

MEMBER COVENANT

Having been led by the Holy Spirit to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the public confession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, solemnly and joyfully endeavor to keep the spirit of this covenant as one body in Christ.

We purpose, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness and love; to promote its fruitfulness and spirituality; to attend its services regularly; to sustain its worship, ordinances, and doctrines; to submit to its discipline and the authority of its officers; to give it a sacred preeminence over all institutions of human origin; to give faithfully of time and talent in its activities; to contribute cheerfully and regularly, as God has prospered us, to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, to the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel throughout all nations.

We also purpose to maintain family and private devotion to the Lord; to train our children according to the Word of God; to seek the salvation of our family and friends to walk carefully in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our conduct; to abstain from all activities, habits, and lifestyles that dishonor our Lord Jesus Christ, cause stumbling to a fellow believer, or hinder the gospel witness; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the cause of Christ, our Savior, and to give Him preeminence in all things.

We further purpose to encourage one another in the blessed hope of our Lord's return; to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feelings and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation.

We moreover purpose that when we leave this church we will as soon as possible unite with another church of like faith where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

MEMBER CONFESSION

The Bible

We believe the Bible to be the verbally inspired Word of God, inerrant in the original manuscripts, sufficient for all that God requires us to believe and do, and the final authority for all matters of faith, practice, and life. (2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:19-21)

God

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; that these three are equal in every divine perfection; and that this God is the Creator and Ruler of all things and is the center of our worship. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 3:16-17; Matthew 28:19-20; Genesis 1:1-2; John 1:1-3; 1 Chron 16:23-25)

God The Father

We believe in God the Father who sovereignly rules over all that He created and continues to care for and sustain in providence all that exists. (Matthew 6:9; Genesis 1:1; Psalm 115:3; Daniel 4:35; Ephesians 1:11)

Jesus Christ

We believe in Jesus Christ as Lord, God's only Son, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, and is fully God and fully man—the only mediator between God and man. (1 Corinthians 8:6; John 20:28; John 3:16; Matthew 1:23-25; Hebrews 4:15; John 1: 14; Colossians 2:9; Philippians 2:5-7; 1 Timothy 2:5)

The Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit who glorifies the Father and the Son, convicts the world of sin, regenerates hearts, indwells all believers, gives gifts to men and women, and guides believers in obedience to the truth. (John 16:8, 14-15; Titus 3:5; 1 Corinthians 12:7; Romans 8:13-14)

Humanity

We believe that humans were created by God in His own image; that they sinned and thereby incurred physical, spiritual and eternal death, which is separation from God; that as a consequence, all human beings are born with a sinful nature and are sinners by choice and therefore under condemnation. We believe that God created humans as male and female and ordained marriage to be a lifelong covenant between one man and one woman. (Genesis 1:27-28; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Matthew 19:4-6)

Atonement

We believe that Jesus Christ, according to the will of God the Father, offered Himself as a substitutionary atoning sacrifice, and that all who repent from their sin and believe in Him have eternal life. By his death on the cross, Jesus defeated evil, sin, and death. (Isaiah 53:10; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Acts 2:38; John 3:16; Hebrews 2:14)

Salvation

We believe that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone, and that true faith in the gospel will be made evident by a life of repentance and godliness. (Ephesians 2:8-10; Romans 10:9; Philippians 2:12)

Resurrection

We believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead as the firstfruits of our resurrection, and in His ascension into heaven to the right hand of the Father. (1 Corinthians 15:3-8, 20; Acts 1:9-11; Romans 8:34)

The Church

We believe in the universal Church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a body of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, under elders, and associated for worship, service, and fellowship. We believe that the primary mission of the church is to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ and make disciples of all nations. (Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 2:19-22; Galatians 3:26-28; 1 Peter 5:1-5; Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:23-25; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8)

The Ordinances

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church: baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that water baptism of a believer into the name of the triune God signifies one's identification with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for commemoration of His death until he comes. (Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

Last Things

We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the endless suffering of the wicked, and the eternal joy of the righteous. (Matthew 16:27; Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:15; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 15:20, 54-55; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Revelation 20:11-15; Revelation 21:1-9)

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Article I – Covenant

Having been led by the Holy Spirit to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the public confession of our faith having been baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, solemnly and joyfully endeavor to keep the spirit of this covenant as one body in Christ.

We purpose, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness and love; to promote its fruitfulness and spirituality; to attend its services regularly; to sustain its worship, ordinances, and doctrines; to submit to its discipline and the authority of its officers; to give it a sacred preeminence over all institutions of human origin; to give faithfully of time and talent in its activities; to contribute cheerfully and regularly, as God has prospered us, to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, to the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel throughout all nations.

We also purpose to maintain family and private devotion to the Lord; to train our children according to the Word of God; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk carefully in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our conduct; to abstain from all activities, habits, and lifestyles that dishonor our Lord Jesus Christ, cause stumbling to a fellow believer, or hinder the gospel witness; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the cause of Christ, our Savior, and to give Him preeminence in all things.

We further purpose to encourage one another in the blessed hope of our Lord's return; to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feelings and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation.

We moreover purpose that when we leave this church we will as soon as possible unite with another church of like faith where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

Article II – Confession of Faith

Section 1 – The Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible, as originally written, was verbally inspired and the product of Spirit controlled men, and therefore is inerrant . We believe the Bible to be the only authority in all matters of faith and practice and life. (II Timothy 3:16,17; II Peter 1:19 21)

Section 2 – The Godhead

We believe in one triune God, eternally existing in three persons Father, Son, and Holy Spirit co-eternal in being, co identical in nature, coequal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections. (Deuteronomy 6:4, II Corinthians 13:14)

Section 3 – The Fatherhood of God

We believe in God the Father who reigns with providential care over his universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is powerful, all loving and all wise. God is Father in truth of those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ (Jn. 17:2, Matt. 6:9, Eph. 1:3, Rom. 11:33)

Section 4 – The Person and Work of Christ

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, so that He might reveal God and redeem sinful humans. (John 1:1,2,14; Luke 1:35; John 10:30 33)

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious substitutionary sacrifice; without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin; and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. (Romans 3:24,25; I Peter 1:3 5, 2:24; Ephesians 1:7; Romans 5:1,2; Hebrews 9:22)

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven and is now at the right hand of God, where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate. (Acts 1:9,10; Hebrews 7:25, 9:24; Romans 8:34, I John 2:1,2)

We believe in the premillennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones and in His sub-sequent return to earth, with His saints, to establish His millennial Kingdom.(I Thessalonians 4:13 18, 5:1 10; II Thessalonians 1:5, 2:12; Luke 17:20 37)

Section 5 – The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person, equal with the Father and Son and of the same substance and nature; that He convicts the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment; and that He is the supernatural Agent in regeneration, indwelling and sealing believers unto the day of redemption. (John 16:8 11; I Corinthians 12:12 14; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 1:13,14)

We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who guides believers to be obedient to the truth. (John 16:13; I John 2:20,27; Ephesians 5:18; John 14:16,17, 15:26)

Section 6 – Satan

We believe that Satan is a fallen angel, the deceiver and father of lies ; that he is the unholy god of this age; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and humans; and that he is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the lake of fire. (Job 1:6,7; Isaiah 14:12 17; Matthew 4:2 11, 25:41; II Corinthians 4:4, Revelation 20:10)

Section 7 – Humanity

We believe that humans were created in the image of God, but that, in Adam's sin, the race of humanity fell, inherited a sinful nature and became alienated from God; and that humans are totally depraved and of them-selves utterly unable to remedy their lost condition. (Genesis 1:26,27; Romans 3:22,23, 5:12; Ephesians 2:1 3, 12; John 6:44). We believe that God created humans as male and female and ordained marriage to be between one man and one woman who unite in one flesh to reflect God's glory. (Genesis 1:27-28, Genesis 2:23-24, Matthew 19:4-6, Ephesians 5:22-33). Sexual intimacy is reserved for those bound together in the covenant of marriage only. (I Corinthians 7:8-9)

Section 8 – Salvation

We believe that salvation is possible only through the substitutionary and vicarious death of Christ for humans. (Galatians 1:4; Isaiah 53:4 6; II Corinthians 5:21; I Peter 2:24, 3:18)

We believe that all humans are without ability to come to God, but that God in sovereign grace, apart from any consideration of foreseen human merit, chose some before the foundation of the world unto salvation in Christ. (John 6:44; Acts 13:48; Ephesians 1:4,5; Romans 9:8 23; II Thessalonians 2:13)

We believe that faith in the finished work of Christ is the only condition of salvation from sin and this salvation is wholly of grace; that no works, however good, make that salvation more secure. (Acts 16:31; Ephesians 2:8,9; Titus 3:5 7; Romans 1:9 13)

We believe that every believer receives the gift of eternal life and is made a child of God and, as such, a special divine providence watches over his welfare so that he is kept in a state of grace until it is succeeded by a state of glory. (John 1:12, 10:20,29; I John 5:10 13; I Peter 1:5; Philippians 1:6; Romans 8:28,29; Ephesians 1:13,14)

Section 9 – Separation

We believe that all of the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord and that separation from all religious apostasy and its organizations and from all worldly and sinful practices is commanded of God. (II Timothy 3:15; Romans 12:1,2, 14:13; I John 2:15 17; II Corinthians 6:14 18, 7:1; Romans 16:17,18)

Section 10 – Evangelism and Missions

We believe that it is the duty of the saved to witness by life and by word to the truths of the Bible; by proclaiming the Gospel of Christ to all the world by praying, giving, and going in obedience to the leadership of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18 20)

Section 11 – Local Church

We believe a local church is a body of professing, baptized believers organized in one locality, with Biblical officers of elders and deacons, which assembles for the purpose of glorifying God through the observation of the Biblical ordinances, worship, instruction, and Gospel service. (Matthew 18:15 17; I Corinthians 1:2; I Timothy 3:1 5)

We believe that the local church has two ordinances committed to it to observe. They are baptism and the communion of the Lord's Table.

We believe that the meaning of baptism is best practiced (where physically possible) by the immersion of the believer in water; that it is a testimony of the believer's identification by faith with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. (Acts 2:41,42, 8:36 39; Matthew 28:19 20)

We believe that the communion of the Lord's Table is the partaking of the bread and the cup by believers in remembrance of the death of Christ in our behalf; that it is to be observed until He comes. (I Corinthians 11:23 32; Matthew 26:26 29)

Section 12 – The Eternal State

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all humans, the saved to eternal bliss and the unsaved to judgment and eternal punishment. (Matthew 25:46; John 5:28,29, 11:25,26; Revelation 20:5,6,12,13)

We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord where, in conscious bliss, they await the first resurrection when spirit, soul and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord. (Luke 23:43; Revelation 20:4 6; II Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23, 3:21; I Thessalonians 4:16,17)

We believe that the souls of the unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery in hell until the second resurrection when, with soul and spirit and body reunited, they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment and shall be cast into the lake of fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment. (Luke 16:19 26; Matthew 25:41 46; II Thessalonians 1:7 9; Jude 1:6,7; Mark 9:43 48; Revelation 20:11 15)

CODE OF BYLAWS

Last updated May 19, 2019

Preamble

We, the members of College Park Church, Inc., desiring to faithfully serve the Lord Jesus Christ, to foster the spirit of harmony, to promote good order in the Church and to better set forth our position before the world, ordain and establish the following articles to which we voluntarily submit ourselves together with the Confession of Faith of the Church.

Article I – Name

This assembly shall be known as College Park Church, Inc., and is herein referred to simply as the “Church.”

Article II – Purpose

The purpose of the Church shall be:

- A. To exalt the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, the Savior of the world, and the Head of His Church. (Matthew 16:13–18; Romans 10:8–11; Ephesians 5:23; Colossians 1:15–19)
- B. To establish a local congregation of believers patterned after the New Testament church and obedient to the teaching of the Scriptures.
- C. To build and advance the universal Church of which Christ is the Head by:
 - (1) Teaching believers the doctrines of Scripture and training them for the work of the ministry. (2 Timothy 2:15; Ephesians 4:11–12)
 - (2) Providing a place where believers can assemble to worship the Lord. (Hebrews 10:25)
 - (3) Preaching the Gospel of Christ to the lost and leading them to the Savior. (Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 1:8)

Article III – Association

The Church, recognizing Christ as its Head and the Scripture as its only rule for faith and practice, shall not be subject to any other authority. It may associate in fellowship with those of like faith and practice and may declare itself in agreement with others in a common cause, but under no circumstances shall such association be construed as bringing the Church under the authority of any such person, group, or body.

Article IV – Membership

Section 1 – Qualification

Membership in the Church shall be restricted and limited to regenerated believers who have been baptized subsequent to regeneration. CPC practices immersion as the mode of baptism. The elders will consider, as exceptions, some who desire membership and have been baptized by another mode subsequent to conversion if it is a strong matter of their conscience informed by the Scripture and led by the Spirit.

Section 2 – Application

Applicants for membership shall be interviewed by the Elders, or their designees, concerning their salvation, baptism, and Christian life. Applicants must complete an informational course as designated by the Elders or equivalent. Additionally, Elders shall receive from the applicants their intention to (a) support the program of the Church, (b) abide by and be governed by the Confession of Faith and these Bylaws, (c) be in substantial agreement¹ with the Confession of Faith of the Church, and (d) support the Church with financial contributions and by personally attending its activities. The interviewers shall make a recommendation to the Elder Council for the applicant's nomination for membership. Otherwise, the applicant's name shall not come before the Church members.

Section 3 – Acceptance

Applicants shall be received into membership of the Church on a majority vote of the members in attendance at any regular service or at a duly called special or annual meeting of the Church, and pursuant to Article VIII, Section 3 of these Bylaws.

Section 4 – Restoration

The Elders shall seek to aid erring and delinquent members to restoration. The Elders may recommend to the Church members proper action in relation to erring or delinquent members who refuse to show evidence of repentance. A majority vote of the members in a special or annual meeting of the congregation, or in a regular service, shall be sufficient for removal of the name of a member from the membership rolls of the Church and any other final steps of discipline determined prudent in the reasonable discretion of a majority of the Elders. The procedures set forth in Matthew 18:15–17 and I Corinthians 5 shall be followed. If an unrepentant member is removed from the Church membership, all contact with that person from that point forward (except by family members) must be for the sake of restoration.

All members shall submit to the discipline process if and when it is administered, and no member shall attempt to remove him- or herself from membership, pursuant to Section 5 of this Article or otherwise, to avoid such process.

Section 5 – Exclusion

¹ Substantial agreement is defined by the elders and Congregation through the Member Confession approved in November 2017.

Members who do not attend the regular services of the Church for a period of six months shall be presumed to have requested exclusion from membership in the Church, unless otherwise determined by the Elders or their designees. Exceptions to this rule shall apply in cases of illness or infirmity, missionary and Christian service, absence due to military service and temporary employment not involving a permanent relocation. The names of members who have requested exclusion will be under the oversight of the Elders. Members who have requested or who are presumed to have requested exclusion may be removed from membership upon a majority vote of the elders in a regular or duly called special meeting of the Elder Council pursuant to these Bylaws.

Section 6 – Internal Matters

Determinations of the internal affairs of the Church are ecclesiastical matters and shall be determined exclusively by the Church’s own rules and procedures, as amended from time to time.

Section 7 – Membership Rights

- A. A member, upon five business days prior written request made upon the Church, may inspect, but not copy or remove, the most recent financial statements of the Church that have been reviewed or audited by an independent CPA firm, the minutes of the proceedings of Church meetings and Elder meetings, subject to the right of the Church to redact confidential information.
- B. A member may not, under any circumstances, inspect or copy any record relating to member discipline, individual contributions to the Church, any non-public list of names and addresses of Church members, or the accounting books and financial records of the Church, including, but not limited to personally identifiable information such as compensation, leave, or benefits.
- C. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the Church shall have the discretion, exercised in good faith, to redact from any records information that the Elders reasonably believe should remain confidential.

Article V – Government and Officers

Section 1- Congregational Authority

The Church observes congregational polity that finds its authority in the majority vote of the congregation. The congregation shall, as it deems advisable from time to time, assign responsibilities and delegate authority concerning those responsibilities to its officers and auxiliary organizations in order to carry out its mission in an orderly fashion, but only in accordance with these Bylaws and the Articles of Incorporation. Further, the groups of members serving the congregation, including the Elders and the Deacons, shall organize themselves so that majority rule governs their respective activities. However, no amendments to these Bylaws shall limit the congregation’s responsibility or authority to (a) approve the expenditure of funds under the control of the Church, whether by

predetermined budget limitation or individual approvals; (b) to elect those who will serve as Elders and Deacons; and (c) to administer Church discipline.

Section 2 – Council of Elders; Pastors; Deacons

The Council of Elders shall serve as the Board of Directors. Elders shall be responsible for the general oversight and teaching of members. Pastors (not all of whom may be elders) shall be employees who are responsible for such things as discipleship, instruction, and oversight for various ministries in the church. Deacons shall be responsible for serving members.

A. Elders

- (1) Number and Term – The Elders shall determine the number of men who shall serve on the Council after taking into consideration the number it reasonably believes is necessary or useful to adequately do the work of the ministry. The Elder Council shall always have more non-staff Elders than permanent staff Elders as voting members. Should the Church have more permanent staff Elders than non-staff Elders, the Council shall determine which staff Elders will serve as voting members and which staff Elders will be non-voting. Elders shall be elected to three-year terms and after serving a full three-year term shall be eligible for nomination and re-election unless the Elder no longer meets the criteria set forth in Section 2(A)(4) of this Article.
- (2) Nomination and Election
 - a. Candidates for the office of Elder shall be nominated by seventy-five percent (75%) of the Elders present at a duly called Elder meeting or by not fewer than 35 members of the Church who have signed a nominating petition and presented the petition to the Elders not less than sixty (60) days prior to the annual Church congregational meeting. All Elder nominees presented for a congregational vote must meet the criteria and qualifications set forth in Section 2(A)(4) of this Article along with being approved by the Elders with a seventy-five percent (75%) vote.
 - b. Elders shall be elected individually by the members. The approval of seventy-five percent (75%) of the members present at a duly called Church congregational meeting shall be necessary to elect each Elder.
- (3) Responsibilities – The Elders shall be responsible for shepherding oversight and administering the affairs of the congregation and shall assign responsibilities to officers and respective members of their number to accomplish assigned tasks and offices. Elder oversight and administration shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - a. nominate Pastors for consideration and approval by members;
 - b. appoint officers of the Church;
 - c. administer employees of the Church;
 - d. nominate Deacons for consideration and approval by the members;
 - e. direct the Deacons;

- f. nominate Elders for consideration and approval by the members;
 - g. appoint from their number a Chairman of all meetings of the Elders and of the congregation; and
 - h. all other lawful actions in furtherance of the Church's purposes.
- (4) Eligibility – Any man who meets the following criteria may be nominated to serve as an Elder:
- a. satisfy those requirements set forth in 1 Timothy 3:1–7 and Titus 1: 5–9;
 - b. be twenty-one (21) years of age; and
 - c. be a voting member of the congregation in good standing for at least one year prior to election, or, in the case of a Pastor, commit to become a member upon election as an Elder.
- (5) Removal; Vacancies – Elders may be removed from the office of Elder for unbiblical conduct or abandonment of office, as determined by the Elders. An Elder shall be removed upon a vote of seventy-five percent (75%) of the remaining members of the Elder Council present at a duly called meeting. In the event an Elder is removed or resigns before his term expires, the Elders may nominate a qualified member to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term. Such nominee shall be brought before the congregation as set forth in Section 2(A)(2)(b) of this Article. In the event the Elders elect to increase the number of Elders on the Council, the Elders shall nominate qualified members to fill the new seats on the Council. Such nominees shall be brought before the congregation as set forth in Section 2(A)(2) of this Article.
- (6) Regular Meetings – Unless otherwise determined by the Chairman, a regular meeting of the Elder Council shall be held monthly on any day designated not less than seven (7) days in advance by the Chairman of the Elders. The Elder Council may provide by resolution the time and place within Marion County or Hamilton County, Indiana for the holding of additional regular meetings of the Council without other notice than the resolution.
- (7) Special Meetings – Special meetings of the Elder Council may be called by or at the request of the Chairman, the President or any five (5) Elders. The persons authorized to call special meetings of the Council may fix any place within Marion County or Hamilton County, Indiana as the place for holding any special meeting of the Elder Council.
- (8) Notice – Notice of any special meeting of the Elder Council shall be given to each Elder at least two (2) days previously by written notice delivered personally, faxed, or by email. If notice is sent by postal mail, such notice shall be deposited in the US mail first class or by next-day delivery, not less than seven (7) days before such special meeting. Notice shall be sent to the Elder's last known address as shown by the records of the Church. Any Elder may waive notice of any meeting. The attendance of an Elder at any meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting, except where an Elder attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business because the meeting is not lawfully called or conducted. Neither the business to be

transacted at, nor the purpose of, any regular or special meeting of the Council need be specified in the notice of waiver of notices of such meeting, unless specifically required by law or by these Bylaws.

- (9) Quorum – A majority of the Elder Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Council, but if less than a majority of the Elders are present at the meeting, a majority of the Elders present may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice.
- (10) Manner of Acting – The act of a majority of the Elders present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Elder Council, unless the act of a greater number is required by law or by these Bylaws.
- (11) Informal Action by Elders – Any action required by law to be taken at a meeting of the Elders, or any action which may be taken at a meeting of Elders, may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing, setting out the action so taken, shall be signed by all of the Elders.

B. Pastors

- (1) The Lead Pastor will be the main preaching pastor and responsible for leading in the development of vision.
- (2) Pastors shall be those men elected by the members and employed by the Church on a full-time basis in recognition of their call by God to lead and teach. A Pastor may be elected to serve with regard to a specific role, such as Pastor of Education.
- (3) The Elders will be responsible to find candidates, either from among Church staff or Church membership or external to it, to fill pastoral roles as needed (including the Lead Pastor and any other positions deemed necessary by the Elders). After due process a seventy-five percent (75%) vote of the Elders shall be required to nominate a candidate for the pastorate to Church members.
- (4) The candidate will become a Pastor upon the approval of seventy-five percent (75%) of the members present at a duly called Church congregational meeting as set forth in Article VIII, Section 2.
- (5) Any Pastor's term of service will be open ended until terminated by resignation or a seventy-five percent (75%) vote of the Elders at a duly called meeting of the Elder Council for that purpose.
- (6) A Pastor may only become an Elder through the process designated for the nomination and election of Elder as set forth in Section 2(A) (2) of this Article.
- (7) The term of a Pastor as an Elder shall be the same as any other Elder as set forth in Section 2(A)(1) of this Article.

C. Deacons

- (1) Number and Term – The Deacons shall be elected by a seventy-five percent (75%) vote of the members of the Church present at a duly called Church

congregational meeting, in sufficient number to provide for the needs of the Church membership, shall serve for a term of three (3) years, and be eligible for reelection. In addition to nomination by the Elders as provided in this Article V, Deacons may be nominated by not fewer than thirty-five (35) members of the Church who have signed a nominating petition and presented the petition to the Elders not less than sixty (60) days prior to the annual Church congregational meeting.

- (2) To be qualified to be nominated and serve as a Deacon, each nominee and Deacon must:
 - a. meet the requirements of 1 Timothy 3:8-13;
 - b. be willing to accept instruction, training, and oversight from the Elders; and
 - c. be at least twenty-one (21) years of age and a voting member in good standing for at least one (1) year.
- (3) Responsibilities – The Deacons will be servants of the Church under the authority of the Elders. The Elders will give them direction and areas of responsibility. These areas may include:
 - a. caring for the needs of the people; and
 - b. caring for the physical property of the Church.
- (4) Removal; Vacancies – Deacons may be removed from office for unbiblical conduct or abandonment of office as determined by a seventy-five percent (75%) vote of the members of the Elder Council present at a duly called meeting, or as determined by the President and upon written notice from the President to the removed Deacon. In the event a Deacon is removed or resigns before his or her term expires, the Elders may, at the discretion of the Elders, nominate a qualified member to fill the vacancy. Such nominee shall be brought before the congregation pursuant to Section 2(C)(1) of this Article.

Section 3 – Officers

- (1) Appointment and Removal – The officers of the Church shall be its President, Secretary and Treasurer, and such Vice Presidents and deputy secretaries and deputy treasurers as the Elders shall from time to time appoint, and shall have the authority to perform the duties prescribed by the Elder Council. All officers of the Church shall be appointed by the Council of Elders from among the members of the Church who are in good standing. One (1) person may hold two (2) or more offices and each officer shall serve until his or her successor has been appointed, unless the officer is no longer a member, no longer a member in good standing, or it is in the best interests of the Church to remove the officer, as determined by the Elders, in which event the officer shall be removed from office immediately. The Elders shall appoint qualified members to fill any vacancies in the offices of the Church.
- (2) **Lead Pastor** – Candidates for the position of Lead Pastor shall receive a memorandum of engagement that sets forth the candidate’s duties,

responsibilities, range of benefits, and other material terms of employment. The memorandum of engagement shall first be approved by a seventy-five percent (75%) vote of the members of the Elder Council present at a duly called Elder meeting and then be made available to the congregation within a reasonable period of time before the members vote on the question of whether or not to employ the Lead Pastor. Subsequent modifications may be made in the memorandum of engagement by the Elders, provided that any material modifications shall be presented to the congregation in any congregational meeting. The material modifications shall be deemed approved by the congregation upon a vote of seventy-five percent (75%) of the members present at a duly called meeting.

- (3) **President** – The Lead Pastor of the Church shall serve as the President. In the absence of a Lead Pastor, the Elders shall appoint a President from among the Elders. The President shall be the principal executive officer of the Church and shall in general supervise and control all of the business and affairs of the Church. He may sign, with the secretary or any other proper officer of the Church authorized by the Elders, any deeds, mortgages, bonds, contracts, or other instruments that the Elder Council has authorized to be executed, except in cases where the signing and execution shall be expressly delegated by the Elder Council or by these Bylaws or by statute to some other officer or agent of the Church; and in general he shall perform all duties incident to the office of President and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Council of Elders.
- (4) **Vice-President** – The Vice President shall perform all duties incumbent upon the President during the absence or disability of the President and perform such other duties as this code of Bylaws may require or the Council of Elders may prescribe.
- (5) **Treasurer** – The Treasurer shall have charge and custody of and be responsible for all funds and securities of the Church, receive and give receipts for money due and payable to the Church from any source, and deposit all such moneys in the name of the Church in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as shall be determined by the Church. The Treasurer shall, in general, perform all the duties incident to the office of Treasurer, and such other duties as may be assigned to him or her by the President or by the Elder Council.
- (6) **Secretary** – The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meeting of the Elder Council in books provided for that purpose, see that all notices are given in accordance with the provisions of these By-laws or as required by law, be custodian of the corporate records, and in general perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as may be assigned by the President or by the Elder Council.
- (7) **Assistant Treasurers and Assistant Secretaries** – The assistant Treasurers and assistant Secretaries, in general, shall perform the duties assigned to them by the Treasurer or the Secretary, the President, and the Elder Council.

Article VI – Finances

Section 1 – Fiscal Year

The fiscal year shall be determined by the Elder Council and communicated to the congregation along with the annual budget.

Section 2 – Disbursements

- A. All monies shall be disbursed by check, except amounts of fifty dollars (\$50) or less, which may be paid out of a petty cash fund accounted for by vouchers.
- B. Expenditures over one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) not covered by the budget as presented to and approved by the members at the Annual Congregational Meeting shall be approved by a majority of the voting members present during a duly called congregational meeting.
- C. Items requiring expenditures more than twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) not covered by the Financial Budget shall be approved by a majority vote of the Elders present at a duly called meeting.

Section 3 – Funds

- A. All regular funds for the Church shall be primarily raised by voluntary tithes and offerings. Grants or bequests may also be received.
- B. Special accounts created by vote of the members may be funded by loans, mortgages, or bonds.
- C. The Church will engage a qualified accounting firm to conduct an audit or review at the conclusion of each fiscal year. The Director of Finance will arrange for the audit with oversight from the Treasurer.

Section 4 – Allocation of Funds

The Church will designate not less than ten percent (10%) of its general fund giving for benevolent and missionary work. This statement will encourage and not limit giving away much higher percentages but will require a minimum allocation regardless of other financial constraints.

Section 5 – Budgeted Staff Positions

The Church may only hire staff to the extent its budget includes funds for such a position. The members shall vote to adopt the Financial Budget at the Church's annual congregational meeting and material revisions to the Financial Budget as identified in Article VI, section 2(B), shall be adopted upon the vote of the members at a specially called congregational meeting. Staff positions (other than assistant pastors who are approved by elders and pastors who are approved by the congregation) which are

provided for in the budget, will be recruited and approved by the appropriate person(s) on staff.

When appropriate and the budget allows, the Elders can hire assistant pastors to provide additional pastoral care and assistance in the work of the ministry. Pastors and Church staff can hire other personnel including directors, residents, and interns to carry out pastoral and ministry duties as deemed necessary to assist the pastors in the ministry of the church.

Article VII – Ministries

Ministries may be formed as deemed appropriate by the Elders to carry out the ministry and fellowship of the Church. Such ministries shall report to and be under the supervision of the Elder Council and its designees.

Article VIII – Church Congregational Meetings

Church business may be conducted any time the Church meets as stipulated below. The teaching of the Word of God shall govern the conduct of business in all sessions. Where the Bible is silent, ***Robert’s Rules of Order*** shall be the guide.

Section 1 – Annual Congregational Meeting

- A. The annual congregational meeting of the Church shall be held on a Sunday in the last fiscal quarter. Additional meetings may be held throughout the year.
- B. The meeting shall be for the election of Elders and Deacons, the approval of the Financial Budget for the next fiscal year, and any other business that shall be on the agenda published at least two (2) Sundays prior to the meeting.

Section 2 – Special Congregational Meetings

Subject to Article IX, special congregational meetings may be called by the Elders at any time, or by petition of at least five percent (5%) of those members eligible to vote at a congregational meeting, with notification at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of the meeting. The notification shall be issued in the same manner it would be issued for the annual congregational meeting.

Section 3 – Limited Congregational Meetings

Limited congregational meetings for the sole purpose of voting new members into the congregation may be convened during any regular church service without prior notification.

Section 4 – Eligible Voters

The voting age shall be sixteen (16) years or older except in cases where the law may require the voter to be of legal age.

Section 5 – Quorums

A quorum shall be the members present at a duly called Church congregational meeting with that number being no less than one hundred fifty (150) voting members.

Section 6 – Notification

Official announcements will be made using one (1) or more of the Church's current general communication methods on at least two (2) Sundays prior to the date of the meeting and the date must appear in the Sunday bulletin and the Church website for at least two (2) Sundays prior to the date of the meeting. Absentee ballots will be available upon request of a voting member.

Article IX – Amendments

- A. The Confession of Faith and the Bylaws of the Church can be amended only during a duly called annual or special congregational meeting as set forth in Article VIII, Section 2.
- B. Copies of the proposed amendment(s) or change(s) must be provided for each voting member of the Church two (2) weeks prior to the congregational meeting.
- C. The approval of seventy-five percent (75%) of members present at a duly called Church congregational meeting shall be required for passing any amendments.

Article X – Indemnity Clause

Members of the Church shall agree not to pursue civil litigation against the Church corporation, its members, its officers, its paid staff, its Elders, its Deacons, or its Pastors. This provision will not prevent a member from pursuing a claim for personal injury against an insurance company.

Article XI – Dissolution Clause

In the event of the dissolution of the Church corporation, all of its debts shall be fully satisfied before any assets are otherwise disbursed. None of its net assets or holdings shall be divided among members or other individuals but shall be irrevocably designated by congregational vote prior to dissolution to such not-for-profit religious corporations as are in agreement with the letter and spirit of the Bylaws, Confession of Faith adopted by this Church and in conformity with the requirements of Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Service Code of 1954. In the event a quorum of members is not achieved after two (2) attempts for the purpose of voting on matters under this Article XI, then the Elders shall designate the distribution of the Church assets and holdings.

WHO LEADS THE CHURCH?

Congregation and Elders

College Park believes in a form of church government called congregationalism. This means that we believe that final authority to admit and dismiss members, appoint leaders, and give definition to the doctrine of the church rests with the covenant members (Matthew 18:15-20; Acts 6:2-3; Galatians 1:6).

While the final authority rests with the congregation, we also believe in the leadership of godly male elders who are tasked with the responsibility of shepherding the church (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5; 1 Peter 5:1-3). The elders set the direction for the teaching, protecting, care, and equipping of the church at large and for her individual members.

One way to say it is that we believe the church should be congregationally governed and elder led. These two truths are designed to work in tandem such that the body builds itself up in love (Ephesians 4:11-16). Elders are to shepherd the church lovingly and humbly for her good and God's glory. Likewise, the church is to trust and submit to its elders so they can carry out their responsibilities with joy and not with groaning (Hebrews 13:17).