

# RAMAH CHRISTIAN CENTER



ARTICLES OF FAITH · CONSTITUTION · BY-LAWS

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## **ARTICLES OF FAITH**

### **PREAMBLE**

We accept the Scriptures as the revealed Will of God, and the infallible Word of God. "All Scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (II Timothy 3:16).

The Holy Bible is the only God-given instructional given to man; therefore the administration, teaching, preaching and conduct of the Church must be rooted and directed by the Bible.

God has also sent His Holy Spirit to anoint and give clear understanding as we read and study the Scriptures.

### **ARTICLE I OFFICES**

The principal office of the corporation, hereinafter referred to as the "Church", shall be located at the address set forth in the Articles of Incorporation. The Church may have such other offices, either within or without the State of Incorporation, as the Board of Trustees may determine from time to time.

### **ARTICLE II PURPOSE**

The church shall be organized and operated exclusively for religious and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or any superseding section in order to, as its discretion:

- a) Disseminate, teach and preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ;
- b) Conduct a religious worship service through various forms of ministry;
- c) Promote and encourage, through the ministry of organization, cooperation with other organizations within the community;
- d) Spread the Word of the Gospel through seminars, radio and other forms of mass media for the purpose of educating the individual in the Word of God;
- e) Render Christian service, both material and spiritual to the sick, the aged, homeless and needy;
- f) Educate children, provide spiritual counsel and promote the highest standard of Christian living in accordance with the Apostolic faith;

- g) Acquire by purchase or gift, such property, whether real or personal, to facilitate the foregoing purposes, and to have and exercise all powers, rights and privileges granted by the State of New York.

This Church is not organized, nor shall it operate, for monetary gain or profit, and does not contemplate the distribution of excess revenues to its members, and it is organized solely for nonprofit purposes. The property, assets, and net revenues of this Church are irrevocably dedicated to charitable, religious and educational purposes, this Church shall continue as a local, self-governing body.

### ARTICLE III ARTICLES OF FAITH ONE TRIUNE GOD

We believe in the Eternal, Triune, Omnipotent, and Omniscient God: holy in nature and purpose. This triune God has revealed Himself as Father; through His Son, in redemption; and as the Holy Spirit, by emanation. (I Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 4:6; II Corinthians 5:19; Joel 2:28)

The first of all commandments is, "*Hear O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord*" (Mark 12:29; Deuteronomy 6:4). "*One God and Father of all; who is above all, and through all, in you all*" (Ephesians 4:6).

### THE SON OF GOD

*In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.* (St. John 1:1 & 14). The one True God, the Jehovah of the Old Testament, took upon Himself the form of man, and as the Son of man, was born of the Virgin Mary. Jesus Christ, is God manifested in the flesh (I Timothy 3:16).

We believe that "*In Him (JESUS) dwelleth the fullness of the Godhead bodily*" (Colossians 2:9). Therefore, Jesus, in His humanity was man; in His deity was and is God. The flesh was the lamb, or the sacrifice of God. He is the mediator between God and man. "*For there is one God, and mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus*" (I Timothy 2:5). "*I am Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the Ending*", saith the Lord, "*which is, and was, and which is to come, the Almighty*" (Revelation 1:8).

### THE CHURCH

The church is the body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the general assembly and church of the first born, which was written in Heaven (Ephesians 1:22; 2:19-22; Hebrews 12:23).

## THE NAME

God used different titles, such as “God Almighty”, “El Shaddai”, and “Jehovah”, the redemptive name in the Old Testament.

*“Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given...and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace”* (Isaiah 9:6). This prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled when the Son of God was named. *“And she shall bring forth a son and thou shalt call His name JESUS; for He shall save His people from their sins”* (Matthew 1:21).

## MAN, HIS FALL AND REDEMPTION

Man was created good and upright, for God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness”. But, man, by voluntary transgression, fell and his only hope of redemption is in Jesus Christ (Genesis 1:26-31, Genesis 3:1-7, Romans 5:12-21).

## THE SALVATION OF MAN

Man’s only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. On the cross Jesus Christ became sin and sickness providing both salvation and divine healing for all mankind (Psalm 103:3), being justified freely by His Grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. *“Except a man be born of water and of spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God”* (St. John 3:5).

## REPENTANCE

Pardon and forgiveness of sins is obtained by genuine repentance, a confession and forsaking of sins. We are justified by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1). John the Baptist preached repentance, Jesus proclaimed it, and the Apostles emphasized it to both Jews and Gentiles (Acts 2:28, 11:18, and 17:30). The word ‘repentance’ means a change of views and purpose, change of heart, change of mind, change of life, transformation, etc.

Jesus said, *“Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish”* (Luke 13:3).

Luke 24:47 says, *“And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”*

## WATER BAPTISM

Baptism is an essential part of the New Testament Salvation; it is not as some teach, merely an outward form of inward cleansing.

Water baptism was administered according to Matthew 28:19. *“In the name of the father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost”*. Evidence that the Apostles in obedience to Matthew 28:19, knew the NAME of the Father, the NAME of the Son and the NAME of the Holy Ghost, is demonstrated by their actions in Acts 8:16 with the Samaritans; Acts 9-15, 16 with Saul of Tarsus; Acts 10:43, 48 with Cornelius and his household; Acts 19:1-7 with the Ephesians; I Corinthians 1:13 with the Corinthians.

## HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM

We believe that the gift of the Holy Spirit is available to all believers, as promised by our Lord, as a witness to their scriptural-based faith in Jesus (St. John 7:37-39). We further believe that the new birth experience is necessary to place the believer in the kingdom of God or the body of Christ “The Church” (I Corinthians 12:12, 13). It is clear that the outpouring of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost marked a “new era” in the Spirit’s dealing with mankind as prophesied in Joel 2:28,29 and Isaiah 28:11.

*“For John truly baptized with water, but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence” (Acts 1:5)*. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian church. *“Then Peter said unto them, Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are a far off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call” (Acts 2:38, 39)*.

## CONFESSION AND RESTORATION

The subject of confession for members who have committed sins, which adversely affect the stability and growth of the body, should be dealt with according to scriptural principles, with the primary focus being restoration and saving of a soul from death. “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much (James 5:16). While this is a vast subject, we will confine our summary to the following area:

- 1) What is confession?
- 2) Why is confession necessary?
- 3) What is the role of membership?
- 4) What is the role of the Pastor?

### 1. CONFESSION OF SINS

Confession is the recognition and the acknowledgment of sins, which is brought about by Godly sorrow leading to repentance before God and His people from an honest and sincere soul (II Corinthians 7:10). Confession that is only motivated by the shame of a sin being exposed is not sufficient for repentance.

## 2. THE NECESSITY OF CONFESSION

It is generally conceded that “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper, but whosoever confesseth and forsakes his sins shall obtain mercy” (Proverbs 28:13). These sins are not limited to fornication, which is customarily the only time we are prompted to have open confession in traditional Pentecostal circles. There are other areas of conduct on the part of members of the assembly, which have a greater impact on the stability and growth of the body. The use of confession on every level in our church life and its institutional structure is essential to our spiritual development, unity and growth of the body.

## 3. MEMBERSHIP ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY

The role of members of the body of Christ in confession is to pattern their behavior after the shepherd, the woman and father in Luke 15. The behavior of the elder brother, though understandable is not acceptable to God. To all who seek repentance we should be ready to offer the best robe. It is sinful for members to condemn and use another member’s failure as a subject of malicious gossip. Without a spirit that facilitates confession and restoration the wounded will continually be destroyed. “These six things doth the Lord hate; yea, seven are an abomination unto Him: a proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, an heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, and false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among the brethren” (Proverbs 6:16-19). Members have a duty and a divine call to cultivate a climate conducive to healing and restoration.

## 4. PASTOR’S ROLE AND RELATIONSHIP

The Pastor’s role in confession is to reveal the will of God to the church in this matter, and also assist in the guidance of anyone desiring a fellowship with God and His church. He is under no obligation to arbitrarily set probationary time periods without regard to the actions of the person seeking restoration, or the healing of the Holy Spirit the granting or repentance is a divine prerogative, which once granted removes people’s sins as far from them as the east is from the west. While recognizing that there are important matters relative to appearance, we must be careful not to imprison those who God has freed. The Pastor is under divine obligation to value every sheep.

## DIVINE HEALING

The first covenant that the Lord (Jehovah) made with the children of Israel after they brought out Egypt was a covenant of healing. The Lord said “if though wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord [Jehovah-Raphe, the Lord that healeth] thy God, and wilt do that which is right in His sight, and wilt give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians; for I am the Lord that healeth thee” (Exodus 15:26). The vicarious suffering of the Lord Jesus Christ paid not only for salvation of our souls but also for the healing of our bodies. “With his stripes we are healed” (See also I Peter 2:24). We see from this that divine healing for the body is in atonement.

## **HOLINESS**

Godly living should characterize the life of every child of the Lord, and we should live according to the pattern and example given in the Word of God. “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and Godly, in this present world” (Titus 2:11-12). “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps: who did no sin, neither was guile from in His mouth: who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously” (I Peter 2:21-23).

“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14).

“But as He which hath called you holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversion; because it is written, Be ye holy. And if ye call on the Father who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man’s work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear: forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” (I Peter 15:19)

## **COMMUNION**

And when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me”. In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me”. “Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup”. (I Corinthians 11:24, 25, 28).

## **POSITION ON HOMOSEXUALITY**

We unreservedly affirm that the practice of any form of homosexuality offends the word of God and hence is in violation of the doctrine of Ramah Christian Center, Inc. of Bronx, New York. We further go on record as declaring that the power of the Holy Spirit is capable of changing the lifestyle and habits of every sinful soul. Therefore, we recommend that persons who are inclined to homosexuality seek help and deliverance through the Holy Spirit and counseling.

## **MARRIAGE**

We believe that no member of this assembly should decide to enter into a marriage relationship before informing and being counseled by the Pastor. The Pastor is under no obligation to conduct such a marriage ceremony.

## DIVORCE

- a) The most complete record of Jesus' teaching on divorce is found in the 19<sup>th</sup> chapter of St. Matthew. In verses 3 through 9, there are three distinct laws described. The first, stated in verses 4 to 5, is the law given in Eden. The second, contained in verses 7 and 8, is in response to a question from the Pharisee concerning Mosaic Law. Jesus in His response clearly pointed out that the action taken by Moses was a result of the hardness of men's hearts. The third law, stated in verse 9, was set forth by Jesus and supersedes the former laws. "And I say unto you, whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery". Therefore, we cannot escape the conclusion that the only scriptural ground for divorce and re-marriage is fornication. The sixth verse of Matthew 19 is not an all-embracing prohibition of divorce. It simply means that the male and female (married couple) are ordained of God to be one flesh. A strange person, whether man or woman, entering into the relationship, confuses and disrupts the oneness that was intended by God. Therefore, the intruder, along with his/her partner, are guilty of "sundering" and the divorce is mere legal recognition of the havoc already wrung.
- b) The proper interpretation of the term "fornication" is important. Present day dictionaries teach us that fornication is the sexual act indulged in by unmarried persons. However, the force of the terms, as used in scripture, was not so restricted. The Greek verb forming the root of the disrupted term is "Porneu" meaning; the indulgence of all unlawful indulgences. The scriptures confirm this assertion; I Corinthians 5:1, "it is commonly reported that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles". This expression shows clearly that there are branches or kinds of fornication. In Romans 1:26, 27, homosexuality is dealt with as "Vile Affections", and summed up in verse 29 as fornication. In addition, Jude verse 7, refers to the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah as fornication, whereas, we have a specific term for this act, "Sodomy", providing Sodomy or homosexuality is a branch of fornication.
- c) The innocent party should not exercise his/her right to divorce from a sinning companion except as a last resort. Loosing is possible but should not be sought after (I Corinthians 7:28). We have the example of Godliness in this respect in God's dealing with Israel (Jeremiah 3:6, 8). He did not divorce her until all His overtures had been refused, even though her fornication was proven and became an openly known fact.

## TITHING AND SACRIFICIAL OFFERING

We believe tithing is God's financial plan to provide for His work, and has been since the day of Abraham. Tithing came with faith under Abraham; Moses' law enjoined it, and Israel practiced it when she was right with God; Jesus endorsed it (Matthew 23:23), and Paul said to lay up in store as God has prospered you. We believe that if the people of God would obey His word there would be plenty on hand to carry on His work without scheming and grafting. "Tithing and free will offering" is God's plan. (Genesis 15:20; Malachi 3:8-12; Exodus 25:2, 35:5, 21, 29).

## **PUBLIC SCHOOL ACTIVITY**

We disapprove of school students being forced to be taught by or listen to those who promote or advocate sexual activity of any kind other than that which is within the bounds of marriage relationship between husband and wife.

## **SECRET SOCIETIES, ETC**

According to the Word of God, we firmly believe and hold that the people of God should have no connection with secret societies or any other body wherein there is fellowship with unbelievers, bound by an oath (James 5:12, II Corinthians 6:14-18).

## **SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST**

Jesus is coming again to gather all His saints to Heaven (I Corinthians 15:51-52; I Thessalonians 4:16-17; II Thessalonians 2:1).

## **THE LAKE OF FIRE**

Those who have not accepted the redemptive work of Jesus Christ will suffer eternal separation from God. The devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, and anyone whose name is not found written in the Book of Life, shall be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake of fire, which burns with brimstone. This is the second death, the lake of fire (Revelations 19:20, 20:10-15).

## **FINAL JUDGEMENT**

When the thousand years are finished, there shall be a resurrection of all the dead, who will be summoned before the Great White Throne for their final judgment, and all whose names are not found written in the Book of Life shall be cast into the lake of fire, burning with brimstone, which God hath prepared for the devil and his angels, Satan himself being cast in first (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:7, 15, 20:8).

## **ARTICLE IV OFFICERS**

**Section 1. Officers.** The officers of the corporation shall consist of a Pastor/President, hereinafter referred to as Pastor; a Secretary, a Treasurer and such other officers as may be elected or appointed for a period of two years. The Board of Trustees on the recommendation of the Pastor may elect or appoint such other officers, as it shall deem necessary. One person may be allowed to hold two or more offices.

## **Section 2. Power of Officers.**

a) **The Pastor:** the Church finds its headship under the Lord Jesus Christ, in its Pastor. The Pastor shall be the chief executive officer of the Church. He shall be a continuing member of the Board of Trustees. He shall have a general management of the business of the Church and general supervision of the other officers. He shall preside at all Board meetings, and see that all orders and resolutions of the Board are carried into effect. Subject, however, to the right of the Board to delegate to any other officer or officers of the Church, any specific powers, other than those that may be conferred only upon the Pastor. He shall execute in the name of the Church all deeds, bonds, mortgages, contracts and other documents authorized by the Board of Trustees. He shall be an ex-officio member of all standing committees, and shall have general powers and duties of supervision and management usually vested in the office of president of a corporation. No person shall be invited to speak, teach or minister in the Church without his approval. He has been designated attorney-in-fact for the Church by virtue of his office. He shall have the authority to appoint and approve any assistants that would be necessary to properly carry out the work of the Lord.

b) **The secretary:** the secretary shall attend all sessions of the Board held at the office of the Church and act as clerk thereof and record all votes and the minutes of all proceedings in a book to be kept for that purpose. He/She shall perform like duties for the executive and standing committees when required. He/She shall give, or cause to be given, notice of meetings of the Pastoral staff when notice is required to be given under these Bylaws or by any resolution of the Board. He/She shall keep the membership rolls of the Church, and in general perform the duties usually incident to the office of secretary. The Pastor or the Board of Trustees shall prescribe further duties as required from time to time.

c) **The Treasurer:** The treasurer shall keep full and accurate account of the receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the Church, and shall deposit all moneys and other valuable effects in the name and to the credit of the Church in such banks and depositories as may be designated by the Board of Trustees, but shall not be personally liable for the safekeeping of any funds or securities so deposited pursuant to the order of the Board. He/She shall disburse the funds of the Church as may be ordered by the Board and shall render to the Pastor and Trustees at the regular meeting of the Board, and whenever they may require, accounts of all his/her transactions as treasurer and of the financial condition of the Church. He/She shall perform the duties usually incident to the office of treasurer and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Trustees or by the Pastor.

d) **Delegating Powers to Other Officers:** In case of the absence of any officer of the Church, or for any other reason that may seem sufficient to the Board, the Pastor may delegate his/her duties and powers for the time being to any other officer, to any trustee.

**Section 3. Election and Term of Officers.** The officers of the corporation shall be selected annually by the Pastor, with the advice and consent of a majority of the Board of Trustees, and ratified by a majority vote of the members of the congregation. Each officer shall hold office until his successor has been duly appointed. New officers may be created and filled at any meeting of the Board of Trustees. Due notification should be given to the congregation in proper and prompt manner.

**Section 4. Salaries.** The salary of the Pastor shall be fixed from time to time in consultation

with the Board of Trustees. The salaries of all other employees, agents and officers shall be fixed and adjusted from time to time by the Pastor, in consultation with the Board of Trustees. No member of the Board of Trustees shall be prevented from receiving a salary for providing services, which are not related to his/her role as Trustee.

**Section 5. Vacancies.** When an office, except that of the Pastor, becomes vacant due to death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or otherwise, the Pastor may appoint someone to fill the unexpired portion of the term. In the event the vacant position being filled is that of the Pastor, the Board shall fill said position pursuant to Article Ten, Section 2(b).

**Section 6. Removal.** The Board of Trustees may remove any appointed officer, with the exception of the Pastor, whenever it is in the best interest of the Church. Such removal shall be without prejudice to the contract rights, if any, of the officer so removed.

**Section 7. Pastor Resignation.** In the event the Pastor should voluntarily choose to leave, he/she shall designate his/her successor. Said designated successor shall be chosen with the advice and consent of the Board of Trustees and Leadership Council, and ratified by a 2/3 majority vote of the members of the congregation.

## **ARTICLE V MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1. Classes of Members.** The membership of the Church shall consist of Congregational Membership (nonvoting, except as provided in ARTICLES Four, Six, Seven, Ten and Eleven), Board of Trustees (voting rights on administrative issues), Leadership Council and Pastoral Staff (voting rights on Church leadership issues).

**Section 2. Admission of Congregational Membership.** Any person adhering to the principles and teachings of Christ according to the Holy Bible, and making a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and who subscribes to the tenets of faith set forth in Article III may, be added to the congregational membership. Each member shall be expected to contribute to the financial support of the Church in both tithe and offerings. Active members are those who are tithing 10% of their income, contributing in offerings and are in regular attendance to services.

**Section 3. Voting Rights.** No member of the congregation shall be entitled to any voting rights, except as set forth in ARTICLES Four, Six, Seven, Ten and Eleven.

**Section 4. Termination of Membership.** The Pastor, by affirmative vote 2/3 of all the members of Leadership Council, may suspend or expel a member of the congregation for cause after appropriate hearings.

**Section 5. Reinstatement.** A former member of the congregation, whose membership was terminated for cause, must request reinstatement in writing. That request must be addressed to the Pastor who will present the request to the Leadership Council; if he/she determines that due consideration should be given to the request. An affirmative vote of 2/3 of the members of the Leadership Council is required for the reinstatement of such a former member of the congregation.

**Section 6. Transfer of Membership.** Membership in the congregation of the Church is not transferable. A letter of referral shall be given to any member of the congregation when requested.

**Section 7. Regular Religious Services.** The members of the congregation shall meet for regular religious services. The Pastor will establish the day(s) and time(s) of these weekly meetings.

**Section 8. School and Seminars.** Instruction in the Word of God shall be provided at all schools and seminars for members and non-members of the congregation. Private Christian education for the body may also be provided.

**Section 9. Code of Discipline.**

- 1) **Cooperative Action.** The members of the congregation of the Church shall give Consent to its forms of government, to the policy of fundamental unity and agreement, alike in doctrine, conduct and action, and shall conform to the Scriptural injunctions that there be no division in the body. They shall be subject to the leadership of the Pastor as he/she follows the leadership of Jesus Christ as the Word of God plainly teaches, that the principles of Christian fellowship may be kept inviolate and perpetuated, recognizing its fundamental importance.
- 2) **Attitude Toward Strife.** Inasmuch as no Christian institution can grow and be fruitful unless there is unity and harmony among the membership, no membership of the congregation should seek to incite or engender strife. But shall work in harmony with other members of the congregation, and the officers of the Church, as did the early church as stated in Acts 2:42. If there is cause for dissatisfaction, it shall be called to the attention of the Pastor or member of the Leadership Council, who will in turn take the appropriate steps to ensure that the matter is resolved (Acts 6:1-7; Matthew 18:15-18).
- 3) **Financial Support.** All members of the congregation shall be expected to support the programs and needs of the Church in proportion, as the Lord shall prosper them (Malachi 3:10; I Corinthians 16:1, 2; II Corinthians 9:6-9). An institution can

only stand and be of full service when all of the members of the congregation accept their responsibility to maintain it.

- 4) **Discipline.** The responsibility of administering discipline in the Church is that of the Pastor with the assistance of the Leadership Council. Grounds for exercising discipline includes but are not limited to the following:
- a. Any member of the congregation holding a position of leadership who shall without reasonable cause frequently absent himself/herself from regular services.
  - b. Unscriptural conduct, failure to maintain membership requirements, and doctrinal departure from the tenets of faith, shall be considered sufficient grounds upon which disciplinary action will be taken. The Pastor shall prayerfully administer such discipline according to Scriptures after consultation with the Leadership Council (Matthew 18:15-17; Romans 16:17; I Corinthians 5:9-13; II Thessalonians 3:6).
  - c. The Pastor, in consultation with the Leadership Council shall also have the authority to restore to active fellowship in congregation one who has demonstrated fruits of repentance.

## ARTICLE VI BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Section 1. General Powers.** Subject to limitations of the Article and these Bylaws and of the pertinent restrictions of the Corporation Code of the State of New York, all the activities and affairs of the Corporation shall be exercised by or under the direction of the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees shall have fiduciary obligation to the Church.

**Section 2. Number, Term and Qualifications.** The number of the Board of Trustees shall be no less than three and shall have no maximum number. The term of membership shall be for two-year period, except for the Pastor (see Article Four, Section 2a). Those set forth in the Articles of Incorporation shall comprise of the original Board of Trustees. The criteria for nomination or selection to the position of Trustee are as follows:

1. Membership of the congregation in good standing.
2. Faithful tither, giver and financial supporter of the ministry.
3. Faithful attendee and supporter at all of the services.
4. Twenty-one (21) years old or older.
5. A confidential individual with demonstrable maturity, soundness and spiritual quality.

6. The candidate may be of either gender.

**Section 3. Election and Term of Board of Trustees.** The Trustees of the corporation shall be selected for a two-year term by the Pastor, with the advice and consent of a majority of the Board of Trustees, and ratified by a majority vote of the members of the congregation.

**Section 4. Regular Meetings.** A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees shall be held each year. The Pastor may provide, by resolution, the time and place for holding additional regular meetings without other notice than such resolution. Additional regular meeting shall be held at the principle office of the Church in the absence of any designation in the resolution.

**Section 5. Special Meetings.** Special meetings of the Board of Trustees may be called by or at request of the Pastor, and shall be held at the principal office of the Church or at such other place as the Trustees may determine.

**Section 6. Notice.** Notice of the annual, regular or any special meeting of the Board of Trustees shall be given by oral notice to each Trustee. The attendance of a Trustee at any meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting, except where a Trustee attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business because the meeting is not lawfully called or convened. The business to be transacted at the meeting need be specified in the notice or waiver of notice of such meeting, unless specifically required by law or by these bylaws.

**Section 7. Action by Unanimous Consent without Meeting.** Such action by written consent shall have the same force and effect as the unanimous vote of the Trustees. Any certificate or other document filed under any provision of law, which relates to action so shall state that the action was taken by unanimous written consent of the Board of Trustees without a meeting, and that the bylaws of this corporation authorize the Trustees to so act, and such statement shall be prima facie (at first sight before closer inspection) evidence of such authority.

**Section 8. Quorum.** A majority of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum (minimum number required to carry on with a business) for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board. But if less than a majority of Trustees are present at any meeting, a majority of the Trustees present may adjourn the meeting until there is a quorum.

**Section 9. Board of Decisions.** The act of a majority of the Trustees present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board of Trustees, unless the act of a greater number is required by law or by these bylaws.

**Section 10. Removal of Trustees.** The Pastor shall do the removal of members from the Board of Trustees.

**Section 11. Compensation.** Trustees, as such, shall not receive any salaries for their services, unless authorized by the Pastor/Board of Trustees.

## ARTICLE VII LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

**Section 1. Leadership Council.** The Leadership Council consists of Elders and other appointed members. The Leadership Council shall provide spiritual support to the Pastor in discipleship of new converts, pray for the sick, encourage and develop spiritual gifts and ministries in the body, and assist in the administration of the ordinances of the Church.

**Section 2. Elders.** The Elders are appointed by the Pastor and ratified by a majority vote of the members of the congregation.

**Section 3. Other Members.** The other members shall be appointed by the Pastor with the advice and consent of a majority of the Leadership Council.

**Section 4. Election and Term of the Leadership Council.** The Leadership Council of the Church shall be appointed for a term of two years by the Pastor, with the advice and consent of a majority of the Leadership Council.

**Section 5. Number and Qualification.** The Pastor shall determine the number of Leadership Council members. The Leadership Council shall be chosen from the membership of the congregation who demonstrate that their lives conform to tenets of faith in addition to the following:

- 1) Membership of the congregation in good standing.
- 2) Faithful tither, giver and financial supporter of the ministry.
- 3) Faithful attendee and supporter at all of the services.
- 4) Twenty-one (21) years old or older.
- 5) A confidential individual with demonstrable maturity, soundness and spiritual quality.
- 6) The candidate may be of either grade.

## ARTICLE VIII PASTORAL STAFF

**Section 1. Pastoral Staff.** A Pastoral Staff consisting of individuals who will assist the Pastor in providing leadership, guidance, and facilitate growth and health to the local Church assembly shall be established. The Pastoral Staff reports directly to the Pastor. The Pastor will select these members.

**Section 2. Number and Qualification.** The number of the Pastoral Staff shall be no less than four and consist of the following:

- 1) Membership of the congregation in good standing.
- 2) Faithful tither, giver and financial supporter of the ministry.
- 3) Faithful attendee and supporter at all of the services.
- 4) Twenty-one (21) years old or older.
- 5) A confidential individual with demonstrable maturity, soundness and spiritual quality.
- 6) The candidate may be of either grade.

**Section 3. Principal Function of Pastoral Staff.** To establish along with the Pastor the goals and objectives for their area of ministry and provide the leadership necessary to achieve these goals and objectives.

## ARTICLE IX SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE

**Section 1. Generally.** In any irreconcilable dispute arising between congregational members, trustees, officers or staff of the corporation pertaining to any matters of spiritual teaching, practices, church finances, or church property, the dispute shall be resolved by a majority of the Board of Trustees and/ or Leadership Council of the Church, one of whom must be the Pastor. If the Board of Trustees and/or Leadership Council are unable to make such a decision, the determination of the Pastor shall prevail.

**Section 2. Dispute with the Pastor.** If a dispute arises concerning the Pastor, no action shall be taken unless 2/3 of all Board of Trustees and/or Leadership Council then in office, except the Pastor, agree that such action is necessary in order to preserve the spiritual life and vitality of the Church. At no time is the Pastor to be evaluated in the light of accusations or circumstantial evidence. Accusations must be in writing by the accuser along with two witnesses. This principle is necessary because of the exceeding deceitfulness of Satan's attack against ministries.

## ARTICLE X MINISTRY AND MINISTRY LEADERS

**Section 1.** To facilitate the growth and health of the Church, it is necessary to establish the following ministries, which may be increased or renamed as the need arises:

- 1) Sunday School
- 2) Youth Ministry
- 3) Outreach Ministry
- 4) Women's Group Ministry
- 5) Prayer Ministry
- 6) Music Ministry
- 7) Men's Group Ministry
- 8) Education and Training

**Section 2. Selection of Ministry Leaders.** All ministry leaders will be appointed by the Pastor for a period of two years, and ratified by the congregation.

**Section 3. Principal Function of Ministry Leaders.** To establish along with the pastor the goals and objectives of their area of ministry and provide the leadership necessary to achieve those goals and objectives.

**Section 4. Relationships.** Ministry Leaders are directly responsible to the Pastor/Pastoral Staff.

**Section 5. Qualifications.**

- 1) Must be active and loyal member of the local Church, supporting in attendance and temporal means.
- 2) Must be saved according to tenets of the faith.
- 3) Excel in Christian dedication and possess humility, enthusiasm, loyalty, patience, love, faith and willingness to work.
- 4) Have some previous knowledge and experience in the area of ministry.
- 5) Must demonstrate a burden for lost souls and be an active participant in the extended fasting and prayer sessions.
- 6) Work to increase his/her knowledge of the Bible, teaching techniques, by participating in training courses and by reading material on the subject of outreach.
- 7) Have ability to motivate and work with people.

## ARTICLE XI

## MINISTERS

**Section 1. Ordination and Licensing.** The Pastor will ordain and/or license a person as minister of the Gospel **based upon the leading of the Holy Spirit and the calling placed upon the person's life** evidenced by his/her moral and religious character and level of ministerial training completed.

**Section 2. Limitation.** The Leadership Council may, in the discretion of the Pastor, limit any licensee or ordainee to an area of special emphasis.

**Section 3. Pastor.** The Pastor shall be a licensed or ordained minister of the Gospel, Assistant or Associate Ministers may or may not be licensed or ordained.

**Section 4. Application.** Application for ordination and/or licensing as a minister of the Gospel shall be on the form provided by the Pastor. An applicant's application shall be either approved or denied within thirty (30) days of the completion of the investigation of the applicant. Those applicants who are approved shall receive a certificate evidencing the approval.

**Section 5. School of Ministry.** The Pastor may establish a School or Ministry, setting forth a prescribed curriculum and course of study to prepare men and women for the ministry. The School of Ministry shall prepare the student in the knowledge of the Word of God and in ministering to the needs of mankind through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

## ARTICLE XII

### CONTRACTS, CHECKS, DEPOSITS AND FUNDS

**Section 1. Contracts.** The Board of Trustees may authorize and officer, agent or agents of the Church, in addition to the officers so authorized by these Bylaws, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on the behalf of the Church, **after consultation and approval of the Pastor**, and such authority may be general or may be confined to specific instances.

**Section 2. Checks, Drafts, or Orders.** All checks, drafts, or orders for the payment of money, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the Church shall be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents of the Church and in such manner as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Pastor and Board of Trustees. In the absence of such determination by the Pastor or the Board of Trustees, the Treasurer, after approval from the Pastor of the Church may sign such an instrument.

**Section 3. Deposits.** All funds of the Church shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the Church in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as the Pastor and the Board of Trustees may select.

**Section 4. Gifts.** The Board of Trustees may accept on the behalf of the Church any contributions, gifts, bequest or devises for any purpose of the Church (Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38, I Corinthians 16:1; and II Corinthians 9:6-8).

## ARTICLE XIII

**INDEMNIFICATION OF  
TRUSTEES, OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES**

The Church shall indemnify any Trustee, officer or employee of former Trustees, officer or employee of the Church, or any person who may have served at its request as a Trustee, officer or employee or another Church, against expenses actually and necessarily incurred by him/her in the connection with the defense of any action. Suits or proceeding in which he/she is made party by reason being or having been such Trustee, officer or employee, except in relation to matters as to which he/ she shall be adjudged in such action, suit or proceeding to be liable for negligence or misconduct in the performance of duty. The Church may also reimburse to any Trustee, officer or employee the reasonable cost of settlement of any such action, suits or proceeding if it shall be found by a majority of a Committee composed of the Trustees not involved in the matter in controversy (whether or not quorum) that it was to the best interest of the Church that such settlement be made and that such Trustees, officers or employee was no guilty of negligence or misconduct. Such rights of indemnification and reimbursement shall not be deemed exclusive of any other right to which Trustees, officers or employee may entitled under any Bylaw, agreement or otherwise.

**ARTICLE XIV  
BOOKS AND RECORDS**

The Church shall keep correct and complete books and records of account and shall also keep minutes of the proceedings of its members, Board of Trustees, committees having and exercising any of the authority of the Board of Trustees, and any other committee, and shall keep at the principal office a record giving the names and addresses of the Board of Trustees members entitled to vote. Any member of his/her agent may inspect all books and records of the Church for any proper purpose at any reasonable time and with reasonable notice given.

**ARTICLE XV  
FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year of the Church shall be the calendar year.

**ARTICLE XVI  
DISSOLUTION**

- a) Upon the dissolution of the Church, the Board of Trustees shall, after payment of all liabilities of the Church, dispose of all the assets of the Church exclusively for the purposes of the Church. In such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for the purposes of the Church. In such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable,

educational. Religious or scientific purposes as shall qualify as an exempt corporation or organizations under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. As amended (or of the corresponding provisions of any future United States Revenue Law) as the Board of Trustees shall determine.

- b) No part of the net earnings of the Church shall insure to the benefit of, or be distributed to, its members, officers, Trustees, or any person except that the Church shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered. Also to make payments in the furtherance of the Church. Notwithstanding, any other provisions of the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws of the Church, the Church shall not carry on any activity not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax, under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, (or by the corresponding section of any future Revenue Code of the United States of America) or (b) by a corporation, contributions of which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (or the corresponding section of any further United States Revenue Law).

**ARTICLE XVII**  
**SEAL**

The Board of Trustees shall provide a corporate seal, which shall be set forth below.

**ARTICLE XVIII**  
**AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS**

The Articles of Incorporation and these Bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed and new Bylaws may be adopted by 2/3 majority vote of the Board of Trustees at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Trustees. At least fourteen (14) days written advance notice of meeting called for the purpose of altering, amending or repealing the Church's Bylaws or Articles of Incorporation shall be given to each member of the Board of Trustees.