

# **Bylaws**

## **Preamble**

WHEREAS, it is the express purpose of God our Heavenly Father to call out of the world a saved people who shall contribute to the Body of Christ, built and established on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the Chief Cornerstone.

WHEREAS, the members of the Body of Christ are enjoined to assemble themselves together for worship, fellowship, counsel, and instruction in the Word of God and the work of the ministry and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices provided for in the New Testament, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that we recognize ourselves as a body of Christian believers working together for the common purpose of spreading the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and that under the laws of the State of Nevada we may exercise all the rights and privileges granted to religious bodies.

## **Language**

The masculine gender stated within this document shall refer to both men and women.

## **Article I Name**

The name of this corporation shall be 444 Ministry, Inc.

## **Article II Purpose**

The specific purpose for which the corporation is initially organized is to establish and oversee places of worship, teach and preach the gospel to all people, conduct evangelistic and humanitarian outreach, license and ordain ministers of the gospel, and to also engage in activities which are necessary, suitable or convenient for the accomplishment of that purpose, or which are incidental thereto or connected therewith which are consistent with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. This corporation is organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code.

## **Article III Tenets Of Faith**

The human phraseology employed in this statement is not inspired nor contended for, but the truth set forth is held to be essential to a full Gospel ministry. No claim is made that it contains all the truth in the Bible, only that it covers orthodox fundamental matters.

## **Holy Bible**

The Holy Bible, and only the Bible, is the authoritative Word of God. It alone is the final authority in determining all doctrinal truths. In its original writing, it is inspired, infallible and inerrant (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Proverbs 30:5; Romans 16:25-26).

## **The One True God**

The one true God has revealed himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the Creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10,11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22).

## **The Godhead**

**Terms Defined** The terms trinity and persons, as related to the godhead, while not found in the Scriptures, are words in harmony with Scripture, whereby we may convey to others our immediate understanding of the doctrine of Christ respecting the Being of God, as distinguished from "gods many and lords many." We therefore may speak with propriety of the Lord our God, who is One Lord, as a Trinity or as one Being of three persons, and still be absolutely scriptural (examples, Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; John 14:16,17).

**Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead** Christ taught a distinction of persons in the godhead which He expressed in specific terms of relationship, as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but that this distinction and relationship, as to its mode is inscrutable and incomprehensible, because unexplained (Luke 1:35; 1 Corinthians 1:24; Matthew 11:25-27; 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 1:3,4).

**Unity of the One Being of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit** Accordingly, therefore, there is that in the Father which constitutes Him the Father and not the Son; there is that in the Son which constitutes Him the Son and not the Father; and there is that in the Holy Spirit which constitutes Him the Holy Spirit and not either the Father or the Son. Wherefore, the Father is the Begetter; the Son is the Begotten; and the Holy Spirit is the One proceeding from the Father and the Son. Therefore, because these three persons in the godhead are in a state of unity, there is but one Lord God Almighty and His name one (John 1:18; 15:26; 17:11,21; Zechariah 14:9)

**Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead** The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are never identical as to person; nor confused as to relation; nor divided in respect to the godhead; nor opposed as to cooperation. The Son is in the Father and the Father is in the Son as to relationship. The Son is with the Father and the Father is with the Son, as to fellowship. The Father is not from the Son, but the Son is from the Father, as to authority. The Holy Spirit is from the Father and the Son proceeding, as to nature, relationship, cooperation, and authority. Hence, no person in the godhead either exists or works separately or independently of the others (John 5:17-30,32,37; 8:17,18).

**The Title, Lord Jesus Christ** The appellation Lord Jesus Christ, is a proper name. It is never applied in the New Testament either to the Father or to the Holy Spirit. It therefore belongs exclusively to the Son of God (Romans 1:1-3,7; 2 John 3).

**The Lord Jesus Christ, God With Us** The Lord Jesus Christ, as to His divine and eternal nature, is the proper and only Begotten of the Father, but as to His human nature, He is the proper Son of Man. He is, therefore, acknowledged to be both God and man; who because He is God and man, is "Immanuel," God with us (Matthew 1:23; 1 John 4:2,10,14; Revelation 1:13,17).

**The Title, Son of God** Since the name Immanuel embraces both God and man, in the one person, our Lord Jesus Christ, it follows that the title Son of God describes His proper deity, and the title Son of Man, His proper humanity. Therefore, the title Son of God belongs to the order of eternity, and the title Son of Man to the order of time (Matthew 1:21-23; 2 John 3; 1 John 3:8; Hebrews 7:3; 1:1-13).

**Transgression of the Doctrine of Christ** Wherefore, it is a transgression of the doctrine of Christ to say that Jesus Christ derived the title Son of God solely from the fact of the Incarnation, or because of His relation to the economy of redemption. Therefore, to deny that the Father is a real and eternal Father, and that the Son is a real and eternal Son, is a denial of the distinction and relationship in the Being of God; a denial of the Father and the Son; and a displacement of the truth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh (2 John 9; John 1:1,2,14,18,29,49; 1 John 2:22,23; 4:1-5; Hebrews 12:2).

**Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord** The Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, having by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high, angels and principalities and powers having been made subject unto Him. And having been made both Lord and Christ, He sent the Holy Spirit that we, in the name of Jesus, might bow our knees and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father until the end, when the Son shall become subject to the Father that God may be all in all (Hebrews 1:3; 1 Peter 3:22; Acts 2:32-36; Romans 14:11; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28)

**Equal Honor to the Father and to the Son** Wherefore, since the Father has delivered all judgment unto the Son, it is not only the express duty of all in heaven and on earth to bow the knee, but it is an unspeakable joy in the Holy Spirit to ascribe unto the Son all the attributes of deity, and to give Him all the honor and the glory contained in all the names and titles of the godhead except those which express relationship (see paragraphs b, c, and d), and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father (John 5:22,23; 1 Peter 1:8; Revelation 5:6-14; Philippians 2:8,9; Revelation 7:9,10; 4:8-11).

## **Jesus Christ**

Jesus Christ is God the Son, the second person of the Trinity. On earth, Jesus was 100% God and 100% man. He is the only man ever to have lived a sinless life. He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, performed miracles, died on the cross for mankind and thus, atoned for our sins through the shedding of His blood. He rose from the dead on the third day

according to the Scriptures, ascended to the right hand of the Father, and will return again in power and glory (John 1:1,14, 20:28; 1Timothy 3:16; Isaiah 9:6; Philippians 2:5-6; 1Timothy 2:5).

### **Virgin Birth**

Jesus Christ was conceived by God the Father, through the Holy Spirit (the third person of the Trinity) in the virgin Mary's womb; therefore, He is the Son of God (Matthew 1:18, 25; Luke 1:35; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18, 23-25; Luke 1:27-35).

### **Redemption**

Man was created good and upright, but by voluntary transgression he fell; his only hope of redemption is in Jesus Christ, the Son of God (Gen.1:26-31, 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-21).

### **Regeneration**

For anyone to know God, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential (John 6:44, 65).

### **Salvation**

We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ; His death, burial, and resurrection. Salvation is a gift from God, not a result of our good works or of any human efforts (Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 2:16, 3:8; Titus 3:5; Romans 10:9-10; Acts 16:31; Hebrews 9:22).

### **Repentance**

Repentance is the commitment to turn away from sin in every area of our lives and to follow Christ, which allows us to receive His redemption and to be regenerated by the Holy Spirit. Thus, through repentance we receive forgiveness of sins and appropriate salvation (Acts 2:21, 3:19; 1 John 1:9).

### **Sanctification**

Sanctification is the ongoing process of yielding to God's Word and His Spirit in order to complete the development of Christ's character in us. It is through the present ministry of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God that the Christian is enabled to live a godly life (1Thessalonians 4:3, 5:23; 2 Corinthians 3:18, 6:14-18, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, Romans 8:29, 12:1-2, Hebrews 2:11).

### **Jesus' Blood**

The Blood that Jesus Christ shed on the Cross of Calvary was sinless and is 100% sufficient to cleanse mankind of all sin. Jesus allowed Himself to be punished for both our sinfulness

and our sins, enabling all those who believe to be free from the penalty of sin, which is death (1 John 1:7; Revelation 1:5, 5:9; Colossians 1:20; Romans 3:10-12, 23, 5:9; John 1:29).

### **Jesus Christ Indwells All Believers**

Christians are people who have invited the Lord Jesus Christ to come and live inside them by His Holy Spirit. They relinquish the authority of their lives over to him thus making Jesus the Lord of their life as well as Savior. They put their trust in what Jesus accomplished for them when He died, was buried, and rose again from the dead (John 1:12; John 14:17, 23; John 15:4; Romans 8:11; Revelations 3:20).

### **Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

Given at Pentecost, it is the promise of the Father, sent by Jesus after His Ascension, to empower the church to preach the Gospel throughout the whole earth (Joel 2:28-29; Matthew 3:11; Mark 16:17; Acts 1:5, 2:1-4, 17, 38-39, 8:14-17, 10:38, 44-47, 11:15-17, 19:1-6).

### **The Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is manifested through a variety of spiritual gifts to build and sanctify the church, demonstrate the validity of the resurrection, and confirm the power of the Gospel. The Bible lists of these gifts are not necessarily exhaustive, and the gifts may occur in various combinations. All believers are commanded to earnestly desire the manifestation of the gifts in their lives. These gifts always operate in harmony with the Scriptures and should never be used in violation of Biblical parameters (Hebrews 2:4; Romans 1:11, 12 : 4-8; Ephesians 4:16; 2 Timothy 1:5-16, 4:14; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31, 14:1-40; 1 Peter 4:10).

### **The Church Body**

The Church consists of all those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, are redeemed through His blood, and are born again of the Holy Spirit. Christ is the Head of the Body, the Church (Ephesians 1:22-23), which has been commissioned by Him to go into all the world as a witness, preaching the gospel to all nations (Matthew 28:19-20). To equip his followers for the work service to help build up the kingdom of God (Ephesians 4:11-13). The local church is a body of believers in Christ who are joined together for the worship of God, for edification through the Word of God, for prayer, fellowship, the proclamation of the gospel, and observance of the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper (Acts 2:41-47).

### **Healing of the Sick**

Healing of the sick is illustrated in the life and ministry of Jesus, and included in the commission of Jesus to His disciples (Matthew 8:16-17). Prayer for the sick and anointing with oil are taught in the Scriptures and are privileges for the Church in this present age (James 5:13-16).

## **Marriage**

God created marriage. It is a covenant made between a man and a woman that makes them one (Gen 2: 22, 24; Matt 19: 5-6).

## **Second Coming**

Jesus Christ will physically and visibly return to earth for the second time to establish His Kingdom. This will occur at a date undisclosed by the Scriptures (Matthew 24:30, 26:63-64; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8; Revelation 1:7). This is the believer's blessed hope and is a vital truth which is an incentive to holy living and faithful service (Titus 2:11-14).

## **Heaven**

Heaven is the eternal dwelling place for all believers in the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Matthew 5:3, 12, 20, 6:20, 19:21, 25:34; John 17:24; 2 Corinthians 5:1; Hebrews 11:16; 1 Peter 1:4).

## **The Final Judgment**

There shall be a bodily resurrection of the just and of the unjust; for the former, a resurrection unto life (1 Corinthians 15:20-23); for the latter, a resurrection unto judgment (John 5:28-29).

Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together with satan and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, will be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death (Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 19:20; 20:11-15; 21:8).

## **Article IV Ordinances**

### **Water Baptism**

Following faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the new convert is commanded by the Word of God to be baptized in water in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38).

### **The Lord's Supper**

A unique time of communion in the presence of God when the elements of bread and grape juice (the Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ) are taken in remembrance of Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross (Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 16:16; Acts 8:12, 36-38; 10:47-48; 1 Corinthians 10:16, 11:23-25).

## **Article V Membership**

This organization shall have a non-voting membership. The Board of Directors may create a membership program that details the requirements of membership and procedures for dismissal.

## **Article VI Government**

### **Section 1 Board of Directors**

1. There shall be a Senior Pastor/President.
2. There may be a Vice President.
3. There shall be a Secretary.
4. There shall be a Treasurer.
5. Other individuals may be added as needed.

### **Section 2 Official Board of Directors and Voting Power**

1. The Board of Directors is that group of persons vested with the management of the business and affairs of the corporation.
2. The official Board of Directors shall consist of individuals listed above and those added by official action of the Board of Directors.
3. The majority shall serve without remuneration and not be related by blood or marriage.
4. The Senior Pastor/President shall be chairman of the Board of Directors and chief executive of the corporation.
5. Each member of the Board of Directors shall have equal voting power among all of the other members.
6. A decision of the Board of Directors is considered valid with a two-thirds majority vote and the approval of the Senior Pastor/President, unless otherwise specified in the Bylaws.
7. The Senior Pastor/President shall be an ex officio member of every committee and can at his discretion be the chair of such committee at the time of its creation.

### **Section 3 Removal From the Board of Directors**

Any Board of Directors member may be removed from office with or without cause by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors including the Senior Pastor/President's approval. However, the removal of the Senior Pastor/President is subject to Article X.

The following reasons are considered just cause for Board of Directors member removal by the Board of Directors:

1. In absentia at three consecutive Board of Directors meetings;
2. Violation of the mutual interest clause of Article XII;
3. Not acting in the best interests of the organization;
4. Willful nondisclosure of a conflict of interest as interpreted by a majority of the Board of Directors.

#### **Section 4 Process for removal from the Board of Directors**

A Board of Directors member may be removed from the Board of Directors in the following manner:

1. By letter of resignation submitted to the Senior Pastor/President;
2. By action of the Board of Directors in which a two-thirds majority of the Board of Directors, including the Senior Pastor/President, vote in favor for removal.

### **Article VII Official Functions**

The officers listed below are ultimately responsible to oversee that all listed duties are properly executed. The actual carrying out of necessary actions may be accomplished by any individual whom the Board of Directors sees fit.

#### **Section 1 Senior Pastor/President Qualifications**

The Senior Pastor/President shall have wisdom in handling the corporation's affairs. He shall be of sound doctrine and good judgment.

#### **Duties**

The Senior Pastor/President shall be the leader of the church as provided by the Holy Scriptures.

The Senior Pastor/President shall be chairman of the official Board of Directors and preside over all corporation meetings.

#### **Term of Office**

The term of office of the Senior Pastor/President shall be reviewed every five years. The number of consecutive terms that he may serve is unlimited. The Board of Directors must adhere to the provisions set forth in Article X should they choose not to renew his term.



## **Succession**

The Senior Pastor/President may nominate a successor at any time. The nominee shall be confirmed by two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors, after the nomination is made. This person will assume the role of the Senior Pastor/President if the Senior Pastor/President retires, passes away unexpectedly or is otherwise incapacitated.

Should the Senior Pastor/President be removed by the Accountability Board, the previously approved successor will need to be re elected by the Board of Directors after a clear understanding of the situation surrounding the removal of the previous Senior Pastor/President.

## **No Successor Appointed**

Should the Senior Pastor/President fail to appoint a successor, the following shall serve as an order of succession:

1. Vice President
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer

If the retirement, passing, removal or incapacity of the Senior Pastor/President leaves the Board of Directors unbalanced or without a quorum, then the first motion of the person who assumes the role of the Senior Pastor/President through this section, shall be to nominate prospective Board of Director member(s). The nominee(s) shall be confirmed by a unanimous vote of the remaining Board of Director members.

The successor will automatically and immediately become the Senior Pastor/President. In the event the successor is not prepared to assume both the role of the Senior Pastor and that of the President, the Board of Directors can move to separate the roles of the Senior Pastor and President by a two-thirds majority vote. Such action would require an amendment to the Bylaws. The Board of Directors will begin the search for the replacement Senior Pastor and the successor will assume the role of the President. The Board of Directors may select an interim Senior Pastor until a permanent replacement is found.

## **Section 2 Vice President Qualifications**

The Vice President shall have wisdom in handling the corporation's affairs. He shall be of sound doctrine and good judgment.

## **Duties**

He will serve as chief advisor to the Senior Pastor/President.

He shall carry out the responsibilities that the Senior Pastor/President delegates to him.

### **Manner of Appointment**

The Vice President shall be nominated by any member of the Board of Directors and appointed by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors.

### **Term of Office**

The term of office of the Vice President shall be reviewed every two years. The number of consecutive terms that he may serve is unlimited. He is subject to removal at any time in accordance with Article VI.

### **Section 3 Secretary Qualifications**

The Secretary shall be a spiritually minded person and of sound judgment. He must be administratively minded with the ability to multi-task.

### **Duties**

By virtue of his office, the Secretary shall keep a true and accurate record of all meetings, including business meetings of the corporation. He shall perform clerical duties, and shall be the custodian of all legal documents.

### **Manner of Appointment**

The Secretary shall be nominated by any member of the Board of Directors and appointed by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors.

### **Term of Office**

The term of office of the Secretary shall be reviewed every two years. The number of consecutive terms that he may serve is unlimited. He is subject to removal at any time in accordance with Article VI.

### **Section 4 Treasurer Qualifications**

The Treasurer shall be a spiritually minded person, and of sound business judgment. He shall be capable of doing the accounting required to maintain the corporation books.

### **Duties**

By virtue of his office, the Treasurer shall keep, in a business-like manner, an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements of monies committed to his trust and shall make reports to be presented during the official Board of Directors meetings. He shall deposit and make withdrawals in a manner prescribed in Article XIX.

### **Manner of Appointment**

The Treasurer shall be nominated by any member of the Board of Directors and appointed by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors.

### **Term of Office**

The term of office of the Treasurer shall be reviewed every two years. The number of consecutive terms that he may serve is unlimited. He is subject to removal at any time in accordance with Article VI.

### **Section 5 Directors Qualifications**

Directors shall be spiritually minded persons, and of sound business judgment.

### **Duties**

By virtue of their office, Directors shall carry out the responsibilities that the Senior Pastor/President or Board of Directors delegate to them.

### **Manner of Appointment**

Directors shall be nominated by any member of the Board of Directors and appointed by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors.

### **Term of Office**

The term of office of the Directors shall be reviewed every two years. The number of consecutive terms that a Director may serve is unlimited. Directors are subject to removal at any time in accordance with Article VI.

## **Article VIII Meetings**

### **Section 1 Church Services**

In any established place of worship the appointed Pastor will be responsible for regular church services.

### **Section 2 Corporation Meetings**

The corporation year shall coincide with the calendar year beginning on January 1st, and running through December 31st.

Proper notice of ten days shall be given to all Directors prior to any Corporation Meeting.

The Senior Pastor/President will call the official Board of Directors meeting to discuss the direction of the corporation. The Senior Pastor/President shall set dates and times for Board of Directors meetings. The Board of Directors may have invited guests present at any meeting so long as the Senior Pastor/President has approved it.

The Secretary shall keep an accurate account of the minutes that were discussed at any Board of Directors meeting. He then has to submit them at the next Board of Directors meeting for discussion by the Board of Directors and approval by the Senior Pastor/

President. Upon approval by the majority of the Board of Directors, the minutes shall be adopted, and all policy and procedure in them will continue to be enforced.

### **Section 3 Waiver of Notice**

Attendance of a Director at any meeting of the Board of Directors will constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting except where such Director attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting, at the beginning of the meeting, to the transaction of any business because the meeting is not lawfully called or convened.

### **Section 4 Meetings by Remote Communications Technology**

Subject to the notice provision in Section 2 of this Article, the Directors may also hold meetings by means of a remote electronic communications system, including video or telephone conferencing technology or the Internet, or any combination, only if each person entitled to participate in the meeting consents to the meeting being held by means of that system, and the system provides access to the meeting in a manner or using a method by which each person participating in the meeting can communicate concurrently with each other participant. Participation in such a meeting shall constitute presence in person at such meeting, except participation for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business on the ground that the meeting is not lawfully called or convened.

### **Section 5 Action by Unanimous Written Consent Without Meeting**

Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Board of Directors under any provision of law may be taken without a meeting, if all members of the Board of Directors shall individually or collectively consent in writing to such action. Such written consent or consents shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Directors. Such action by written consent shall have the same force and effect as the unanimous vote of the Directors. Any certificate or other document filed under any provision of law which relates to action so taken shall state that the action was taken by unanimous written consent of the Board of Directors without a meeting and that the Bylaws of this corporation authorize the Directors to so act and such statement shall be prima facie evidence of such authority.

## **Article IX Quorum**

Two-thirds of the Board of Directors members (including the Senior Pastor/President) at an official Board of Directors meeting constitutes a quorum.

## **Article X Accountability Board**

The removal of the Senior Pastor/President shall be subject to this article. Until an Accountability Board is established, the removal of the Senior Pastor/President shall be accomplished by a simple majority vote of the board of directors (see Article VI Government). However, after the Accountability Board is established and confirmed by a vote of the Board of Directors, the power to remove the Senior Pastor/President shall be placed entirely within the Accountability Board's authority. After the Accountability Board

is established and confirmed by a vote of the Board of Directors it shall be subject to the following:

There shall be an Accountability Board made up of no less than three (3) persons and no more than five (5). The Accountability Board shall be made up of individuals nominated by the Senior Pastor/President of the corporation and confirmed by a two-thirds majority of the Board of Directors after careful consideration. (II Timothy 3:16, 17; Acts 15). The Board of Directors shall consider the nominations and vote to have each nomination appointed.

### **Section 1 Purpose**

The purpose of the Accountability Board is to:

1. Provide a spiritual covering by prayerfully giving necessary aid, instruction, guidance, protection and correction as well as counsel, wisdom and fellowship to the Senior Pastor/President (II Timothy 3:16, 17; Acts 15) and,
2. To hear accusations against the Senior Pastor/President of the corporation brought to them by a unanimous vote of the official Board of Directors excluding any disqualified individuals serving on the Board of Directors and make a determination as to whether the Senior Pastor/President has committed any of the infractions listed below.
3. The Board of Directors may call the Accountability Board into session to conduct an investigation and/or dismiss the President if they find him guilty of any of the following accusations against the President:
  - A. Adultery
  - B. Embezzlement
  - C. Compulsive Lying
  - D. Sexual Impurity
  - E. Conviction of a felony that is a violation of Scripture

The Accountability Board will determine if the Senior Pastor/President is guilty or innocent and whether to discipline or dismiss him from office. The Accountability Board is the only entity that has the authority to dismiss the Senior Pastor/President from his position if, after being called into session in accordance with the provisions of this Article and after considering all accusations against him; they determine that it is the best course of action for him and the church. The decision of the Accountability Board is final.

### **Section 2 Structure**

Any Member of the Accountability Board may be replaced or removed at any time deemed necessary by request of the Senior Pastor/President and confirmation of the Board of Directors of the corporation, provided that it not be after the Accountability Board has been called to officially meet in accordance with Section 1 of this Article.

The representative nominated by the Senior Pastor/President and confirmed by the Board of Directors shall chair the Accountability Board.

Future vacancies shall be nominated by the Senior Pastor/President and confirmed by the Board of Directors.

A record of the current and past Members of the Accountability Board shall be kept in a log under the custody of the official Board of Directors. The log shall clearly list the names of each member and the current chairman.

Any successor Senior Pastor/President to the founding or current Senior Pastor/President shall keep the Accountability Board that was in existence at the time he became Senior Pastor/President. He may, after a six-month period, make nominations for replacements of no more than one representative per year. When establishing any new Accountability Board member he must follow the procedure set forth in Section 1 of this Article.

### **Section 3 Quorum**

100% of the Accountability Board must be present to constitute a quorum. The Accountability Board may only meet if it has been called to do so with a unanimous vote by the official Board of Directors according to the provisions of this Article.

### **Section 4 Determinations**

Any action taken by the Accountability Board is valid by a unanimous vote.

### **Section 5 Power**

The Accountability Board shall have no innate power or authority as a legal organizational entity, except that which is invested in them by these Bylaws. Their decisions, when called together in accordance with Section 1 of this Article, shall be final.

## **Article XI Ecclesiastical Authority**

This organization is theocratic in government. In any growing congregation, there will be people at all stages of spiritual growth and maturity. For that reason, it is not proper to submit the affairs of the church to a democratic vote as the same is not God's way, for the purpose of the church is not to do the will of the majority, but the will of God.

Any disputes that arise over the interpretation of these Bylaws shall be deferred to the highest authority of this church. In this case it would be the Senior Pastor/President, with the advice of the Board of Directors. The Senior Pastor/President shall be responsible for the day-to-day decisions and shall run the affairs of the church. In *Watson v. Jones*, the court ruled that:

"Whenever the questions of discipline, or of faith, of ecclesiastical rule, custom, or law have been decided by the highest church judicatory to which the matter has been carried, the legal tribunals must accept such decisions as final, and as binding on them . . ."

## **Article XII Mutual Interest**

The behavior of anyone in fellowship with this church is of common interest to the Board of Directors and membership. (Gal. 6:1) This church requires every Board of Directors member and Congregational member to adhere to a Lifestyle that is consistent with the doctrines of this church as taught in the Holy Scriptures. Therefore, this church reserves the right to refuse service to any individual, whether member or not, that is not submitting their Lifestyle to this Scriptural mode of conduct. This refusal would include services, benefits and any use of church assets.

## **Article XIII Prohibited Activities**

This church is prohibited from engaging in activities which violate its written doctrines. This church is also prohibited from condoning, promoting or allowing any of its assets to be used for activities that violate its written doctrines.

## **Article XIV Senior Pastor's Vision**

To establish an efficient leadership infrastructure, the Senior Pastor/President shall be responsible to articulate in clear, concise and simple language the vision of the church. The purpose of this is to create a consistent and logical framework which empowers staff and volunteers to participate in the decision making processes that reflect the Senior Pastor/President's heart and vision for the church.

## **Article XV Ministry Of Helps**

This recognizes the ministry of helps during worship services and shall train and equip ushers to assist the Senior Pastor/President in maintaining order and decency. To that regard, ushers shall:

1. be trained in the policies and procedures of the altar ministry,
2. maintain a worshipful atmosphere in the church,
3. attend to any disruption or emergency situation during worship services.

The department head in charge of the usher's ministry shall:

1. make every effort to train the ushers to be prepared for emergency situations,
2. designate at least one usher to keep a cell phone available to call for help in case of an emergency,
3. train all ushers on the church's altar ministry policy and procedures.

## **Article XVI Membership Review Of Church Records**

### **Section 1 Requests Made by Members**

To ensure the trust of the membership and to also ensure that a public interest is being served, all church records, financial information and all kinds of financial transactions must always be available for membership inspection and review. At no time may information be supplied that would violate Section 4 of this Article or Article XVII. Any questions by any members shall be addressed to the treasurer either in writing or by scheduled appointment.

### **Section 2 Required Provisions of the Request**

The request must state the name of the member, the reason for the request and that the information shall in no way be made public or shared with any other member in a way that will jeopardize the church.

### **Section 3 Required Fee**

This corporation may require a reasonable per page fee for any copies that are required in order to accommodate approved records requests.

### **Section 4 Confidentiality**

In order to keep the records of the church confidential, records shall not be released to any outside agency, person or entity unless due process has been served and a certified subpoena has been personally delivered. This includes the IRS, except under the provisions of Section 7611 which shall be limited only to information deemed to be relevant to the inquiry being made. At all times the IRS will be expected to comply with all of the provisions of Section 7611.

### **Section 5 Denying a Request**

The Board of Directors reserves the right to deny such a request for any of the following reasons:

1. the request is considered by the Board of Directors and deemed to be frivolous;
2. the member making the request has a history of being divisive;
3. the member does not adequately provide the required information on the request as stated in this Article;
4. the person making a request is a non-member or a person whose membership was terminated.



## **Article XVII Privacy**

This church shall diligently watch to keep private all records concerning polity, doctrine, counseling and information on individuals in fellowship with this church. This church must not disclose any records that may compromise information about a member's attendance, membership status, giving and counseling records.

## **Article XVIII Order**

For the purpose of conducting business, the Senior Pastor/President shall, in an orderly manner, preside over all of the affairs of the corporation.

## **Article XIX Finances**

### **Section 1 Audit**

The Treasurer and or other Board of Directors appointed person shall complete an internal audit. This audit of all financial records shall be made after the close of the calendar year, prior to the end of February.

### **Section 2 Checks, Payments and Withdrawals**

The Board of Directors of 444 Ministry, Inc. shall adopt a Corporate Expenditures Policy detailing the procedure for properly executing checks, payments and withdrawals.

### **Section 3 Salaries**

All salaries shall be determined in the following manner:

The Board of Directors shall consider each candidate, create a compensation package and vote on the package.

Only uncompensated individuals of the Board of Directors shall vote on any recommended compensation package.

All salaries shall be reviewed each year during the last meeting of the calendar year.

## **Article XX Property Rights**

All property, real or chattel, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred or conveyed in the corporation's name.

No real or chattel property of the corporation shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise alienated without authorization of the Senior Pastor/President.

The Senior Pastor/President of the corporation shall certify in such conveyances, leases, or mortgages.

In the event that the corporation ceases to exist, all assets of THIS CHURCH shall at the discretion of the Board of Directors be given to organizations that are exempt as described in Section 501(c)(3) and/or 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. The receiving organization must be of similar purpose.

## **Article XXI Ministers Of The Gospel**

The Senior Pastor/President of this ministry shall by virtue of his office automatically be recognized as an ordained minister.

### **Section 1 Classes of Ministers**

This ministry shall have a set number of classes of ministers, as set forth below. Each class of minister will have distinct rights and privileges; they are listed below:

#### **Commissioned Minister:**

This recognition is automatically given to all believers in fellowship with this ministry. They are not authorized to perform any sacerdotal services, but primarily assist others in the Body of Christ. Individuals in this category may include, but are not limited to: teachers, worship leaders, instructors, hospital and jail visitation, ministerial assistance, and lay persons.

#### **Chaplain:**

This recognition is for ministers of the gospel that are called by God and recognized by the Senior Pastor/President to minister primarily in prisons, hospitals and government agencies.

#### **Minister's Apprentice:**

This recognition is given by the Senior Pastor/President of this ministry. This recognition is for those who are starting out in the ministry, but need extensive training. They are to work closely with a licensed or ordained minister. Such persons are not authorized to perform any sacerdotal services.

#### **Licensed Minister:**

This recognition is given by the Senior Pastor/President of this ministry. This recognition is for those who are somewhat seasoned in the ministry, but need further experience. Many of these are individuals that have been working in their chosen vocation, but for some reason or another have never entered full-time ministry, or have only been in full-time ministry for less than three (3) years. Such persons are authorized to perform the following religious functions:

1. Conduct religious worship
2. Religious instruction
3. Administer communion

4. Provide spiritual counseling
5. Serve on the Board of Directors of a church
6. And other sacerdotal functions including
  - A. Conduct baby dedication ceremonies
  - B. Perform baptisms
  - C. Perform weddings
  - D. Conduct funerals
  - E. Visit the sick and shut-in
  - F. Minister in prisons

However, this person is not in charge of a congregation. Limited authority is granted to run the affairs of the ministry.

**Ordained Pastor/Minister:**

This recognition is given by the Senior Pastor/President to those persons who have an "established" or "proven" ministry. Ordained ministers are authorized to perform all functions of the Christian ministry and religious functions, and must be capable of doing so. Ordained ministers are authorized to perform all religious functions:

1. Conduct religious worship
2. Religious instruction
3. Administer communion
4. Provide spiritual counseling
5. Serve on the Board of Directors of a church
6. Ministry administration
7. And other sacerdotal functions including
  - A. Conduct baby dedication ceremonies
  - B. Perform baptisms
  - C. Perform weddings
  - D. Conduct funerals
  - E. Visit the sick and shut-in
  - F. Minister in prisons

He must be capable, as determined by the Senior Pastor/President, to take charge of a congregation.

## **Section 2 Senior Pastor/President's Authority**

The Senior Pastor/President of this ministry shall have ecclesiastical authority to decide who, how or if a person will be licensed by this ministry to hold any of the classes mentioned above (Matt. 16:13-19).

## **Section 3 Elders**

The Elders are a Board of Directors appointed committee given charge of the spiritual care of the congregation. Their authority is limited to that which is granted them by the Board of Directors. They have no financial or governmental control within the fellowship. They should only concern themselves with the spiritual needs of the fellowship.

### **Qualifications**

All Elders must qualify by exemplifying the following in their lives:

1. Above reproach (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:6-7)
2. The husband of one wife (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:6-7)
3. Temperate, sober, vigilant (1 Tim. 3:2)
4. Sober-minded, prudent (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8)
5. Of good behavior; orderly, respectable (1 Tim. 3:2)
6. Hospitable (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8)
7. Able to teach (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:9)
8. Not a drunkard (1 Tim. 3:3,8; Titus 1:7)
9. Not violent; not pugnacious (1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7)
10. Patient, moderate, forbearing, gentle (1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7)
11. Not a brawler; not contentious, not quick tempered (1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7)
12. Not covetous; not a lover of money; not greedy for money (1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7)
13. Rules his own house well; his children are faithful (1 Timothy 3:4; Titus 1:6)
14. Not a new convert (1 Tim. 3:6)
15. Well thought of, has a good reputation with outsiders (1 Tim. 3:7)
16. Not self-willed (Titus 1:7)

17. A lover of good (Titus 1:8)

18. Just, upright (Titus 1:8)

19. Holy, devout (Titus 1:8)

20. Self-controlled (Titus 1:8)

### **Duties**

The Elders shall devote their time to prayer, the ministry of the Word (by teaching and encouraging sound doctrine), and shepherding God's flock. The Elders shall take particular responsibility to examine and instruct prospective Members, equip the Membership for the work of the ministry, encourage sound doctrine and practice, Assist the Board of Directors to admonish and correct error, coordinate and promote the ministries of the church, and mobilize the church for world missions. The Elders are further to ensure that all who minister the Word to the congregation, including outside speakers, share our fundamental convictions. They shall work closely with the Board of Directors to ensure a healthy spiritual atmosphere within the fellowship.

### **Manner of Appointment**

The Board of Directors shall nominate and confirm Elders.

### **Term of Office**

The term of office of each Elders shall be reviewed every two years. The number of consecutive terms that an Elder may serve is unlimited. He is subject to removal at any time in accordance with the Removal section below.

### **Removal**

Should an Elder be found in violation of the Bylaws the Board of Directors may dismiss him by a two-thirds majority vote.

## **Section 4 Deacons/Deaconesses**

### **Qualifications**

The office of Deacon/Deaconess is described in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-7. The church shall recognize, in accordance with the constitutional provisions on elections, men/women who are giving of themselves in service to the church, and who possess particular gifts of service. These members shall be received as gifts of Christ to His church and set apart as Deacons/Deaconesses.

### **Duties**

Deacons/Deaconesses shall care for the temporal needs of members, attend to the accommodations for public worship, and encourage and support those able to help others and those with gifts of administration.

### **Manner of Appointment**

The Board of Directors shall nominate and confirm Deacons/Deaconesses.

### **Term of Office**

The term of office of each Deacon/Deaconess shall be reviewed every two years. The number of consecutive terms that a Deacon/Deaconess may serve is unlimited. Deacons/Deaconesses are subject to removal at any time in accordance with the Removal section below.

### **Removal**

Should a Deacon/Deaconess be found in violation of the Bylaws the Board of Directors may dismiss him/her by a two-thirds majority vote.

### **Article XXII Other Considerations**

Anything that has not been discussed in these Bylaws shall be discussed and decided upon at an official Board of Directors meeting.

### **Article XXIII Amendments**

Amendments to the Bylaws may be made by a two-thirds majority of the official Board of Directors, including the Senior Pastor/President.

**These Bylaws adopted on this day make null and void all prior addenda and these Bylaws supersede and replace all previous Bylaws voted on prior to this day.**

**Signed and certified, to be effective immediately.**



**Senior Pastor/President of 444 Ministry, Inc.**



**Secretary of 444 Ministry, Inc.**



**Treasurer of 444 Ministry, Inc.**