

CONSTITUTION

**Christ Fellowship Church of Williamsburg
Adopted by the Members on February 1st, 2015**

Article 1 – Name

The name of this Virginia church corporation is Christ Fellowship Church of Williamsburg (hereinafter also referred to as “CFCW” or the “Church”).

Article 2 – Purpose

This church exists by the grace of God, for the glory of God, which shall be the ultimate purpose in all its activities.

This church glorifies God by loving Him and obeying His commands through:

Worshipping Him;

Equipping the saints through Bible instruction and study;

Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ through preaching and personal evangelism and any other means consistent with the teachings of Holy Scripture;

Encouraging, supporting, and participating in missions work, local, domestic, and international;

Administering the ordinances of baptism and communion;

Encouraging Biblical fellowship among believers;

Serving other individuals, families, and churches by providing for physical, emotional, and spiritual needs, in the name of Jesus Christ;

Calling fellow churches to Biblical faithfulness and purity through instruction and encouragement about the nature of the local church; and

Planting new churches in our local area, in our nation, and among the nations.

Article 3 – Statement of Faith

I. Of the Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible in its original autographs was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction;1 that it has God for its author, salvation for its end,2 and truth without any mixture of error for its matter;3 that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us;4 and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union,5 and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.6

1. 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:21; Acts 1:16; 3:21; Luke 16:29-31; Psa. 119:11; Rom. 3:1-2
2. 2 Tim. 3:15; 1 Pet. 1:10-12; Acts 11:14; Rom. 1:16; Mark 16:16; John 5:38-39
3. Prov. 30:5-6; John 17:17; Rev. 22:18-19; Rom. 3:4
4. Rom. 2:12; John 12:47-48; 1 Cor. 4:3-4; Luke 10:10-16; 12:47-48
5. Phil. 3:16; Eph. 4:3-6; Phil. 2:1-2; 1 Cor. 1:10
6. 1 John 4:1; Isa. 8:20; 1 Thess. 5:21; 2 Cor. 8:5; Acts 17:11; 1 John 4:6; Jude 3-5; Eph. 6:17; Psa. 119:59-60; Phil. 1:9-11

II. Of The True God

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is JEHOVAH, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and earth;7 inexpressibly glorious in holiness,8 and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love;9 that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost;10 equal in every divine perfection,11 and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.12

7. Gen 1:1; John 4:24; Psa. 147:5; 83:18; Heb. 3:4; Rom. 1:20; Jer. 10:10; Dt. 6:4-5
8. Exod. 15:11; Isa. 6:3; 1 Pet. 1:15-16; Rev. 4:6-8
9. Mark 12:30; Rev. 4:11; Matt. 10:37; Jer. 2:12-13
10. Matt. 28:19; John 15:26; 1 Cor. 12:4-6; 1 John 5:7; John 1:1-2
11. John 10:30; 5:17; 14:23; 17:5, 10; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Cor. 2:10-11; Phil. 2:5-6
12. 2 Cor. 13:14; 1 Tim. 4:5; Eph. 1:3-14; Eph. 2:11-22

III. Of Creation

We believe that in a display of omnipotence and divine wisdom God created everything that exists out of nothing.13 As the pinnacle of creation, God created man in His own image.14 He created Adam, a historical man, out of the dust of the earth and breathed into him the breath of life. He formed Eve, a historical woman, from the rib of the man, and brought her to him to be his wife.15 Thus, man and woman were united in marriage and given the task of working and keeping the Garden of Eden and of being fruitful and multiplying on the earth.16

13. Gen. 1: 1-2
14. Gen. 1: 26
15. Gen. 2: 7, 18-23
16. Gen. 2: 24; Gen. 1: 28

IV. Of The Fall Of Man

We believe that man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker;17 but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state;18 in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners,19 not by constraint, but choice;20 being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin,21 without defense or excuse.22

17. Gen. 1:27, 31; Eccl. 7:29; Acts 17:26-29; Gen. 2:16-17

18. Gen. 3:6-24; Rom. 5:12

19. Rom. 5:19; John 3:6; Psa. 51:5; Rom. 5:15-19; 8:7

20. Isa. 53:6; Gen. 6:12; Rom. 3:9-18

21. Eph. 2:1-3; Rom. 1:18, 32; 2:1-16; Gal. 3:10

22. Ezek. 18:19-20; Rom. 1:20; 3:19; Gal. 3:22

V. Of The Way Of Salvation

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace,23 through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God;24 who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin;25 honored the divine law by His personal obedience,26 and by His death made a full atonement for our sins;27 that having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven;28 and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, He is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Savior.29

23. Eph. 2:5; 1 John 4:10; 1 Cor. 3:5-7; Acts 15:11

24. John 3:16; 1:1-14; Heb. 4:14; 12:24

25. Phil. 2:6-7; Heb. 2:9, 14; 2 Cor. 5:21

26. Isa. 42:21; Phil. 2:8; Gal. 4:4-5; Rom. 3:21

27. Isa. 53:4-5; Matt. 20:28; Rom. 4:25; 3:21-26; 1 John 4:10; 2:2; 1 Cor. 15:1-3; Heb. 9:13-15

28. Heb. 1:8, 3; 8:1; Col. 3:1-4

29. Heb. 7:25; Col. 2:9; Heb. 2:18; 7:26; Psa. 89:19; Psa. 14:6

VI. Of Justification

We believe that the great Gospel blessing which Christ30 secures to such as believe in Him is justification;31 that justification includes the pardon of sin,32 and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness;33 that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood;34 by virtue of which faith His perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God;35 that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.36

30. John 1:16; Eph. 3:8

31. Acts 13:39; Rom. 8:1

32. Rom. 5:9; Zech. 13:1; Matt. 9:6; Acts 10:43

33. Rom. 5:17; Titus 3:5-6; 1 Pet. 3:7; 1 John 2:25; Rom. 5:21

34. Rom. 4:4-5; 5:21; 6:23; Phil. 3:7-9

35. Rom. 5:19; 3:24-26; 4:23-25; 1 John 2:12
36. Rom. 5:1-3, 11; 1 Cor. 1:30-31; Matt. 6:33; 1 Tim. 4:8

VII. Of The Freeness Of Salvation

We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel;37 that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent, and obedient faith;38 and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel;39 which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.40

37. Isa. 55:1; Rev. 22:17; Luke 14:17
38. Rom. 16:26; Mark 1:15; Rom. 1:15-17
39. John 5:40; Matt. 23:37; Rom. 9:32; Prov. 1:24; Acts 13:46
40. John 3:19; Matt. 11:20; Luke 19:27; 2 Thess. 1:8

VIII. Of Grace In Regeneration

We believe that, in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again;41 that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind;42 that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with divine truth,43 so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel;44 and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, and faith, and newness of life.45

41. John 3:3, 6-7; 1 Cor. 2:14; Rom. 8:7-9; 21:27
42. 2 Cor. 5:17; Ezek. 36:26; Deut. 30:6; Rom. 2:28-29; 5:5; 1 John 4:7
43. John 3:8; 1:13; James 1:16-18; 1 Cor. 1:30; Phil. 2:13
44. 1 Pet. 1:22-25; 1 John 5:1; Eph. 4:20-24; Col. 3:9-11
45. Eph. 5:9; Rom. 8:13; Gal. 5:16-23; Eph. 3:14-21; Matt. 3:8-10; 7:20; 1 John 5:4,18

IX. Of Repentance And Faith

We believe that repentance and faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God;46 whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger, and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ,47 we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy;48 at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest, and King, and relying on Him alone as the only and all-sufficient Savior.49

46. Mark 1:15; Acts 11:18; Eph. 2:8; 1 John 5:1
47. John 16:8; Acts 2:37-38; 16:30-31
48. Luke 18:13; 15:18-21; James 4:7-10; 2 Cor. 7:11; Rom. 10:12-13; Psa. 51
49. Rom. 10:9-11; Acts 3:22-23; Heb. 4:14; Psa. 2:6; Heb. 1:8; 2 Tim. 1:12

X. Of God's Purpose Of Grace

We believe that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which He graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners;50 that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end;51 that it is a most glorious display of God's

sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy, and unchangeable;52 that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of His free mercy;53 that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree;54 that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the Gospel;55 that it is the foundation of Christian assurance;56 and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.57

50. 2 Tim. 1:8-9; Eph. 1:3-14; 1 Pet. 1:1-2; Rom. 11:5-6; John 15:15; 1 John 4:19

51. 2 Thess. 2:13-14; Acts 13:48; John 10:16; Acts 15:14

52. Exod. 33:18-19; Matt. 20:15; Eph. 1:11; Rom. 9:23-24; Jer. 31:3; Rom. 11:28-29; James 1:17-18; 2 Tim. 1:9; Rom. 11:32-36

53. 1 Cor. 4:7; 1:26-31; Rom. 3:27; 4:16; Col. 3:12; 1 Cor. 3:5-7; 15:10; 1 Pet. 5:10; 1 Thess. 2:13; 1 Pet. 2:9; Luke 18:7; John 15:16; Eph. 1:16; 1 Thess. 2:12

54. 2 Tim. 2:10; 1 Cor. 9:22; Rom. 8:28-30; John 6:37-40; 2 Pet. 1:10

55. 1 Thess. 1:4-10

56. Rom. 8:28-30; Isa. 42:16; Rom. 11:29

57. 2 Pet. 1:10-11; Phil. 3:12; Heb. 6:11

XI. Of Sanctification

We believe that sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of His holiness;58 that it is a progressive work;59 that it is begun in regeneration;60 and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means—especially the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer.61

In this respect, we believe that every saved person is involved in a daily conflict—the new creation in Christ doing battle against the flesh62—but adequate provision is made for victory through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. The struggle nevertheless stays with the believer all through this earthly life and is never completely ended. All claims to the eradication of sin in this life are unscriptural. Eradication of sin in this life is not possible, but the Holy Spirit does provide for victory over sin.63

58. 1 Thess. 4:3; 5:23; 2 Cor. 7:1; Eph. 1:4

59. Prov. 4:18; 2 Cor. 3:18; Heb. 6:1; 2 Pet. 1:5-8; Phil. 3:12-16

60. 1 John 2:29; Rom. 8:5; John 3:6; Phil. 1:9-11; Eph. 1:13-14

61. Phil. 2:12-13; Eph. 4:11-12; 1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:18; 2 Cor. 13:5; Luke 11:35; 9:23; Matt. 26:41; Eph. 6:18; 4:30

62. 2 Corinthians; 5:17; Romans 7:15-25

63. Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 4:22-24; Philippians 3:12; Colossians 3:9-10; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 1 John 3:5-9; 1:8; 4:4

XII. Of The Perseverance Of Saints

We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end;64 that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors;65 that a special Providence watches over their welfare;66 and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.67

64. John 8:31; 1 John 2:27-28; 3:9; 5:18

65. 1 John 2:19; John 13:18; Matt. 13:20-21; John 6:66-69; Job 17:9; Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26, 3:5, 12, 21

66. Rom. 8:28; Matt. 6:30-33; Jer. 32:40; Psa. 121:3; 91:11-12

67. Phil. 1:6; 2:12-13; Jude 24-25; Heb. 1:14; 2 Kings 6:16; Heb. 13:5; 1 John 4:4

XIII. Of The Harmony Of The Law And The Gospel

We believe that the Law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government;68 that it is holy, just, and good;69 and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts arises entirely from their love of sin;70 to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy Law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.71

68. Rom. 3:31; Matt. 5:17; Luke 16:17; Rom. 3:20; 4:15

69. Rom. 7:12, 7, 14, 22; Gal. 3:21; Psa. 119

70. Rom. 8:7-8; Josh. 24:19; Jer. 13:23; John 6:44; 5:44

71. Rom. 8:2, 4; 10:4; 1 Tim. 1:5; Heb. 8:10; Jude 20-21; Heb. 12:14; Matt. 16:17-18; 1 Cor. 12:28

XIV. Of A Gospel Church

We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers,72 associated by mutual consent in the faith and fellowship of the gospel;73 observing the ordinances of Christ;74 governed by His laws;75 and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His word;76 that its only Scriptural officers are Elders (also called Pastors) and Deacons,77 whose qualifications, claims, and duties are defined in the epistles to Timothy and Titus.

72. 1 Cor. 1:1-13; Matt. 18:17; Acts 5:11; 8:1; 1 Cor. 4:17; 14:23; 3 John 9; 1 Tim. 3:5

73. Acts 2:41-42; 2 Cor. 8:5; Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 5:12-13

74. 1 Cor. 11:2; 2 Thess. 3:6; Rom. 16:17-20; 1 Cor. 11:23; Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor 5:6; 2 Cor. 2:7; 1 Cor. 4:17

75. Matt. 28:20; John 14:15; 15:12; 1 John 4:21; John 14:21; 1 Thess. 4.2; 2 John 6; Gal. 6:2; all the Epistles

76. Eph. 4:7; 1 Cor. 14:12; Phil. 1:27; 1 Cor. 12:1-11

77. Phil. 1:1; Acts 14:23; 15:22; 1 Tim. 3; Titus 1

XV. Of Baptism And The Lord's Supper

We believe that two ordinances have been committed to the local church: baptism and the Lord's Supper. Christian baptism by immersion is the solemn and beautiful testimony of a believer78 showing forth his faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, and his union with Him in death to sin and resurrection to a new life79. It is also a sign of fellowship and identification with the visible Body of Christ.80

We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration and proclamation of His death until He comes, and should be always preceded by solemn self-examination.81 We also believe that, whereas the elements of Communion are only representative of the flesh and blood of Christ, participation in the Lord's Supper is nevertheless an actual communion with the risen Christ, who indwells every believer, and so is present, fellowshiping with His people.82

78. Acts 8:36-39; Matt. 3:5-6; John 3:22-23; 4:1-2; Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 8:12; 16:32-34; 18:8
79. Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12; 1 Pet. 3:20-21; Acts 22:16
80. Acts 2:41-42
81. 1 Cor. 11:28; 5:1, 8; 10:3-32; 11:17-32; John 6:26-71
82. 1 Cor. 10:16

XVI. Of Marriage

We believe that marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in a lifetime covenant of faithfulness, purity, and love. 83 The foundation and model for this earthly union is the spiritual union of Christ, the loving bridegroom, and the Church, the bride made spotless by His sacrifice. For the marital relationship, and none other, God ordains the enjoyment of sexual intimacy, chiefly for the procreation of the human race. We believe that all other conceptions of marriage, and all human schemes that would appropriate the responsibilities and privileges exclusive to marriage, are opposed to the plain teaching of God's Word and must therefore be rejected by those who follow Christ. 84

83. Gen. 1: 26-28; 2:15-25; 3: 1-20; Matt. 5:32, 19:1-12; Mark 10:1-12; Luke 16:18
84. Eph. 5: 23-32; Rev. 19:6-9; 1 Pet. 3:7

XVII. Of the Image of God and Gender

We believe God created people in His own image as uniquely male and female.85 Because we are made in God's image, every human life is sacred from the moment of conception until the moment of natural death.86 Because we are made uniquely male and female, gender is a gift that is fundamental to human existence, with maleness and femaleness being an unchangeable characteristic congruent with human embodiment. Both maleness and femaleness express aspects of God's character, and so to confuse them in any way or blend them together distorts God's revelation of Himself in Humanity. All such distortions are opposed to the plain teaching of God's Word and so should be rejected by those who follow Christ.87

85. Gen. 1:26-27, Matthew 19:4
86. Gen 1:26-28, Gen. 9:6, Psalm 139:12-17
87. Deut. 22:5; 1 Cor. 6:9, 1 Corinthians 11:14-15

XVIII. Of Civil Government

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society;88 and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed;89 except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ90 who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth.91

88. Rom. 13:1-7; Deut. 16:18; 1 Sam. 23:3; Exod. 18:19-23; Jer. 30:21
89. Matt. 22:21; Titus 3:1; 1 Pet. 2:13; 1 Tim. 2:1-8
90. Acts 5:29; Dan. 3:15-18; 6:7-10; Acts 4:18-20
91. Matt. 23:10; Rom. 14:4; Rev. 19:16; Psa. 72:11; Psa. 2; Rom. 14:9-13; Rev 1:5

XIX. Of The Righteous And The Wicked

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked;⁸⁹ that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem;⁹⁰ while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse;⁹¹ and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.⁹²

92. Mal. 3:18; Prov. 12:26; Isa. 5:20; Gen. 18:23; Acts 10:34-35; Rom. 6:16

93. Rom. 1:17; 7:6; 1 John 2:29; 3:7; Rom. 6:18, 22; Prov. 11:31; 1 Pet. 4:17-18; Rom. 5:1; James 2:14

94. 1 John 5:19; Gal. 3:10; John 3:36; Isa. 57:21; Psa. 10:4; Isa 55:6-7

95. Prov. 14:32; Luke 16:25; John 8:21-24; Luke 12:4-5; 9:23-26; John 12:25-26; Eccl. 3:17; Matt. 7:13-14; Dan. 12:2-3; Rev. 22:7-12

XX. Of The World To Come

We believe that the end of the world is approaching;⁹⁶ that at the last day Christ will descend from heaven,⁹⁷ and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution;⁹⁸ that a solemn separation will then take place;⁹⁹ that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy;¹⁰⁰ and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.¹⁰¹

96 1 Pet. 4:7; 1 Cor. 7:29-31; Heb. 1:10-12; Matt. 24:35; 1 John 2:17; Matt. 28:20; 2 Pet. 3:3-13

97 Acts 1:11; Rev. 1:7; Heb. 9:28; Acts 3:21; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 5:1-11

98 Acts 24:15; 1 Cor. 15:12-59; Luke 14:14; Dan. 12:2; John 5:28-29; 6:40; 11:25-26; 2 Tim. 1:10; Acts 10:42

99 Matt. 13:49, 37-43; 24:30-31; 25:31-33

100 Matt. 25:35-41; Rev. 22:11; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Mark 9:43-48; 2 Pet. 2:9; Jude 7; Phil. 3:19; 2 Cor. 5:10-11; John 4:36; 2 Cor. 4:18

101 Rom. 3:5-6; 2 Thess. 1:6-12; 1 Cor. 4:5; Acts 17:31; Rom. 2:2-16; Rev. 20:11-12; 1 John 2:28; 4:17

Article 4 – Membership Commitment

Having, as we trust, been brought by divine grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and to give up ourselves to Him, and having been baptized upon our profession of faith, in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, we do now, relying on His gracious aid, solemnly and joyfully renew our membership commitment to one another. ([Acts 2:37-41](#), [2:42-47](#))

We will work and pray for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ([Ephesians 4:1-9](#), [4:10-16](#))

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, nor neglect to pray for ourselves and others. ([Hebrews 10:19-25](#))

We will seek to grow spiritually as disciples of Jesus Christ, regularly spending time in God's Word. ([Psalm 119](#), [2 Tim 3:16-17](#))

We will walk together in brotherly love, as becomes the members of a Christian Church; we will exercise an affectionate care and watchfulness over each other and faithfully admonish and entreat one another as occasion may require. ([Galatians 5:13](#), [6:1-5](#))

We will rejoice in each other's happiness and endeavor with tenderness and sympathy to bear each other's burdens and sorrows. ([Romans 12:9-21](#))

We will strive to serve in a Christ-like way all who may at any time be under our care, endeavor to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and by a pure and loving example, seek the salvation of our family and friends. ([I Peter 5:1-5](#))

We will pray for our leaders and submit to them as they lead us to Christ through Scripture, teaching and correcting with gentleness. ([Ephesians 4:11-16](#); [5:21](#); [2 Timothy 2:24-26](#); [Hebrews 13:7-9, 17](#); [1 Peter 5:1-3](#)).

We will seek, by divine aid, to live carefully in the world, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, and remembering that, as we have been voluntarily buried by baptism and raised again from the symbolic grave, so there is on us a special obligation now to lead a new and holy life. ([Romans 6:1-8](#), [9-17](#) [18-23](#) [II Corinthians 5:11-15](#), [II Corinthians 5:16-21](#))

We will work together for the continuance of a faithful evangelical ministry in Christ Fellowship Church of Williamsburg, as we sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines. We will contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations. ([Philippians 4:10-19](#))

If we move from this place, we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this membership commitment and the principles of God's Word. ([John 17:22-26](#) | [John 2:18-24](#))

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen. ([II Corinthians 13:14](#))

Article 5 – Amendments

Members may submit proposed changes to the Constitution in writing to the elders for consideration and comment. Elders will determine by two-thirds (2/3) vote whether or not to bring the proposed change to the congregation as a proposed amendment. Upon passing the two-thirds (2/3) vote by the elders, the elders shall present the proposed amendment and their comments to the church at a regular or special members' meeting. The Constitution may be amended by a three-quarters (3/4) vote of the members present and voting at a duly called members' meeting, provided (1) the proposed amendment shall have been offered in writing at the previous members' meeting, (2) the proposed amendment be mailed or otherwise made available to the members at least four (4) weeks before the meeting to act on the amendment, and (3) shall have been announced from the pulpit at church services two (2) successive Sundays prior to such vote being taken.

BYLAWS

Christ Fellowship Church of Williamsburg
Adopted by the Members on February 1st, 2015 and amended December 19th, 2021
and September 10, 2023

Article 1 – Membership

Section 1 – Qualifications

To qualify for membership in this church, a person must be a believer in Jesus Christ who gives evidence of regeneration, who has been baptized, in obedience to Christ, following his or her regeneration, and who wholeheartedly believes in the Christian faith as revealed in the Bible. Each member must agree to submit to the teaching of Scripture as expressed in the statement of faith and must promise to keep the commitments expressed in the membership commitment. The elders shall be responsible for determining each person's qualification for membership. In making this determination, they may rely on a person's profession of faith, or such other evidence of regeneration, as the elders deem appropriate.

Section 2 – Admission of Members

To be admitted into church membership, applicants meeting the above qualifications shall be recommended by the elders for admission and accepted by a simple majority vote of the members at any regular or special meeting of the members, and shall at that point relinquish their membership in other churches.

Section 3 – Duties and Privileges of Membership

In accordance with the duties enumerated in the membership commitment, each member shall be privileged and expected to participate in and contribute to the ministry and life of the church, consistent with God's leading and with the gifts, time, and material resources each has received from God. Serving in the church is the privilege and responsibility of every church member; notwithstanding non-members may serve on an ad-hoc basis with the approval and under the oversight of the elders. Under Christ this congregation is governed by its members. Therefore, it is the privilege and responsibility of members to attend all members' meetings and vote on matters as may be submitted to a vote. Voting shall be restricted to those members 18 years of age and older.

Section 4 – Voting

The following matters shall be presented to the members at a regular or special members' meeting for a vote, and shall be deemed approved upon obtaining the requisite majority indicated.

1. Election of officers other than elders. A simple majority vote is required for all offices except elder.
2. The call or dismissal of elders. A three-fourths majority vote is required.
3. Admission into, or termination of, membership. A simple majority vote is required.
4. The annual budget and any actual or projected increase in the total expenses under the budget during the year. A simple majority vote is required.

5. Acquisition or sale of real property, building projects, or indebtedness secured by the real property of the church. A three-fourths majority vote is required.
6. Amendments to the constitution or bylaws. A three-fourths majority vote is required.
7. Dissolution of the church corporation or the disposition of all, or substantially all, of the church assets. A three-fourths majority vote is required.
8. Any other decision brought before a regular or special members' meeting for vote. A simple majority vote is required unless otherwise provided in the constitution or bylaws.

Only the votes of members present shall be counted in determining whether the requisite majority is obtained. Abstentions shall be counted as negative votes. Voting by proxy or absentee ballot is not permitted.

Voting shall be by secret ballot, voice vote or by show of hands as determined by the moderator; provided, however, if a voice vote is taken, and there are any dissenting votes, a show of hands shall be required.

Section 5 – On Church Discipline and Restoration

Any member consistently neglectful of his or her duties as embodied in the membership commitment or the constitution and bylaws, or guilty of conduct by which the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be dishonored, and so opposing the welfare of the church, shall be subject to the admonition of the elders and the discipline of the church, according to the instructions of our Lord in Matthew 18:15–17 and the example of Scripture. Church discipline, then, should ordinarily be contemplated after individual private admonition has failed.

If private efforts to bring about the member's repentance and reconciliation are unsuccessful, one or more members or elders shall bring the matter to the attention of the elders. The elders shall review and investigate the matter, and, if they believe it is warranted, may also conduct a hearing with notice of the charges and process. After prayer and deliberation, the elders may (a) dismiss the matter, (b) take disciplinary action (other than termination of membership, which may only be effected by a vote of the members), or (c) submit the matter (with or without a recommendation for action) to the members at a regular or special meeting for a decision. If the elders fail or refuse to act on the matter, the members may bring it up for consideration and vote at a special members' meeting called in accordance with Article 2, Section 2.

If the elders or the members vote to discipline the member, it may be announced to the members to carry out the Biblical admonition to bring about repentance and restoration of the disciplined member. Members who have been excommunicated by the church shall be restored to full membership privileges according to the spirit of 2 Corinthians 2:7-8 when their conduct is judged by the elders and the members to be in accordance with the statement of faith, membership commitment, and Biblical repentance. The elders will communicate such restoration to the church in a timely manner.

Church discipline can include admonition by the elders or congregation, suspension from communion for a definite period, deposition from office, and excommunication (see Matthew 18:15–17; 2 Thessalonians 3:14–15; 1 Timothy 5:19–20; 1 Corinthians 5:4–5).

The purposes of such discipline should be:

1. For the repentance, reconciliation, and spiritual growth of the individual disciplined (see Proverbs 15: 5; 29: 15; I Corinthians 4: 14; Ephesians 6: 4; I Timothy 3: 4–5; Hebrews 12: 1–11; Psalm 119: 115; 141: 5; Proverbs 17: 10; 25: 12; 27: 5; Ecclesiastes 7: 5; 25 Matthew 7: 26–27; 18: 15–17; Luke 17: 3; Acts 2: 40; I Corinthians 5: 5; 26 Galatians 6: 1–5; II Thessalonians 3: 6, 14–15; I Timothy 1: 20; Titus 1: 13–14; James 1: 22);
2. For the instruction in righteousness and good of other Christians, as an example to them (see Proverbs 13: 20; Romans 15: 14; I Corinthians 5: 11; 15: 33; Colossians 3: 16; I Thessalonians 5: 14 [note this is written to the whole church, not just to leaders]; I Timothy 5: 20; Titus 1: 11; Hebrews 10: 24–25);
3. For the purity of the church as a whole (see I Corinthians 5: 6–7; II Corinthians 13: 10; Ephesians 5: 27; II John 10; Jude 24; Revelation 21: 2);
4. For the good of our corporate witness to non-Christians (see Proverbs 28: 7; Matthew 5: 13–16; John 13: 35; Acts 5: 1–14; Ephesians 5: 11; I Timothy 3: 7; II Peter 2: 2; I John 3: 10); and
5. Supremely for the glory of God by reflecting His holy character (see Deuteronomy 5: 11; I Kings 11: 2; II Chronicles 19: 2; Ezra 6: 21; Nehemiah 9: 2; Isaiah 52: 11; Ezekiel 36: 20; Matthew 5: 16; John 15: 8; 18: 17, 25; Romans 2: 24; 15: 5–6; II Corinthians 6: 14–7: 1; Ephesians 1: 4; 5: 27; I Peter 2: 12).

Section 6 – Termination of Membership

The church shall recognize the termination of a person's membership following his or her death, and may do so after he or she has voluntarily resigned or joined with another church. Membership may also be terminated as an act of church discipline as outlined above.

The Church shall have authority to refuse a member's voluntary resignation or transfer of membership to another church, either for the purpose of proceeding with a process of church discipline or for any other Biblical reason.

Article 2 - Meetings

Section 1 – Worship Meetings

Worship services shall be held each Lord's Day, and may be held throughout the week as the church determines.

Section 2 – Members' Meetings

In every meeting together, members shall act in a spirit of mutual trust, openness, and loving consideration, which is appropriate within the body of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Regular Meetings. There shall be a regular members' meeting at least quarterly, beginning in January, at some time apart from a public worship service as agreed upon by the membership.

Special Meetings. Special members' meetings may be called as required by the elders, or at the written request of at least five percent of the voting membership of the church. The voting membership consists of all regular members who are entitled to vote at members' meetings. Any request for a special members' meeting shall be signed by the members requesting the meeting and mailed or delivered in person to the elders. The elders shall call a special meeting to be held within one month of their receipt of the request.

The elders shall see that the stated meetings of the church are regularly held and that required reports are submitted to the church by the responsible members.

Place. Business meetings of the members shall be held at the church meeting place or at such other place as may be designated by the elders in the meeting notice.

Notice. Written notice of the date and time of regular meetings shall be given at least ten (10) but not more than sixty (60) days before the meeting date. Written notice of the date, time, and purpose of any special meeting shall be given at least ten (10) but not more than sixty (60) days before the meeting date. Notwithstanding the foregoing, notice of a members' meeting to act on an amendment of the articles of incorporation, a plan of merger, domestication, a proposed sale, lease, exchange, or other disposition of all or substantially all of the church assets, or the dissolution of the church corporation shall be given not less than twenty-five (25) nor more than sixty (60) days before the meeting date.

Notices of regular or special meetings may be delivered in person; by mail or other method of delivery; or by telephone, voice mail, email, or other electronic means. Notice by electronic transmission constitutes written notice. Any telephone numbers, email addresses, or other electronic contact information provided to the church by a member may be used for notice purposes; provided, however, such electronic contact information may be changed by the member at any time by providing written notice to the clerk or church administrator.

As necessary, the elders may postpone any meeting for one week when unusual circumstances may prevent a sufficient number of members from attending.

Quorum. Those members present at a members' meeting duly noticed and called shall constitute a quorum of the membership for the transaction of business.

Moderator. An elder designated by the elders shall preside as moderator at all members' meetings of the church.

Minutes. Minutes of the regular and special members' meetings shall be taken and kept in the church records under the custody of the clerk.

Business. The members shall consider such matters as may be presented at the members' meetings. At any regular or special members' meeting, officers may be elected and positions filled as needed, so long as all relevant requirements of the constitution and bylaws have been met. A budget for a new fiscal year shall be approved by the membership at a members' meeting no more than three months before the end of the current fiscal year and no more than three weeks after the start of the new fiscal year.

Voting. Unless otherwise provided in the constitution or bylaws, matters presented to the members for vote shall be decided by a simple majority vote of the members present at the members' meeting.

Article 3 – Officers

Section 1 – Summary

The Biblical offices in the church are elders and deacons. In addition, our church recognizes the administrative offices of clerk and treasurer. All officers must be members of this church prior to assuming their responsibilities.

Section 2 – Elders (also called Pastors)

1. **Qualifications and Composition:** The elders shall be comprised of not less than three (3) men who satisfy the qualifications for the office of elder set forth in I Timothy 3: 1–7 and Titus 1: 6–9. Should the number of elders ever drop below three (3) due to resignation, death, or removal by a 3/4th majority of the congregation at a regular members meeting, the remaining elders shall continue to serve in their capacity and shall prayerfully seek to see additional elders added to the elder body until the 3 elder minimum is restored. A majority of the active eldership shall be composed of church members not in the regular pay of the church (Lay Elders) nor related to paid staff, and no elder shall hold the office of deacon during his tenure. Should the number of Lay Elders ever be less than or equal to the number of staff elders, the elder body will prayerfully seek to see additional elders added to the elder body until the number of lay elders exceeds the number of staff elders.
2. **Election and Term:** The church shall recognize men gifted and willing to serve in this calling, in accordance with the constitutional provisions on elections. These men shall be received as gifts of Christ to His church and set apart as elders. This recognition shall be reaffirmed by the church triennially. After a lay elder has served two consecutive three-year terms, he may only be elected to the office of elder after at least one year.
3. **Duties and Responsibilities:** In keeping with the principles set forth in Acts 6:1–6 and 1 Peter 5:1–4, the elders shall devote their time to prayer, the ministry of the Word (by teaching and encouraging sound doctrine), and shepherding God’s flock. Subject to the will of the congregation, the elders shall oversee the ministry and resources of the church. The elders shall take particular responsibility to examine and instruct prospective members, examine and recommend all prospective candidates for offices and positions, oversee the work of the deacons and appointed church agents and committees, conduct worship services, administer the ordinances of baptism and communion, equip the membership for the work of the ministry, encourage sound doctrine and practice, admonish and correct error, oversee the process of church discipline, coordinate and promote the ministries of the church, and mobilize the church for world missions.
The elders are further to ensure that all who minister the Word to the congregation, including outside speakers, share our fundamental convictions. The elders may establish ministry positions or committees to assist them in fulfilling their responsibilities. The elders may also propose funding for new paid non-pastoral staff positions. The scope and approval of job descriptions for any staff position shall reside in the hands of those with hiring authority for that position. The elders shall have primary responsibility for the employment, supervision, and evaluation of staff members. This responsibility may, on a case-by-case basis, be delegated to another staff member.
4. **Resignation and Dismissal:** An elder's term of office may be terminated by resignation or by dismissal. Any elder may at any time present a written intent to resign to the chairman of the elders, which shall be effective upon acceptance by the elders. Any two members with reason to believe that an elder should be dismissed should express such concern to the elders and, if need

be, to the congregation. Any such action shall be done in accordance with the instructions of our Lord in Matthew 18: 15–17 and I Timothy 5: 17–21. Any of the elders may be dismissed by a three-quarter (3/4) vote of the members present and voting at any duly called members' meeting of the church.

5. Meetings: The elders shall elect a chairman of elders' meetings and shall also designate one of their number to serve as moderator of members' meetings. Meetings of the elders shall be conducted in accordance with the constitution and bylaws and any procedures adopted by the elders. Unless otherwise provided by the constitution and bylaws or any procedures adopted by the elders, the act of the majority of the elders present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the elders.

Section 3 – Staff Elders

1. Qualifications: Staff elders shall be recognized by the church as particularly gifted and called to the full-time ministry of preaching and teaching.
2. Term and Call: Staff elders shall serve for an indefinite term and not be subject to the triennial reaffirmation or to the term limitation set out in Article 3, Section 2, for elders. The call of a staff elder shall be defined as per Article 4, Section 3. A staff elder shall serve until the sooner of his death, resignation, or removal.
3. Duties: He shall preach on the Lord's Day, administer the ordinances of baptism and communion, and perform such other duties as usually pertain to that office, or as set forth in the constitution.
4. In the absence or incapacity of the staff elder(s), the lay elders shall assume responsibility for his duties, any of which can be delegated.
5. Compensation: The elders shall specify a staff elder's initial compensation at the time of his calling. The staff elder shall recuse himself from any elder discussions and vote regarding his compensation. The church shall provide, as possible, adequate salary, housing allowance, health insurance, continued education, pension, conference funds, vacation time, and other special funds as needed for his ministry. The church shall also defray the costs of sending the staff elder to out-of-town conferences, conventions or mission trips attended for the church, as approved by the elders.
6. Other staff elders: Second and subsequent staff elders shall perform their shared duties as assigned in the job descriptions described in Article 4, Section 3.

Section 4 – Deacons

1. Qualifications: A deacon shall be a church member who satisfies the requirements and description in 1 Timothy 3:8–13 and Acts 6:1–7.
2. Election and Term: The church shall recognize, in accordance with Article 4, Section 2 of the bylaws, men who are giving of themselves in service to the church, and who possess particular gifts of service. These members shall be received as gifts of Christ to His church and set apart as deacons. Deacons shall be nominated by the elders and elected by the congregation to a three-year term. Deacons may serve a second three-year term if the congregation reaffirms their service. Thereafter, they may only be elected to another term after a sabbatical of one year. However, if a successor is not available, a deacon may continue to serve in their respective ministry area until a successor is elected.
3. Duties and Responsibilities: Deacons shall care for the temporal needs of members, attend to the

accommodations for public worship, and encourage and support those able to help others and those with gifts of administration. The deacons, with the agreement of the elders, may establish unpaid administrative positions or committees of members to assist them in fulfilling their responsibilities in the church.

4. Resignation and Dismissal: A deacon's term of office may be terminated by resignation or dismissal. Any deacon may at any time deliver a written notice to the staff elder of his intent to resign, which shall be effective upon acceptance by the elders. Any deacon may be removed at any time with or without cause when, in the sole judgment and discretion of the elders, it is determined by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the elders that such individual should no longer serve as deacon. In the event any deacon is so dismissed, a new deacon may be elected by a majority vote of the members in accordance with these Bylaws for the remainder of the term.

Section 5 – Clerk

The clerk shall be responsible for recording the minutes of all members' meetings of the church, preserving an accurate roll of the membership, and rendering reports as requested by the pastor, the elders, the deacons, or the church. The church clerk also shall ensure that dated copies of the most recent version of the constitution and bylaws are available for all members. In the absence or incapacity of the clerk, the elders shall appoint another member to perform the duties of the clerk. The clerk shall be nominated by the elders and elected by the members to serve a term of one year, or until a successor is elected.

Section 6 – Treasurer

The treasurer, who shall not be an active elder or paid church staff member, shall ensure that all funds and securities of the church are properly secured in the name of the church in such banks, financial institutions, or depositories as appropriate. The treasurer also shall keep full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the church, and implement adequate controls to ensure that all funds belonging to the church are appropriately handled by any officer, employee, or agent of the church. The treasurer shall be responsible for presenting regular reports of the account balances, revenues, and expenses of the church at each regular members' meeting; this responsibility may be delegated with the approval of the elders. The treasurer shall render to the elders an account of all transactions as treasurer and of the financial condition of the church as requested by the elders, but in any event at least annually.

The treasurer shall be nominated by the elders and elected by the members to serve a term of one year, or until a successor is elected.

Article 4 – Elections

Section 1 – Principles

The process for church elections shall be interpreted and carried out to fulfill the following principles:

1. Substantial prayer, both individually and corporately, should be an integral part of the election process;
2. Nominations should proceed with the support of the elders;
3. All candidates for church office should be treated with the grace, kindness, and honesty appropriate in evaluating fellow members;
4. The election process shall express that spirit of mutual trust, openness, and loving consideration

that is appropriate within the body of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Section 2 – Selection of Officers

The elders should seek recommendations and involvement from the general membership in the nomination process. Any member with reason to believe that a nominated candidate is unqualified for an office should express such concern to the elders. Members intending to speak in opposition to a candidate should express their objection to the elders at least one week before the relevant church members' meeting.

The election of officers shall be held at a duly called members' meeting of the church. Names of nominees to serve as elders, deacons, clerk, or treasurer and other elected positions shall be presented by the elders at the previous members' meeting (providing that previous meeting occurred at least eight weeks prior), and the election shall proceed as directed by the moderator.

The moderator shall declare elected all men receiving a three-quarter (3/4) majority of all votes cast for the office of elder. For all other offices, the moderator shall declare elected all persons receiving a simple majority of all votes cast; abstentions will not be considered as votes cast.

The persons elected shall assume their respective offices upon election, unless another date has been specifically designated.

Section 3 – Calling of Staff Elders

In the calling of any man to this position, the same basic process of calling an elder must be followed. In addition, however, the church must be given adequate opportunity to assess the preaching gifts of any potential staff elder and, before being asked to express its judgment, must receive assurance from the elders that, having interviewed the man concerned, they are in no doubt as to his wholehearted assent to the statement of faith and membership commitment. Notice of the nomination of a man to be elected to membership and called as staff elder (which shall include, if necessary, election to membership of his wife if he is married) must be given two Sunday morning services following the nomination, prior to the vote at a members' meeting. A staff elder, upon election, shall serve for an indefinite term until the sooner of his death, resignation, or removal.

The sharing and assignment of duties and responsibilities of second and subsequent staff elders shall be completed by the elders through the development of a job description for the additional elder during the process of determining the need for such a position. The job description and the need for the position must be mutually and unanimously agreed upon by the elders prior to beginning the process of calling a second and/or subsequent staff elder.

In keeping with the vision of CFCW being a church-planting church, as God raises up men at CFCW who are particularly gifted and called to the full-time ministry of preaching and teaching God's Word, and whose calling is confirmed by the membership, attention and strong consideration must be given by the elders to the idea of planting another church rather than growing the staff.

Article 5-Church Corporation

For purposes of the corporation laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia:

Section 1 – Directors

The elders shall serve as the directors of the church corporation, and the corporate powers of the church corporation shall be exercised by or under their authority. No salary or compensation shall be paid to any director in his capacity as a director, but nothing herein shall be construed to preclude any director from serving the church in any other permitted capacity and receiving reasonable compensation therefor. Moreover, directors may receive reasonable reimbursement for church-related travel and other approved expenses upon request and submission of proper written documentation.

Section 2 – Officers

The officers of the church corporation shall be president, treasurer, and secretary, and may include one or more vice presidents as the directors may from time to time determine. The officers must be members of the church, and the president must also be an elder of the church. Unless otherwise determined by the directors, the staff pastor shall serve as the president, the church clerk shall serve as the secretary, and the church treasurer shall serve as the treasurer of the church corporation. In the event of a vacancy in the office of secretary or treasurer because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or any other reason, the directors may appoint a member of the church to serve in such office on an interim basis until such time as a successor has been nominated and elected by the church.

Section 3 – Annual Meeting of the Directors

The annual meeting of the directors shall be held simultaneously with the first elders' meeting of the fiscal year. Notice of such elders' meeting given in accordance with the procedures established by the elders shall constitute proper notice of the annual meeting of the directors.

Section 4 – Annual Meeting of the Members

The annual meeting of the members shall be held simultaneously with the first members' meeting of the fiscal year. Notice of such members' meeting given in accordance with the bylaws shall constitute proper notice of the annual meeting of the members.

Article 6 – Non-pastoral Staff

Section 1 – Non-pastoral Staff

Non-pastoral staff, including office staff, functions as servants in coming alongside the pastoral staff and the body of the Church to support them in ministry. It is the staff elder's responsibility, under the leadership of the elders, to lead staff in the direction that helps the church accomplish its goals.

Section 2 – Duties and Responsibilities

The duties and responsibilities for all staff positions will be formulated and approved by the elders.

Section 3 – Selection

Selection and approval of non-pastoral staff will be the responsibility of the elders, with recommendations by the staff elder.

Section 4 – Resignation and Termination

Any staff member may at any time resign by submitting written notice to the elders. Any non-pastoral staff member may be terminated upon recommendation by a supervising staff member and approval by the elders. Such terminations of staff may be reported to the members, but does not need membership approval.

Article 7 – Church Policy and Operations Manual

Section 1 – Development of Church Policy and Operations Manual

The development of a church policy and operation manual will be overseen by the elders or their designee. This manual will include all church policies, procedures, job descriptions, and organization charts depicting lines of responsibility in the administration of the church. The manual will be kept in the church office and made available for review by any member of the church. The church clerk shall maintain the manual.

Section 2 – Compilation and Maintenance of the Manual

The elders or their designee will be responsible for compiling and maintaining a policy and operations manual for the day--to-day administrative functions of the Church not covered in the constitution and bylaws. The elders or their designee shall review the manual at least annually, with the authority to recommend changes for the elders to consider and vote on.

Article 8 – Dispute Resolution

Believing that the bible commands Christians to make every effort to live at peace and to resolve disputes with each other in private or within the Christian Church (*see, e.g.,* Matthew 18:15–20, 1 Corinthians 6:1–8), the church expects its members to resolve conflict among themselves according to biblically-based principles, without reliance on the secular courts. Consistent with its call to peacemaking, the church shall follow biblically-based principles and seek to avoid lawsuits to resolve disputes between itself and those outside the church, whether Christian or pagan and whether individuals or corporate entities. The elders shall adopt policies and procedures to effect these requirements and aspirations.

Article 9 – Indemnification

Any person made or threatened to be made a party to any action or proceeding, whether civil or criminal by reason of the fact that he or his testator is or was a director, elder, deacon, officer, employee or agent of the church, may be indemnified by the church, and the church may advance his related expenses, to the full extent permitted by law. The church may purchase and maintain insurance to indemnify: (a) itself for any obligation which it incurs as a result of the indemnification specified above; and (b) its directors, deacons, and officers.

Article 10 – Designated Offerings

The elders of the church are authorized to establish designated line-items in the church budget so that the church can receive funds for particular needs or ministries of the church. However, as all offerings are given first to God, any funds given to a designated line-item may be designated for another budget-related purpose by a 2/3rd majority vote of the congregation at a regular or special-called members meeting.

Article 11 – Church Membership and Employment

Every employee of Christ Fellowship Church of Williamsburg shall be a member in good standing of the church, holding without mental reservation to the church's statement of faith. Further, no one in the employ of the church is permitted to live in a way that is contrary to the church's statement of faith. Living in a way that is contrary to the church's statement of faith shall constitute grounds for dismissal from church employment.

Article 12 – Amendments

Members may submit proposed changes to the bylaws which shall be submitted in writing to the elders for consideration and comment. Elders will determine by two-thirds (2/3) vote whether or not to bring the proposed change to the congregation as a proposed amendment. Upon passing the two-thirds (2/3) vote by the elders, the elders shall present the proposed amendment and their comments to the church at a regular or special members' meeting. The elders shall present the proposed changes and their comments to the church at a regular or special called members' meeting. The bylaws may be amended by a three-quarters (3/4) vote of the members present and voting at a duly called members' meeting, provided (1) the proposed amendment shall have been offered in writing at the previous members' meeting, (2) the proposed amendment be mailed or otherwise made available to the members at least four (4) weeks before the meeting to act on the amendment, and (3) shall have been announced from the pulpit at church services two (2) successive Sundays prior to such vote being taken.