

First Ukrainian Church, Christians of Evangelical Faith
“Bethesda”

Church Constitution

English Translation

July, 2017

Sacramento, California

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For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. (Titus 2:11-14 - NKJV)

I. PREAMBLE

- 1.1 We, as children of God, acknowledge that the will of our Heavenly Father is the salvation of humanity through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and their redemption, justification, sanctification, and accession to His Universal Church; understanding God's plan, that His Universal Church must find its embodiment and expression in and through local churches; being led and inspired to this by the Holy Spirit; based on our common faith we unite in a single Christian community, a church with the official name "First Ukrainian Church of Christians of Evangelical Faith" (hereinafter "Church"). The informal name of the Church is – "Bethesda."
- 1.2 The Church is registered as a religious nonprofit organization (corporation) from December 8, 1996 in the State of California (Articles of Incorporation filing No. 1995922) in accordance with the Nonprofit Corporation Law (California Corporations Code §§ 5000 et seq.), and has its own seal and logo.
- 1.3 The basis of our faith, worship, daily life, and our organization, structure, and management is the Bible, the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments, as a single, complete, and perfect revelation of God to man. This Constitution is adopted in accordance with our understanding of the letter and spirit of this revelation.

A. We acknowledge

- 1.4 We acknowledge that Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church. He saved her by redeeming, justifying, and sanctifying her through His blood, and she fully belongs to and depends on Him. God the Father raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but in that which is to come, having put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. (Eph. 1:20-23 NKJV)

B. We promise

- 1.5 We, collected and united in a local Church of Christ, promise with the help of the Holy Spirit to live and serve in this Church according to God's purposes for it, in unity and Christian love.
- 1.6 We promise to strive to grow the Church in knowledge, holiness, and righteousness; to contribute to its material and spiritual well-being; to follow its adopted doctrines and regulations; to follow its established discipline; to actively support its service with God-given gifts and talents; to sincerely and regularly donate financially to the service of the Church, its expenses, helping those in need, and to the spreading of the Gospel.
- 1.7 We promise, as in the Church, so also in our personal lives, and in our families, to dedicate ourselves to the knowledge of God's will; to live by His Word; to be fair, loyal, and honest in our actions and relations with each other, as well as with people outside the Church; to raise our children in the Christian spirit according to evangelical principles and values; to care for the salvation of our relatives, neighbors, coworkers, near and far.

1.8 We promise to comfort one another in the blessed hope of the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; to care for one another with brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to help each other through sickness and difficulties; to encourage each other in word and deed; to avoid arrogance, judgment, slander, and deceit; to be compassionate; to be slow to anger and resentment; to be quick to forgive and show mercy; to seek peace with all people.

1.9 We promise to be non-judgmental and to have friendly relations with the other evangelical churches of our city, to pray for them; to pray for churches and for the people of God around the world. We are open to dialogue with all people of good will; who are concerned about the spiritual state of our society and are seeking ways to revive its spirituality and morality.

C. We believe

1.10 We believe in God, who is in three persons – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

1.11 We believe that Jesus Christ was on earth in human form as fully God and fully man; He was crucified, died, rose again, ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

1.12 We believe that all people are sinners and in need of a Savior, and that salvation is only possible, fully and simply through faith in Jesus Christ, Who died for our sins, rose for our justification, and is our Intercessor before God the Father.

1.13 We believe that although man is saved only through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, holy and righteous living is real confirmation of our faith (Phil. 2:12)

1.14 We believe that Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church and that all believers can come to God through Him on equal footing.

1.14a We believe that a Christian is one who has been born again through repentance and acceptance of Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior (John 3:5)

1.15 We believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the sign of other tongues.

1.16 We believe in the immortality of the soul and spirit, in the resurrection of the dead and the second coming of Christ to earth to take His Church and to judge the world.

1.17 We believe in the Bible, the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments, as God's Holy Word, which is the only, full, infallible, sufficient and complete revelation of God to people in our time, which guides us and is the unconditional and only authority in all matters of Christian faith and life.

1.18 We acknowledge that the Nicene Apostolic Symbol of Faith correctly summarizes the teachings of the Bible.

Apostolic Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. And in the Lord Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, Who was born of the Father before all ages, Light from Light, true God from true God, born, not created, consubstantial with the Father, through Whom all things were made. Who for us, men, and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man. He was crucified under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried. He rose on the third day, as it was written. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His Kingdom will have no end. In the Holy Spirit, Life-giving Lord, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is equally worshipped and glorified, who spoke through the prophets. In One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. I confess one baptism and absolution of sins. I await the resurrection of the dead. And the life of the world to come. Amen.

II. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

We, the Church, exist by the grace of God for His glory, and this is the aim of all of our services. Our task is to be disciples of Jesus Christ, built upon His Word, filled with the power of the Holy Spirit and ready to go into all the world to preach His Gospel. We strive to achieve these goals and objectives through:

2.1 Worshipping God. Joint worship of the Almighty God, our Heavenly Father through our Lord Jesus Christ, His Only Begotten Son, through the Holy Spirit in every place in spirit and truth. (John 4:23)

2.2 Testimony. Obeying the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ to preach the Gospel to the whole world and all creation, using all available means, methods, and tools faithful to the letter and spirit of the Gospel. Joining of the saved to the church through baptism in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teaching them all the commandments of the Lord. (Matthew 28:19-20)

2.3 Brotherhood. Helping, guiding spiritually, and serving one another with God-given gifts, acts and services according to God's calling. Meeting the spiritual needs of believers, their spiritual growth through teaching from God's Word, brotherly fellowship, the breaking of bread and unified prayer. Cooperation with other churches. (Acts 2:42)

III. ACTIVITIES

In pursuit of given objectives, the Church carries out (can carry out), among others, the activities listed below:

3.1 Establish and maintain religious buildings and facilities, other places and objects specially designated for worship, prayer, socio-cultural, educational, and other religious forms of activity.

3.2 Carry out worship services, sacraments, rites, ceremonies, education, socio-cultural and other activities in all religious buildings and associated territories, in other places, dedicated to the church or acquired by it for these purposes.

3.3 Carry out public worship services and religious rites and ceremonies in other cases according to the rules established for carrying out meetings and public demonstrations and events.

3.4 Produce, acquire, export, import, and distribute religious literature, and religious print, audio, and video materials.

3.5 Establish cultural-awareness organizations and educational institutions. Establish mass-media means.

3.6 Carry out charitable activities, both directly and through the establishment of appropriate ministries and charitable organizations.

3.7 Establish and maintain international ties and contacts, for the purpose of, among others, missionary work, charity, participation in church services, and education. Invite, for these purpose, foreign citizens.

3.8 Represent and protect the interests of the church before the government and local municipalities.

3.9 Perform other functions that meet the statutory goals and objectives of the Church.

IV. MEMBERSHIP

We are open for dialogue with and assistance to anyone who seeks God and salvation through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We are ready to accept into our membership every born again individual, who shares our Church Doctrine, and the principles and obligations of this Constitution. All Church

members are equal. Every member is a priest and has direct access to God through the Lord Jesus Christ. Every member has the right to openly express their views; to elect and, according to the measure of God's gift, be elected; to participate in solving all important issues of the life of the Church; to participate in Church services.

A. Conditions for acceptance into Church membership

4.1 Personal testimony of being born again through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior. (John 3:3-7; 1 Peter 1:18-25)

4.2 Water baptism by faith in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, through full immersion in water, in adulthood. (Matthew 28:19; Colossians 2:12)

4.3 Confession in the Triune God (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit) and baptism in the Holy Spirit with the sign of other tongues.

4.4 Visible demonstration of good morals and consistent Christian living according to principles of the gospel. (Romans 6:4; Ephesians 4:17-31)

4.5 Personal written confirmation of acknowledgement of the Doctrine and Constitution of the church. (No. 4.12)

4.6 The obligation to make established and required financial contributions to support the Church.

4.7 Regular attendance of church services for at least 3 consecutive months before applying for membership.

4.8 A church member must be a person no less than 16 years of age.

4.9 Members of the Church cannot be drunkards, drug addicts, fornicators, adulterers, LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender); those who engage in any form of occultism, heresy, and those who support other such views and their symbolism. (1 Cor. 6:9-10; Eph. 5:3-7; Gal. 5:19-21)

4.10 Church members cannot be people who are under disciplinary action in other churches, until their status in those churches is resolved.

B. Procedure for acceptance into Church membership

4.11 A candidate for Church membership becomes acquainted with the Doctrine and Constitution of the Church and fills out an Application form (Appendix No. 1).

4.12 The candidate is interviewed by the Senior Pastor, who checks them for compliance with the conditions for acceptance into Church membership (No. 4.1-4.10). During the interview, the candidate confirms their agreement with the Doctrine and Constitution of the Church by signing the Application form and the Membership Roster.

Note: the Church Secretary is responsible for providing the candidate with copies of the church Doctrine, Constitution, and Application.

4.13 Based on the recommendation of the Senior Pastor, without any specific objections and with the consent of the simple majority of those present, the Church during its Sunday morning service accepts the candidate as a full member of the Church, with a corresponding entry into the Membership Roster.

4.14 Persons over which the Church carries out water baptism, and who have filled out an Application form, are automatically accepted into Church membership immediately after baptism, with a corresponding entry into the Membership Roster.

4.15 Members of other churches can be accepted into membership of this Church after submitting a letter of recommendation, oral testimony of the leader of the church from which they withdrew, or oral testimony about the candidate from members of this (the accepting) Church.

4.16 Ordained ministers from other churches are accepted into membership according to general principles.

C. Rights of Church members

- 4.17 According to the measure of God's gift and by choice of the Church, and according to Biblical principles, taking part in various church services, sacraments, rites, ceremonies and activities, focusing efforts on worshipping God, building the Church, and proclaiming the Gospel to unbelievers.
- 4.18 Being present at all general and special Membership Meetings; participating in discussions and voting.
- 4.19 Suggesting candidates, voting, being elected to elected bodies of the Church in accordance with evangelical criteria and the present Constitution.
- 4.20 Making suggestions, warnings, and comments to all bodies of the Church regarding any matters related to their activities; turning to the Church for help with solving personal problems, and protecting rights and legal interests.
- 4.21 Obtaining through established procedures information about the spiritual, financial, administrative and other activities of the Church.
- 4.22 Leaving Church membership at will.

D. Duties of Church members

- 4.23 Being faithful to their Lord Jesus Christ – the Head of the Church. (Rev. 2:10)
- 4.24 Loving their brothers and sisters by faith. Praying for them. Helping them. (John 13:34-35)
- 4.25 Finding their talents, developing them and applying them to ministry in the Church.
- 4.26 Being regular in study of the Word, prayer and testimony.
- 4.27 Obeying the Church ministers; accepting from them direction and warnings. (1 Peter 5:5)
- 4.28 Keeping unity in the Church. (John 17:20-21)
- 4.29 Regularly attending and supporting church services. Regularly attending Church Membership Meetings. (Hebrews 10:25)
- 4.30 Making the established, mandatory financial contributions for supporting the life of the Church and its ministries. According to one's abilities, making voluntary tithes and offerings.
- 4.31 Supporting/taking care of order and cleanliness on the church premises and territory; protecting Church property and being careful with it. (Psalm 25:8) Observing Church-accepted rules of conduct. Complying with the requirements of representatives of the church's Security Service.
- 4.32 Not partaking in sinful activities. Avoiding obscene behavior, words, appearances, wanton literature, wanton films, TV shows, dances, games, music, etc. (Romans 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 6:14-18; Eph. 5:11; 1 John 2:15-17)
- 4.33 Parents, who are members of the Church, carry responsibility for the actions and behavior of their minor children on Church territory and beyond.
- 4.34 Obeying the requirements of the Doctrine and Constitution of the Church.

E. Measures related to church influence and disciplinary action

- 4.35 The Church through the personhood of the Senior Pastor, the Assistant Pastor, and Ministers who are responsible for church Sections, has the right to:
- assist in resolving conflicts in families and between members of the Church.
 - require from Church members explanation about their behavior both in the Church and outside it (in their families, at work, in public places, etc.)
 - if necessary, disclose certain actions of Church members to the Church.
- 4.36 Measures related to church influence:

Prayer (1 John 5:16). Exhortation (Romans 12:1). Convincing (2 Tim. 4:2). Face-to-face reproach (Matthew 18:15). Reproach in front of witnesses (Matthew 18:16). Reproach before the Church (Matthew 18:17). Prohibition (2 Timothy 4:2).

4.37 Church disciplinary action:

Admonition (2 Thess. 3:14-15). Excommunication (Matthew 18:17; 1 Cor. 5:11-13; Titus 3:10).

4.38 Any measures related to Church influence and disciplinary action must be applied with a prayerful spirit and according to Evangelical principles, for the purpose of correction, returning a person to God, and preservation of the Church from the spreading of sin. (Gal. 6:1-4)

4.39 Measures related to church influence and discipline apply to all Church members, regardless of the service they are in or their status in the Church, if they violate Biblical principles related to morals, family, church, and social life, as well as the principles of this Constitution.

4.40 Violations of Biblical principles include, among others:

Marital betrayal, premarital and extramarital sex (fornication, adultery), abortion, divorce, marriage with people who do not share faith in the Gospel, drinking alcohol (drunkenness), using drugs, smoking, sexual perversion (LGBT), various kinds of occultism, murder, practicing and professing heretical teachings, which are incompatible with Church Doctrine, gossip, falsehood, slander, and so on (1 Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:5; Rom. 1:24; Rev. 21:8)

4.41 Decisions to use church disciplinary action, which affect membership status (admonition and excommunication), and to terminate enforcement of such measures, are proposed by the Senior Pastor after a detailed examination of the case together with the Ministers, are confirmed by the Church Council with a simple majority vote, and announced in the Church during its Sunday morning service, with a corresponding entry in the Membership Roster. The person whose status is being examined has the right to defend themselves before the Church Council, which is convened to examine the case, and has the right to speak before the Council.

4.42 Admonition

a) A Church member, having been placed under admonition, is disqualified from participating in the Lord's Supper and from carrying on any church service during the period of admonition. He/she also loses the right to vote during church Membership Meetings for this period of time. Relation to him/her should be in accordance with 2 Thess. 3:14.

b) The period under Church admonition should not exceed 3 months.

c) If during this period the Church member repents and confirms it with their lifestyle – the admonition is ended and the member's rights as a Church member are restored according to § 4.11-4.13 (2 Cor. 2:6-7). Otherwise, they are excommunicated from the Church.

4.43 Excommunication. The person excommunicated from the Church loses all their rights as Church members. They are removed from the Membership Roster. Relation to them should be in accordance with Matthew 18:17; 1 Cor. 5:11-13; Titus 3:10.

4.44 Church Members who do not participate in the Lord's Supper more than three times in a row are obligated, when asked, to explain the reason for their non-participation to the responsible Minister.

F. Termination of Church membership

4.45 Church members have the right to withdraw from Church membership by providing notice to the Senior Pastor. They have the right to ask the Church Secretary for a letter of recommendation, which is signed by the Senior Pastor and the Secretary. Their withdrawal is announced in Church during its Sunday morning service.

4.46 Church members who leave the Church for more than 6 months in connection with a temporary move to a different place of residence, should terminate membership according to the above procedure (§ 4.45).

4.47 Notice about withdrawal from Church membership of those who are in the process of church investigation on the subject of sinful acts or heresy cannot be the basis for terminating such

investigation. The Church Council is required to carry out certain disciplinary actions (in case of fault) with a corresponding notice to the Church and an entry into the church Membership Roster.

G. Membership roster

4.48 The Church Secretary keeps and regularly maintains the Membership Roster by removing names of those who have passed away, those who have moved to a new place of residence or to a new church (according to word from the Senior Pastor), those who have been excommunicated from the Church (according to word from the Senior Pastor), and also noting those who have been placed under admonition and those who have been newly restored their rights as members of the Church after church disciplinary action, or after a long period (more than 6 months) of living elsewhere.

4.49 The Church Council is required in preparation for every annual Membership Meeting (in the month of March) to beforehand, further review the Membership Roster and, after considering the reasons, to make a list of those who are candidates for removal from the Roster because of an inconsistency with the requirements of membership:

- a) who do not attend Church for more than 6 months without good reason;
- b) who do not support the Church financially without good reason.

4.50 These persons must be notified by the Church Secretary about this no later than 30 days before the date of the reporting Membership Meeting, and they have the right during this period to ask for reconsideration, having explained their position to the Senior Pastor and having presented certain assurances or facts. They also have the right to explain their position at the reporting Membership Meeting. Otherwise, the decision about their removal from the church Membership Roster is accepted at the beginning of the given Meeting by an open simple majority vote.

H. Renewal of membership

4.51 Renewal of the rights of those who have been placed under admonition, and also re-admission into membership of those excommunicated from the Church, and those removed from the church Membership Roster for not meeting the conditions of church membership (No. 4.49) is possible only through repentance and associated public testimony before the Church. Such persons are interviewed by the Senior Pastor and, if necessary, by the Church Council. Renewal is possible no earlier than 3 months after repentance, and the interview, with the condition of worthy fruits of repentance.

- a) Renewal of rights of those under admonition is made by the decision of the Church Council. The decision is announced to the Church during the Sunday morning service.
- b) Re-admission into membership of those excommunicated from the Church and those removed from the church Membership Roster for not meeting the conditions of membership is carried out according to the general procedures of acceptance into Church membership (No. 4.11-4.16).

4.52 Ordained Church ministers, excommunicated for falling into sin or heresy, are restored in membership rights according to general principles, but cannot further carry on their ministry and participate in church spiritual acts.

4.53 Members of other churches who have been excommunicated or placed under admonition are renewed in their membership rights only in the church which applied the given disciplinary action.

4.54 Church members who have stopped their membership due to temporary relocation to a different place of residence (for more than 6 months), after returning are renewed into membership, having been interviewed by the Senior Pastor. The Senior Pastor announces this before the church. The church Secretary makes a corresponding entry in the Membership Roster.

V. STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

*Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation,
and every city or house divided against itself
will not stand. (Matthew 12: 25)*

5.1 This Church is an independent congregation which is self-governed according to theocratic principles, and is accountable to the Head of the Church – the Lord Jesus Christ.

5.2 The highest legislative, controlling and governing organ of the Church is the General Membership Meeting (herein – “Meeting,” “Membership Meeting”).

5.3 Membership Meetings elect the Church Council, which is the main operative and coordinating organ of the Church during the period between Membership Meetings, and which is accountable to these Meetings.

5.4 Membership Meetings elect the Church Senior Pastor (herein – “Senior Pastor”), who is the spiritual leader of the Church, and oversees and has the right, if necessary, to intervene in the work of any structural subdivision of the Church, and who is accountable to Membership Meetings. The Senior Pastor directly organizes and manages all Church services, as well as the spiritual leadership of every structural subdivision of the Church (No. 5.10a).

5.5 For direct assistance to the Senior Pastor and substitution in his absence, Membership Meetings elect Assistant Pastors, who are accountable to the Church Senior Pastor.

5.6 Membership Meetings elect Deacons, who are direct assistants to the Senior Pastor in carrying out the work of spiritual leadership, and who help Church members through their designated Sections. The Church is divided into Membership Sections of no more than 60 members each. A Section is cared for by one deacon or Pastor, who carries out a diaconal ministry. Deacons also help in the organization of the daily administrative life of the Church.

5.7 Membership Meetings elect the Church Administrator, who is responsible for the administrative and material affairs of the Church, is accountable to the Senior Pastor and the Church Council, and is in direct supervision of the corresponding structural subdivisions of the Church (No. 5.10b).

5.8 Membership Meetings elect the Church Treasurer, who is responsible for the organization, regulation, and conduct of all financial affairs of the Church and is accountable to the Senior Pastor and the Church Council.

5.9 To control the finances and accounting of material assets of the Church, Membership Meetings elect an Audit Commission, which is accountable only to these Meetings.

5.10 To ensure the effective operation and development of the Church, in it, among others, operate (can operate) the following structural subdivisions:

a) Sunday School, Department of Teen Ministry, Youth Department, Department of Young Families, Department of Women’s Ministry, Department of Education, Missions Department, Musical and Choral Department, Department of Prayer Ministry – reporting directly to the Church Senior Pastor.

b) Administrative Department, Office of Supervision, Housekeeping Department, Information Technology Department – reporting directly to the Church Administrator.

The leaders and programs of the aforementioned structural subdivisions are proposed by the Church Senior Pastor or the Administrator, as appropriate, and are affirmed by the Church Council with a majority vote of Council members.

5.11 Acting Ministers of the Church include: Church Senior Pastor; Assistant Pastors; deacons/pastors, elected by the Church for ministry and responsible for Church Membership Sections and who carry a given ministry (No. 10.6).

5.12 Acting Ministers of the Church carry, above all, a ministry, for which they have been elected by the Church and only in the case of worthy fulfillment of the given ministry can they be involved in one other Church ministry.

5.13 Every person elected or appointed for any ministry in the Church must carry it out as a service to God and to members of the Church, caring about unity in the Church and its development and spiritual

well-being. Arrogance, haughtiness, rudeness, judgement, negligence, division, and disobedience are reasons for review by the Church Council, with a possible initiation of early termination of service.

VI. GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

6.1 General Membership Meetings (herein – “Membership Meetings,” or “Meetings”) are the highest authority of the Church, whose decisions are decisions of the Church and are mandatory for performance both by the Church leadership and all of its members. Decisions made by the Membership Meeting can be reviewed and changed only by a subsequent Meeting decision. Meetings can lawfully make decisions regarding any matters of the Church.

6.2 Matters under the exclusive jurisdiction of Membership Meetings include:

- a) approval of church Doctrine. Making amendments to it.
- b) approval of the Church Constitution. Making additions and changes to it.
- c) removal from the church’s Membership Roster.
- d) election of the Church Senior Pastor, Assistant Pastors, Deacons, Church Council, Administrator, Audit Commission, Treasurer, Secretary.
- e) any financial and property issues associated with amounts of over \$5000.
- f) approval of the amount of mandatory financial monthly membership contributions.
- g) hearing of annual reports of the Church Senior Pastor, Administrator, Treasurer, Secretary, and Audit Commission.
- h) approval of the Projected Annual Church Budget.
- i) making of a decision about ceasing operation of the Church and forming a Liquidation Commission.

6.3 Meetings can take under their jurisdiction and consideration any issue, controlled by another ministry or subdivision of the Church.

6.4 Regular Membership Meetings are held three times a year: March, July, and November.

6.5 Special meetings are convened on the initiative of the following: 40% of the members of the Church Council; Senior Pastor; Audit Commission (decision of all members of the Commission); 1/4 of the members of the Church (collected signatures – the initiation of the collection of signatures can be by any Church member).

6.6 Dates of Meetings must be announced during the Church’s Sunday morning service no later than two weeks prior to the Meeting, together with the suggested questions for consideration. The date of the Meeting and the questions for consideration are simultaneously displayed on the church announcement board, and published in the church bulletin.

6.7 Questions for consideration at meetings are considered and proposed by the Church Council from all existing proposals, including proposals made by Church members.

6.8 Presiding over Membership Meetings is the Church Senior Pastor. In the case of election, approval, re-approval of the Senior Pastor, the Assistant Pastor will preside.

6.9 Meetings are considered legitimate and certain concrete decisions can be made in them in the presence of 2/3 of the members of the Church based on the church Membership Roster. If a quorum is not present (i.e. there are less than 2/3 of Church members present), meetings can only be carried out on the level of exchanging views, and any of their decisions cannot be of a binding nature.

6.10 At the start of a Meeting, the Church Secretary organizes an election for the role of a Census Commission, which is responsible for counting the number of members present, distributing ballots for voting, and counting votes (if necessary).

6.11 At the start of a Meeting, a simple majority vote confirms the agenda, to which Church members, with the consent of the Meeting, can add issues.

6.12 Meetings which are convened in March are for reporting. In them the Church hears reports from the Church Senior Pastor, Administrator, Treasurer, Audit Commission, Secretary, and also corrects the church Membership Roster.

6.13 Meetings which are convened in November are dedicated to analyzing the spiritual state of the Church. In them the Church hears the Report of Deacons about the work they have done, and the status and general trends of the ministries entrusted to them (No. 10.13); analyzes the church's ministry of the Word (No. 19.5); hears reports from leaders of the Church structural subdivisions under the Senior Pastor (the specific subdivisions which must report are specified by the Church Council) (No. 5.10a). In these Meetings the Projected Church Budget is also heard and approved (No. 17.10).

6.14 In its decisions the meetings are governed by the Word of God, the Church Doctrine, and this Constitution.

6.15 No member or group of members can call a Membership Meeting for consideration of church affairs by bypassing the general procedures outlined above for calling Membership Meetings.

VII. CHURCH COUNCIL

7.1 During the period between Membership Meetings, the governing and coordinating body of the Church is the Church Council.

7.2 The Church Council is accountable to the Membership Meetings and organizes and controls the implementation of its decisions.

7.3 The objective of the Church Council is to care for all the spiritual, financial, and administrative affairs of the community, to oversee and coordinate the work of every structural subdivision of the Church, to help the Senior Pastor in planning and organizing the ongoing activities of the Church.

7.4 The composition and number of members of the Church Council is comprised of:

Members of the Church Council, elected in the Church for particular ministries at Membership Meetings and who are automatically included as part of the Council, according to their carried out ministries: Acting Ministers of the Church (Senior Pastor, Assistant Pastors, deacons/pastors responsible for Membership Sections (No. 5.11), Administrator, Treasurer, Secretary).

Elected Members of the Church Council, who are elected into the Council by Membership Meetings through routine voting for a three-year term, will include no less than 5 people.

7.5 Candidates for ministry in the Elected Members of the Church Council are submitted and consist of:

- a) Elected Members of the Church Council from the last convocation, who are willing to continue this ministry.
- b) Other candidates, proposed by the Church Council and Church members, who have given their consent.

Candidates must be 25 to 60 years of age.

7.6 The procedure for election of the Church Council begins with the announcement of the date of these elections and the start of the submission of candidates no later than one month before the end of the term of service of the Church Council of the previous convocation. The period for submission of candidates must be no less than two weeks.

7.7 Candidates are announced in Church, and are highlighted on the church announcement board and in the church bulletin two weeks before the election.

7.8 The corresponding number of candidates for service in the Elected Members of the Church Council, who during a secret ballot have collected the most votes, are considered elected when no less than 100 have voted.

7.9 Elected candidates of the Church Council are re-elected every time.

7.10 The jurisdiction of the Church Council includes:

- a) making of proposals about acceptance into Church membership, taking under admonition, excommunication from the Church, removal from the church Membership Roster, for review at Membership Meetings.
- b) development of the Church structure, regulations, approval of staff schedules, staff instructions, and work requirements of paid Church employees.
- c) consideration and selection of candidates for Church Senior Pastor, Assistant Pastors, Deacons, Administrator, Treasurer, Secretary, members of the Audit Commission and passing them for voting at Membership Meetings.
- d) review, approval, and coordination of plans for ongoing activities of the Church.
- e) approval of financial projects not exceeding \$5000 in cost.
- f) preparation of joint Church projects with other churches and organizations.
- g) invitation of guests (evangelists, missionaries, teachers) for participation in church services and events.

7.11 The Church Council considers questions and makes decisions at its meetings, which are held at least once a month. Special meetings can be convened: by the Church Senior Pastor, at the request of at least three members of the Church Council or one of the members of the Audit Commission.

7.12 The Church Council can lawfully make decisions if at its meetings there are present no less than 2/3 of its members, and provided that information about the date and place of the meeting was communicated by the Secretary to each member of the Church Council.

7.13 A member of the Church Council, who during the year missed more than 35% of meetings (except in the case of illness), work, or service, during the first meeting of the Council in the following year automatically loses their status as member of the Church council of the given convocation (the person responsible for preparation of the given information is the Church Secretary).

7.14 In the case of early termination of membership in the Church Council, additional election for a replacement is not made.

7.15 The Church Senior Pastor organizes the work of the Church Council and presides over its meetings. In case of absence of the Senior Pastor, the meeting of the Church Council is led by the Assistant Pastor.

7.16 When considering issues related to election of the Senior Pastor, violations by him and consideration of disciplinary actions, removing him from ministry, the meeting of the Church Council is led by the Assistant Pastor.

7.17 Questions for consideration at a regular meeting of the Church Council, initiated by members of the Council, are formed by passing them to the Secretary or the Senior Pastor no later than one week prior to the meeting of the Church Council.

7.18 Any member of the Church can propose issues for consideration by the Church Council, having previously passed them to the Church Secretary or the Senior Pastor in written form and, in the case of the issue being brought up for consideration, being notified and having the opportunity to be present during the consideration. In the case of refusal to consider the issue, the Church Senior Pastor must

provide the proposer an explanation of the reasons for refusal, and inform the Church Council about the issue.

7.19 Decisions of the Church Council on all issues (if the Constitution does not provide otherwise) are made by open or secret ballot of a simple majority vote of those present. In the case of an equal vote, the right to make the deciding vote rests with the presiding member.

7.20 Particularly important issues, which are considered by the Church Council, can be transferred for consideration to Membership Meetings, by the demand of 40% of the members of the Church Council.

7.21 Meetings of the Church Council are logged (by the Church Secretary) and stored in the church archive.

7.22 Decisions of the Church Council concerning general questions about the life of the Church, are announced in Church and are highlighted on the church announcement board and in the church bulletin.

7.23 By the initiative of the Senior Pastor or the Church Council, an Expanded Church Council may be convened, in which, other than members of the Church Council, other interested Church members can be present. Announcement about convening of the Expanded Church Council is made two weeks before the date of the convocation (except for matters which require immediate decision). Decisions of the Expanded Church Council are accepted with the authority of a proposition, and cannot replace decisions of Membership Meetings, but can be brought forward for approval at these Meetings.

VIII. SENIOR PASTOR OF THE CHURCH

8.1 Management of the general current activities of the Church is led by the Church Senior Pastor, who is elected by the Church, is its spiritual leader and who is responsible for all Church services and work of its structural subdivisions. The Senior Pastor is accountable to General Membership Meetings.

8.2 Candidate(s) for the ministry of Senior Pastor are nominated by the Church Council from among the Church Pastors with the support of a simple majority of the members of the Church Council. Evangelical criteria for candidate selection include: 1 Thess. 5:12-13; 1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4. The candidate must be baptized in the Holy Spirit with the sign of other tongues. The experience and gifts of the candidate must meet the needs of the Church and the requirements of the given ministry. The candidate for Senior Pastor must have experience in ministry in the given Church of no less than two years, including the probationary period, and on the day of election must be no less than 30 and no more than 60 years of age. The age limit for the ministry of Senior Pastor – 65 years.

8.3 The candidature is announced in Church three weeks before the election, and a picture of each candidate and a short biography are highlighted on the church announcement board and in the church bulletin.

8.4 The Church Senior Pastor is initially elected for a one-year probationary term, after which he is confirmed for a four-year term with a right to be re-confirmed. The Senior Pastor is re-confirmed every four years. Confirmation and re-confirmation occur two months before the end of each four year term.

8.5 In the case where the Assistant Pastor is elected as the Senior Pastor, the one year probationary term does not apply.

8.6 The Church Senior Pastor is elected, confirmed or re-confirmed in a legitimately convened Membership Meeting (2/3 of church members), which is announced no later than three weeks before the date of convocation. Before voting, the candidate shares with the Church their vision and plans for future ministry. Elections are conducted by secret ballot and the Senior Pastor is considered elected, confirmed or re-confirmed, having gained no less than 2/3 of the votes of those present at the meeting.

In alternative elections where there is more than one candidate, the elected candidate is the one who gains the most votes and crosses the threshold of 2/3 votes of a legitimately convened Meeting.

8.7 If during an alternative election of a Senior Pastor none of the candidates gain 2/3 of the votes of a legitimately convened Membership Meeting, during this Meeting another vote is held for the candidate who gained the most votes. In the case he overcomes the threshold of 2/3 votes of the legitimately convened Meeting, he is considered elected. Otherwise, the Church Council announces new elections, which must occur no later than two months after the prior election.

8.8 The Senior Pastor, who during a period of confirmation or re-confirmation does not gather 2/3 of the votes of a legitimately convened Membership Meeting, is considered unelected. The Church Council announces new elections, which must occur no later than two months after the prior election. During this time the ministry of Senior Pastor is carried on by the Assistant Pastor. An unelected Senior Pastor remains a member of the Church Council and in the Council of ministers of the given convocation.

8.9 In the case of absence of a quorum during a Membership Meeting, convened for election, confirmation, or re-confirmation of the Senior Pastor, the subsequent Membership Meeting is convened no later than 30 days from that date.

8.10 The Senior Pastor can be removed from ministry before the expiration of the set term. Reasons for removal from ministry include: falling into sin, heresy, incapacity. In the presence of the listed reasons, the Church Council initiates the process of removal, conducts a detailed investigation, makes the decision by a majority vote of its members, and proposes this decision for confirmation by a Membership Meeting. The decision is considered confirmed if it is supported during a secret ballot by a 2/3 vote of a legitimately convened Membership Meeting. From the moment of confirmation of the decision, the Senior Pastor is considered removed from ministry and the Church Council announces new elections, which must occur within two months. During this time the ministry of Senior Pastor is carried on by the Assistant Pastor.

8.11 The Senior Pastor may be released from ministry at his own request.

8.12 When placing the Senior Pastor under admonition, excommunication, release from ministry, and during the period of electing a new Senior Pastor, proceedings are led by the Church Council, presided by the Assistant Pastor.

8.13 Duties of the Church Senior Pastor, among others, include:

a) General management of the Church; supervision of all structural subdivisions, ministries and activities of the Church; provision for the spiritual needs of the community as a whole, and of each individual member of the Church.

b) Organization and conduct of all regular and special Church services, Church sacraments, rites, and ceremonies.

c) Organization, coordination and help in the work of all structural subdivisions of the Church accountable to the Senior Pastor.

d) Organization of pastoral work in the Church; organization and coordination of the work of acting Church Ministers.

e) Spiritual direction of pastors, deacons, preachers, leaders of structural subdivisions and other workers in the Church.

f) Organization of spiritual teaching and the church's study of the Word. Approval of teaching curricula (Sunday School, Youth Department, Department of Education, etc.).

g) Preparation and reporting of the Annual Church Report with analysis of the spiritual state of the Church and strategy for further development.

h) Preparation and conduct of meetings of the Church Council and Council of Ministers.

i) Ordination of Ministers elected by the Church.

8.14 The Senior Pastor also performs other, Gospel-specified, pastoral functions.

8.15 The Senior Pastor has the right to intervene in the work of any church ministry or structural subdivision of the Church.

8.16 In fulfilling his responsibilities, leading all church ministries and deciding all issues of the life of the Church, the Senior Pastor is required to work together with the Assistant Pastor and the Church Council.

IX. ASSISTANT PASTORS

9.1 For direct assistance to the Church Senior Pastor in carrying out his duties, and for substitution in case of his absence, the Church elects Assistants to the Senior Pastor (herein – “Assistant Pastor”) from among active ministers.

9.2 The Assistant Pastor is accountable to the Church Senior Pastor, performs all functions of the latter on his behalf and during his absence, as well as functions specially defined in this Constitution. The Assistant Pastor is required to cooperate with the Senior Pastor in leading any church ministry or resolving any issue concerning the life of the Church.

9.3 Evangelical criteria for choosing a candidate for the ministry of Assistant Pastor: 1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4. The experience and gifts of the candidate must meet the needs of the Church and the requirements of the given ministry.

9.4 The procedure for nomination of candidates, the election procedure, confirmation, re-confirmation, term of ministry, application of measures of church influence and disciplinary action, removal from ministry, release, age limit for the Assistant Pastor are the same as those for the Church Senior Pastor. (Nos. 8.2-8.14)

9.5 The Assistant Pastor, who during a period of confirmation or re-confirmation does not gain 2/3 of the votes of a legitimately convened Membership Meeting, is considered unelected. He resigns his authority and the Church Council initiates elections of a new Assistant Pastor, which must occur no later than two months from those prior. An unelected Assistant Pastor remains a member of the Church Council and of the Council of ministers of the given convocation.

X. DEACONS

10.1 For carrying out the work of spiritual leadership in church Sections, the Church elects Deacons. Deacons are accountable to the Church Pastor and are his direct assistants. Evangelical criteria for electing Deacons: 1 Tim. 3:8-12; Acts 6:3-6. Deacons must be baptized in the Holy Spirit with the sign of tongues. The experience and gifts of the Deacon must meet the needs of the Church and the requirements of the given ministry.

10.2 A candidate for the ministry of deacon is proposed by the Senior Pastor or members of the church from among the preachers, must be a member of the given church for at least two years and be, on the day of election, from 25 to 60 years of age. The age limit for the ministry of Deacon – 65 years.

10.3 After an interview with the Senior Pastor and the Church Council (with the support of a simple majority of its members), the candidate can be brought for a vote at a Membership Meeting, and is considered elected for a one-year probationary period, if by secret ballot he gains 2/3 of the votes at a legitimately convened Meeting. After the one-year probationary period and provided that he performed the ministry worthily, he is ordained into the rank of deacons.

10.4 Candidates for the diaconal ministry are announced in church two weeks before the election, a photograph of each candidate and a short biography are highlighted on the church announcement board and in the church bulletin.

10.5 For effective carrying out of the work of spiritual leadership, the Church is divided into Membership Sections of not more than 60 members each. Each Section is cared for by one active Minister (Deacon or Pastor, who carries out this diaconal ministry).

10.6 Every four years they are re-confirmed by the Church at a Meeting.

10.7 The diaconal ministry in the Church can be carried out by ordained pastors or deacons, who carried out relevant ministries in other churches. In this case, nomination of candidates, election, and confirmation are carried out according to the general procedure for election of Deacons. After going through the probationary period, the given candidates are not ordained into the ranks, but are blessed by the Church for the ministry.

10.8 In the case of falling into sin, heresy, incapacity, or neglect of ministry, the Deacon can be removed from service. In the presence of the above-mentioned reasons the Church Council initiates the procedure of removal, conducts a detailed investigation, makes a decision by a majority vote of its members and proposes this decision for confirmation at a Membership Meeting. The decision is considered confirmed, if by secret ballot it receives a majority vote of a legitimately convened Membership Meeting. From the moment of acceptance of this decision the Deacon is considered removed from service.

10.9 A deacon can be released from service at his own request.

10.10 During regular Membership Meetings, which are held in the month of November, the Church hears the Report of Deacons about the work they have done and the general trends of ministry. The Report is prepared by the Council of Ministers under the leadership of the Senior Pastor, and is reported by the Senior Pastor or the Assistant Pastor of the Church.

10.11 Duties of a Deacon include, in particular:

A) care for the everyday spiritual and material needs of Church members in their entrusted Section.

B) work with new converts.

C) care for sick Church members.

D) fulfillment, as entrusted by the Senior Pastor, of church ministries and spiritual acts: the Lord's Supper, water baptism, marriage, funerals, blessing of children, etc.

E) assistance in the organization of the daily administrative life of the Church.

XI. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

11.1 Council of Ministers – an advisory body to the Church Senior Pastor, whose membership consists of all acting Pastors and Deacons.

11.2 The Council of Ministers is convened on the initiative of the Senior Pastor when necessary, but at least once a quarter. The Senior Pastor presides over this Council.

11.3 The tasks of the Council of Ministers, among others, are:

A) helping the Pastor in carrying out and coordinating the work of spiritual leadership in the Church.

B) consideration of issues related to the Church Doctrine and teaching.

- C) helping the Senior Pastor in preparing the Annual Church Report.
 - D) preparation of the Report of Deacons (No. 10.13)
 - E) consideration of issues related to application of measures of church influence and disciplinary action, development of recommendations to the Church Council about members placed under admonition or excommunicated from the Church (No. 4.41)
 - F) consideration of issues related to non-participation of members in communion.
 - G) planning of spiritual educational work with children, teenagers, youth, married couples, the elderly, etc.
- 11.4 In the process of preparation for the regular Membership Meeting in the month of November, the Senior Pastor convenes an Expanded Council of Ministers, inviting to it, in addition to active ministers, all ordained ministers existing in the Church. The objective of this Council is to assist the Senior Pastor in analyzing the spiritual state of the Church, to analyze worship, church ministry in the Word, making an overall strategy for spiritual development of the Church.

XII. ADMINISTRATOR

- 12.1 To perform administrative functions, organization and supervision of the administrative activities of the Church, care for the daily function of church buildings and territory, the church elects a Church Administrator. The Administrator in daily work is accountable to the Senior Pastor and to the Church Council.
- 12.2 The Church Administrator is elected for a 4-year term during a regular or specially convened Membership Meeting by secret ballot and is considered elected having gained 2/3 of the votes of the legitimately convened Meeting.
- 12.3 The candidate(s) capable of serving as Administrator are nominated by the Church Council from among the qualified and capable members of the Church for this work, having the support of a majority of members of the Church Council. Candidate(s) must be announced in Church, and highlighted on the church announcement board and in the church bulletin two weeks before the election.
- 12.4 The Church Administrator organizes and is responsible for:
- A) cleaning, maintenance, decoration of the Church and its territory.
 - B) acquisition, maintenance, and proper storage of church property and equipment.
 - C) inventory of church property.
 - D) protection of and security systems of the Church.
 - E) organization, technical support, preparation of facilities and equipment during special activities of the Church which occur on its territory and outside its territory (water baptism, summer children's/youth camps, etc.)
 - F) distribution and coordination of rights to use church facilities, alarm codes, keys.
 - G) collection of church offerings and their deposit into the church's account.
 - H) technical issues related to the operation of the kitchen.
 - I) formalization of contracts related to rent and delivery of rent (if necessary).
 - J) renewal of the status of the Church as a non-profit religious organization.

K) formalization and maintenance of necessary insurance.

L) receipt and processing of church correspondence, collection and proper storage of administrative correspondence of the Church, reply to this correspondence.

M) payment of salaries of Church employees.

N) preparation of appropriate forms to governmental tax authorities for Church employees.

12.5 Without prior consent of the Church Council the Administrator can use for the needs of the Church a monthly amount approved by the Church Council.

12.6 During annual reporting Membership Meetings (month of march), the Administrator reports before the Church.

XIII. TREASURER

13.1 For the organization, management, and maintenance of financial affairs, the Church elects a Church Treasurer. The Treasurer must comply with the requirements of Acts 6:3; 1 Tim. 3:3.

13.2 The Church Treasurer in daily work is accountable to the Senior Pastor and to the Church Council.

13.3 The Church Treasurer is elected for a 4-year term during a regular or specially convened Membership Meeting by secret ballot and is considered elected having gained 2/3 of the votes of the legitimately convened Meeting.

13.4 The candidate(s) capable of serving as Treasurer are nominated by the Church Council from among the qualified and capable members of the Church for this work, having the support of a majority of members of the Church Council. Candidate(s) must be announced in Church, and highlighted on the church announcement board and in the church bulletin two weeks before the election.

13.5 The Church Treasurer:

A) organizes, conducts and controls all financial affairs of the Church in accordance with current laws and regulations, approved by the Church Council.

B) provides for the receiving, recording and verification of deposits related to collections, and confirms them with a signature.

C) provides for the payment of all ongoing and special (approved by appropriate measures) expenses of the Church.

D) has access to all church bank accounts and controls them.

E) controls the issuance of donations according to an annually approved Provision by the Church Council.

F) provides Church members with reporting documentation and gives a report of annual contributions to governmental tax authorities.

G) every quarter, or at the request of the Church Council, informs the Church Council about the financial state of the Church.

H) provides for the collection and storage of financial documentation of the Church. Financial documentation is kept with the Church Treasurer for two years, after which they are transferred to the Church Archive.

- 13.6 During annual reporting Membership Meetings (month of March), the Treasurer reports before the Church (Annual Financial Report).

XIV. AUDIT COMMISSION

- 14.1 For auditing the financial activities and for accounting of material assets, the Church elects an Audit Commission.
- 14.2 The Audit Commission is accountable to Membership Meetings.
- 14.3 The Audit Commission is elected by a Membership Meeting with an open ballot vote of a simple majority of the legitimately convened Meeting, into a 3-person group for a 4-year term. Members of the Church Council, leaders of structural subdivisions of the Church, and members of their families cannot be members of the Audit Commission.
- 14.4 Candidates for the ministry of members of the Audit Commission are nominated by the Church Council from among the qualified and capable members of the Church for this work, having the support of a majority of members of the Church Council. Candidates must be announced in Church, and highlighted on the church announcement board and in the church bulletin two weeks before the election.
- 14.5 Biannually, the Audit Commission audits the financial activities of the Church.
- 14.6 Annually, the Audit Commission audits the accounting of material assets of the Church.
- 14.7 For reporting Membership Meetings (first quarter of the year – month of March), the Audit Commission prepares a corresponding written report about the results of the audit of the financial activities and the accounting of the material assets of the Church, gives it for familiarization to the Church Council, and brings it for consideration and confirmation to the aforementioned Membership Meetings.
- 14.8 Upon identifying violations, the Audit Commission informs the Church Senior Pastor and the Church Council, who take appropriate action to correct the violations. The Audit Commission reports the violations and their correction to reporting Membership Meetings.
- 14.9 If necessary, the Audit Commission has the right to initiate the convening of a special General Membership Meeting with the consent of a majority of its members. (No. 6.5).

XV. SECRETARY

- 15.1 The Church Secretary, who is simultaneously the secretary of the Church Council, is elected by the Church Council, with a 2/3 vote of the membership of the Church Council, for the term of its activity.
- 15.2 The Church Secretary:
- a) is responsible for keeping all official legal documentation of the Church.
 - b) helps the Church Senior Pastor in preparing, organizing, and conducting Membership Meetings and convocations of the Church Council, keeps minutes of these Meetings and convocations.
- maintains a calendar of elections, confirmations, re-confirmations for elected positions in the Church; initiates the beginning of procedures for the given elections, confirmations, re-confirmations in the Church Council.

c) in instances specified by the given Constitution, prepares in a timely manner and promulgates beforehand information about the candidates for ministry in elected Church positions. Prepares ballots for election.

d) promulgates decisions of the Church Council (announcement board, church bulletin).

e) provides applicants for Church membership with an Application form, and copies of the Doctrine and the Church Constitution.

f) according to information from the Senior Pastor, prepares recommendation letters for people leaving the Church (No. 4.45).

g) maintains the church Membership Roster.

h) maintains the list of address, telephone, and email information of Church members; in certain cases, sends them written messages.

i) is responsible for all non-administrative correspondence of the Church (certificates, letters, messages, official thank you letters, greetings, etc.)

15.3 The Church Secretary organizes and controls the publishing of the church bulletin.

XVI. CORPORATE OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

16.1 The official representatives of the Church (Church Officers), according to the laws of the state of California regarding non-profit religious corporations, are:

1. The Head of the Church Council (Senior Pastor)
2. Church Secretary
3. Church Treasurer
4. Administrator

16.2. These persons have the right to sign official Church documentation, which govern its relations with governmental authorities.

16.3 The Church can elect Church Trustees.

XVII. FINANCES AND PROPERTY

17.1 Church finances are generated from mandatory membership contributions (No. 6.2) and voluntary donations.

17.2 Church finances are kept in the Church account(s) in bank(s), which have federal insurance.

17.3 The Church Treasurer provides for and controls the collection, recordation, and deposit into the Church account(s) of all financial proceeds of the Church in full amount within 7 days of their receipt.

17.4 Ongoing payments are made by the Church Administrator according to approved provisions of the Church Council.

17.5 Special payments are made following decisions of the Church Council and confirmation by Membership Meetings.

17.6 Financial donations into the Church Missions fund are received according to No. 17.3 and are issued with signatures from two of the following: leader of the Missions Department, Senior Pastor, Assistant Pastor and with completion of the appropriate form (Appendix No. 3).

17.7 All financial records of the Church are kept with the Church Treasurer for two years, after which they are transferred to the Church Archive. General term of storage – seven years.

17.8 The report to governmental tax authorities is conducted by the Church Administrator.

17.9 The Church does not bear the financial or legal obligations of its members before third parties and organizations.

17.10 All buildings, land, vehicles and other property owned by the Church, must be registered under the official name of the Church and cannot be alienated, sold, or re-registered, without the consent of 2/3 of the members of a legitimately convened Membership Meeting.

17.11 The premises and territory of the Church cannot be a place for conducting any commercial activity. The exception is sale, with the consent of the Senior Pastor, of spiritual literature, audio/video products with spiritual content, and other products, the profit from which fully goes to church purposes, charity, and evangelism.

17.12 In the case of division of the Church, church property and finances remain with the majority. The minority (30% or more) has the right, by agreement, to claim certain compensation.

XVIII. ELECTIONS (GENERAL RULES)

Elections

18.1 Candidates, who are proposed by members of the Church for any type of ministry, are submitted to the Church Senior Pastor for consideration by the Church Council.

18.2 A prerequisite for election to serve as Deacon, member of the Church Council, member of the Audit Commission, Administrator, Treasurer, Secretary, is a minimum length of membership in the Church – two years.

18.3 The Church Senior Pastor and his Assistant cannot be re-elected simultaneously.

18.4 In the case of alternative elections (there are more candidates than positions for which they are being elected), the number of candidates, for which each Church member can vote, must correspond to the number of positions, for which they are being elected.

18.5 In the case of alternative elections for Senior Pastor, Assistant Pastor, Administrator, Treasurer, Secretary, if none of the candidates receive the required number of votes during a Membership Meeting, a second vote is held for the candidate who received the most votes, and he is considered elected if he overcomes the set threshold for the given position.

18.6 In the event of early termination of the authority of the Senior Pastor, Assistant Pastor, Administrator, Treasurer, Secretary, member of the Audit Commission, elections for their replacement are held no later than 2 months from the date of their dismissal or resignation, according to the election procedures accepted for these positions.

18.7 In the case of absence of a quorum at a Membership Meeting, convened for election, confirmation, re-confirmation of any of the elective positions, the next Membership Meeting is convened no later than 30 days from the date of the first convocation.

18.8 Ordained ministers, who become Church members, having come from other churches, can be elected for ministry in the Church only according to general terms.

XIX. WORSHIP SERVICES

19.1 The center of church worship services is the Christ-centered preaching of the Gospel.

19.2 Once a year (Membership Meeting, month of November), the Church analyzes the ministry of the Word: themes of sermons, preachers, study of the Word, church-wide reading of the Word... Suggestions and comments on this issue are made by Church members in advance in written form (suggestions and comments box). This issue is one of the required issues to be discussed at the above-mentioned Membership Meeting (No. 6.13).

19.3 Preference in church worship services is given to the Ukrainian language.

19.4 The Church encourages and provides room in Worship Services for Sunday School, Youth, and service of church Membership Sections.

The Lord's Supper (Communion)

19.5 The ministry of the Lord's Supper is conducted by the Church once a month.

19.6 The ministry is conducted by church ministers.

19.7 Bread – baked the day before.

19.8 Cup – red grape wine. The church partakes in the wine from common cups.

19.9 The right to partake in the Lord's Supper belongs to Church members who are at peace with God, at peace with each other, are not under Church admonition or excommunication from the Church (1 Cor. 11:17-34). The right to partake or not to partake in the Lord's Supper is a matter of the conscience of each individual Church member.

19.10 Church members who are elderly or ill can partake in the Lord's Supper at home or in health care facilities, if they notify in advance the Minister responsible for the Section to which they belong about their desire.

19.11 Church members who do not partake in the Lord's Supper more than three times in a row are required, when addressed, to explain the reason of their non-participation to the responsible Minister.

Water baptism

19.12 The Church performs water baptism on those who have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, have repented, testified about this before the Church, expressed a desire to be baptized, and have gone through training for baptism (teaching, interviews with Ministers) and who at the time of baptism are no younger than 17 years of age (Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38, Acts 8:12).

19.12a Candidates are allowed for water baptism by the Council of Ministers.

19.13 Water baptism is performed by Church Ministers in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, through full immersion in water (Mat. 28:19, Acts 8:12).

19.14 Having been baptized, a person becomes a Church member according to No. 4.14 and has the right to partake in the Lord's Supper (Acts 2:41).

XX. FAMILY

20.1 We believe and recognize marriage as God's resolution and as the union of one man and one woman. Fornication, adultery, homosexuality and other forms of sexual perversion (LGBT) are a sin, and subject one to excommunication from church membership (Rom. 1:26-27, 1 Cor. 5:11-13).

20.2 Marriage is indissoluble until the death of one of the spouses.

20.3 Abortion is murder of a "living soul," which exists from the moment of conception. Abortion is a sin, and those who perform it consciously, subject themselves to excommunication from church membership.

20.4 The family is the primary place of the Christian raising of children. We recognize our right to raise children according to Biblical spiritual and moral values and principles. Any programs, initiatives, or laws that are contrary to Biblical norms, wherever and by whomever they may be adopted, introduced or proposed, will be considered illegitimate by the Church. The Church, as on a general level so also on the level of its members and its families, reserves for itself the right to ignore and to resist such laws.

20.5 Parents are responsible for the moral, physical, and material state of their minor children.

Methods of upbringing must conform to Biblical teachings, which are based on the principles of love

for children, the personal example and godly living of parents, discipline and obedience (Prov. 29:15-17, Prov. 19:18, Prov. 22:6, Eph. 6:1-4). The Church recognizes the right of parents to, among other things, use physical discipline on children (Prov. 23:13-14, Prov. 13:24).

20.6 The Church through the person of acting Ministers has the right to assist families in resolving intrafamily conflict.

XXI. CHURCH ARCHIVE

21.1 With the aim of organizing and preserving official documents, relevant correspondence, documents related to the life of the Church, its history and the history of its individual members, the Church establishes a Church Archive. The Church Council by its decision appoints a Principal for the Church Archive, whose responsibilities include:

maintenance of the Archive, receipt, organization, storage of official documents of the Church, search for and organization of photo, audio, video, written and other documents, related to the history of the Church and its members.

21.2 Documents stored in the Archive include:

1. Annual Minutes of Membership Meetings.
2. Annual Minutes of meetings of the Church Council.
3. Annual reports of the Church (Senior Pastor, Administrator, Treasurer, Deacons, Audit Commission).
4. Reports of the annual work towards various goals.
5. Reports of seminars, conferences, conventions, etc. conducted by the Church.
6. Annual Account books.
7. Annual books of accounting of church property.
8. Books, articles, journals, letters, photographs, official greetings and appreciations, related to the life of the Church; documents related to the missionary work of the Church, activities of other structural subdivisions.

21.3 Items 1-5 are submitted to the Archive by responsible persons after annual reporting Membership Meetings.

21.4 Items 6 and 7 are submitted to the Archive by responsible persons two years after the opening of each given position.

21.5 Into the Church Archive can be submitted personal or family documents and items which reflect the history of churches, missions, ministries, as in Ukraine so also in America, and also individual members, whose lives have been closely linked with the history of the evangelical movement in Ukraine and America.

XXII. GENERAL

22.1 The Church does not define its political leanings or sympathies, is independent of any political influence, but adheres to traditional Biblical views on family, morals, and the role of the church in public life.

22.2 Church members cannot carry on active military service or other service related to the use of weapons (Mat. 19:18; Mat. 26:52). Church members acknowledge a legally established alternative service that doesn't include the carrying of weapons and the taking of oaths (Mat. 5:34-37; James 5:12).

22.3 Church members who are ill, especially with dangerous diseases (AIDS, epilepsy, tuberculosis, etc.) do not qualify for public work in the Church.

22.4 All controversial issues which arise among church members, ministers, workers in the church and which relate to the sphere of spiritual teaching, church practice, the conduct of worship services,

traditions, church finances and property must necessarily be decided by the Ministers and the Church Council.

XXIII. TERMINATION OF ACTIVITIES (WINDING UP)

23.1 In the event of Church liquidation, a legitimately convened Membership Meeting, by a 2/3 majority vote, elects a Liquidation Commission of no fewer than five persons, which conducts the liquidation process (selling of church buildings and property, repayment of loans, debt, termination of registration, etc.).

23.2. The remaining Church financial assets are passed on for the printing of a Ukrainian Bible or Gospel, and cannot be divided among the Church members.

XXIV. ENFORCEABILITY. CHANGES. ADDITIONS.

24.1 The Church Constitution and Doctrine are deemed adopted, if they are, during a legitimately convened Membership Meeting, voted for by a 2/3 vote of present Church members.

24.2 This Constitution, after its adoption at a Membership Meeting, cancels the effects of any other constitution or constitutional provision of the Church, and is the only legitimate constitutional document of the Church. Any decisions or acts of anyone or any church organ, taken or made in contradiction to the present Constitution, are deemed illegitimate.

24.3 Additions to the Doctrine, additions or changes to the Constitution, can be initiated by any church member or group of members; they are considered by the Church Council and can be put forward for a vote at a Membership Meeting; they are adopted by an open vote and are considered adopted if they receive the vote of 2/3 of a legitimately convened Membership Meeting. The proposed text of additions or amendments must be read during the Sunday morning Church service and highlighted on the church announcement board no later than two weeks before the Membership Meeting.