

**BYLAWS**

**FIRST COMMUNITY CHURCH OF TYLER**

**ARITCLE I**

**MEMBERSHIP**

1. **THE MEMBERSHIP**

The membership of First Community Church of Tyler, Texas, referred to herein as the “Church”, will consist of all persons whose names appear on the Church Membership Roll.

All authority not herein vested in the Elders or in any office pursuant to these bylaws is reserved in and to the Church and the Church reserves the right at any time to amend, supplement, or revoke, in whole or in part, these bylaws.

1. **ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP**

Membership will become effective:

* 1. After public profession of faith in Christ as personal savior, and upon water baptism as authorized by the Church; or
  2. Upon receipt of a Church letter of dismissal and recommendation from some other Christian Church of like faith and order; or
  3. By statement that they have been saved by faith in Jesus Christ as personal savior and have subsequently received water baptism; or
  4. By statement that they have been saved by faith in Jesus Christ and as request of the Church that we ‘watch and care’ for and over them on a temporary basis while they are a part of our fellowship

1. **TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**
   1. Upon death of a member; or
   2. Upon issuance of a Church letter of dismissal and recommendation for membership in some other Christian Church; or
   3. Upon a member’s joining a Church of another faith; or
   4. Upon a member’s request that the member’s membership be terminated; or
   5. Upon a withdrawal of fellowship by the Church from a member as provided by the Holy scriptures and more particularly in Matthew 18:15-17; I Corinthians 5, and Titus 3:10; or
   6. Upon the member relinquishing their membership under ‘watch and care’ to return to their previous membership or another Christian Church.
   7. Inactive for more than six (6) months without proper notification to the Church of reasons for inactivity and acceptance by the Church of such reasons. Acceptable notification is specified in the Church’s Policy and Procedures Manual.
2. **VOTING OF MEMBERS**

On any matter coming before the Church for its determination, each member in good standings present will be entitled to one vote which will be exercised in person and not by proxy; and all such matters will be determined at a regular or special meeting of the Church, held in accordance with these bylaw by the vote of a majority of the members present and voting except as provided in Article I, Paragraph B, relating to Admission to Membership and Article VIII relating to amendment of these bylaws.

1. **MEETING OF MEMBERS**
   1. **Worship Services**

Public service for worship will be held at such occasions as are deemed best for the advancement of the cause of Christ as recommended by the Pastor or the Elders.

* 1. **Regular State of the Church Meetings**

Regular State of the Church Meetings of the member ship for the transaction of business and affairs of the Church will be held three (3) times per year and notice thereof to members will be required.

* 1. **Special State of the Church Meetings**

The Church may be called into a State of the Church or Business Meeting for handling of its business and affairs by oral announcement or written notice at any regular scheduled Sunday service prior to the date of the meeting by the Pastor, chairman of the Elders, or a majority of the members at any such meeting.

* 1. **Quorum of Members**

1. All State of the Church or business meetings (herein referred to as “State of the Church” meetings) requiring a vote, must have a quorum. A quorum is determined by using the number of members on the Church Ministry Council. A quorum shall exist when the total eligible members present is equivalent to a majority (one half plus one) of the number of members on the Church Ministry Council.
2. The number of Church Ministry Council Members shall be established on January 1st of each year, and shall be used until the next annual determination.
3. Members under the age of 18 are not eligible to vote and are not used in the determination of a Quorum.
4. **RIGHTS OF MEMBERS**
5. Every member in good standing, age eighteen (18) and over, is entitled to vote at all elections and on all questions submitted to a vote by the members of the Church, provided the member is present or provision has been made for absentee balloting.
6. Every member in good standing is eligible for consideration by the membership as a candidate for elective office in the Church.
7. Every member in good standing may participate in the ordinances of the Church.
8. **MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING**

In addition to meeting all of the requirements of Article I, Section B, all of the following qualifications must be met for an individual to be classified as a "member in good standing" of the Church. The individual:

* 1. must be in regular attendance at regular church services,
  2. must not be under church discipline,
  3. must be a regular financial contributor to the Church.

If there are untoward circumstances that prevent or impede an individual from meeting their responsibilities as a member of this Church, it is incumbent on the member or their legal representative to make the impediment known to the Church’s leadership as early as possible.

1. **DISCIPLINE**

It shall be the practice of this Church to emphasize to its members that every reasonable measure will be taken to assist any troubled member. The Pastor, other members of the Church staff and Elders are available for counsel and guidance. The attitude of members toward one another shall be guided by a concern for redemption rather than punishment. Should some serious condition exist which would cause a member to become a liability to the general welfare of the Church, the Pastor and the Elders will take every reasonable measure to resolve the problem in accordance with Matthew 18:15-20 and Galatians 6:1. If it becomes necessary for the Church to take action to exclude a member, a majority vote of the members present at an official meeting of the Church is required; and the Church may proceed to declare the person to be no longer in the membership of the Church. A spirit of Christian kindness and forbearance shall pervade all such proceedings. The· Church may restore to membership any person previously excluded, upon request of the excluded person, and by vote of the members of the Church upon evidence of the excluded person's repentance and reformation.

**ARTICLE II**

**THE ELDERS**

1. **THE ELDERS**

The business and secular affairs of the Church will be administered by the active Elders (herein collectively referred to as “the Elders” by direction of the Church, in accordance with these bylaws. The Elders will constitute the Board of Directors of the Church as required by Chapter 22 of the Texas Business Organizations Code and, more specifically, Section 22.201 of the Texas Business Organizations Code styled, “Management by Board of Directors.” The Elders of the Church, therefore, will manage the affairs of the Church as the Board of Directors of the Church and an elder will be considered a director of the Church as required in the Texas Business Organizations Code.

1. **MEMBERSHIP OF THE ELDERS**

The Elders will consist of the Elders as shown by the records of the Church and of such additional Elders as the Church may hereafter elect as church. There will be kept an Inactive List of Elders made up of Elders ordained at First Community Church of Tyler or at a sister church not currently serving as Elders of the Church.

1. **QUALIFICATION OF ELDERS**

An elder will be a person who is a member of the Church in good standing and who has the qualifications for an elder as set forth in Acts 6:3 and I Timothy 3:8-13 and such other qualifications as the Church may from time to time prescribe.

1. **TERM OF OFFICE OF AN ELDER**
   1. Term

The term of office of an elder will terminate upon:

* + 1. their death,
    2. their resignation,
    3. termination of their membership in the Church
    4. expressed desire to affiliate with another church,
    5. their removal from such office by the Church, or
    6. the action of the Elders hereinafter provided for.
  1. Resignations

On behalf of the Church and without additional Church action, the Elders may accept the resignation of any elder.

* 1. Review Committee

The Chairman of the Elders will, in January of each year, or as soon thereafter as practicable, appoint a review committee from the membership of the Elders to serve for one calendar year; and whose duties will be to investigate, upon instructions of the Elders.

* + 1. any request from any elder for voluntary withdrawal of membership from the Elders,
    2. improper conduct on the party of any elder,
    3. the failure on the part of the elder to observe any rules or regulations heretofore or hereafter adopted by the Elders, and
    4. Elders who may be eligible for designation as Elder Emeritus.

The committee’s findings in each of the above instances will be reported to the Elders. If the report to the Elders concerning matters described in sub-paragraph D3 (a) of this Article II, the Elders will have the power to act pursuant to the provisions of Pagraph D2 of this Article II; but, if such report concerns matters described I sub-pagraph D3 (b) and D3 (c) this Article II, the Elders will make such recommendations as they may deem proper to the Church.

1. **NUMBER AND ELECTION OF ELDERS**
   1. Number

The number of Elders as required by these bylaws will, at any specific time, be the number thereof who at that time are Elders in accordance with these bylaws as indicated by the records of the Church but will never be less than three Elders. Such number may be increased or decreased at any time by the Church either by the election of additional Elders or failure to fill vacancies occasioned by the termination of the office of a elder as herein provided.

* 1. Elections

Elders may be elected at any time and from time to time by the Church either to fill a vacancy within the Elders or to increase the number of Elders. Such Elders will be elected by the Church at a regular conference meeting of the Church after having been nominated by the Elder Selection Committee and recommended to the Church by the Elders.

1. **MEETINGS AND QUORUM**

The Elders will meet regularly at such time and place as the Elders may determine. Special meeting may be called by the Chairman of the Elders, the Pastor, or a majority of the Elders by giving notice thereof to each elder. A majority of the Elders present at a meeting will constitute a quorum provided at least two thirds of the Elders are present. A majority vote of the Elder present at any meeting held in accordance herewith (and at which a quorum is present) will be sufficient to decide on any matter regularly before the Elders for consideration.

1. **RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ELDERS**

The Elders will:

* 1. pray for the congregation, staff and themselves;
  2. provide supervision, accountability and protection of the Pastor
  3. oversee the actions and work of the finance committee
  4. review budgets and all committee actions that must go to the church for a decision
  5. oversee recommendations regarding church discipline;
  6. work with the Pastor to provide doctrinal clarifications;
  7. approve the licensing and ordination of individuals to the Gospel Ministry, and Elders;
  8. serve as arbitrator in any disputes with the Pastor
  9. create and enforce self-governing policies as long as they are not in conflict with the By-Laws or existing Church approved policies;
  10. establish fair compensation and benefits for the Pastor and staff
  11. recommend to the Church in a State of the Church Meeting or business meeting such policies, practices, and procedures as they deem advisable in seeking to fulfill the Great Commission of the Savior recorded in Matthew 28:18-20;
  12. together with the Pastor, implement and give direction to all such policies, practices, and procedures as will be voted by the Church in a State of the Church meeting or business meeting; and
  13. as herein authorized by the Church will oversee the business and secular affairs of the Church in cooperation with the appropriately designed committees; and, to the extent provided for in these bylaws and vested in them by the Church, the Elders will have full authority to do and perform all things reasonably necessary in connection therewith.
  14. The annual budget for each calendar year will be adopted by the Church. Prior to the end of each calendar year, the Elders will approve for submission to the Church a budget for the ensuing calendar year. The budget will include estimates as to the anticipated liabilities, cost and expenses of conducting the affairs of the Church during each year an estimate of the total amount of the anticipated gifts to the Church each year.

The Elders will not have the power to borrow money or to sell or encumber any real estate belonging to the Church unless such transaction is authorized by the church in accordance with these bylaws.

1. **COMPENSATIONSELDERS OFFICERS**

Non-staffed Elders will receive no salary or compensation for their service as Elders.

1. **ELDER OFFICERS**

As provided in Pagraph E of Article IV, the Elders annually will elect a Chairman of the Elders, a Vice-Chairman of the Elders, and a Secretary of the Elders, each of which will be an elder, to serve for the term provided for in such Pagraph E of Article IV.

As Chairman of the Elders, such Chairman will preside at all meetings of the Elders, make reports of the Elders’ recommendations to the State of the Church meeting, and will perform such other duties as the Elders may authorize consistent with these bylaws.

As Vice-Chairman of the Elders, such Vice-Chairman will perform the duties of the Chairman of the Elders upon the death, absence, or resignation of the Chairman, or upon the Chairman’s inability to perform the duties of the office.

As Secretary of the Elders, such Secretary will keep the minutes of each meeting of the Elders, keep an accurate record of the membership and attendance of the Elders, and will perform such other duties as may be required of the Secretary of the Elders.

1. **OPERATION OF ELDERS**

The Council of Elders will operate within the following church polity:

* 1. **Congregational Rule** - The congregation is the final authority in matters not specifically determined in and/or addressed by scripture.
  2. **Elder Led** - The congregation empowers the Elders to act on its behalf when the congregation is not constitutionally convened. There in, the Elders act on behalf of the congregation to protect it, pray for it, conduct business and lead it toward its stated vision and mission.
  3. **Staff Managed** - Under the supervision of the Pastor, the staff, both compensated and volunteers, manages the church approved business and ministry from day-to-day. Staff is defined as anyone who is employed by the church as a volunteer, or is paid as a full-time, part-time, or contract employee in any area of church work.
  4. **Elder Care** - The Elders, in accordance with Acts 6:1-7, will assist in caring for the congregation and will be trusted and sought after advisors to the Pastor and Elders particularly, but not exclusively, on matters of congregational care.
  5. **Ministry Council** - The Ministry Council will continue to be an essential part of the leadership of the church in order to get continuous feedback from a larger section of the congregation.

**ARTICLE III**

**THE CHURCH LEADERSHIP**

1. **PASTOR**

The Pastor will be the spiritual leader of the church and will lead the church to function as a New testament Church. The Church and the Elders will support the Pastor and the Church with their prayers and finances, and in such manner as to allow the Pastor the greatest time for evangelism and the preaching of the Gospel. It will be the duty of the Pastor to preach to the church, to proclaim the gospel to believers and unbelievers, to administer or cause to be administered the ordinances of the Gospel, to act as moderator at the State of the Church meetings when present, to lead the Church in the achievement of its mission, to care for the Church members and other persons in the community, and to perform the carious duties incumbent to the Pastor’s office. The Elders may delegate to the Chairman of the Elders the responsibility to moderate at State of the Church meetings. The Pastor will supervise staff members and perform others duties for acquiring and termination of staff personnel.

The Pastor is an ex-officio member of each ministry, committee, board and auxiliary of the Church. Such membership provides him with the rights of every member to speak, vote and have access to all correspondence. Each ministry, committee, board and auxiliary shall apprise the Pastor on a yearly basis of the time and place of their regular meetings, and/or called meetings. The Pastor shall supervise all paid and non-paid staff. As such, the Pastor works with each ministry, committee, board and auxiliary to:

1. Lead the Church in the achievement of its mission,
2. Proclaim the Gospel to believers and unbelievers, and
3. Care for the Church's members and other persons in the community.

The Pastor shall possess scriptural qualifications as stated in 1st Timothy 3~~rd~~, Titus 1st, and other qualifications as stipulated by the Church.

The Pastor is to participate in the Church’s business meetings, and watch over the personal experiences and lives of the members; counseling, exhorting, admonishing, reproving, as one entrusted with the care of souls.

* 1. **PASTOR SELECTION**

A Pastor will be chosen and called by the Church whenever a vacancy occurs. A Pastor selection Committee made up of six (6) member will be elected by the Church to seek out a suitable Pastor and its recommendations will constitute a nomination. This process is to be brought about by the Committee on Committees bringing a suggested slate of names from the membership, including four Elders, four men at large and four women at large. From these slate names the church will vote by secret ballot during a State of the Church meeting. Additional names may be added from the floor during this State of the Church meeting. The two people in each category with the highest number of votes are elected to serve on the Pastor Selection Committee. The alternates will be the two names with the next highest votes over all. The committee will bring to the consideration of the Church only one name of a prospective Pastor at a time. Election will be by secret ballot. An affirmation vote of three-fourths of those present being necessary for the choice. The Pastor thus elected will serve until the relationship is terminated by the Pastor’s death, resignation, or by a declaration of a vacancy; or

A suitable Pastor may by selected and recommended to the Church by the current Pastor utilizing a succession plan. Upon recommendation to the Church at a State of the Church meeting, an election of the new Pastor will be conducted by secret ballot. An affirmation vote of three-fourths of those present being necessary for the choice. The Pastor thus elected will serve in accordance with the succession plan until the relationship is terminated by the Pastor’s death, resignation, or by a declaration of a vacancy.

* 1. **PASTOR’S RESIGNATION AND VACANCY**

The Pastor may relinquish the office as Pastor by giving at least two weeks’ notice to the Church at the time of resignation.

If the Pastor is deemed overbearing or inefficient (as defined as just cause below) in the discharge of his duty, or by his occupation, deportment, or conversation is regarded as an improper person to hold such office, provided he has been previously warned in accordance with Matthew 18: 15-17, the Church may declare the office of Pastor vacant. Such action shall take place at a meeting called for that purpose, of which at least one week's public notice has been given. The meeting may be called (i) upon the recommendation of a majority of **the council of Elders**, (ii) by written petition signed by not less than one fourth (1/4) of the members in good standing or (iii) by a majority vote of the Church Ministry Council. Should the emergency need arise and for just cause (“Just Cause” shall include, but not be limited to, evidence of misconduct, misappropriation of funds, rebellion against the leadership of the Church, rebellion against the Church’s stated doctrinal and theological positions, dereliction of stated duties and responsibilities, maliciously placing in jeopardy the welfare of individual members and/or the membership at large, life style inconsistent with Biblical morality as understood and taught by this body), the Elders shall have the power to remove the Pastor from his office, thereby relinquishing all his rights, duties, and privileges as Pastor for a period of not more than fifteen (15) days. This period, herein referred to as the temporary period, may not be invoked more than one (1) time in a twelve (12) month period. During the temporary period, the Pastor is not to appear in the pulpit but shall continue to receive his regular compensation until reasons for removal have been ratified or rescinded by the members. The reasons for removal of the Pastor from office must be presented to the members for review for the purpose of being ratified or rescinded within said fifteen (15) day temporary period. The moderator for this meeting shall be designated by the members present by a majority vote, and shall be someone other than the Pastor. The presiding officer shall serve as the chairperson for the purpose of the election of the moderator. The vote to remove the Pastor and declare the office vacant shall be by secret ballot. Such action will require an affirmative vote of three-fourth of those present a special State of the Church meeting called for that purpose.

Except in instances of gross misconduct by the Pastor so excluded from office, the Church will compensate the Pastor with not less than one twelfth (1/12) of his annual total compensation. The termination shall be immediate and the compensation shall be rendered in not more than seven (7) days of the date of termination. Should the majority of the Church members present at the above meeting vote not to declare the office vacant, the Pastor shall be reinstated with all rights, duties and privileges as Pastor.

1. **ASSOCIATED PASTORS**

Any associate Pastor or assistant Pastor will, under the supervision of the Pastor, assist the Pastor and perform such other duties as the Pastor may assign to an assistant Pastor.

1. **MINISTERIAL STAFF**

The ministerial staff will be called and employed as the Church determines the need for such offices. A job description will be written when the need for a staff member is determined.

1. **NONMINESTERIAL STAFF MEMBERS**

Nonministerial staff members will be employed as the Church determines the need for their service. The Personnel Committee or persons authorized by The Church or Pastor to act in their stead (herein referred to as the Personnel Committee) will have the authority to employ non staff members and approve a supervising staff member for each nonministerial staff member. The Personnel Committee will have the authority to terminate the services of nonministerial staff members with the recommendations of the supervising staff member and, as appropriate, with consultation of related committees of the Church.

1. **ELDERS**

The Elders are prescribed in Article II of these bylaws.

1. **CHURCH CLERK**

The clerk will keep an accurate record of the proceedings of each business meeting of the Church and will keep and maintain the membership roll of the church with such other duties as the Church, the Pastor, or the Elders may prescribe. The clerk will be elected by the Church which will fix the clerk’s term of office. If the term of office as the clerk is not fixed at the time of election or re-election, such term of office will be continued until extended, renewed, or terminated by vote of the Church.

1. **CHURCH TREASURER**

The church treasurer will be elected by the Church annually upon recommendation of the Finance Committee. The church treasurer will be bonded in an amount determined by the Finance Committee. The bonding premium will be paid by the Church. The church treasurer will be a member of the Church. The term of office for the church treasurer will commence on the first day in January each year. Each church treasurer will continue in office until a successor will have been elected as provided herein. The treasurer will ensure that a full and faithful account of all monies received and all monies disbursed. The treasurer will also ensure that a full and faithful account of the specific purpose for which monies are expended.

1. **TRUSTEES**
2. There will be six trustees who will be members of the Church. Trustees will serve as the legal representatives of the Church. Trustees are vested with full power to purchase and receive title to property and to sell and convey title to the property owned by the Church. All of the transactions of the trustees will be directed by the membership of the Church at a regular State of the Church meeting or a special State of the Church or business meeting called for that purpose. The nominees for trustees will be selected by the Elder’s board and annually elected by the Church. Three of the six trustees can act on behalf of the Church.
3. The Church may sell, convey, mortgage, encumber or otherwise deal with or dispose of any real or personal property owned by the Church, and may evidence any such transaction by deed, bill of sale, mortgage, deed of trust, contract or other appropriate instrument, with or without the seal of the Church, signed by the trustees of the church when such transaction is authorized by appropriate resolution of the Elders and adopted in accordance with these bylaws and approved by the Church.
4. **THE JOINT BOARD**
   1. Between all official and/or called meetings of the Church, the power and authority for the purpose of management, leadership, shepherding, and general oversight of the Church shall be vested in the Joint Board. At no time will the Joint Board perform any actions that have not been delegated by the members of the Church in general session.
   2. The Joint Board has the power to manage and govern the affairs of the Church as required and approved by the church, and does not have the authority to modify or supersede any action taken by Church.
   3. Joint Board members shall possess Scriptural qualifications as stated in Acts 6:1-7, 1st Timothy 3,Titus 1 and 1st Peter 5:1-11.
   4. The Joint Board shall consist of the following:
5. The Pastor,
6. Elders
7. Trustees,
8. Administrative Director
9. Division leaders as recommended by the Pastor
10. Ministers recommended by the Pastor based upon their leadership position,
11. Other individuals recommended by the Joint Board and confirmed by the majority vote of the members of the Church based on their leadership position.
    1. Governing responsibilities of Joint Board include, but are not limited to, the following:
12. To support the Pastor, staff and the Church's annual ministry plan,
13. To ensure that Church resources are adequate and are being used effectively,
14. To recommend policy issues to the church body,
15. To lead in strategic ministry planning,
16. To keep members adequately informed on key management issues of the Church, and
17. Other duties and responsibilities as designated by need and by the Church.
    1. The chairman of the Joint Board shall manage all directives that have been agreed to by the board. At no time will the chairman finalize decisions, make agreements, sign contracts, or impose any rules, regulations, and/or any authorities that have not been agreed to by the Joint Board or the Church.
    2. The Joint Board shall elect a vice chairman from among its members. The vice chairman shall be elected from a slate of qualified candidates approved by the Pastor; by a simple majority vote (50% plus one) of the members present at a meeting called for the purpose of the election of officers.
18. The term of office of the vice chairman shall be two years or the end of the tenure period for the member selected to serve as vice chairman. If the vice chairman is unable to serve the entire two year term of office for whatever reason, a special election shall be called for the purpose of filling the remainder of the unexpired term. A vice chairman shall be selected every two years.
19. The vice chairman of the Joint Board shall have the following duties and responsibilities:
20. The vice chairman shall serve in partnership with the chairman, and shall adhere to his leadership responsibilities and duties in the absence of the chairman.
21. At no time will the vice chairman finalize decisions, make agreements, sign contracts, or impose any rules, regulations, and/or any authorities that have not been agreed to by the Joint Board or the Church.
    1. The Joint Board shall elect a secretary from among its members. The secretary shall be elected from a slate of qualified candidates approved by the Pastor; by a simple majority vote (50% plus one) of the members present at a meeting called for the purpose of the election of officers.
       1. The term of office of the secretary shall be two years or the end of the tenure period for the member selected to serve as secretary. If the secretary is unable to serve the entire two year term of office for whatever reason, a special election shall be called for the purpose of filling the remainder of the unexpired term. A secretary shall be selected every two years.
       2. The secretary of the Joint Board shall have the following duties and responsibilities:
22. Record accurate minutes of all meetings
23. Keep the permanent records/archives of the Joint Board of Directors
24. Update all roster information (i.e. address, phone numbers, email addresses, etc.)
25. Publish organizational materials (notices, minutes, reports, etc.)
26. Maintain official membership records of attendance
27. Handle all business transactions as required by the Joint Board
28. Other duties as assigned by the Joint Board of Directors.
29. At no time will the secretary finalize decisions, make agreements, sign contracts, or impose any rules, regulations, and/or any authorities that have not been agreed to by the Joint Board of Directors the Church.

**ARTICLE IV**

**THE CORPORATE OFFICERS**

**THE CORPORATE OFFICERS** In compliance with Chapter 22 of the Texas Business Organizations Code, the Church will have the following Corporate Officers:

1. **PRESIDENT**

The office of President and chairman of the Elders will be held by the same person. In addition to duties as Chairman of the Elders, the President's only other authority in the capacity of President will be the power to execute on behalf of The Church documents, the execution of which have not been otherwise delegated herein.

1. **VICE PRESIDENT**

The offices of Vice President and Vice Chairman of the Elders will be held by the same person. In addition to duties as Vice Chairman of the Elders, the Vice-President's only other authority in the capacity of vice-president will be the power to perform the duties of the President upon the death, absence, or resignation of the President, or upon the President's inability to perform the duties of President*.*

1. **SECRETARY**

The Secretary of the nonprofit corporation will be the Secretary of the Elders.

1. **TREASURER**

The Treasurer of the nonprofit corporation will be the Church Treasurer.

1. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

All officers provided for in this Article IV (with the exception of the Treasurer), but including the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Elders and a Secretary of the Elders, will be elected for a term of one year by the Elders, whose term of office will begin the first day of January in the year after election year. Unless an officer's term of office is terminated as provided in paragraph G of this Article IV, each officer to be elected by the Elders will continue in office until a successor will have been elected as herein provided and will have assumed the responsibilities of the office. A vacancy in any office (with the exception of the Treasurer) may be filled by the Elders at any regular or special meeting of the Elders.

1. **OTHER DUTIES AND OFFICERS**

The Elders, at the Elders' discretion, may impose upon the officers referred to in Paragraphs A, B, C, and D of this Article IV such other duties as the Elders may designate consistent with these bylaws. The Elders may also, at the Elders' discretion, elect such other officers and assistant officers as the Elders may deem necessary. Any such additional officer or assistant officer must be a member of the Church.

1. **REMOVAL OF OFFICERS**

Any officer authorized to be elected by the Elders may be removed by the Elders at any time whenever in the judgment of the Elders, the best interest of the Church will thereby be served. Any office will become vacant when the holder thereof dies, resigns, or is no longer a member of the Church.

1. **COMPENSATION**

Unless expressly authorized by the Elders, the officers provided for in this Article IV will receive no salary or compensation for services.

**ARTICLE V**

**TAX EXEMPT PURPOSE**

The assets of this Church will be used in performing the Church's religious functions and upon discontinuance of the Church by dissolution or otherwise, the assets of this Church are to be transferred to a charitable, educational, religious or otherwise similar organization that qualifies as a charitable organization under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law.

1. **PURPOSE**

This nonprofit corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, religious and educational purposes, including the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law.

1. **LIMITATION OF ACTIVITIES**

No substantial part of the activities of the nonprofit corporation will be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and this nonprofit corporation will not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the nonprofit corporation will not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law, or (b) by nonprofit corporation contributions to which are deductible under Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law.

1. **RESTRICTION ON DISTRIBUTION OF EARNINGS**

No part of the net earnings of this nonprofit corporation will inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that this nonprofit corporation will be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in these articles.

**ARTICLE VI**

**EFFECTIVE DATE, IMPLEMENTATION AND CONDUCT OF ALL MEETINGS**

These bylaws will become effective as of the first day of the calendar month immediately following adoption of these bylaws by the Church, and will supersede and take effect in lieu of the bylaws in effect prior to that time. All meetings and State of the Church meeting will be conducted according to the latest edition of Robert’s Rules of Order. These bylaws will be implemented by Church policies recommended by the Elders and approved by the Church; however, in no event will Church policy contravene these bylaws.

**ARTICLE VII**

**AMENDMENTS**

These bylaws*,* as adopted, may be amended by a two-thirds vote of members present and voting at any regular State of the Church Meeting or special conference meeting.

These bylaws were adopted on the \_\_\_\_\_\_ day of December 2014, by First Community Church of Tyler in a State of the Church Meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Church Clerk