

# **CONSTITUTION AND BY LAWS OF HOPE CHURCH LAWTON, OK 73501**

**Originally Ratified: 08/28/2023**

**Amended by the Elders: 03/11/2024**

**Amended by the Elders and Approved by the Members: 08/03/2025**

## **ARTICLE I. Name**

The name of this corporation is Hope Church, Inc. This corporation will be further referred to in these By laws as the "Church" and may be referred to in these By laws by and may do business as "Hope Church" and such other names as the Elders of the Church shall determine from time to time.

## **ARTICLE II. Mission Statement**

We exist to spread the hope of the gospel in our city and throughout the world. We do that by loving the city, equipping the saints, and sending out hope.

## **ARTICLE III. Location**

### **3.1 Principal Location**

The principal office for business transactions of the Church is 1916 W. Gore Blvd., Lawton, OK 73501. This office is in Comanche County.

The Elders shall have full power and authority to change the principal office from one location to another. The Executive Pastor shall record any change in the location of the principal office.

### **3.2 Other Locations**

The Elders of the Church shall have power and authority to establish other offices, sites and locations at any place or places where the Church is qualified under applicable law to conduct its business.

## **ARTICLE IV. Purposes**

The purpose for which this corporation is organized shall be to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ in every way prescribed or approved by the Holy Scriptures, to engage in spiritual training, educational, and charitable work as determined by this organization, and to own and maintain such buildings and equipment as may be required to carry out this purpose. The corporation does not have authority to issue capital stock. This corporation is not for profit, and as such does not afford pecuniary gain, incidentally or otherwise, to its Members.

The Church shall not accept any gift or grant if the gift or grant contains major conditions which would restrict or violate any of the Church's spiritual training, charitable, or educational purposes or if the gift or grant would require serving a private as opposed to a public interest.

#### **ARTICLE V. Affiliations**

The Church is autonomous and maintains the right to govern its own affairs, independent of denominational control.

#### **ARTICLE VI. Meetings**

##### **6.1 Public Worship**

Meetings for public worship shall be held at such times and places as may be provided for under the direction of the Elders.

##### **6.2 Church Business Meetings**

The Elders shall have the authority to call a Church business meeting or special meetings as needed. It is the responsibility of the Elders to conduct the business of the Church.

#### **ARTICLE VII. Articles of Faith**

##### **7.1 Statement of Biblical Authority**

At the center of Christian faith and practice stands the belief that God has spoken to the world through His word and in the person and work of Jesus Christ, which is accurately and authoritatively revealed in the Christian Bible ("the Bible," "Scripture" or "the Scriptures"). The Bible is the inspired, inerrant, and sufficient Word of God and is thus the ultimate authority for life. Though the various theological statements of the Church reflect succinct summaries of biblical boundaries, it is the Bible itself to which we are in ultimate submission.

Members have the responsibility and opportunity to engage Elders and Church staff on areas of theological disagreement. However, Membership carries with it the implicit understanding that the Elders shall function as the interpretive authority on biblical meaning and application for the purpose of Church doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline.

##### **7.2 Statement of Basic Belief**

The following Statement of Basic Belief represents the core orthodox beliefs of the Church from a biblical and historical perspective. While Church Members are not required to fully understand or articulate all aspects of the Statement of Basic Belief, the explicit rejection of any part of it disqualifies one from Membership in Hope Church.

We believe...

##### **The Scriptures**

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit of God. It is the divine revelation of God to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and

trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalms 19:7-10; 119:11,89,105,140; Isaiah 34:16; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 36:1-32; Matthew 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16ff.; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21.

## **God**

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Sustainer, Creator, Redeemer, Ruler, and Lord of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

Genesis 1:1; 2:7; Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11ff.; 20:1ff.; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3,15; 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; 17:13; Matthew 6:9ff.; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:6; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7 Genesis 18:1ff.; Psalms 2:7ff.; 110:1ff.; Isaiah 7:14; 53; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16,27; 17:5; 27; 28:1-6,19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18,29; 10:30,38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16,28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20,28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20; Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,34; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8,24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; 8:9; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15,24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Revelation 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16; Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalms 51:11; 139:7ff.; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10,12; Luke 1:35; 4:1,18-19; 11:13; 12:12; 24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4,38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17,39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Romans 8:9-11,14-16,26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11,13; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Timothy 3:16; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8,14; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Revelation 1:10; 22:17.

## **Man**

Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Therefore, they become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only God's grace through faith can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.



Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18,29; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19,21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11.

### **Salvation**

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matthew 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22-28; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14,29; 3:3-21,36; 5:24; 10:9,28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3ff.; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18,29-39; 10:9-10,13; 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18,30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1ff.; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12,8,14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6-2:11; Revelation 3:20; 21:1-22:5.

### **The Church**

A New Testament Church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ. In such a congregation each Member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its scriptural officers are elders and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the Church, the office of elder is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42,47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23,27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11,21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Hebrews 11:39-40; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3.

### **Evangelism and Missions**

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every Church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness.

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:18-30, 37-43; 16:19; 22:9-10; 24:14; 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-18; 24:46-53; John 14:11-12; 15:7-8,16; 17:15; 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2-3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 3:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; 2 Timothy 4:5; Hebrews 2:1-3; 11:39-12:2; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Revelation 22:17.

### **Marriage**



Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His Church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race. The husband and wife are of equal worth before God since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the Church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the Church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8,14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.

## **ARTICLE VIII. Membership**

### **8.1 Requirements**

Members shall be genuine followers of Jesus Christ.

Members shall be Biblically baptized by immersion after a statement of faith.

Members shall be active participants in Small Group Bible Study.

Members shall agree with the doctrines listed in §7.2 Statement of Basic Belief.

### **8.2 Member Input to Decision Making**

**The Members of the church have the right to nominate qualified men for the office of Elder. They also have the right to nominate qualified men and women to the office of deacon. The Elders will provide Members the opportunity over an announced 21 day period to provide comments and concerns in appointing both Elders and Deacons. The Elders will also provide the same opportunity for other actions deemed major and extraordinary by the Elders.**

### **8.3 Membership Removal**

Membership is reviewed on a periodic basis. Members can be removed through (a) voluntary inactivity for a period of a year, (b) voluntary resignation, (c) death, or (d) a decision by the Elders because of the disciplinary process.

## **ARTICLE IX. Church Directors, Elders, Officers, Staff and Deacons**

### **9.1 Directors (Elders)**

#### **9.1.1 Definition and Powers**

The overall policy, control, direction and management of the ministry, operations and finances of the Church shall be vested in the Elders. The Elders are designated as the directors of this corporation as the term is defined and used under Title §18-381.31 of the Oklahoma Statutes governing corporations. Subject to the provisions and limitations of this statute, any limitations in the Articles of Incorporation and these By laws, all corporate powers shall be exercised by or under the direction of the Elders. The terms "Elders" and "Elder body" are used interchangeably to mean a quorum of Elders acting in accordance with §9.1.7 herein.

Elders are entrusted with the governance of the Church. The Elder's oversight includes, but is not limited to teaching, protecting, leading, disciplining, equipping, and caring for the corporate Church body and its individual Members as well as the oversight of all ministries, operations, and finances of the Church. The Elders are also responsible for being obedient to the Scriptures in the doctrine of the Church, establishing the overall vision of the Church, and testing new Elders and Deacons.

#### **9.1.2 Qualifications**

The minimum qualifications for Elders shall not be less than those listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9, including without limitation the requirement that Elders be men. In addition to the minimum qualifications given in Scripture, Elders must be Members who fully subscribe to the Church's Articles of Faith (Article VII) and are actively involved in the ministry of the Church.

#### **9.1.3 Duties**

The duties of the Elders shall include, but not be limited to, leading the Church to fulfill the purposes of the Church.

The Elders, as a group, shall supervise all employees of the Church; the Vocational Elders, as individuals, shall supervise those employees reporting to them hierarchically within the Church staff. The Elders may delegate to Church employees all duties and responsibilities the Elders deem reasonable and not prohibited by the Scriptures, subject to the rights, if any, of the person under contract of employment.

The Elders of the Church shall vote on the matters of (a) appointment of any Elder, (b) doctrinal issues, (c) removal of any Elder, and (d) other actions deemed major and extraordinary by the Elders. Elder votes on any matter may be communicated to the Church at the sole discretion of the Elders, other than a vote on the appointment of any Elder, which shall follow the procedure outlined in §9.1.7 below.

The Elders shall make the final determination in regards to any ecclesiastical questions. The Elders shall be the express and final arbiter of ecclesiastical polity, religious doctrine, and questions of Church property, and shall make the final decision with respect to any other matter that shall arise concerning the Church, its internal workings, and its governance in every respect, consistent with these By laws.

#### **9.1.4 Selection and Term of Office**

Any Member of the Church may nominate for the office of Elder any men who biblically qualify (See §9.1.2 Qualifications). The current Elders will test the nominees to assess whether they meet the Biblical qualifications of an Elder. Once the current Elders approve, the names of the nominee(s) will be released to the Church. Members have the opportunity to appeal any nomination on Biblical grounds within 21 days of the release date of the nominee list.

If the Elder body determines that an Elder needs an extended Sabbatical because of a legitimate need, then such Elder may transition to being an active but nonvoting Elder for a set period determined by the Elder body.

To resign from the Elder body, an Elder shall notify, in writing, the Elder body. The Elders shall notify the Church Members. A vacancy in the Elder body because of death, resignation, removal, or any other cause shall be filled only in the manners prescribed in these By laws. Such vacancies may be filled as they occur.

#### **9.1.5 Removal and Restoration**

Any Elder may be removed from the office of Elder if no longer qualified as outlined in §9.1.2 Qualifications. Discipline of Elders must be consistent with the standards set forth in Article XI. Church Discipline of these By laws and 1 Timothy 5:19-20. The Elder body will determine the specific procedure for removal of an Elder.

A written notice of the proposed removal of any Elder shall be given to such Elder at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting at which an action to effectuate such removal is to be taken to ensure that the Elder is given a reasonable opportunity to defend himself. The Elder shall have the opportunity to answer the charges in the presence of his accusers but shall not be present during the discussion and vote on his removal. Such removal shall take place only upon and after a passing vote of the Elders. The Elder under consideration for removal shall not have voting rights while such removal is considered.

Individuals may be restored to the office of Elder once disciplinary guidelines outlined by the Elders are met.

#### **9.1.6 Elder Meetings**

Regular meetings of the Elders shall be held in a location that the Elders deem appropriate.

Any meeting may be held by conference telephone or similar communication equipment, if all of the Elders participating in the meeting can hear one another. All Elders participating telephonically shall be deemed present at such meetings.

#### **9.1.7 Definition of Quorum and Passing Vote**

A proper quorum is defined as seventy-five percent (75%) of the Elders. A quorum is required for voting matters.

A passing vote must be equal to or greater than seventy-five percent (75%) of the Elders present. Voting by proxy is prohibited.

Removal of an Elder requires a minimum of four (4) voting Elders (not including the Elder being considered for removal) for 75% vote to be possible.

### **9.2 Officers**

#### **9.2.1 Officers**

Officers of the Church shall be Members of the Elder body. The Officers shall consist of a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and such other officers as deemed necessary by the Elders.



### 9.2.2 Election

The Officers of the Church shall be elected by a passing vote of the Elders and shall serve terms of at least two (2) years, if they remain a Member of the Elder body. Officers may be re-elected.

### 9.2.3 Removal of Officers

Any Officer may be removed from office for valid cause. A written notice of proposed removal of any Officer shall be given to such Officer by the Secretary, or by an Elder appointed by the Chairman at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting at which an action to effectuate such removal is to be taken, to ensure that the Officer is given reasonable opportunity to defend himself. The Officer shall have the opportunity to answer the charges in the presence of his accusers but shall not be present during the discussion and vote on his removal. Such removal shall take place only upon and after a passing vote of the Elders. The Officer under consideration for removal shall not have voting rights while such removal is considered.

Vacancies in the Officers of the Church by reason of death, resignation or otherwise, shall be filled by election of the Elders as soon as is reasonably possible. Until such time, an Elder may be appointed by the remaining Elders to serve in such a vacancy. Voting procedures for removal shall be in accordance with §9.1.5 Removal and Restoration.

### 9.2.4 Duties

#### (a) Chairman

The Chairman shall perform such duties as are incumbent upon such Officer, including making certain that all orders and resolutions of the Elders are carried into effect. The Chairman shall have oversight of the Elder meetings as defined in §9.1.6. The Chairman's duties shall include, without limitation: establishing meetings, setting the agenda, and presiding over the meetings.

#### (b) Vice Chairman

The Vice Chairman shall, in the absence of a duly appointed Chairman, or in the event of the Chairman's inability or refusal to act, perform the duties and exercise the powers of the Chairman and shall perform such other duties as the Elders shall from time to time prescribe.

#### (c) Secretary

The Secretary shall record or cause to be recorded in a minute book of the Church minutes of all meetings of the Elders and all votes taken at such meetings. He shall have charge of the official records and seal of the Church, and he shall perform such other duties as are incident to the office of Secretary and as may be assigned by the Elders or the Chairman, under whose supervision the Secretary shall be.

#### (d) Treasurer

The Treasurer shall serve as the overseer of the financial operations of the Church. Paid Church staff Members shall be accountable to the Treasurer for management of the financial aspects of the Church. The Treasurer shall perform such other duties and have other responsibilities as may be assigned to him from time to time by the Elders.

## 9.3 Church Staff

#### **9.3.1 Executive Team**

The Executive Team shall have oversight over the day-to-day activities of the Church. The Executive Team will primarily spend time leading leaders, focusing on the Church's mission and vision and thinking globally with respect to Church-wide issues that could impact the whole Church. They will also provide organizational clarity and manage logistical decisions of the Church. The Executive Team will work as a team for the protection of the Church, representing the best interests of the entire Church and not simply the interests of a particular part of the Church. The Executive Team will make wise and efficient decisions as leaders trusted by the Elders and Church Members.

The Elders shall determine the size and composition of the Executive Team.

The Executive Team will be comprised of paid Church personnel. Members of the Executive Team shall have the authority to hire and terminate Church personnel upon final approval of the Elders. Members of the Executive Team shall also have the actual authority granted to such Members by the Elders to transact business, execute contracts, and legally bind the Church in its respective ministry and business affairs.

#### **9.3.2 Church Staff**

All personnel employed by the Church shall act in accordance with the current Elder-approved Personnel Policies and Procedures document, as it may be revised, amended, or restated from time to time.

The Church will reserve employment for men and women who believe and confess essential biblical convictions and act in accordance with such. Additionally, the Church reserves the right to terminate the employment of any existing employee who fails to meet this general standard of faith and practice.

### **9.4 Deacons**

#### **9.4.1 Number**

The Elders shall appoint the number of Deacons required to meet permanent and short-term needs of the Church.

#### **9.4.2 Qualifications**

Deacons may be men or women, to meet the qualifications as specified in I Timothy 3:8-13.

#### **9.4.3 Election Term**

Deacons shall serve as long as the individual desires, is able, and/or qualified.

#### **9.4.4 Responsibility**

The overall responsibility of the diaconate is to assist the Elders in their service and equipping functions.

#### **9.4.5 Vacancies**

If a Deacon is removed from service, either voluntarily or involuntarily, the appointment of a successor Deacon is under the sole authority and discretion of the Elders.

#### **9.4.6 Appointments and Confirmation**

Any Member of the Church may nominate any man or woman for the office of Deacon who meet biblical qualifications (See §9.4.2 Qualifications). The current Elders will test the nominees to assess whether they meet the Biblical qualifications of a Deacon. Once the current Elders approve, the names of the nominee(s) will be released to the Church. Members have the opportunity to appeal any nomination on Biblical grounds within 21 days of the release of the nominee list.

#### **9.4.7 Removal of Deacons**

Any Deacon may be removed from the office of Deacon if no longer qualified as outlined in §9.4.2 Qualifications. Discipline of Deacons must be consistent with the standards set forth in Article XI. Church Discipline of these By laws. The Elder body will determine the specific procedure for removal of a Deacon.

A written notice of proposed removal of any Deacon shall be given to the Elders at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting at which an action to affect such removal is to be taken to ensure that the Deacon is given a reasonable opportunity for defense. The Deacon shall have the opportunity to answer the charges in the presence of his or her accusers but shall not be present during the discussion and vote on his or her removal. The removal of a Deacon requires a passing vote of the Elders.

Vacancies in the Deacons of the Church by reason of death, resignation or otherwise, shall be filled by election in accordance with 9.4.6 above.

### **ARTICLE X. Ordination**

The Church will consider ordaining duly qualified pastoral, ministerial, and executive staff positions as determined by the Elders in accordance with the guidelines of Scripture.

The Church reserves the right to revoke ordination in cases such as moral failure or termination of employment. The decision to rescind or extend ordination shall be at the discretion of the Elders.

### **ARTICLE XI. Church Discipline**

Church discipline is a necessary mark of a healthy Church and shall be applied in cases of sexual misconduct, gossip, divisiveness, dishonesty, and various other expressions of sin. In accordance with the biblical pattern generally outlined in Matthew 18:15-17, a person who evidences such sin will be confronted in an initial one-on-one meeting, followed by escalating engagement by Elders.

Where the steps of discipline are exhausted in cases of unrepentant and/or habitual sin, the Elders will consider removing a person from Membership with the hope of eventual reconciliation and restoration. This removal may or may not include a prohibition to attend Church services and events, depending on the circumstances. In addition, it might include public disclosure of removal from Membership and the circumstances leading to this decision to the corporate Membership of the Church. Those so disciplined will in turn be restored to fellowship where the Elders have determined that appropriate repentance has occurred.

### **ARTICLE XII**

#### **12.1 Compensation**



A voting Member of the board of directors, or of any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters, and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Church for services is precluded from discussing and voting on matters pertaining to that Member's compensation. However, such a person is not prohibited from providing information to the board of directors or any committee regarding compensation of similarly situated persons.

### **ARTICLE XIII. Transactions of the Church**

#### **13.1 Contracts and Legal Instruments**

The Elders may authorize an individual Elder, Officer, employee, or agent of the Church to enter into a contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Church. This authority may be limited to a specific contract or instrument, or it may extend to any number and type of possible contracts and instruments.

#### **13.2 Deposits**

All funds of the Church shall be deposited to the credit of the Church in banks, trust companies, or other depositories that the Elder board selects.

#### **13.3 Ownership and Distribution of Property**

The Church shall hold, own, and enjoy its own personal and real property, without any right of reversion to another entity, except as provided in these By laws.

### **ARTICLE XIV. Books and Records**

#### **14.1 Required Books and Records**

The Church shall keep correct and complete books and records of account.

#### **14.2 Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year of the Church shall begin on the first day of January and end on the last day in December of the same calendar year.

### **ARTICLE XV. Dissolution and Mergers**

"Dissolution" means the complete disbanding of the Church so that it no longer functions as a congregation or as a corporate entity. Upon the dissolution of the Church, its property shall be applied and distributed as follows: (1) all liabilities and obligations of the Church shall be paid and discharged, or adequate provision shall be made therefore; (2) assets held by the Church upon condition requiring return, transfer, or conveyance, which condition occurs by reason of the dissolution, shall be returned, transferred, or conveyed in accordance with such requirements; (3) assets received and not held upon a condition requiring return, transfer, or conveyance by reason of the dissolution, shall be transferred or conveyed to one or more domestic or foreign corporations, societies, or organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), and are engaged in activities substantially similar to those of the Church; this distribution shall be done pursuant to a plan adopted by the Elders by passing vote as defined in §9.1.7 Definition of Quorum and Passing Vote of these By laws; and (4) any assets not otherwise disposed of shall be disposed of by a court of competent jurisdiction of

the county in which the principal office of the Church is then located, for such purposes and to such organizations as said court shall determine, provided such organizations are in agreement with the Church's Articles of Faith (Article VII) and basic form of government.

In the event of a merger of the Church with another Church, the net assets of the Church shall be contributed to the surviving entity.

#### ARTICLE XVI. Amendments and Alterations

These By laws or any provision contained herein may be altered, amended, repealed or restated, and a new By laws adopted, by a passing vote of the Elder body as defined in §9.1.7 Definition of Quorum and Passing Vote.

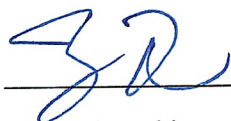
Such vote shall take place at any special or regular Elder meeting duly noticed. "Duly noticed" is defined as a twenty-four (24) hour pre-notification via email or other communication means.

#### ARTICLE XVII. Ratification and Amendments


The Constitution and By laws for Hope Church was reviewed and edited by the elders of the Church. Pursuant to Article XVI. Amendments and Alterations, the elders provided the edited copy to the members for a vote as it reduced member rights regarding voting. It was approved by the members of the Church with a 94% vote on 08/03/2025.

The Constitution was approved on the date below as evidenced by the signatures below:

Date: 08/13/2025



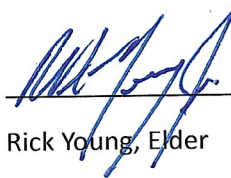
Zach Foley, Elder



Mike Bryant, Elder



Trevor McClure, Elder



Rick Young, Elder



Thomas Ronio, Elder