

BYLAWS OF IMMANUEL CHURCH KNOXVILLE, INC.

1. Name. The name of the Organization is Immanuel Church Knoxville, Inc. which is herein designated as the “Church”. These Bylaws shall regulate the affairs of the Church, subject to the provisions of the Church’s Charter and any applicable provisions of the Tennessee Nonprofit Corporation Act, Section 48-51-101 et seq., Tennessee Code Annotated (“Tenn. Code Ann.”).

2. Purpose

2.1 Purposes. The purposes for which the Church is organized are as follows:

2.1.1 The Church has been organized and shall be operated exclusively for religious, charitable, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), including the making of distributions to and support of other organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code.

2.1.2 The Church is irrevocably dedicated to and operated exclusively for nonprofit purposes and no part of the income or assets of the Church shall be distributed to or inure to the benefit of any individual.

2.1.3 The Church shall neither have nor exercise any power, nor shall it directly or indirectly engage in any activity, that would (1) prevent it from obtaining exemption from federal income taxation as a corporation described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code, or (2) cause it to lose such exemption.

2.1.4 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Charter, the Church shall only conduct or carry on activities permitted to be conducted or carried on by an organization exempt from income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code and its Regulations, or any successor provision, or by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of such Code and Regulations, or any successor provision, so long as they may be in effect.

2.2 Mission. To reach people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and see them develop as disciples who love God, love people, and impact the world.

3. Offices and Registered Agent

3.1 Registered Office. The Church shall designate and continuously maintain a registered office in the State of Tennessee.

3.2 Principal Office. The principal office of the Church shall be that which is designated as such by the members. The Church’s initial principal office shall be 1701 Wayside Road, Knoxville, Tennessee 37931 or such other office as may be designated from time to time by the members.

3.3 Other Offices. The Church may also have other offices within and without the State of Tennessee at such place(s) as the members may from time to time determine.

3.4 Registered Agent. The Church shall designate and continuously maintain a registered agent in the State of Tennessee at its registered office.

4. Membership

4.1 Definition. Joining a local church bears witness to spiritual rebirth and membership in the universal body of Christ, proclaims personal convictions and beliefs, expresses mutual interdependence with other Christians, provides for protective and corrective discipline, gives the right to vote, and allows service in various leadership positions withheld from nonmembers.

4.2 Eligibility. Members of this Church must be persons who give a clear testimony of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who give evidence of regeneration, and who have been baptized as believers.

4.3 Admission. An applicant shall be received into the membership of this Church upon the recommendation of the Elders and a three-fourths vote of affirmation by the Church in Conference.

4.4 Responsibilities. Members shall agree to hold to the doctrines, commitments, and policies of our church as expressed in the Statement of Faith, Church Commitments, and Bylaws.

4.5 Removal. The Church shall recognize the termination of a person's membership following his or her voluntary resignation, joining of another church, or failure to fulfill the duties of membership.

4.6 Discipline.

4.6.1 *Definition.* The Church shall have authority to exercise discipline over its members who willingly and persistently live in violation of biblical moral standards, including scandalous conduct by which the reputation of Christ or His Church is dishonored.

4.6.2 *Purpose.* Church discipline has multiple protective and restorative purposes, including the following: 1.) encouraging the sinning member to receive loving correction and to repent, thus restoring fellowship with Christ and the church, 2.) warning other members against such sin, and 3.) upholding and maintaining the moral purity and blameless testimony of the church (Matthew 18:15-18; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 2 Corinthians 2:6-11, 7:8-10; 1 Timothy 5:19-20; 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15).

4.6.3 *Process.* Should any member depart from the standard of Scripture and engage in conduct which conflicts with biblical principles of holiness and dishonors the name of our Lord, the steps of discipline outlined in the Scriptures shall be followed as necessary to accomplish the purposes stated above: 1.) private reproof of sinning member; 2.) reproof before two or three witnesses; 3.) public reproof before the Church; 4.) termination of membership with possible dissociation and severance of fellowship. The entire process of church discipline outlined above shall be carried out and enforced in a spirit of Christian love, care, and sensitivity. (Matthew 18:16-18; Romans 16:17; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; Galatians 6:1; 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15; 1 Timothy 6:3-5; Titus 3:10).

4.6.4 *Dismissal.* A member shall be removed from the membership as a matter of church discipline upon the recommendation of the Elders and the subsequent agreement of at least a three-fourths vote at any Church in Conference.

4.6.5 *Consent.* Every person who maintains membership in this Church explicitly consents to submit to the process of church discipline outlined above.

5. Leadership

5.1 Biblical Offices. The offices of this Church shall be Elders and Deacons.

5.2 Elders. Oversight of the ministry and resources of the Church shall be vested in the Elders, who shall be men that satisfy the qualifications set forth in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9, and 1 Peter 5:1-3. The Elders at the Church shall consist of the Staff Pastors and Congregational Pastors. The requirements for eligibility are identical for both, and they shall have equal authority. No Elder shall hold the office of Deacon during his tenure as an Elder.

5.2.1 *Staff Pastors*.

5.2.1.1 Definition. Staff Pastors are Elders of the church who have devoted their vocational lives to the ministry of the Word and prayer in the service of the Church. Staff Pastors are supported financially by the Church in return for their work.

5.2.1.2 Eligibility. The Staff Pastors shall be members of the Church who agree with the doctrines, commitments, and policies of the Church as set forth in the Statement of Faith, Church Commitments, and Bylaws. They shall be men whose lives conform to the biblical qualifications for elders presented in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, and 1 Peter 5:1-3.

5.2.1.3 Admission. The Elder Council shall recommend Staff Pastors for the Church. A three-fourths vote of affirmation by the Church in Conference is required for election.

5.2.1.4 Responsibilities. In addition to the responsibilities outlined for the Elder Council, the Staff Pastors shall be in charge of all worship and other public services of the church. The Staff Pastors shall have primary oversight of the daily ministry and functions of the church and its staff, and lead in the preaching and teaching of the church.

5.2.1.5 Removal. A Staff Pastor may be removed from office by a three-fourths vote at any Church in Conference. Any such action shall be done in accordance with the instructions of the Lord Jesus in Matthew 18:15-17 and those of the Apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 5:17-21.

5.2.1.6 Tenure. The Staff Pastors will serve indefinitely and will not be subject to a vote of reaffirmation. They may be removed as detailed in these Bylaws.

5.2.2 *Congregational Pastors*.

5.2.2.1 Definition. Congregational Pastors are the non-vocational Elders of the church.

5.2.2.2 Eligibility. The Congregational Pastors shall be members of the church who agree with the doctrines, commitments, and policies of the church as set forth in the Statement of Faith, Church Commitments, and Bylaws. They shall be men whose lives conform to the biblical qualifications for elders presented in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, and 1 Peter 5:1-3.

5.2.2.3 Admission. The Elder Council shall recommend Congregational Pastors for the Church. A three-fourths vote of affirmation by the Church in Conference is required for election.

5.2.2.4 Responsibilities. In addition to the responsibilities outlined for the Elder Council, the Congregational Pastors shall focus on shepherding and matters of congregational care.

5.2.2.5 Removal. A Congregational Pastor shall be removed from office by a three-fourths vote at any Church in Conference. Any such action shall be done in accordance with the instructions of the Lord Jesus in Matthew 18:15-17 and those of the Apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 5:17-21.

5.2.2.6 Tenure. Congregational Pastors shall serve terms of four years, at the end of which they may be reappointed for a second term. A Congregational Pastor shall be allowed to serve two consecutive terms, after which there shall be a lapse of one year before they may be considered for reappointment.

5.3 Deacons

5.3.1 *Definition*. Deacons are the servants of the Church who shall assist the Elders with the practical needs of the Church by performing services of advice, administration, and implementation.

5.3.2 *Eligibility*. The Deacons shall be members of the Church who agree with the doctrines, commitments, and policies of the Church as set forth in the Statement of Faith, Church Commitments, and Bylaws. They shall be men whose lives conform to the biblical qualifications presented in Acts 6:3 and 1 Timothy 3:8–13.

5.3.3 *Admission*. The Elders shall solicit from the Congregation recommendations for qualified persons to serve as Deacons. The Elders shall at a Church in Conference present a list of recommended nominees. A three-fourths vote of affirmation by the Church in Conference is required for election.

5.3.4 *Responsibilities*. The Deacons shall advise and be ready to assist the Elders in any service that shall support and promote the ministry of the Word, new and existing ministries of the Church, and the care for the members of the congregation.

5.3.5 *Removal*. A Deacon may be removed from office by a decision of the Elders. In the event a diaconate position becomes vacant or the Elders identify a new diaconate position, the Elders may appoint a person to fill that position and assume its responsibilities, until such time as that or another person can be duly recognized by the Church as a Deacon to serve in that specific diaconate ministry.

5.3.6 *Tenure*. Deacons shall serve for one term of three years and may be reaffirmed by a vote of the Church for one additional three-year term. Deacons who have served two consecutive three-year terms shall then not be eligible to serve as a deacon for a period of one year.

6. **Governing Bodies**

6.1 General Statement. The Church is to be recognized as a Jesus-ruled, elder-led, deacon-supported, and congregationally-accountable church in accordance with the principles laid down in the New Testament.

6.2 Council of Elders.

6.2.1 *Definition.* The Council of Elders consists of all the Staff and Congregational Pastors. The Council is responsible for leading the Church in all matters of direction, doctrine, and discipline. Each member is equal in authority. The number of Elders at any time shall be determined by the needs of the ministry and by the call and qualification of men in the church.

6.2.2 *Duly Called Meetings.* The Elders shall meet at least once per month. Meetings of the Council may be held in any location and may be conducted by means of electronic communication through which the Pastors may simultaneously hear each other. The Council may be held immediately upon notice.

6.2.3 *Responsibilities.* The Elder Council is responsible for governing the Church, teaching the Word, and tending the flock of God in this Church. The responsibilities of the Elders shall include: examining prospective members and acquainting them with the Statement of Faith and Church Commitments, overseeing the process of Church discipline, examining prospective candidates for office, scheduling Church in Conference meetings, providing for reporting and recording of official Church business, overseeing the work of the Deacons and appointed church agents and committees, conducting worship services, administering the ordinances of the Gospel, equipping the membership of the Church for the work of the ministry, teaching the whole counsel of God both formally and informally, correcting error, overseeing, coordinating and promoting the ministries of the Church, and mobilizing the Church for world mission.

6.2.4 *Organization.* The Council of Elders shall choose its Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary. The Chairman of the Elders shall be chosen by the Council of Elders from among the Congregational Pastors. The Council of Elders shall serve in lieu of a board of directors and the Chairman of Elders shall serve as the chief officer of the Church for legal purposes. The Vice Chairman shall serve as Chairman in the event of the incapacity or absence of the Chairman.

6.2.5 *Voting and Quorum.* The Council of Elders shall vote on the matters of: 1.) appointment of any Pastor, 2.) doctrinal issues, 3.) removal of any Pastor or Deacon, and 4.) other actions deemed major and extraordinary by the Council. Votes of the Council on any matter may be communicated to the Church at the sole discretion of the Council of Elders, unless otherwise directed in these Bylaws. A quorum is required for voting matters. A proper quorum is defined as at least one half of the Staff Elders and at least one half of the Congregational Pastors. A passing vote must be equal to or greater than three-fourths of the quorum. Voting by proxy is prohibited.

6.3 Church in Conference

6.3.1 *Definition.* The “Church in Conference” (a.k.a., “Family Meeting”) is the membership of the Church gathered in one meeting to review, discuss, and/or vote on matters requiring congregational input.

6.3.2 *Duly Called Meetings.* The Elders, whenever they deem it necessary, or within thirty days of receiving a written request signed by ten percent of the voting membership, shall call a Church in Conference. No Church in Conference shall be held until the date, time, and place of such meeting has been announced at all Sunday worship services of the Church for at least two weeks prior to the Church in Conference in question.

6.3.3 *Responsibilities.* The congregation is responsible for ensuring the Church remains faithful to its mission as given by Jesus Christ and to its doctrines as laid out in Scripture.

6.3.4 *Organization.* The Chairman of Elders shall preside as the moderator at every Church in Conference and shall be responsible to maintain order and to recognize the presence of a quorum before considering any matters requiring a vote. In the event the Chairman of Elders is not present at a meeting, those Elders who are present will designate a substitute moderator for that meeting. All matters of parliamentary procedure not provided for shall be decided in accordance with the general pattern for conduct in Robert's Rules of Order.

6.3.5 *Voting and Quorum.* The Church, duly assembled at a Church in Conference, shall be responsible to vote on: 1.) the election and removal of officers, 2.) the reception of new Church members, 3.) the termination of membership, 4.) the editing or amendment of the Statement of Faith, Church Commitments, or Bylaws, 5.) the exercise of Church discipline, 6.) the annual budget of the Church, 7.) any transactions regarding real property, 8.) the expenditure of any funds which are not covered by an approved budget, and 9.) other actions deemed major and extraordinary by the Council of Elders. Any vote shall require the recognition of the presence of a quorum by the presiding officer. The presence of five percent (5%) of the members shall constitute a quorum. Motions shall be adopted upon the agreement of a majority of the members present, except on matters requiring more than a simple majority vote as otherwise provided for in these Bylaws. Members must be 18 years of age or older to vote. The Church in Conference may also convene to hear reports about various ministry activities as well as to take any other action they deem necessary or desirable.

6.4 *Diaconate.* In cooperation with the Elder Council, the Deacons shall organize themselves however they determine to best achieve the mission of the Church. The Elders or the Deacons may designate any specific Deacon or group of Deacons to specialize in some particular Deaconal function. Meetings of the Deacons, or subcommittees thereof shall be held as needed to best fulfill the responsibilities of the Deacons. The Elders, from time to time, may ask the Deacons to report on such activities and use of funds.

7. Indemnification. With respect to claims or liabilities arising out of service as an officer of the Church, the Church may indemnify, each present and future officer (and his or her estate, heirs, and personal representatives) to the fullest extent allowed by the laws of the State of Tennessee, both as now in effect and as hereafter adopted or amended, including without limitation, Tennessee Code Annotated Section 48-58-507 of the Tennessee Nonprofit Corporation Act. Further, to the fullest extent allowed by the laws of the State of Tennessee, the Church may pay for or reimburse the reasonable expenses incurred by an officer who is a party to a proceeding whether in the context of litigation or otherwise, or in any form of alternative dispute resolution proceeding, including at the trial and any appellate level, and including, without limitation, attorney's fees and expenses.

8. Immunity. To the fullest extent allowed by the laws of the State of Tennessee, both as now in effect and as hereafter adopted or amended, each present and future officer and/or member of any committee appointed by the members shall be immune from suit arising from the conduct of the affairs of the Church.

9. Records and Reports

9.1 *Corporate Records.* The Church shall keep minutes of all meetings of the members and all committees, a record of all actions taken by the members and/or its committees by written consent without a meeting, and appropriate accounting records.

9.2 *Annual Financial Statements.* The Church shall prepare annual financial statements that include a balance sheet as of the end of the fiscal year, an income statement for that year, and such other information necessary to comply with the requirements of the applicable provisions of the Tennessee

Nonprofit Corporation Act. Further, the Church shall prepare and file, or cause to be prepared and filed, all required tax returns, including informational type returns.

9.3 Records at Principal Office. The Church shall keep at all times a copy of the following records at its principal office: (a) its Charter and all amendments thereto; (b) these Bylaws and all amendments thereto; (c) resolutions and policy statements adopted by the members; (d) the minutes of all meetings of the members and all committees and the records of all actions taken by the members or the committees by written consent without a meeting for the past three (3) years; (e) all written communications to the members generally within the past three (3) years, including the past three (3) years' annual financial statements; (f) a list of the names and business or home addresses of its current members, Staff Pastors, Congressional Pastors, and corporate officers; and (g) the most recent annual report delivered to the Tennessee Secretary of State.

10. Amendments

10.1 Statement of Faith and Church Commitments. The Statement of Faith, attached hereto as Exhibit A, or Church Commitments, attached hereto as Exhibit B, shall be amended upon the recommendation of the Elders and the subsequent agreement of a three-fourths vote at any regular Church in Conference, provided the amendment shall have been offered in writing at any previous Church in Conference, and shall have been announced at all Sunday morning services of the Church for at least two weeks immediately prior to final consideration. Any member serving under the commission of this Church on the mission field or who is known to be a homebound member shall be notified in writing of the proposed amendment and shall be eligible to vote by correspondence on this question.

10.2 Bylaws. These Bylaws shall be amended by a three-fourths vote at any regular Church in Conference, provided the amendment shall have been offered in writing at any previous Church in Conference, and shall have been announced at all Sunday morning services of the Church for at least two weeks immediately prior to final consideration. Any member serving under the commission of this Church on the mission field or who is known to be a homebound member shall be notified in writing of the amendment and shall be eligible to vote by correspondence on this question.

11. Disposition of Assets Upon Dissolution. As set forth in Paragraph 19 of the Charter of the Church, upon the dissolution of the Church, the assets of the Church shall be distributed in accordance with a plan of distribution adopted by the members exclusively for the purposes of the Church or to one or more religious, charitable, scientific, literary or educational organizations which (1) are not for profit, (2) are engaged in affairs substantially similar to those of the Church, and (3) qualify under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Code and its Regulations, provided that the assets shall be used by the grantee for purposes substantially similar to those of the Church. In no event shall the Church's property be conveyed to any organization created or operated for profit or to any individual for less than the fair market value of such property, and all assets remaining after payment to the Church's debts shall be conveyed or distributed to an organization created and operated for nonprofit purposes similar to those of the Church, as set forth above.

CERTIFICATION

I certify that these Bylaws were approved and adopted at a duly called organizational meeting of the members of the Church dated the ____ day of May, 2018.

By: _____ Derek Griz, Secretary

Exhibit A
Statement of Faith

The Triune God. We believe in one¹ God who eternally exists² in three Persons: the Father,³ the Son,⁴ and the Holy Spirit.⁵ These Persons are equal in every divine perfection.⁶ God is perfect in holiness,⁷ wisdom,⁸ power⁹ and love.¹⁰ He is the Creator of all things,¹¹ and he sustains¹² and sovereignly rules over them.¹³ He is worthy to receive all glory and honor.¹⁴

Revelation. We believe God has graciously revealed his existence and power in creation,¹⁵ and he has supremely revealed himself in his Son, Jesus.¹⁶ We believe God is also a speaking God who has inspired the words of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments.¹⁷ These writings are the Word of God.¹⁸ They are without error in the original manuscripts¹⁹ and have complete authority in all matters of faith and conduct.²⁰

Creation of Humanity. We believe God created human beings, male and female, in his own image.²¹ As children of God,²² people were created to love God²³ and enjoy fellowship with him.²⁴ As his representatives on earth, humans were made to glorify God²⁵ through their care and governance of

¹ Exodus 15:11; 20:2-3; Deuteronomy 4:35, 39; 6:4-5; 32:39; 1 Kings 8:60; Isaiah 44:6-8; 45:5-6, 14, 21-22; 46:9; John 17:3; Romans 3:30; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 4:6; 1 Timothy 2:5; James 2:19.

² Genesis 21:33; Deuteronomy 33:27; Psalm 90:2; Isaiah 40:28; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 9:14.

³ John 13:3; 20:17; Romans 1:7; 15:6; 1 Corinthians 15:24; Philippians 2:11; James 1:27; 2 Peter 1:17; Revelation 1:6.

⁴ Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1, 18; 20:28; Romans 9:5; Colossians 1:19; 2:9; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 1:3, 8-10; 2 Peter 1:1; 1 John 5:20.

⁵ Acts 5:3-4; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Hebrews 9:14.

⁶ Colossians 1:15; 2:9; Isaiah 9:6; John 10:30; Luke 1:35; Matthew 1:23; Matthew 28:19; Genesis 1:1-2; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; Ephesians 4:4-6; Philippians 2:5-6; Acts 5:3-4.

⁷ Exodus 15:11; Leviticus 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:26; Joshua 24:19; 1 Samuel 2:2; Ps 22:3, 99:3, 5, 9; Isaiah 6:3; 57:15; 1 Peter 1:16; Revelation 4:8; 15:4.

⁸ Job 12:13; Romans 16:27; Psalm 147:5; Isaiah 40:28.

⁹ Genesis 17:1; Psalm 147:5; Jeremiah 32:27; Isaiah 40:28; Revelation 19:6.

¹⁰ 1 John 4:8-10, 16.

¹¹ Genesis 1:1; Nehemiah 9:6; Psalm 90:2; Isaiah 40:26, 28; 45:18; Jeremiah 10:12; John 1:3; Acts 4:24; 14:15; 17:24; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:2; 11:3; Revelation 4:11; 10:6; 14:7.

¹² Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3.

¹³ Psalm 103:19; Daniel 4:35; Matthew 10:29-30; Romans 11:36.

¹⁴ 1 Timothy 1:17; Revelation 4:11.

¹⁵ Psalm 19:1-6; Acts 14:17; Romans 1:19-20.

¹⁶ John 1:1; Hebrews 1:1-2; Revelation 19:13.

¹⁷ 2 Timothy 3:16.

¹⁸ John 10:35; 2 Peter 3:16.

¹⁹ Psalm 12:6; Proverbs 30:5; John 10:35; 17:17; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18.

²⁰ 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:20, 21; Mark 13:31; John 8:31,32; 10:35; 20:31; Acts 20:32; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23.

²¹ Genesis 1:26-27; 5:1-2; 9:6; James 3:9.

²² Acts 17:29; Luke 3:38; Job 12:10.

²³ Deuteronomy 6:5; Matthew 22:37; Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27.

²⁴ Genesis 3:8; Revelation 21:3.

²⁵ Isaiah 43:7; 1 Corinthians 10:31.

creation,²⁶ their love for one another,²⁷ their portrayal of the union between Christ and his Church in the marriage of man and woman,²⁸ and their fruitfulness.²⁹

The Fall. We believe humanity was created sinless,³⁰ but through the transgression of the first man, Adam, that original blessedness was forfeited.³¹ As a result, all of creation is subjected to futility,³² and apart from God's gracious intervention,³³ all human beings are now alienated from God,³⁴ corrupted in every aspect of their being,³⁵ and condemned to death.³⁶

The Plan of God. We believe God from eternity past determined in grace to save sinners³⁷ and to redeem for himself a people³⁸ from every tribe, language, people, and nation.³⁹ He has also promised to restore his fallen creation.⁴⁰ We believe God so loved the world that he gave his only Son and sent him into the world that the world might be saved through him.⁴¹ God desires all people to be saved,⁴² and in love, he commands and implores them to repent and believe in the Gospel of Jesus.⁴³

The Gospel of Christ. We believe the Son, moved by love and in obedience to the Father,⁴⁴ became flesh.⁴⁵ Jesus is fully God and fully human, one Person in two natures.⁴⁶ He was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.⁴⁷ He lived a sinless life,⁴⁸ was crucified,⁴⁹ arose on the third day,⁵⁰ and ascended into heaven.⁵¹ On the cross, he bore the penalty for sin⁵² and reconciled to God all

²⁶Genesis 1:28-30; 2:15-20.

²⁷Matthew 22:39; Mark 12:31; Luke 10:27.

²⁸Ephesians 5:22-32; Genesis 2:18-24; Matthew 19:6; 1 Corinthians 6:16-7:5; 11:11-12.

²⁹Genesis 1:28; 9:1.

³⁰Genesis 1:27, 31.

³¹Genesis 3; Romans 5:12-21; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22.

³²Genesis 3:17; Romans 8:20.

³³Matthew 7:17-18; John 3:3, 5; 6:44, 65; Romans 8:7-8; 1 Corinthians 2:14.

³⁴Colossians 1:21; Ephesians 2:12.

³⁵Genesis 6:5; Psalms 58:3; 130:3; 143:2; Ecclesiastes 7:20; 9:3; Isaiah 1:6; 64:6; Jeremiah 13:23; 17:9; John 8:34; Romans 1:18-3:20, 23; 8:5-8; 1 Corinthians 2:14; Ephesians 4:17-19; Titus 1:15; James 3:2; 1 John 1:8, 10.

³⁶Isaiah 59:2; Romans 1:18; 5:16, 18; 6:23; 8:6, 10.

³⁷Matthew 9:13; Ephesians 1:4-14.

³⁸Titus 2:14.

³⁹Revelation 5:9; 7:9-10.

⁴⁰Acts 3:21; Romans 8:20-21; Revelation 21:1.

⁴¹John 3:16-17.

⁴²1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9; Ezekiel 18:23, 32.

⁴³Acts 17:30; 20:21; 2:38; 19:4; Mark 1:15; Matthew 4:17; Luke 5:32; Luke 13:3, 5; Luke 24:46-47

⁴⁴John 5:30; 6:38; 8:28-29; 14:31; 15:10; Hebrews 10:5-7.

⁴⁵John 1:14.

⁴⁶Romans 1:3-4; 9:5; Philippians 2:7; Colossians 2:9; 1 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 2:14.

⁴⁷Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; Galatians 4:4.

⁴⁸Matthew 26:39-43; Luke 12:50; John 6:38; 18:11; Romans 5:19; Philippians 2:7-8; Heb 5:8; 10:5-7; John 8:29, 46; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22; 1 John 3:5.

⁴⁹Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 18:28-19:42; Acts 3:13-15; 4:27-28; 13:28; 1 Timothy 6:13; Luke 3:1; 13:1.

⁵⁰Matthew 28; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24; John 20-21; Act 10:41; 1 Corinthians 15.

⁵¹Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9-11.

⁵²Isa 53:10; Ephesians 5:2; 1 Corinthians 5:7; Hebrews 9:26.

who believe.⁵³ By his resurrection, Jesus was vindicated by his Father,⁵⁴ broke the power of death,⁵⁵ defeated Satan,⁵⁶ and brought everlasting life to all his people.⁵⁷ By his ascension, he has been forever exalted as Lord⁵⁸ and is seated at the right hand⁵⁹ of God the Father as our Advocate.⁶⁰ We believe that salvation is found in no one else.⁶¹

The Justification of Sinners. We believe that Christ, by his obedience and death, fully discharged the debt of all those who are justified.⁶² By his sacrificial death on the cross, he bore in our place the punishment due us for our sins.⁶³ By his perfect obedience, he satisfied the just demands of God on our behalf.⁶⁴ By grace through faith this righteousness is credited to all who trust in Christ alone for their acceptance with God.⁶⁵

The Power of the Holy Spirit. We believe this salvation is applied to his people by the Holy Spirit.⁶⁶ Sent by the Father and the Son,⁶⁷ the Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus⁶⁸ and is present with and in all believers.⁶⁹ He convicts the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment,⁷⁰ and by his powerful and mysterious work, he regenerates and renews spiritually dead sinners.⁷¹

The Church. We believe that all who have been saved now belong to the family of God,⁷² the Church.⁷³ Christ is the head of the Church,⁷⁴ and all regenerated persons are members.⁷⁵ The Church is distinguished

⁵³Romans 5:1-11; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Ephesians 2:16; Colossians 1:20.

⁵⁴Acts 3:15; 4:10; 17:31; Romans 1:4; 1 Thessalonians 1:10.

⁵⁵1 Corinthians 15:51-57; Hebrews 2:14-15.

⁵⁶John 12:31; 16:11; Colossians 2:15; Hebrews 2:14-15; 1 John 3:8.

⁵⁷Romans 4:24-25; 1 Corinthians 6:14; 15:12-57; 2 Corinthians 4:14; Ephesians 2:5-6; 1 Peter 1:3.

⁵⁸Acts 2:36; Philippians 2:9-11.

⁵⁹Luke 22:69; Acts 2:33-34; 5:31; 7:55-56; Romans 8:34; Ephesians 1:20; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3, 13; 8:1; 10:12; 12:2; 1 Peter 3:22.

⁶⁰Romans 8:34; Hebrews 2:17; 3:1; 4:14-15; 5:5,10; 6:20; 7:25-26; 8:1; 9:11,24; 10:21-22; 1 John 2:1.

⁶¹Acts 4:12.

⁶²Romans 5:9; 8:1.

⁶³Romans 5:15-19; 2 Corinthians 5:21.

⁶⁴Romans 3:21-5:1; 5:9; Galatians 2:15-16; 3:8, 11, 24

⁶⁵Romans 4:5; Ephesians 2:4-5, 8.

⁶⁶Romans 5:5; Ephesians 2:22; Romans 8:11; John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7; Acts 2:33; 1 Corinthians 15:45; 2 Corinthians 3:17.

⁶⁷John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7.

⁶⁸John 16:14; cf 15:26; Acts 5:32; 1 Corinthians 12:3; 1 John 4:2.

⁶⁹John 14:16-17; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 6:19.

⁷⁰John 16:8-11.

⁷¹John 1:13; 3:3-8; Ephesians 2:1-6; Col 2:13; Titus 3:5; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23.

⁷²John 1:12; 1 John 3:1-2; Ephesians 1:5; 2:19; Galatians 6:10.

⁷³Matthew 16:18; Acts 8:3; 9:31; 1 Corinthians 10:32; 11:22; 12:28; 15:9; Galatians 1:13; Ephesians 1:22-23; 3:10, 21; 4:4; 5:23-25, 27, 32; Philippians 3:6; Hebrews 12:23.

⁷⁴Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:15-16; 5:23.

⁷⁵Ephesians 4:1-6.

by her gospel message,⁷⁶ her sacred ordinances, her discipline,⁷⁷ her great mission,⁷⁸ and, above all, by her love for God⁷⁹ and neighbor.⁸⁰

Christian Living. We believe God's justifying grace must be connected to his sanctifying work.⁸¹ This should result in a life that is separate from sin and set apart to God.⁸² He commands believers to love him supremely and others sacrificially.⁸³ Christians are to live out their faith in growing, joyful obedience to the Word and Holy Spirit⁸⁴ and to progressively be changed into the likeness of Christ.⁸⁵ Growing Christians use their God-given gifts for the purpose of edifying the Church,⁸⁶ doing the work of the ministry,⁸⁷ and obeying our Lord's command to make disciples.⁸⁸

Baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe the Lord has committed two ordinances to the local church: Baptism and the Lord's Supper.⁸⁹ We believe Baptism is the immersion of the believer⁹⁰ in water⁹¹ in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.⁹² We believe the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ to commemorate his death.⁹³ Both ordinances visibly and tangibly express the Gospel,⁹⁴ spiritually nourishing the believer and bearing witness to the work of our Savior.⁹⁵

The Restoration of All Things. We believe in the personal, visible return of our Lord Jesus Christ.⁹⁶ He will return to judge the living and the dead⁹⁷ and to consummate his kingdom.⁹⁸ We believe in the bodily resurrection of both the just and the unjust - the unjust to judgment and eternal punishment in hell,⁹⁹ and

⁷⁶Peter 1:12; Jude 3; 1 Timothy 3:15; 2 Timothy 1:14. Acts 2:42.

⁷⁷Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5; 2 Corinthians 2:6-8; 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15.

⁷⁸Matthew 28:19-20.

⁷⁹Matthew 22:37; Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27; John 8:42; Romans 8:28; 1 Corinthians 2:9; 16:22; Ephesians 6:24; James 1:12; 2:5; 1 Peter 1:8; 1 John 2:15; 5:2-3

⁸⁰John 13:34-35; 15:12, 17; Romans 12:9-10, 13; 13:8-10; 1 Corinthians 16:14; Gal 5:13-14; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; 4:9; Hebrews 13:1; James 2:8; 1 Peter 1:22; 2:17; 3:8; 1 John 2:7-11, 19; 3:10-18; 4:7-8, 11-12, 16-21; 2 John 5; Matthew 5:43-47; Luke 6:27-36; Romans 12:14, 17-21

⁸¹1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; John 17:17; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; John 14:15; Ephesians 2:10; James 2:14-26; 1 John 2:2-6, 9-11, 15-17, 19, 29; 3:3, 6-9, 14-15, 24; 4:7, 12, 16, 20; 5:4, 18.

⁸²Romans 6:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 4:7.

⁸³Matthew 22:37-39; John 15:12-13.

⁸⁴Philippians 2:12; 4:4, 9; Colossians 2:6-7; Hebrews 12:1-2; Romans 12:2.

⁸⁵Romans 8:29; 1 Corinthians 15:49; 2 Corinthians 3:18.

⁸⁶Ephesians 4:12, 16, 29.

⁸⁷Ephesians 4:12.

⁸⁸Matthew 28:19-20.

⁸⁹Matthew 28:19; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

⁹⁰Romans 6:3-5.

⁹¹Acts 8:36.

⁹²Matthew 28:18-20.

⁹³Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

⁹⁴Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

⁹⁵Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 11:26; Galatians 3:27.

⁹⁶Matthew 16:27; 24:44; 25:31; Mark 8:38; Luke 9:26; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; Philippians 3:20; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; 2 Thessalonians 1:7; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:28; James 5:8; 2 Peter 3:10; 1 John 3:2; Jude 14; Revelation 1:7; 22:7, 12, 20.

⁹⁷Timothy 4:1; John 5:22.

⁹⁸1 Corinthians 15:24-28.

⁹⁹Matthew 5:22, 29-30; 8:12; 10:28; 13:42; 18:8-9; 22:13; 23:15, 33; 24:51; 25:30, 41, 46; Mark 9:43, 45, 47; Luke 3:17; 12:5; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; 2 Peter 2:17; Jude 13; Revelation 14:9-11; 20:11-15; 21:8.

the just to eternal blessedness in the presence of the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth.¹⁰⁰ On that day, the Bride of Christ, composed of believers from all ages, will be presented faultless before God.¹⁰¹ God will be all in all,¹⁰² and his people will glorify and enjoy him forever.¹⁰³

¹⁰⁰Isaiah 65:17, 22; Daniel 12:2; Matthew 25:34; John 5:29; Romans 8:19-23; Hebrews 1:10-12; 1 Peter 3:22; 2 Peter 2:12-13; 3:11-13; Revelation 21:1-5; 22:3.

¹⁰¹Romans 8:17, 23-24, 30; Ephesians 5:25-27; Revelation 19:7; 21:2, 9.

¹⁰²1 Corinthians 15:28.

¹⁰³Revelation 7:9-12; 19:1-8; 4:8-11; 5:8-14; 11:15-18; 15:2-4; 16:5-7; Revelation 21; Psalm 16:11.

Exhibit B
Church Commitments

Having been brought by God's grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, we now, depending upon the Holy Spirit, make the following commitments to one another...

In all we do, we will aim to glorify and enjoy the God of our salvation, from whom and through whom and to whom are all things: to Him be all glory forever! (1 Corinthians 10:31; Romans 11:36)

We will eagerly maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace by walking together in love and in the Spirit and by putting away all bitterness, anger, and hurtful speech. (Ephesians 4:3; Galatians 5:16, 25; Ephesians 4:29, 31)

With humility and gentleness, patience and love, we will be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, even as God, for Christ's sake, has forgiven us. (Ephesians 4:1-2; Luke 17:3; Colossians 3:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; 1 Peter 1:22)

We will carry each other's burdens, rejoicing with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep. (Galatians 6:2; Romans 12:15)

We will train our children in the instruction of the Lord, seeking to walk in a way that adorns the gospel of Christ before our family, friends, and neighbors (Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4; 1 Peter 3:1).

We will strive to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age, as we wait for the blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. (Galatians 5:22-24; Titus 2:12; 1 Peter 1:14)

We will not neglect to gather together, but will support and treasure the biblical preaching of the whole counsel of God, the faithful observance of baptism and the Lord's Supper, and the loving exercise of church discipline. (Hebrews 10:25; 2 Timothy 4:2; Acts 2:38; 1 Corinthians 11:26; Matthew 18:17; 1 Corinthians 5:13)

We will contribute cheerfully and generously to the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the advancement of the gospel both to our neighbors and the nations. (Matthew 28:19; Luke 12:33; 2 Corinthians 9:7)

We will, when we move from this place, unite as soon as possible with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of these commitments and the principles of God's Word.

In all these things, we rely on our God and His grace. Amen.