the observance of the ordinances of the church. They shall, if requested, consider applications for church membership. They shall engage in visitation and all other evangelistic efforts of the church. They shall provide the pulpit supply and choose a moderator for church meetings. Upon the death, resignation, or dismissal of the Pastor/Teacher, the Council of Elders shall function as a pulpit committee.

(B) Immediately following its annual administration meeting, the Council of Elders shall assemble and appoint, from their own number, a chairman who shall be vice president of the corporation, a vice chairman, and a secretary.

(C) The Council of Elders shall constitute the board of trustees of the corporation. The board of trustees shall exercise only the following specific powers,

1. To purchase, hold, lease, or otherwise acquire real and personal property on behalf of the church, and to take real and personal property by will, gift, or bequest on behalf of the church;

2. To sell, convey, alienate, transfer, lease, assign, exchange, or otherwise dispose of, and to mortgage, pledge, or otherwise encumber the real and personal property of the church, to borrow money and incur indebtedness for the purpose and the use of the church; to cause to be executed, issued, and delivered for the indebtedness, in the name of the church, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, or other evidence of indebtedness; and to secure repayment by deeds of trust, mortgages, or pledges; and

3. To exercise all powers necessary for the dissolution of the church corporation.

(D) All appointments for public worship and Bible study and the arrangements thereof, including time and place and the use of the property belonging to the church for purposes other than the stated appointments, shall be under the control of the Council.

SECTION 5.03 DEACONS

Deacons may be appointed by the Council of Elders to perform services as directed by the Elders. The number of Deacons shall be determined by the Council of Elders and meet the qualifications as stated in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

SECTION 5.04—THE MINISTER OF RECORDS

The minister of records shall:

(A) Certify and keep at the office of the church, the original bylaws or a copy, including all amendments or alterations to the bylaws;

(B) Keep at the place where the bylaws or a copy are kept a record of the proceedings of meetings of the Council of Elders, with the time and place of holding, the notice of meeting given, the names of these present at the meetings;

(C) Sign, certify, or attest documents as may be required by law;

(D) See that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws. (In case of the absence or disability of the secretary, or his or her refusal or neglect to act, notice may be given and served by the pastor/teacher or by the chairman of the Council of Elders.).

(E) Be custodian of the records of the church, including the membership roll, baptisms, and certificates of ordination, licenses and commissions;

(F) See that the reports, statements, certificates, and all other documents and records required by law are properly kept and filed;

(G) Exhibit at all reasonable times to proper persons on terms provided by law the bylaws and minutes of proceedings of the Council of Elders or the minutes of the meetings of the church members;

(H) Keep an account of any special events in the life of the church which are of historical interest and make available to the Council of Elders a report of the status of the church membership roll in the past year;

(I) Keep all records at the office of the church and deliver them to any successor upon leaving office; and

(J) Serve as the secretary of the corporation.

SECTION 5.05—THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The minister of finance shall:

(A) Have charge and custody of, and be responsible for, all funds of the corporation, and deposit all funds in the name of the church in banks, trust companies, or other depositories as shall be selected by the Council of Elders;

(B) Receive, and give receipt for all contributions, gifts, and donations to the church;

(C) Disburse, or cause to be disbursed, the funds of the church as may be directed by the Council of Elders, or the budget adopted by Council of Elders, taking proper vouchers for the disbursements;

(D) Keep and maintain adequate and correct accounts of the church's properties and business transactions including account of its assets, liabilities, receipts, disbursements, and capital;

(E) Make all expenditures of the church (except miscellaneous petty cash disbursements) by check;

(F) When and as requested, render to the Council of Elders accounts of all his transactions as minister of finance and of the financial condition of the church;

(G) Present a written report of itemized disbursements at the regular administration meetings of the Council, and make a general report for the year at the annual administration Council meeting;

(H) Keep all church financial records at the office of the church and deliver them to any successor upon leaving office; and

(I) Serve as treasurer of the corporation.

SECTION 5.06—PASTORAL OVERSIGHT OF STAFF

(A) Subject to the approval of the Council of Elders, and on the condition that they shall become a member of the church upon assuming their duties, the Pastor/Teacher may hire associates and assistants to assist him in carrying out his God-given responsibilities with the advice and consent of the Council of Elders. Such associates shall serve at the discretion of the Pastor/Teacher. Compensation shall be established by the Council of Elders.

(B) All church staff, whether paid or volunteer, shall be under the supervision of the Pastor/Teacher who has the sole authority to dismiss the same after consultation with the Council of Elders. No employee or volunteer shall be hired, appointed, or retained who fails to adhere to or expresses disagreement with the Statement of Faith.

SECTION 5.07—DUTIES OF ALL OFFICERS

(A) All officers shall prepare a written report of their work for the annual meeting of the Council of Elders and shall surrender all records in their possession to the minister of records at the close of their term of office to be filed as a permanent record of the work of the church. All records are the property of the church and must be kept in the church office.

(B) Any officer who neglects his duties as outlined in the bylaws for a period of three months may be removed from his office, at the discretion of the Council of Elders, and another may be appointed to serve the unexpired term.

ARTICLE 6 – MEETINGS

SECTION 6.01—MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Unless otherwise determined by the Council of Elders, the church shall meet each Sunday for public worship. Both morning and evening Bible study and prayer meetings may be also be

established. Except when circumstances forbid it, the ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed as directed by the Council of Elders.

SECTION 6.02—MEETINGS FOR CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

(A) The annual Council of Elders administration meeting shall be held during the last week of April at which time the regular church administration shall be considered. A quorum shall consist of the members present.

(B) All Council of Elders administration meetings shall be opened and closed with prayer for divine guidance and blessing.

(C) The moderator shall determine the rules of procedure according to his sense of fairness and common sense, giving all present a reasonable opportunity to be heard on a matter. The moderator is the final authority on questions of procedure, and his decision is final and controlling. The following order *may* be observed at the regular church administration meetings:

1. Devotions & prayer
2. Reading of minutes
3. Reception of members
4. Dismissal of members
5. Report of officers
6. Reports of standing committees
7. Reports of special committees
8. Unfinished matters
9. Appointment of officers
10. New matters
11. Adjournment
12. Benediction

(D) For any meeting under this article, the moderator, in his sole discretion, shall have full and unilateral authority to require nonmembers to leave the meeting room and to order the immediate removal of any member or other person present who is deemed by the moderator to be disruptive to the proceedings by act or presence. The moderator shall have full authority to order the removal of all children (ages to be determined by the moderator) if the moderator determines, in his sole discretion, that circumstances so warrant. If the moderator determines that compliance with his order of removal is unsatisfactory, the moderator may, in his sole discretion, revoke the disruptive person's right to remain on the premises in accordance with Section 3.03(C) and treat the person as a trespasser.

SECTION 6.03—SPECIAL MEETINGS

The Council of Elders may call a special meeting by giving notice of such a meeting and the purpose for which it is called to the church from the pulpit at least one Sunday and not less than one week prior to said meeting. A meeting for the calling of a Pastor/Teacher or the severance of the relationship between the church and Pastor/Teacher shall be called in accordance with the provision of Section 4.04(A).

SECTION 6.04—FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the church shall begin January 1 and end December 31.

ARTICLE 7 – MINISTRIES

All ministries of the church will be in keeping with the mandates of Scripture, the proclamation of the gospel, and the discipleship of the believers. Ministry leaders and teachers must be members in good standing of the church. All teaching must be consistent with the Word of God. Teaching and teaching material must align with the Doctrinal Statement and are subject to approval by the Council of Elders.

ARTICLE 8 – ORDINATION

SECTION 8.01—ORDINATION QUALIFICATIONS

Any member of this church or its mission churches, who gives evidence of a genuine call of God into the work of the ministry and possesses the qualifications stated in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9, may be considered for ordination as a minister of the Gospel.

SECTION 8.02—ORDINATION PROCEDURE

(A) Upon a conference with the Pastor/Teacher and after he has approved the candidate for ordination, the Pastor/Teacher shall call a committee to examine and pass on the qualification of the candidate. Guidelines for the ordination process shall be established by the Council of Elders. The ordination committee shall consist of the Council of Elders and/or ordained ministers of like faith invited to participate in the examination of the candidate.

(B) If the candidate is found worthy of ordination by the committee, the ordination committee may ordain the candidate on behalf of the church.

The Pastor/Teacher and the chairman of the Elders shall arrange for the ordination service.

ARTICLE 9 – INDEMNIFICATION

SECTION 9.01—ACTIONS SUBJECT TO INDEMNIFICATION

The church *may* indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative, including all appeals (other than an action by or in the right of the church) by reason of the fact that the person is or was a pastor, elder, deacon, officer, employee, or agent of the church, against expenses, including attorneys' fees,

judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with the action, suit, or proceeding; and if that person acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the church and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit, or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or on a plea of *nolo contendere* or its equivalent, shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner that he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the church and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful.

SECTION 9.02—EXPENSES SUBJECT TO INDEMNIFICATION

To the extent that a pastor, elder, Deacon, officer, employee, or agent has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit, or proceeding referred to in this Article, or in defense of any claim, issue, or matter in that action, suit, or proceeding, he or she may be indemnified against expenses, including attorneys' fees, actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with the action, suit, or proceeding.

SECTION 9.03—LIMITATIONS OF INDEMNIFICATION

Any indemnification made under this Article, may be made by the church only as authorized in the specific case on a determination that indemnification of the pastor, elder, deacon, officer, employee, or agent is proper in the circumstances because he has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in Section 9.01. (a) The determination shall be made by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of the Council of Elders who were not and are not parties to or threatened with the action, suit, or proceeding; (b) if the described quorum is not obtainable or if a majority vote of a quorum of disinterested Elders so directs, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion; or (c) by a majority vote of the members of the church.

SECTION 9.04—TIMING OF INDEMNIFICATION

Expenses of each person seeking indemnification under this Article, may be paid by the church as they are incurred, in advance of the final disposition of the action, suit, or proceeding, as authorized by the Council of Elders in the specific case, on receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the pastor, elder, Deacon, officer, employee, or agent to repay the amount if it is ultimately determined that he or she is not qualified to be indemnified by the church.

SECTION 9.05—EXTENT OF INDEMNIFICATION

The indemnification provided by this Article shall be deemed to be discretionary unless otherwise required as a matter of law or under any agreement or provided by insurance purchased by the church, both as to action of each person seeking indemnification under this Article in his official capacity and as to action in another capacity while holding that office, and may continue as to a person who has ceased to be a pastor, elder, Deacon, officer, employee, or agent and may inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors, and administrators of that person.

SECTION 9.06—INSURANCE

The church may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a pastor, elder, deacon, officer, employee, or agent of the church against any liability asserted against him and incurred by him in that capacity, or arising out of his status in that capacity, whether or not the church would have the power to indemnify him against liability under the provisions of this Article.

ARTICLE 10 – COMMITTEES

SECTION 10.01—STANDING COMMITTEES

The Council of Elders may appoint standing committees and designate a chairperson for each standing committee and, except when otherwise specifically provided in these bylaws, shall determine the membership of each standing committee. In addition to the discipline committee, the Council of Elders may appoint other standing committees as it deems appropriate.

SECTION 10.02—SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Council of Elders, in its discretion, may create special committees to provide the Council with advice and information regarding matters submitted to the committee by the Council for consideration. The committee shall have no authority to act on behalf of the corporation. The members of the committee shall be chosen by a majority vote of the Council of Elders and shall serve solely at the pleasure of the Council. The special committee shall be subject to the control and direction of the Council of Elders at all times.

ARTICLE 11 – DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTIONS

From time to time the church, in the exercise of its religious, educational, and charitable purposes, may establish various funds to accomplish specific goals. Contributors may suggest uses for their contributions, but all suggestions shall be deemed advisory rather than mandatory in nature. All contributions made to specific funds or otherwise designated shall remain subject to the exclusive control and discretion of the Council of Elders. No fiduciary obligation shall be created by any designated contribution made to the church other than to use the contribution for the general furtherance of any of the purposes stated in Section 1.02.

ARTICLE 12 – BINDING ARBITRATION

SECTION 12.01—SUBMISSION TO ARBITRATION

Believing that lawsuits between believers are prohibited by Scripture, all members of this church agree to submit to binding arbitration any matters which cannot otherwise be resolved, and expressly waive any and all rights in law and equity to bringing any civil disagreement before a court of law, except that judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof.

SECTION 12.02—NOTICE OF ARBITRATION

In the event of any dispute, claim, question, or disagreement arising out of or relating to these bylaws or any other church matter, the parties shall use their best efforts to settle such disputes, claims, questions, or disagreement as befits Christians. To this effect, they shall consult and negotiate with each other in good faith and, recognizing their mutual interests not to disgrace the name of Christ, seek to reach a just and equitable solution. If they do not reach such solution within a period of sixty (60) days, then upon notice by either party to the other, disputes, claims, questions, or differences shall be finally settled by arbitration as described in Section 12.01, above, and such Procedures for Arbitration as are adopted pursuant to Section 12.04, below.

SECTION 12.03—LIMITATIONS ON ARBITRATION DECISIONS

(A) Should any dispute involve matters of church discipline, the arbitrators shall be limited to determining whether the procedures for church discipline as outlined under Section 3.04, were followed.

(B) Should any dispute involve the removal from office of the pastor or any church officer, the arbitrators shall be limited to determining whether the procedures set forth in Sections 4.04 or 5.06 were followed.

SECTION 12.04—ARBITRATION PROCEDURES

The Procedures for Arbitration shall be as adopted by the Council of Elders.

ARTICLE 13 – AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be revised or amended by the Council of Elders at any regularly or specially called meeting. They shall be reviewed every five years to assure that the structure and details remain relevant to the ministry of the church.

ADOPTION

This Statement of Faith and By-laws were adopted by a unanimous vote of the Council of Elders.

This Statement of Faith and By-laws supersede any other statement of faith or by-laws of New Hanover Church.

COVENANT

Having read the Statement of Faith and By-Laws of New Hanover Church and being in agreement with said document, I determine to enter into membership with my fellow believers for the mutual benefit provided by the local body of the church of Jesus Christ.

Signature

Date