

Operating Bylaws of the Church Network

These Bylaws are being adopted this 21st day of August, 2018 by the unanimous written consent of the Board of Directors, hereafter referred to as “Network Leadership Team”, of the Corporation, hereafter referred to as the “network,” and these Bylaws will continue in full force and effect until modified or altered by the Network Leadership Team.

ARTICLE I

AFFIRMATION OF BIBLE BELIEFS

Introduction

We aim to be a network of churches that are unified in Bible beliefs, genuine friendship, and the shared purpose of making disciples and planting healthy, effective, relational local churches. We believe that true Christian unity only comes about by holding to the “whole counsel of God,” rather than simply trying to find a few things upon which we can agree. At the same time, we do not claim to be perfect in this affirmation of our beliefs. While they are communicated imperfectly, this document represents our best understanding of the teachings of the Bible and we believe these truths passionately. They are the grounds of our unity.

At the core of our beliefs is the good news of Jesus Christ—the wonderful truth that Jesus Christ was crucified and raised from the dead so that sinful people would trust in Jesus and be reconciled to God. This gospel is our primary passion and the driving influence in preaching, worship, small groups, prayer, and church planting. We hold to the absolute truth found in the Bible and, thus, we turn to the Bible on every area of what we believe, how we live, and how we participate in church life together. We believe that local churches are to be the primary means of inviting people to Jesus, making mature disciples, equipping people to serve, learning to worship, and planting new churches. All of this is done through local churches as is outlined in the Bible, so that people of all ages, cultures, and ethnicities will hear the gospel of Jesus Christ, being saved from their sins and reconciled to God.

The Bible

We believe the Bible, consisting of the 66 books of the Old Testament and New Testament, is the written Word of God. The Bible is the only essential and infallible record of God’s self-disclosure to mankind. It leads us to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Being given by God, the Bible is both fully and verbally inspired by God, and is without error in the original manuscripts. The Bible is the authoritative and normative rule and guide of all Christian life, practice, and doctrine. It is totally sufficient and must not be added to or changed by later tradition, extra-biblical revelation, or culture. Every belief, lifestyle, and practice must be put to the test of the truth of God in the Bible, to determine whether it is true or false, right or wrong.

We are to approach the Bible with humility and prayer as we seek to understand and rightly apply the Bible in our lives, staying true to the historical context and intentions of the original authors.¹

The Trinity

We believe in one God: infinite, eternal, glorious, almighty, and perfect in holiness, truth, and love. In the unity of the godhead there are three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, co-existent, co-equal, co-eternal—each is fully God. One God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit.²

God the Father

We believe in God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth. By his Word and for his glory, he created the universe and everything in it from nothing. Through the same Word he daily sustains all his creation. He rules over all and is the only Sovereign. His plans and purposes cannot be stopped. He is faithful to every promise, works all things together for good to those who love him and, in his wonderful grace, gave his Son, Jesus Christ, to save us from our sin. He made us for relationship with himself and created all things to exist for his glory.³

God the Son

We believe in Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God. He is the eternal Word made flesh, supernaturally conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary. He lived his life in human flesh, perfect in nature, teaching, and obedience. He is fully God and fully man. He has always been with God and is God. Through him all things were created and came into being. He was before all things and in him all things are held together by the word of his power. He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation, and in him the fullness of God dwells bodily. He is the only Savior for the sins of the world and, having shed his blood, he died a substitutionary death on the cross. By his death in our place, he revealed God's love and upheld God's justice, removing our guilt and reconciling us to God. Having redeemed us from sin, on the third day he rose bodily from the grave, victorious over death and the powers of darkness, and for a period of 40 days appeared to more than 500 eye-witnesses, performing many convincing proofs of his resurrection. He ascended into heaven where, at God's right hand, he intercedes for his people and rules as Lord over all. He is the Head of his body, the Church, and is to be worshiped, adored, loved, served, and obeyed by all.⁴

God the Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. Through the proclamation of the gospel he works to bring people to repentance and faith in Jesus. By the work of the Holy Spirit a person is regenerated, born again, made new by grace through faith. The Holy Spirit unites believers to Jesus Christ in faith, brings about this new birth, and dwells within those who believe. Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit as our Helper and Counselor

and we are to be responsive to the Holy Spirit's daily leading in our personal lives and in the church. He empowers believers to follow Jesus as authentic disciples and gives spiritual gifts for the purpose of doing his works and proclaiming his word. He leads the church in right understanding and right application of the truth of the Bible. He is to be respected, honored, and worshiped as God the Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity.⁵

Mankind

We believe that God made Mankind—male and female—in his own image, as the crown of creation, for relationship with him. Tempted by Satan, Adam and Eve rebelled against God and fell into sin and darkness. Because of their sin and the separation it caused from God, all have inherited a sinful nature, have become subject to God's wrath, and are utterly incapable of returning to God. Apart from the saving work of God to rescue, all live under the dominion of sin and death and evil—separated from God forever. All people, whatever their circumstance, are subject to sin and, thus, have no hope of eternal life without God's act of salvation in Jesus Christ.⁶

The Gospel

We believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ. The gospel is the good news of God revealed in the birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus. The gospel makes this joyful and amazing assertion: Jesus came to save us from our sins. Christ's death is a substitutionary and propitiatory sacrifice to God where Jesus bore our sins on the cross and died in our place, satisfying the demands of God's perfect justice and turning away his holy wrath. It also demonstrates his love and reveals his all-surpassing grace. Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and man. There is no other name by which we must be saved. At the heart of all sound doctrine is the cross of Jesus Christ and the infinite privilege that sinful people, saved by grace, are reconciled to God because of what Jesus has accomplished.⁷

Election

We believe that God acted before creation in choosing some people to be saved. This was not because of any goodness or merit foreseen in them, but simply in his good pleasure and by his sovereign choice. Those who have been appointed for salvation will respond to his irresistible grace, turn from sin, and believe when the effective call of God comes to them through the human preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Regeneration is the work of God in which he gives new spiritual life to the elect who were dead in sin and, thus, they repent and receive faith in Jesus and the salvation given by grace through the cross.⁸

Our Response

We believe that our response to the gospel is rooted and grounded in the free and unconditional election of God. It is also true that the message of the gospel is only effectual to those who genuinely turn from their sins and, by God's grace, trust in

Jesus. Because we do not know who the elect are, we declare the gospel of grace to all people, longing that they would come to Jesus and be saved. Those who are genuinely regenerated will live their life for Jesus, growing in Christian maturity and will persevere in following Jesus to the end of their days.⁹

Salvation

We believe that salvation is the free gift of God provided by grace alone through faith. Anyone turning from sin in repentance and trusting Jesus and his substitutionary death receives the gift of eternal life and is declared righteous by God as a free gift. The righteousness of Jesus is imputed and the person is justified and fully accepted by God. Through Christ's atonement for sin an individual is reconciled to God the Father and receives adoption as a son or daughter. The believer is forgiven the debt of sin and, through the miracle of regeneration, liberated from the law of sin and death into the freedom of God's Spirit. Biblical salvation is characterized by continual progress and growth in Christian maturity, lived out in love, devotion and service to Jesus and his people, the church.¹⁰

Sanctification

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the active agent in our sanctification and seeks to produce his character in us as our minds are renewed and we are conformed to the image of Christ. Though Christians continue to struggle with sin in this life, the Spirit of God leads us as we grow in knowledge and maturity, learning to live for Jesus in a way that honors him. All believers are exhorted to persevere in the faith, knowing they will have to give an account to God for their words and actions in this life. The spiritual disciplines, especially studying the Bible and applying it to our lives, prayer, worship and confession, are vital for our maturity and transformation. Nevertheless, the believer's ultimate confidence to persevere is based in God's promise to preserve his people throughout this life and to the end.¹¹

Empowered by the Spirit

We believe that in addition to effecting regeneration and sanctification, the Holy Spirit empowers believers to invite others to Jesus and for daily Christian service. Upon salvation the Holy Spirit indwells all believers. In addition, there is an ongoing, empowering work of the Spirit after conversion that may occur from time to time throughout a Christian's life. The Holy Spirit empowers believers, imparts his spiritual gifts for the building up of the church and the work of disciple making, and gives assurance of our adoption as sons and daughters. Believers should desire to be full of the Holy Spirit and to keep in step with the Holy Spirit, cooperating with him in obedience as he carries out his work. In addition, Christians are to earnestly desire spiritual gifts so that we may serve others and be effective in the work that Jesus has given to his church.¹²

The Church

We believe that Jesus builds his church, calling sinful people from all nations into

relationship with himself and with one another. The church is not simply a religious institution or a human organization. Rather, the church universal is made up of all those who have been saved by Jesus throughout the generations and have become genuine followers of Jesus. The church exists to worship and glorify God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It also exists to serve him by declaring his word and faithfully doing his work throughout the earth. The mission of the church is to make disciples for Jesus through the preaching of the gospel and the planting of healthy local churches. When God saves people they are added to a local church, in which they devote themselves to Bible teaching, genuine relationship, serving, giving, worship, and prayer. Jesus intends that all Christians be a vital and committed part of a specific local church.¹³

Jesus appoints pastors and overseer/elders of local churches to do the job of equipping members of the church to works of service so that each Christian and the whole church grows to full maturity. These pastors and overseer/elders are chosen by existing, proven overseers as the Holy Spirit leads from among the faithful Christian men and they are to give their lives to care for the church that Jesus died to save. In the context of this loving leadership in the local church, new disciples are added to the local church as Jesus saves them and all of the believers are cared for and mature as followers of Jesus.¹⁴

Baptism

We believe in baptism as an ordinance of the church for every believer after they have come to repentance and faith in Jesus. They are immersed in water in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Baptism is a public confession that they have been saved by Jesus and a demonstration that their old, sinful life has been buried with Christ. They come out of the water as Jesus rose from the dead to new life. It is also a sign that the person being baptized has been cleansed of their sin through faith in the work of Jesus on the cross. Baptism is an act of obedience done in faith by each person after they have been saved by grace.¹⁵

The Lord's Supper

We believe in the Lord's Supper as an ordinance of the church, like baptism, to be observed by those who have genuine faith in Jesus. The bread and the cup symbolize the breaking of Christ's body and the shedding of his blood on our behalf, and is to be observed repeatedly throughout the Christian's life as a sign of continued participation in the atoning benefits of Christ's death. As we partake of the Lord's Supper with an attitude of faith and self-examination, we remember and proclaim the death of Jesus, receive spiritual nourishment for our souls, and signify our unity with other members of Jesus' church.¹⁶

The Return of Jesus

We believe that at the end of all things there will be a visible, personal and glorious return of Jesus Christ. At that time, all who have died will rise from the dead. All

will stand before Jesus at the final judgment to give an account of their life. Satan with his hosts and all those apart from Jesus will endure eternal punishment and misery. Then will come the fulfillment of Christ's kingdom in the new heavens and the new earth where those saved by Jesus shall live and reign with him forever in resurrected bodies. Believers will have unspeakable joy in the presence of God forever, serving him and giving him unending worship and glory.¹⁷

Our Values

Truth. In an age where many do not believe in absolute Truth, we hold to the Bible in all that it teaches as the very Word of God. So we study and teach the Bible carefully, striving to live out the Truth in our daily lives. We speak this Truth in love and gentleness to those who do not believe it, and seek to avoid being argumentative about our beliefs.

Following Jesus. Being a Christian is not just about attending a church. Our intent is to be people who believe Jesus' words, hold to his teaching, and live in obedience to Him. Because he loved us and gave his life to save us from our sins, we want nothing more than to live our entire lives following him and telling others of his love.

Worship. God is the only one worthy of worship and we were made to worship Him. Because of all that Jesus has accomplished for us on the cross, we love Him and want to sing of his excellence, beauty, and grace. We sing our songs to God in awe of Him and experience the wonder of his presence in the midst of the church.

Small Groups. To grow as disciples in a church, Christians need a smaller context beyond the larger gathering of a Sunday service. The Bible lays out this model in the book of Acts. We gather in small groups during the week to apply the Bible to our lives, pray together, and enjoy new friendships.

Prayer. Prayer is a primary way that we cooperate with Jesus in his work and stay in close relationship with him. We spend time with him in prayer and know that he hears us. We pray to him alone and we pray when the church is gathered. We pray for each other and we present our needs in prayer, thanking him for everything he has done.

Multi-Ethnic. We are a church committed to love and unity among people of many cultures, races, and nations together in Christ. Our command from Jesus is to reach "all nations" with the gospel so we seek to heal the wounds caused by the sin of racism and division. The church best represents Jesus' intention when made up of every race and ethnicity in one unified family.

Multi-Generational. People of all ages are needed to build a healthy church. We have a specific passion to reach university students, but a biblical church also reaches grandparents, families, young professionals, youth, and children. This is the Bible's model and all generations are essential for effective, disciple-making churches.

Relationship. A biblical church is made up of people who grow in real, loving friendship that is lived out in unity of purpose. We need each other and help one another as we grow to maturity in Jesus. In healthy churches, people enjoy following Jesus together and constantly make new friendships as Jesus adds people to His church.

Leadership. Jesus gives leaders to equip, instruct, encourage, and protect His church. Without leadership the church is ineffective. We are careful that our pastors and leaders are trustworthy and meet the Bible's qualifications. Because of this, we are able to follow them with trust and confidence as we serve Jesus together.

Church Size. Churches can get too large to most effectively do the work of relational disciple making. We do not attempt to grow mega-churches or do multiple campuses. We believe the ideal size for a relational local church may be under 1,000 people.

Church Planting. Local churches are the primary means of making disciples for Jesus. Thus, we constantly train church planting pastors, worship leaders, and planting teams to start new churches in other cities. Biblical missions are best lived out through sending new churches where the gospel is preached and people become authentic Jesus followers.

Mercy. God extended mercy to us when Jesus died for our sin to rescue us. Because of this, we extend mercy to others who want to know Jesus and experience his forgiveness. Jesus has taught us to forgive others as we have been forgiven by him. The church is to be a place of healing, restoration, freedom, and new life.

Bible references for Beliefs

¹ Deut. 4:1-2; Matt. 5:17-20; Lk. 1:1-4; Jn. 3:31-36; 2 Tim. 3:14-17; 2 Pet. 1:16-21; 2 Pet. 3:15-16; Rev. 22:18-19

² Gen. 1:1-2; Deut. 6:4; Isa. 44:6-8; Jn. 1:1-5; Jn. 17:1-5

³ Gen. 1-2; Heb 1:3; Ps. 19; Isa. 40:9-31; Jn. 3:16-21; Rom. 11:33-36

⁴ Isa. 52:13-53:12; Jn. 1:1-5, 14-18; Jn. 10:22-30; Jn. 19-20; Acts 10:34-43; 1 Cor. 15:1-8; Gal. 4:4-8; Phil. 2:5-11; Col. 1:15-23; Col. 2:9-10; Heb. 1

⁵ Matt. 28:18-19; Lk. 12:11-12; Jn. 3:5-8; Jn. 7:37-39; Jn. 14:15-31; Jn. 16:4-15; Acts 1:4-5; Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12-14; Tit. 3:5

⁶ Gen. 1:26-31; Gen. 3; Gen. 5:1-2; Rom. 3:21-26; Rom. 5:12-14; Eph. 2:1-3; Jas. 2:10; Jas. 3:9

⁷ Jn. 1:11-13; Jn. 6:35-40; Acts 2:38-41; 1 Cor. 15:1-8; 2 Cor. 7:9-10; Gal. 3:1-9

⁸ Jn. 6:35-40; Acts 13:48; Rom. 8:28-30; Eph. 1:3-10; 2 Thess. 2:13; 2 Tim. 1:8-9

⁹ Matt. 28:16-20; Lk. 24:44-49; Acts 1:6-11; Acts 2:37-41; Rom. 10:14-15

¹⁰ Rom. 3:21-26; Rom. 5; 2 Cor. 5:16-21; Gal. 3:23-29; Eph. 2:1-10; Tit. 2:11-14; 1 Jn. 2:2; 1 Jn. 4:9-10

¹¹ Jn. 6:40; Rom. 6:15-23; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; 2 Cor. 3:12-18; Phil. 3:12-16; Tit. 2:11-14; Jas. 1:22-25; 1 Pet. 1:13-25; 1 Jn. 2:1-6

¹² Ezek. 36:27; Joel 2:28-29; Acts 1:4-5; 1:8; 2:1-4; 4:31; 6:3; 8:29; 10:19; 13:2; 16:6; 1 Cor. 12; Eph. 5:18-19

¹³ Matt. 16:18; Matt. 28:16-20; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Cor. 3:16-17; Eph. 1:22-23; Eph. 2:11-22; Eph. 4:1-16; Col. 1:15-18
¹⁴ Matt. 20:25-28; Acts 14:21-23; Acts 20:17-38; Eph. 4:11-14; 1 Tim. 3:1-7; Tit. 1:5-9; Heb. 13:7; 17; 1 Pet. 5:1-5
¹⁵ Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:37-38; Acts 10:44-48; Rom. 6:3-4; 1 Cor. 12:12-13; Gal 3:27; Col. 2:12-13
¹⁶ Matt. 26:26-29; Mk. 14:22-25; Lk. 22:14-23; 1 Cor. 11:17-34
¹⁷ Matt. 25:31-46; Jn. 14:1-3; Acts 1:6-11; 1 Cor. 15:50-58; Phil. 3:20-21; Heb. 9:27-28; 2 Pet. 3:11-13; Rev. 21

Approved by Network Leadership Team—September 2015

We also believe that the Apostle’s and the Nicene Creeds embody the fundamental facts of Christian faith, and we endorse these historic orthodox creeds of the Christian Church:

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*The use of catholic here literally means “universal.”

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, holy catholic [universal] church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

The network exists to offer coaching, training, relationship, support and accountability to local churches that choose to affiliate with one another in this network. We also exist to assist local churches in effectively planting new churches that make Bible believing disciples for Jesus and, in turn, mature to plant more churches. The purpose of each local church is to make disciples for Jesus who grow to maturity, commit to membership in His church, are equipped to serve others, and learn to worship the Living God.

No part of the net earnings [church giving] of the network will inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its Members, Board of Overseers, Elders, Trustees, Officers, or other private persons, except that the church will be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth herein. No substantial part of the activities of the church will be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the church will not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, the church will not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a church exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) or (b) by a church, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

Upon the dissolution of the network, the Network Leadership Team will, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the church, dispose of remaining assets in the following manner: All assets will be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or will be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of will be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court will determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

ARTICLE III

GENERAL

This network is and will remain an organization of local, church planting churches.

All activities will forward this purpose of making disciples and building up healthy local churches.

The Network Leadership Team leads the group of churches, in accordance with the provisions of Article V. All members of the network, the Network Leadership Team, and other persons acting on behalf of the network, or at the request of the network, will abide by these Bylaws.

All contributions will be used to carry out the purpose of the network. Budgeting and spending resources will be the responsibility of the Network Leadership Team, or may be delegated to a local church board by the Network Leadership Team, or another group of local church overseers as appointed by the Network Leadership Team.

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the network is a willing affiliation affirmed by the Board of Overseers of every local church. The Network Leadership Team is to meet the practical need of forwarding the Biblical mission of effective local churches. Because of this, the Network Leadership Team supports local churches in accordance with the approved network bylaws adopted as the bylaws of each local church.

Churches planted in this network are members of the network and agree to function under the coaching and leadership of the Network Leadership Team. Our leading and relating to one another is based on trust and shared Bible beliefs and values. Each local church and their board of overseers agrees to follow the leadership of the Network Leadership Team in accordance with these network bylaws and the bylaws of the local church. Also, all churches that belong to the network agree to contribute 5% of the local church tithes to support the work of the network. Network support is to be sent monthly to the network offices by the local church bookkeeper.

Any church that no longer wishes to be a member of the network, may withdraw by the unanimous agreement of the board of overseers of the local church. Any local church leaving the network agrees to no longer use network materials, including but not limited to Bylaws, Series manuals, Membership Bible Training material, Affirmation of Bible Beliefs and Values, and any other materials or writing developed for the network. A church leaving the network also agrees to return any Network Church Planting Funds used to support a potential planter in the past 5 years.

The network office will maintain a list of current churches in the network. The Network Leadership Team reserves the right to remove any church from membership that departs from the Network Affirmation of Beliefs and Values or any church that is unwilling to follow the leadership of the Network Leadership Team in accord with these bylaws and the bylaws of the local church. Loving, patient, and reasonable effort will be made to help each local church to work through whatever issues may be affecting their participation in the network, before removing them from membership.

Local church boards and pastors are not entitled to vote on network decisions. Decision making regarding beliefs, programs, leadership, direction, and plans of the network are the responsibility of the Network Leadership Team.

ARTICLE V

OFFICERS AND LEADERSHIP

The leadership of the network is based on the authority of Jesus Christ and the truth of the Bible. The Network Leadership Team consists of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and any other team members chosen by the President (hereafter, referred to as Network Leader) and ratified by the Network Leadership Team. Team members serve with the Network Leader. The Network Leadership Team is the governing body of the network and is responsible for matters of administration/finances (i.e., financing & budgets, buying or leasing of facility, maintenance, contract negotiations, etc.), beliefs/doctrine, leadership/hiring staff, and the coaching, correction, and discipline of local Lead Pastors as necessary. No staff supported by the network will be involved in setting their own salary or benefits. Meetings are held twice a year (or as needed) to consider and make decisions on any issues presented by the Network Leader and/or other leadership team members. The Network Leadership Team has authority to amend the Team's Operating Bylaws, the Bylaws used by the local churches, Articles of Incorporation, and any policy of the network as needed.

Members of the Network Leadership Team are appointed by the Network Leader and ratified by a unanimous agreement of the Team. While there may be exceptions, the Network Leadership Team will be made up of Lead Pastors of local churches in the network. New team members may be asked to initially serve in this role for one year, and then may continue indefinitely after the initial year at the request of the Network Leader with ratification of the Network Leadership Team. A vacancy on the Leadership Team because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification or otherwise, will be filled by appointment of the Network Leader and ratified by the Network Leadership Team. If at any time the Network Leadership Team does not unanimously agree on the appointment of a new team member, the person will not be on the Network Leadership Team until such time as there is agreement.

As the network grows and the needs of the Network Leadership Team changes, there may need to be changes of team members to effectively lead the network. Should this become necessary, team members should be willing to resign and allow others to serve as needed. This is also true in cases where changes in the life circumstances of a faithful team member do not any longer allow them to continue functioning effectively (such as schedule, health, family needs, conflicts of interest, etc.). We assume that these changes would be mutually agreed upon by all team members. In rare cases, a team member may need to be removed. Grounds for removal include: departure from the Affirmation of Bible Beliefs and Values as set forth in these Bylaws, breach of other provisions of these Bylaws, departure from Biblical lifestyle; and failure to faithfully fulfill team member duties. Any team member may be removed by the unanimous agreement of the rest of the Network Leadership Team.

The **Network** Leader may be removed from this position by the following provision:

1. Grounds for removal of the Network Leader include: departure from the Affirmation of Bible Beliefs and Values as set forth in these Bylaws, breach of other provisions of these Bylaws, departure from Biblical lifestyle; and failure to faithfully fulfill the duties of the Network Leader.
2. In the event that the Network Leadership Team unanimously agrees for removal of the Network Leader (including all but the Network Leader), the Network Leader will resign or be removed.
3. In the event that the Network Leadership Team is not in unanimous agreement on the removal of the Network Leader, the issue will be put before all of the Lead Pastors in the network, and a simple majority vote will remove the Network Leader.

A new Network Leader will be appointed by the unanimous choice of the remaining Network Leadership Team.

The Network Leadership Team oversees the business of the network under the leadership of the Network Leader. Subject to limitations of the bylaws **all authority of the network is exercised by or under the authority of the Network Leadership Team and the affairs of the network will be led by the Network Leadership Team.**

While most meetings will occur in person, some may be held by telephone, email, or video, so long as all Network Leadership Team members participating in the meeting are involved in the communication. In such cases, all team members will be counted as present in person at the meeting. All decisions made by the Network Leadership Team in person or by email, telephone, or video will be documented in minutes by the

secretary and approved at the next team meeting.

The Network Leadership Team will receive no compensation for their services as Members of the team specifically. The team members may be compensated for other services actually rendered to the network such as pastoring, teaching, leading, administrating, etc.

It is anticipated that the Network Leadership Team will make decisions by consensus. Where this is not possible the Network Leader will allow time to prayerfully consider the issues in an effort to yet reach consensus. In unusual cases where the team is unable to reach consensus, team members agree to delay the decision until consensus is possible.

ARTICLE VI

PROPERTY

All property and funds of the network will be held in the name of the network at the local church where the Network Leader serves and accounted for by the local church bookkeeper. No property will be distributed to team members or overseers or staff members or church members (unless of insignificant value). As a general rule, unused property will be sold for reasonable value or donated to another church or charity.

INDEMNIFICATION OF OVERSEERS AND STAFF

The network indemnifies each of its Pastors, Team Members, and Staff against reasonable expenses, judgments, fines, settlements and other amounts actually and reasonably incurred in connection with any proceeding, event, or decision arising out of the fact any such person is or was a Network Leadership Team member, Pastor, Member of the Board of Overseers or Officer of the Church and will advance to such person expenses incurred in defending any such proceeding to the maximum extent permitted by such laws provided such proceeding, event or decision was lawful and in accordance with the By-laws and Affirmation of Bible Beliefs and Values of the Church. The Network Leadership Team may in its discretion provide by resolution for such indemnification of, or advance of expenses to, other representatives of the network.

ARTICLE X

PRINCIPAL OFFICE

The network keeps in its principal office the original or a copy of its bylaws and Network Leadership Team minutes, as amended to date, certified by the Secretary. These records are available to team members for review upon request. The principal office of the church is located at 2000 Justin Lane, Austin, TX 78757.

Bylaws adopted on August 21, 2018

Luke Williams, Secretary