



FaithWay
COMMUNITY CHURCH

BY LAWS

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Constitution

The Constitution of this church fulfills the legal requirements of the law. Furthermore, it may act as Articles of Incorporation, and is necessary for securing and maintaining a Federal Identification Number (FIN), and Tax Exemption status with the Internal Revenue Services as a 501(c)3. It may also be required for the purposes of Solicitation and / or Exemption.

The Constitution is also necessary on a state level. The State of Connecticut Department of Revenue Services, along with the Department of Consumer Protection, may need to have this in their records for compliance and audit purposes. The Constitution is required in order to conduct “business” and, consequently, is far less subject to change.

By - Laws

The By-Laws of this church are an internal document that defines and describes our spiritual life together. Given the organic nature of spiritual life together as a body, this is subject to change more frequently.

ARTICLE 1 — MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1 — QUALIFICATIONS

1. Members of this church shall be believers in Jesus Christ who:
 - Give evidence of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ;
 - Have been baptized as believers in obedience to Christ.
 - Agree to Faithway’s Statement of Faith, Constitution and Bylaws.
 - Are willing to adhere and submit to Faithway’s governing leadership.
2. Members are those who have completed all the requirements of membership in accordance with Article 1, Section 1 and 2. Members who are eighteen years and older have voting rights and privileges as specified in [Article1 Section 3 - Duties and Privileges](#).
3. Members under the age of 18 years of age are considered non-voting members, however, they are identified as a member of the Church body if they:
 - Give evidence of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ;
 - Have been baptized as believers in obedience to Christ.
4. Members, upon turning the age of eighteen, will be required to complete the Membership Covenant and Membership Meeting process in order to keep their membership in good standing.

SECTION 2 — ADMISSION

1. Prospective members are required to complete and sign Faithway’s Membership Application and Membership Covenant agreement.
2. Prospective members must also attend a Membership Meeting, with one or more pastor/elder(s). At that time, pastor/elder(s) would help answer any questions prospective members might have regarding FaithWay Community Church.
3. An applicant shall be received as a Member of the church by recommendation and approval of the pastor/elders after first publication of names to the congregation for a period of two weeks before affirming their membership.

SECTION 3 — DUTIES AND PRIVILEGES

All members of the church have duties to the congregation as well as having access to spiritual and physical support.

1. Attendance: Members shall be expected to participate actively in the life of the church by:

- Regularly attending meetings of the church that include: Worship Services, Prayer meetings, small groups, Sunday Schools etc.
 - Faithfully observing its ordinances, namely baptism and the Lord's Supper;
 - Submitting to its discipline and instruction;
 - Attending its member's meetings;
 - Contributing to the ministry of the church consistent with the gifts, resources, and time that God has gifted;
2. Support: Members of the church have the privilege of loving and supporting one another, which includes:
 - The committed oversight, care, counseling, and services of the leadership and / or eldership of the church
 - The regular and faithful intercession of prayer
 - The ministry of discipleship and encouragement
 - The gracious and loving steps of church discipline
 - Participation in and voting during church business meetings
 - The use of one's gifts and calling in ministry opportunities in the church
 - The hospitality, benevolence and acts of compassion of the congregation
 3. Voting: Members of the church have the responsibility on attending and voting at church governance meetings to:
 - Elect or remove pastors, elders, deacons, and church officers;
 - Voting on the church's governing documents (constitution, by-laws, statement of faith);
 - Welcome applicants into membership;
 - Recognize that membership has been terminated by death, apostasy or voluntary resignation;
 - Exercise church discipline;
 - Approve an annual budget;
 - Hear reports from the elders, and church leadership;
 - Take any action deemed necessary or appropriate.

Members of the church may lead a ministry or hold an office in the church, when nominated or delegated to such a task by the congregation with the approval of the elders.

SECTION 4 – MISSIONARY MEMBERSHIP

Missionary members are individuals who are missionaries sent by this church. They may hold membership in another church where they serve, and are also considered members at Faithway, provided the requirements of membership are met in accordance with [Article 1, Section 1](#) and [Section 2](#).

SECTION 5 — INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Inactive members are members who acknowledge non-attendance of assembly services or community life meetings for greater than one (1) year, and who no longer financially support the ministries of Faithway Community Church but wish to maintain affiliation with the church may be placed on or off an inactive status by the leadership and / or elders. Inactive members shall not be eligible to vote at congregational meetings, shall not be eligible to serve in any elected roles, and shall have no rights to any and all property of the church.

SECTION 6 — ON CHURCH DISCIPLINE

1. The sole purpose of any church discipline should be for:
 - Repentance, reconciliation, restoration and spiritual growth and must be used in accordance of scripture (*Proverbs 15:5; 29:15; 1 Corinthians 4:14; Ephesians 6:4; 1 Timothy 3:4-5; Hebrews 12:1-11; Psalm 119:115; 141:5; Ecclesiastes 7:5; Matthew 7:26-27; 18:15-17; Luke 17:3; Acts 2:40; Galatians 6:1-5; 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15; 1 Timothy 1:20; Titus 1:13-24; James 1:22*).
 - The instruction in righteousness and good of other Christians, as an example to them (*Proverbs 13:20; Romans 15:14; 1 Corinthians 5:11; 15:33; Colossians 3:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:14; 1 Timothy 5:20; Titus 1:11; Hebrews 10:24-25*).
 - The purity of the church as a whole (*1 Corinthians 5:6-7; 2 Corinthians 13:10; Ephesians 5:27; 2 John 10; Jude 24; Revelation 21:2*).
 - The church's corporate witness to non-Christians (*Proverbs 28:7; Matthew 5:13-16; John 13:35; Acts 5:1-4; Ephesians 5:11; 1 Timothy 3:7; 2 Peter 2:2; 1 John 3:10*).
 - Supremely for the glory of God by reflecting His holy character (*Deuteronomy 5:11; 1 Kings 11:2; 2 Chronicles 19:2; Ezra 6:21; Nehemiah 9:2; Isaiah 52:11; Ezekiel 36:20; Matthew 5:16; John 15:8; 18:17; Romans 2:24; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1; Ephesians 1:4; 5:27; 1 Peter 2:12*).

2. A member known to err in doctrine or conduct shall be counseled according to the procedure outlined in *Matthew 18:15 - 18* and *Galatians 6:1*. A fellow member having knowledge of such error shall in the spirit of Christian love seek to restore them.

If they do not heed this counsel, the matter shall be brought to the attention of the leadership and / or elders, who shall in meekness and gentleness seek to restore them. If they fail to heed this effort at reconciliation, their error will be brought before the body at a meeting called for this purpose.

If reconciliation efforts do not result in bearing fruit worthy of repentance, the leaders and/or elders may recommend the erring member's name be removed from the membership records of the congregation. Discipline shall then be administered in the Spirit of Christ with due regard for the welfare of the individual as well as the church.

It is Biblically imperative that every member of the church take the necessary steps in the hopes that the loss of fellowship and membership privilege may potentially restore the erring person (*1 John 1:5 - 10; 2 John 9 - 11*).

SECTION 7 — TERMINATION

The church shall recognize the termination of a person's membership following his or her death or apostasy and may do so following his or her voluntary resignation by written letter or electronic communication.

The church shall have authority to refuse a member's request to submit a letter of transfer for membership to another church, either for the purpose of proceeding with church discipline, or for any other reason the church deems necessary or prudent.

A member shall be removed from membership as a matter of church discipline upon the recommendation of the elders and the later agreement of at least three-quarters of the members present and voting on the question at any member's meeting.

Members who voluntarily resign from membership at Faithway are encouraged to have an exit interview with the pastor/elders.

ARTICLE 2 — BIBLICAL AND OPERATIONAL ROLES GOVERNMENT

SECTION 1 — CHURCH GOVERNANCE

The biblical offices in the church shall be elders, and deacons. In addition, our church recognizes the administrative positions of clerk and treasurer. In the event there is not a qualified elder board as described in [Article 2, Section 7](#), the church will also recognize a leadership team. All officers must be members of this church prior to assuming these responsibilities. Final authority is vested in the assembled congregation.

SECTION 2 — ELDERS

1. The elders are entrusted with the spiritual oversight of Faithway Community Church. Their oversight includes, but is not limited to, teaching, protecting, leading, disciplining, equipping, and caring for the corporate church body and her individual members. In addition, they will provide oversight of all ministry, operations, and finances of the church, as led by the Holy Spirit. The elders are responsible for being obedient to the Scripture in the doctrine of the church, establishing the overall vision of the church, and appointing new elders or deacons.
2. The elders are designated as the directors of this corporation as the term is defined and used in Connecticut state law. The board of elders shall choose its chairman and other offices. In accordance with the nonprofit corporation laws of Connecticut, the board shall serve as the board of trustees of the corporation, and the elders shall designate the lead pastor or another elder to serve as the president of the corporation.
3. The minimum qualifications for elders shall not be less than those listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. In addition to the minimum qualifications given in the Scriptures, elders must be male Church members, as described in [Article 1](#), who fully subscribe to the Statement of Faith and are actively involved in the ministry of the church. They shall be men who are full of grace, exhibit a genuine love for the body of Christ, and are careful to avoid a legalistic spirit. (1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-8 and who shall carry out their duties in accordance with 1 Peter 5:1-4. 3).
4. The duties and responsibilities of elders shall be in keeping with Scripture (Acts 6:1-6; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 5:17; Titus 1:5-9; James 5:14; and 1 Peter 5:1-5), as they take responsibility to shepherd God's flock by devoting themselves to prayer and the ministry of the Word. They shall have particular authority to:
 - Plan and oversee worship services;

- Oversee the ordinances, namely baptism and the Lord's Supper;
 - Examine and instruct prospective members;
 - Oversee the process of church discipline;
 - Examine and recommend candidates for all offices and positions;
 - Oversee the work of deacons and all other agents of the church;
 - Give final oversight, when necessary, to the hiring and termination of non-elder church staff, as ordinarily conducted by the Elders; and
 - Take any other action which shall be necessary and proper for faithfully overseeing and shepherding the church.
5. The elders may present the name of a nominee (or nominees) to the church at a member's meeting. For at least a month, the church shall consider whether the nominee is (or nominees are) qualified. Any member intending to vote against a nominee should express his or her objection to at least one elder as early as possible before the vote. Once at least a month has passed, the elders may move the nomination(s) to vote at a member's meeting. The members shall vote on nominees one at a time. The moderator or his delegates shall count the votes, and any nominee immediately shall become an elder who receives the approval of at least three-quarters of the members present and voting on his nomination. After the vote, the church shall publicly recognize and set apart all such newly approved elders.
 6. Elders shall be elected by the congregation to serve for a term of three (3) years and shall serve as long as they remain qualified, able, and willing to serve (1 Peter 2:5). Except for pastor(s), any elder who has served for two (2) consecutive terms, six (6) years totals, shall not be eligible for reelection to the same role for at least one (1) year and is required to take a year sabbatical. During this year, the elder will be provided by the church an opportunity for enrichment and encouragement to strengthen his ministry. After the year, an elder can be resubmitted as a nominee and follow the process for recognition. If the elder body determines that an elder needs an extended Sabbath for a season because of a legitimate need (e.g., illness, tragedy), then an elder can transition to being an inactive and non-voting elder for a set period of time as determined by the elder body.
 7. There shall be no less than three elders serving the church at any given time. In the event that the church is without a qualified elder board (three (3) or more for more than sixty (60) days), a leadership team shall be appointed by the membership of the church to serve in this capacity. In accordance with the nonprofit corporation laws of Connecticut, the leadership team shall serve as the board of trustees of the corporation until such a time as the elder board returns to a qualified body and the leadership team shall select a chairman to chair the leadership team meetings.
 8. Any elder may be removed from the office of elder for valid cause. Discipline of elders must be consistent with the standards set forth in Matthew 18:15-20 and 1 Timothy 5:17-19, and shall be consistent with Article 1, Section 6 of these bylaws, the eldership shall be responsible to administer the process to remove another elder. An elder shall be removed from office upon the vote of 3/4 of the members present and voting on the question at any member's meeting.

To resign from the elder body, an elder must first notify, in writing, the lead pastor and/or officers of the church who are also members of the elder body. These officers will determine the most fruitful and edifying way of notifying the remaining elders and the church. A vacancy in the

elder body because of death, resignation, removal, or any other cause shall be filled only in the manner as described in these bylaws. Such vacancies may be filled as they occur.

SECTION 3 — THE LEAD PASTOR

The primary responsibilities of preaching and teaching the Scriptures in public meetings of the church will be vested in the lead pastor. The lead pastor is also considered to be the preaching elder. If the lead pastor is absent or incapacitated, the elders shall assume responsibility for his duties, any of which may be delegated to someone biblically qualified to perform such duties.

1. The lead pastor shall meet all the qualifications and hold all the rights and responsibilities of a church member. He shall meet all the qualifications and hold all the duties and responsibilities of an elder. In terms of formal authority, there shall be no distinction between an elder and a lead pastor.
2. The duty and responsibility of the lead pastor is to the ministry of the Word and prayer. He shall perform duties incumbent on such officer, including making certain that all order and resolutions of the elders are carried into effect
3. The pastoral elders of the church shall Scripturally meet the requirements as outlined in 1 Tim. 3:1 - 7 and Titus 1:5 - 9. He shall, by virtue of his call, be a member of the church and an “ex-officio” member of all ministries and committees. He shall without further election be a voting member of the eldership and serve as shepherd leader in mutual accountability with the other elders.
4. The lead pastor shall possess, as his strongest, the spiritual gifts of teaching, preaching, and tending to the flock (Acts 20:28).
5. It shall be the duty of the senior pastoral elder to devote himself to the service of the church and, together with the other elders, shepherd the flock, be a defender of doctrine, practice good communication and conflict resolution and administer the ordinances. His primary duties shall include leading the church doctrinally through a prominent preaching/teaching role providing care for the eldership and maintaining cohesion, efficiency, training and development amongst the elders. He shall be directly accountable to the other elders who will advise, assist and evaluate his work.
6. The lead pastor shall be selected as follows: The elders shall present the name of one nominee to the position of lead pastor at a regular members meeting. For at least a month, the church shall consider the nominee’s gifts in preaching and teaching, his commitment to minister personally to the members of this church, and his wholehearted assent to the statement of faith and church covenant. Any member intending to vote against a nominee should express his or her objection to at least one elder as early as possible before the vote. Once at least a month has passed, the elders may move the nomination to a vote at a members’ meeting. The moderator or his delegates shall count the votes, and if the nominee receives the approval of at least three- quarters of the members present and voting on his nomination, he shall immediately be the preaching elder (and, if he is not yet an elder and a member, also an elder and member). In a reasonable time after the vote, the church shall publicly recognize and set

apart the lead pastor.

7. The lead pastor shall not be subject to any term limit.
8. The lead pastor may be removed from their office for valid cause. Any such action shall be done in accordance with the instructions in Matthew 18:15-17 and 1 Timothy 5:17-21. As the lead pastor is an elder, the process for removing an elder ([Article 2 Section 2:8](#)) is the same for that of lead pastor.
9. In the event a new lead pastor is to be called, the elders shall appoint a Pastoral Search Committee. The Committee shall consist of the elders and at least three (3) non-elder church members. If the plurality of elders is not met (Article 2 Section 2:7) the acting leadership team (Article 2 Section 6) and at least three (3) additional church members will make up the committee. The Pastoral Search Committee can consist of non Faithway Members if agreed on by the elders or leadership team as long as they meet the requirements for membership in Article 1 Section 1:1.

SECTION 4 — ASSOCIATE PASTORS

The church may call additional pastors whose relationship to the lead pastor is that of associate. Other pastoral responsibilities may be vested in one or more associate pastors.

1. An associate pastor shall be selected in the same manner as the lead pastor.
2. An associate pastor shall meet all the qualifications and hold all the responsibilities and rights of a church member. He shall meet all the qualifications and hold all the duties and responsibilities of an elder. An associate pastor is considered an elder.
3. An associate pastor's duties and responsibilities will be developed and defined by the board of elders to meet the needs of Faithway Church as it grows.
4. An associate pastor shall not be subject to any term limit.
5. The associate pastor may be removed from their office for valid cause. Any such action shall be done in accordance with the instructions in Matthew 18:15-17 and 1 Timothy 5:17-21. As the associate pastor is an elder, the process for removing an elder (Article 2 Section 2:8) is the same process to be followed for that of associate pastor.

SECTION 5 — INTERIM PASTOR

In the event the church is without a Lead Pastor, the elders may appoint an interim pastor. If the plurality of elders is not met (Article 2 Section 2:7) the acting leadership team ([Article 2 Section 7](#)) may appoint an interim pastor.

The interim pastor shall serve for the ensuing year or until a regular lead pastor is selected. An interim pastor shall not normally serve longer than one (1) year.

SECTION 6 — DEACONS

Particular service to the church shall be provided by deacons, who will vary in number depending on the needs of the church, and who shall satisfy the qualifications in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. The elders may designate a deacon chairperson from the body of the deacons to chair the deacons.

1. The deacons provide logistical and material support to the work of the ministry. Each deacon position shall serve a particular need of the church and shall be created or dissolved upon the recommendation of the elders and the later agreement of a majority of the members present and voting on the question at any members' meeting.

A deacon may be designated the responsibility of administering a benevolence fund.

The deacons, with agreement of the elders, may establish unpaid administrative positions or committees of members to assist them in fulfilling their responsibilities in the church.

2. The minimum qualifications for deacons shall not be less than those listed in 1 Timothy 3:8 and are Church members, as described in Article 1, who fully subscribe to the Statement of Faith and are actively involved in the ministry of the church.
3. The elders may present the name of a nominee (or nominees) to the church at any members' meeting. Any member may recommend to the elders another member's name for deacon consideration. For at least a month, the church shall consider whether the nominee is (or nominees are) qualified. Any member intending to vote against a nominee should express his or her objection to at least one elder as early as possible before the vote. Once a month has passed, the elders may move the nominations to a vote at a regular members' meeting. The members shall vote on nominees one at a time. The moderator or his delegates shall count the votes, and any nominee immediately shall become a deacon who receives the approval of at least two-thirds of the members present and voting on his nomination. After the vote, the church shall publicly recognize and set apart all such newly approved deacons.
4. Deacons shall be selected to a renewable term of one year upon the recommendation of the elders and the later agreement of a majority of the members present and voting on the question at any members' meeting. In keeping with the principles in Acts 6:1-6, deacons shall not be responsible to exercise spiritual authority, but encourage, support, and mobilize those able to help others, and those with gifts of administration. This is not to say deacons can not assist in spiritual care at the board of elder's request if they are gifted in such areas, only that the responsibility of the deacons is not spiritual authority, as that is left to the elders.
5. A deacon may be removed from office upon the recommendation of the elders and the later vote of a majority of the members present and voting on the question at any members' meetings.

SECTION 7 — LEADERSHIP TEAM

1. The leadership team provides help and support to the work and mission of the church in the absence of a qualified elders board. The leadership team shall consist of five (5) total individuals. Other members shall include (1) the currently serving elder(s), (2) the church treasurer, (3) the deacon chairperson if applicable. Additional members of the leadership team shall be recommended by the elders or leadership team and voted on at a church member's meeting and shall be installed by a simple majority. In accordance with the nonprofit corporation laws of Connecticut, the leadership team shall serve as the board of trustees of the corporation until such as time as the elder board returns to a qualified body and the leadership team shall select a chairman of the board in the same manner as stated in the Article 2 Section 2 of the Faithway By-Laws.
2. The leadership team shall consist of individuals who are active church members in good standing and are in agreement with Faithway's mission, vision, core values statement of faith and held to the standards set forth in Scripture for anyone in church leadership, including but not limited to Acts 6:1-6, 1 Timothy 3:1-13. And Titus 1 and 2.
3. The leadership team shall serve as a council for all corporate functions of the organization including policy, direction, personnel and other management duties. The spiritual functions of the church shall remain under the oversight of the remaining elders, including but not limited to all doctrinal, missional, and disciplinary functions as prescribed in Scriptures.
4. During a scheduled meeting of the church membership, individuals may be nominated for service. The members shall vote on nominees one at a time. The moderator or his delegates shall count the votes, and any nominee immediately shall become a member of the leadership team who receives the approval of at least two-thirds of the members present and voting on his nomination. After the vote, the church shall publicly recognize and set apart the newly approved leadership team.
5. Elected members of the leadership team shall serve for a period of two (2) years and may be reelected by a majority vote by the membership at a scheduled church meeting. The leadership team will cease operation when the plurality of elders is reestablished.
6. A member of the leadership team may be removed upon the recommendation of the leadership team and the later vote of a majority of the members present and voting on the question at any members' meetings.

SECTION 8 — CLERK

1. The clerk shall meet the requirements of membership in [Article 1](#) of the church Bylaws. No elder of the church may serve as clerk.
2. The clerk shall record the minutes of all regular and special members' meetings of the church.
3. The clerk shall serve as the secretary of the corporation. The clerk shall manage all aspects of the records of church membership and any other responsibilities determined appropriate by the elders.

4. The clerk shall be selected to a renewable term of one year upon the recommendation of the elders and later shall enable the elders to devote themselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word, work to maintain the unity of the church, and care for the physical needs of the church.
5. The clerk shall be removed from office upon the recommendation of the elders and the later vote of a majority of the members present and voting on the question at any members' meeting.

SECTION 9 — TREASURER

The treasurer of Faithway Community church will oversee the day to day financial responsibilities of the church.

1. The treasurer shall meet the requirements of membership in [Article 1](#) of the church Bylaws. No elder or paid staff member of the church may serve as treasurer.
2. The treasurer shall ensure that all funds and securities of the church are properly secured in the banks, financial institutions, or depositories held by the church, and are responsible for overseeing the depositing of church funds along with payment of budgeted expensed items.

The treasurer shall also ensure that full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements are kept in books belonging to the church, and that adequate controls are implemented to guarantee that all funds belonging to the church are appropriately handled by any officer, employee, or agent of the church.

The treasurer shall provide to the elders at least once a year, or whenever the elders may require it, an account of all financial transactions since the last complete account and of the financial condition of the church. The treasurer shall also present reports of the account balances, revenues, and expenses of the church at regular members' meetings.

3. The treasurer shall be selected to a renewable term of one year upon the recommendation of the elders and the later agreement of a majority of the members present and voting on the question at any members' meeting.
4. The treasurer shall be removed from office upon the recommendation of the elders and the later vote of a majority of the members present and voting on the question at any members' meeting.

SECTION 10 — OTHER STAFF ROLES

The elders shall have responsibility for the hiring and oversight of other educational and office staff ministry roles and the development and implementation of policies related to such roles. A description of such roles, qualifications and responsibilities will be provided as the need arises. Additional operational functions of the church can be conducted under the roles of stewardship ministry through gracing, gifting and calling. Steward leader positions will be appointed by the elders and as Faithway Community Church grows in spiritual formation and has need, areas of steward leader roles will be developed, defined and dissolved as needed.

ARTICLE 3 — MINISTRY DOCTRINAL POSITIONS

SECTION 1 — STATEMENT OF FAITH

About Scriptures:

We believe the entire Bible is the inspired Word of God and that men were moved by the Spirit of God to write the very words of Scripture. Therefore, we believe the Bible in its original writings is infallible and without error. Scripture is the supreme and final authority of the Christian faith, doctrine, teaching, fellowship and conduct (Acts 2:42; Romans 10:17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21).

About God:

We believe in one God who exists in three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19, John 14:10,13, 16-17; 2 Corinthians 13:14).

We believe God the Father reigns with providential care over His universe, creatures and human history according to the purpose of His grace. He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving and all wise. God is the father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in his attitudes towards humanity (Genesis 1:1, 2:7; Exodus 3:14, 6:2-3, 15:11, Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4, 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3-13, 64:8; Matthew 6:9, 7:11, 23:9, 28:19; Mark 1:9-11, John 5:26, 14:6-13, 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 11:6, 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17).

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He was begotten of the Holy Spirit in a miraculous manner, born of the virgin Mary and became flesh, to reveal God to humanity and become the Savior of the lost world. Jesus is fully God and fully man, both the Son of God, and God the Son. We believe in Jesus' sinless life, in His miracles, that he was crucified and died for all of humanity's sin, and in His resurrection and ascension to heaven. (Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18, 23; Mark 16:9; Luke 1:35, 24:1-48, 50-53; John 3:13, 6:2, 17:11, 21; Acts 1:9-11, 2:22; Romans 5:6-8; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:14, 21; Galatians 1:4, 3:13; 1 Timothy 3:16; 1 Peter 2:22-24, 3:22).

We believe the Holy Spirit is a fully divine person, equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the Evil One until God's purpose is fulfilled. The Holy Spirit convicts of sin, of judgment, and of righteousness; that He bears witness to the truth of the gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the agent in the New Birth; that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies, and helps the believer (John 14:16-17; Matthew 28:19; John 3:5-6; Genesis 1:2; John 14:26)

About Humanity:

We believe that all people were created in the image of God to have fellowship with him but became alienated in that relationship through sinful disobedience. As a result, all people are born with a sinful nature and are incapable of regaining a right relationship with God through

their own efforts (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7; Jerimiah 17:9; Psalm 100:3; Romans 3:23; 5:12; Ephesians 2:3).

We believe the Genesis account of creation is to be accepted literally, not allegorically nor figuratively; that man was created directly in God's image and after His own likeness; that man's creation was not a matter of evolution nor evolutionary change of species, nor development through interminable periods of time from lower to higher forms; that all animal and vegetable life was made directly, and God's established law was that they should bring forth only "after their kind" (Genesis 1:1, 11, 24, 26-27; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 1:1-3; John 1:1-3).

We believe that Satan, originally a great and good angel, rebelled against God, taking a multitude of angels with him. He was cast out of God's presence and is at work with his demonic hosts to establish his counter-kingdom of darkness, evil, and unrest on earth. Satan was judged and defeated at the cross of Christ and will be cast forever into the lake of fire which has been prepared for him and his angels (Isa. 14:10-17; Ezek. 28:11-19; Mt. 12:25-29; 25:41; Jn. 12:31; 16:11; Eph. 6:10-20; Col. 2:15; 2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6; Rev. 12:7-9; 20:10).

About Salvation:

We believe that the blood of Jesus Christ, shed on the cross, provides the sole basis for the forgiveness of sin. Therefore, God freely offers salvation to those who place their faith in the death and resurrection of Christ as sufficient payment for their sin (Isaiah 53:6; John 3:16; Romans 5:8-9,12; 6:23; 1 Corinthians 15:3, 21; 1 Peter 2:24).

We believe that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ into their lives are born again of the Holy Spirit, and, thereby, become children of God (John 1:12-13; 3:3; 1 Peter 1:23; 1 John 3:1-3).

We believe in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; Regeneration or the new birth is a miraculous work of grace whereby believers become a new creature in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a process. It's a change of heart brought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and by faith in Jesus Christ (Ezekiel 11:19-20; John 1:12, 3:1-8, 3:3, 16, 16:8; Acts 2:38; Romans 2:15; 6:4-6, 10:9-10 2 Corinthians 5:17,7:9-10; Galatians 2:20, 6:15; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:9-10; Titus 3:5).

We believe repentance is a genuine turning from sin towards God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment to Him as Lord and Savior and those who repent and put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ is made a partaker of the Divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God. (John 1:11-13, 3:3-5; Romans 6:23; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Colossians 2:12-13 2 Peter 1:2-; 1 John 5:11-13).

We believe sanctification is the experience starting at regeneration, by which the believer is set apart for God's purposes and is enabled to progress towards moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Growth in grace should continue throughout the believer's life. (John 17:7; Romans 6:1-23; 6; 1 Corinthians 6:11; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Philippians 1:6, 2:13; Hebrews 10:14, 13:12; 1 Thessalonians 4:3, 5:23; 2 Thessalonians 2:13).

We believe justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of His righteousness of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Jesus Christ freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin, honored the Divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full atonement for humanity's sins; that His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was the voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust, Christ the Lord, bearing our sins in His own body on the tree; that, having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven at the right hand of God, interceding for us, and that He is in every way qualified to be the only suitable, compassionate, and all-sufficient Savior. Justification brings the believer into a relationship of peace and favor with God. (Ephesians 2:8; Romans 3:24; 8:34; John 3:16; Philippians 2:7; II Corinthians 5:21; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 1:1-3).

We believe that when Christians die, they pass immediately into the blessed presence of Christ, there to enjoy conscious fellowship with the Savior until the day of the resurrection and the glorious transformation of their bodies. The saved will receive eternal rewards and forever dwell in blissful fellowship with their great triune God. We also believe that when unbelievers die, they are consigned to Hell, there to await the Day of Judgment when they shall be punished in the lake of fire with eternal, conscious, and tormented separation from the presence of God (Daniel. 12:2; Matthew 25:46; Luke. 16:19-31; John. 5:25-29; 1 Corinthians 15:35-58; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10; Philippians 1:19-26, 3:20-21; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10; Revelation 20:11-15; 21:1-22:15).

About the Christian Life:

We believe all Christians should live for Christ and not for themselves. By obedience to the Word of God and daily yielding to the Spirit of God, every believer should mature and be conformed to the image of Christ (Romans 8:29; 12:2; 14:8; Galatians 1:10; 5:16-26; Ephesians 4:13-15; 2 Peter 3:18;).

We believe Christian Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior. Baptism does not constitute in part or in whole salvation or redemption; rather it's a picture of the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life and the resurrection to walk in the new life in Christ Jesus (Acts 8:36-39, 16:30-33; Matthew 3:6, 13-17; Matthew 28:19; John 3:23; Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12).

We believe the Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer Jesus Christ and anticipate His second coming (Matthew 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:19-20; I Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-28;).

We believe followers of Christ have a responsibility to be good stewards. God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these are entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth. (Genesis 1:28; Leviticus 27:30-32; Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 23:23, 25:14-30;

Luke 12:16-21, 16:1-13; Acts 20:35; 1 Corinthians 4:2; 1 Colossians 3:23; 1 Peter 4:10 1 Timothy 5:8).

About the Church:

We believe that the church is the body of Christ, of which Jesus Christ is the head. The members of the church are those who have by faith, accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. The purpose of the church is to glorify God by loving him and by making him known to the lost world (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:42-47; Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12-31; Ephesians 1:20-23; 3:6, 10; Colossians 1:18; 3:16).

We believe that God has called the Church to work together in unity and honor in preaching the gospel to all nations, in making disciples according to the teachings of Jesus Christ and His apostles, and in

remembering the poor and ministering to their needs through sacrificial giving and practical service locally and abroad (Isa. 58:6-12; 61:1; Mt. 5:1-7:28; 28:18-20; Lk. 4:18; 21:1-4; Gal. 2:10; 1 Tim. 6:8).

We believe there is no authority except that which God has established. Civil government exists to serve those governed, and is of Divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience and the coming Prince of the kings of the earth (Daniel 6:1-28; Matthew 20:25-28; Romans 13:1-2; 1 Peter 2:13, 14, 17; Philippians 2:10-1; Colossians 1:15-17).

We believe in the literal second coming of Christ at the end of this age when He will return to earth personally and visibly to reign over the nations in His millennial kingdom. No one can know with certainty the timing of the Lord's return. We also believe in and are praying for a great end-time harvest of souls and the emergence of a victorious Church that will experience unprecedented unity, purity, and power in the Holy Spirit (Psalms 2:7-9, 22:27-28; Matthew 24:36; John. 14:12; 17:20-26;).

SECTION 2 — STATEMENT ON MARRIAGE GENDER AND SEXUALITY

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person. (Genesis 1:26-27, 2:18-22.)

We believe that the term marriage has only one meaning: the uniting of one man, and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as described in Scripture. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to the standards found in God's Word, and the means for procreation of the human race and parenthood (Genesis 1:26 - 28; 2:24; Exodus 20:12: Matthew 19:4-6; Ephesians 5:23, 31- 2; 2 Corinthians 6:14 -18).

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. Any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest and use of pornography) is a sinful perversion of God's gift of sex (Genesis 1:27, 2:18-25, 5:1-2, 19:5; Leviticus 18:1-30; Proverbs 5:15-20; Matthew 5:27, 15:18-20, 19:4, Romans 1:18,21, 24-28; 1 Corinthians 6:9-18; 7:2-5; Ephesians 5:31; Hebrews 13:4).

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sins seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11).

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful, harassing, behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture (Matthew 5:43-48; Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31; Romans 12:10; James 4:17; 1 John 3:15, 4:20).

SECTION 3 — CHURCH FACILITIES USE POLICY

Faithway Community Church's property and facilities may be used only for purposes consistent with the Church's doctrinal beliefs as reflected in the Bible and stated in the Constitution and By-Laws.

Property and facility use will not be permitted to any person or groups holding, advancing, or advocating beliefs or practices that conflict with the Church's beliefs, stated in the Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE 4 — MEETINGS

SECTION 1 — WORSHIP

The church shall meet together for public worship throughout the week as the church may determine. Faithway shall observe the ordinances of baptism and communion.

SECTION 2 — ANNUAL MEETINGS

The church shall hold an annual church meeting in January to affirm or relieve leadership and discuss any other matters as appropriate to bring before the church membership body including but not limited to financial positioning, update on projects, and prayer.

The church shall also hold an annual budget meeting to present the next year's operational and fiscal budget before the membership thirty (30) days prior to the new fiscal year.

SECTION 3 — SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

The church may hold special congregational meetings as determined necessary by the board of elders or by petition 25% of the membership. Meetings, meeting the 25% threshold, shall be held within thirty (30) days of receiving a written request.

SECTION 4 — ELDER AND DEACON MEETINGS

Elders and deacons shall establish a meetings schedule, notify and publish their respective schedules to the church membership.

SECTION 5 — VOTING MEMBERS

Voting members are those who have completed all the requirements of membership in accordance with [Article 1, Section 1 and 2](#), who are eighteen years or older, and are active members in good standing.

The elders may determine from time to time when proxy voting (individualized voting by members in good standing through paper or electronic means) may be used for actions on church matters when properly published for church vote.

SECTION 6 — ANNOUNCING CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

1. The church shall hold member's meetings as determined necessary without displacing the regular worship gathering of the church.
2. No member's meetings shall be held unless the date, time, and place of meeting has been announced and published during the public worship service for at least two weeks (14 days) prior to the meeting in question, and shall state in writing the purpose(s) of the meeting and the items to be discussed or voted on.
3. Members' meetings shall proceed in reasonable order using an agreed upon parliamentary procedure of rules. The members present shall constitute a quorum if 25% of the membership roll is present. Motions shall be adopted by a majority vote of the members present and voting on the question, except on matters otherwise provided for in the constitution or Bylaws.
4. The elder board (or leadership team if applicable) shall appoint a moderator at every member's meetings, but the moderator shall have no vote, unless the members are equally divided on a question. It is the responsibility of the moderator that the meetings follow the agreed upon parliamentary procedures set out before hand.

ARTICLE 5 — DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Believing that the Bible commands Christians to make every effort to live at peace and to resolve disputes with each other in private or within the Christian church (Matthew 18:15-20; 1

Corinthians 6:1-8), the church shall urge its members to resolve conflict among themselves according to biblically based principles, without resorting to the civil courts.

In the case of alleged criminal behavior, it may be appropriate to resolve conflict in the criminal courts, not least because such alleged criminal behavior may in some cases legally be required to be reported to the government authorities (Romans 13:3-4).

Consistent with its call to peacemaking, the church shall encourage its members to use biblical principles and avoid lawsuits to resolve disputes among themselves.

ARTICLE 6 — AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these By-Laws, not in conflict with the Constitution, shall be first presented in writing at a regular or special business meeting of the congregation, and may be voted on at any subsequent regular business meeting or special meeting called for that purpose, provided the amendment was presented by the elders in writing at a previous regular members' meeting, and was announced at every public meeting of the church during the two weeks immediately before the vote.

Adoption will be by two-thirds majority vote of active members present.