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**Bylaws: Rules for Internal Operation of  
Colorado Freedom Church**

- I. Name:** The name of this organization is Colorado Freedom Church [Also known as Freedom Church (FC)]. This name shall be reported to the Berean Fellowship of Churches via the Regional Fellowship.

**II. Affiliation:**

- A. This church is affiliated with the Berean Fellowship of Churches (BFC) through membership in the representative bodies known as the Regional Fellowship (RF) and the General Council. (For the definition of BFC terms and relationships, consult the current BFC Bylaws.)
- B. An established BFC church is one that
1. is financially self-supporting
  2. has a Church Board composed of at least three male partners of the church, including the pastor, who are biblically qualified as either Elders or Deacons, and
  3. has been formally recognized by the BFC Regional Fellowship as an established BFC church.
- C. Mission Churches: (If this church is a new church plant or returned to Mission Status, see description in the BFC bylaws, Section IV, H, 3.)

**III. Doctrine and Purpose**

- A. Doctrine: We wholeheartedly support the doctrinal statement of the BFC as outlined in the BFC Constitution and Bylaws and available at [www.WeAreBerean.org](http://www.WeAreBerean.org).
- B. Purpose: Freedom Church exists to glorify God by making and growing more followers of Jesus Christ.

**IV. Partnership:**

Church partnership in Freedom Church is for people who have trusted in Christ and desire to glorify God by partnering in the ministry of FC as image bearers of Christ.

Church partnership does not save a person or earn them merit with God, but it is a sign of commitment to Christ and a commitment to love and serve what God loves, the church. (Ephesians 5:25)

Regarding salvation, a Freedom Church partner must have repented and turned to God by placing their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. They must recognize that they cannot be saved or made right with God by good works, but are saved by grace through faith in Christ alone. (John 1:12, 3:16; Romans 3:20-23; Ephesians 2:8-9)

Regarding baptism, Freedom Church recommends that its partners have undergone baptism as a believer in obedience to the command of Jesus Christ. If you have not been baptized, we

ask that you do so at the next available opportunity. (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-5)

A. Qualifications

1. Confess faith in Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord.
2. Agree with the Doctrinal Statement of this church.
3. Indicate commitment to following Jesus Christ through believer's baptism in water by immersion or giving testimony to this experience.

B. Procedure

1. A person seeking church partnership will participate in the process prescribed by the church board.
2. Prospective partners will meet with leaders of FC to ascertain if hearts are aligned in following Jesus and the mission, vision, values, and direction of Freedom Church.
3. Upon approval by the church board, the candidate shall be accepted for partnership by the board and presented to the FC faith family.

C. Partnership Agreement: As a member of Freedom Church, I affirm the following:

1. We are a people who deeply desire to walk in brotherly love and will work and pray for the unity of the Holy Spirit in our church. (John 13:34-35, 17:20-21; Romans 12:10; 1 John 4:20-21; Ephesians 4:1-3)
2. We are a people who purpose to, by the power of the Holy Spirit, pursue holiness, and flee from the sinful desires of our flesh. (Galatians 5:16-26; 2 Timothy 2:22; James 4:1-3, 4:7; 1 Peter 1:14-16)
3. We are a people who purpose to pray for our church family. (Galatians 6:2; Colossians 4:2; James 5:16)
4. We are a people who purpose to live to reflect the image of Christ to our community. (2 Corinthians 5:11-21).
5. We are a people who purpose to regularly attend corporate gatherings for worship and participate in communion as often as we are able. (Hebrews 10:24-25).
6. We are a people who agree to pursue the godly path of reconciliation when we have differences with others. We also agree to be held accountable by the leadership and other partners of the church, understanding the nature of restorative church correction. (Proverbs 27:17; Matthew 18:15-17; Galatians 6:1; 2 Timothy 2:22; James 5:16)
7. We are a people who purpose to pray for and submit to the leadership of the church. (Colossians 4:2-3; Hebrews 13:17)
8. We are a people who purpose to commit ourselves to live generously, both financially, and in the use of our spiritual gifts. (2 Corinthians 9:6-7; Luke 6:38; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7; 1 Timothy 5:17-18; 1 Peter 4:10; Proverbs 11:24-25)

9. We are a people who purpose to graciously recognize the biblical liberty of fellow believers who have different opinions on matters of personal preference. (Romans 14:1-15:7)

**D. Removal of Partnership**

1. If a partner joins another church, his or her partnership in FC automatically terminates. A letter certifying the partner's baptism and partnership standing will be sent upon request.
2. Partners who develop irreconcilable differences with either the doctrinal position of FC or the policies and procedures described in these bylaws shall quietly resign their partnership without attempting to cause any trouble.
3. Partners may be removed from partnership at the discretion of the Church Board as the final result of church discipline according to the procedure described in Matthew 18 and in these bylaws.
4. Partners who are absent from church events and activities for six months may be removed from partnership after the Church Board has made meaningful contact to discern the reasons for their absence and ascertain their spiritual health.

**V. Church Discipline (or Correction).** The purpose of church correction is restoration of the sinning partner to Christ and the church body. The heart of this process is tender, gentle, and humble correction with a goal of reconciliation. It is not to be undertaken lightly and must proceed with much prayer, reflection and godly courage, keeping in view the well-being and protection of the church at large as well.

**A. Guidelines for Correction of Church Partners**

1. Biblically, each believer is responsible before God to examine his or her own identity in and obedience to Christ. (1 Corinthians. 11:31)
2. In disciplinary actions it is imperative that all parties be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading and follow scriptural guidelines.
3. Church correction is for specific sins, not for differences of opinion. (1 Corinthians 5:1; 11-13; 1 Timothy 5:19-21)

**B. Process for Church Correction (Matthew 18:15-20).** Time must be given for each believer in Jesus to process and reflect upon culpability and recognize each person's unique identity, gifting, calling, and process of interacting with the Holy Spirit.

1. The person who is aware of the offense is to be the first to prayerfully and privately confront the sinning partner.
2. If the sinning partner refuses to repent, the first person is to take one or two witnesses for a second attempt to confirm and clarify the facts.
3. If the matter remains unresolved, it is to be brought to the Shepherding Team.
4. If the sinning partner still refuses to repent, the Shepherding Team may bring the matter to the attention of the partners of the church.
5. When the sinning partner repents, he or she should be forgiven, restored to fellowship, and lovingly affirmed by those involved.

6. Restoration to ministry responsibilities shall be at the discretion of the Shepherding Team.
7. In the event that the sinning partner continually refuses to repent, he/she may be removed from partnership at the discretion of the Shepherding Team.

## **VI. Meetings of Partners**

### **A. Annual Meetings**

1. An annual church meeting will be held for the purpose of presenting reports considered necessary by the Church Board, casting vision for ministry in the coming year, and other necessary items of business.
2. Notice of the date of the annual meeting shall be publicized at least three Sundays prior to the meeting by public announcement from the pulpit or by written form, either physical or digital.

### **B. Specially Called Meetings**

1. The Church Board or 25% of the active partnership may call a special meeting of the church.
2. Notice of the date of the meeting, including its purpose, shall be publicized at least three Sundays prior to the meeting from the pulpit or in written form, either physical or digital.

## **VII. Church Leadership**

### **A. Church Board**

1. The Official Church Board (referred to hereinafter as “the Board”) shall be the Board of Directors for this corporation and will provide accountability for all organizations, committees, and ministries of the church.
2. The Board will consist of biblically qualified male Shepherds (Shepherding Team) and may also include biblically qualified Deacons and Deaconesses. (Philippians 1:1; Romans 16:1-2)
3. In consultation with the congregation, the Board will select its members to serve on the Board for a term of three years. At the end of each term, they may choose to stand for an additional term with the consent of the Board. After serving 2 or 3 consecutive terms, they will step away from serving on the Board for a minimum of one year.
4. The Board will meet regularly to conduct the spiritual oversight of the church.
5. When the number of Board members becomes fewer than three (including the pastor), a Provisional Leadership Team will be formed according to article II. H-5 of the Berean Fellowship of Church’s Constitution. This team along with at least one representative from the local church will serve as the Official Board of this church until an autonomous local Board can be reestablished.
6. Official board members must agree to the Board Member’s Covenant.

### **B. Shepherds**

1. A Shepherd serves as an elder, leader, and teacher in the local church.
2. A man is qualified to serve as a Shepherd when his life consistently displays the characteristics described in 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1, Hebrews 13, and 1 Peter 5. He will be selected for his Christ-like character, giftedness and his sense of personal call to the role.
3. Shepherds of this church are responsible to the Lord Jesus and accountable to the Board and to the church to shepherd and teach the church as Jesus would. He shall be identified as a Shepherd as long as he shares in the responsibilities of shepherding the flock until he is prevented from doing so by his death, resignation, or removal by other Shepherds in the event of heresy, immorality, misconduct, incompetence, or failure to maintain a good testimony.
4. The Shepherding Team is also responsible for the spiritual care and oversight of the pastoral staff.
5. While all Shepherds are identified in perpetuity, some will serve actively on the Board.

#### C. Deacons and Deaconesses

1. A Deacon/Deaconess must possess qualities that follow the descriptions in 1 Timothy 3, Acts 6, and Romans 16:1-5a. They are responsible to the Lord Jesus and accountable to both the Board and the church to serve the church as Jesus would.
2. A Deacon/Deaconess will be identified and appointed by the Board to serve according to policies determined by the local church.

#### D. Board Member Covenant:

1. I, (name), ask God for His grace to help me lead Freedom Church. I commit to God's assignment to lead, shepherd, guard, and serve this flock. I understand that this role is not simply advisory, but one of lovingly shepherding and leading God's people, guarding sound doctrine, and advancing God's mission in this community. I recognize that I will give an account to the living God for my leadership in this church, and so I ask for His help to grow in my love for Him, and grow in a committed love for my church and community.
2. I commit to seek the Holy Spirit's help in setting an example in godliness, integrity, and repentance, relying on God's grace to live out the character qualities of 1 Timothy 3. I commit to maintain a soft heart before the living God by practicing the spiritual disciplines, intentionally keeping my eyes on Jesus the Chief Shepherd.
3. I commit to leading by example as I live in community with other believers, serving as an image bearer of Jesus Christ and as God's agent in this world.
4. I commit to cooperate with the Berean Fellowship of churches, using my influence to further the interdependent mission of the Berean Fellowship.
5. If at any time I am out of harmony with my fellow board members or with the Berean Fellowship, I commit to seek reconciliation. If I fail to be reconciled, I

will graciously resign immediately, causing no trouble which would damage this church.

#### E. Lead Pastor

##### 1. Responsibilities

- a) The Lead Pastor shall provide shared spiritual leadership to the church as a leader among leaders in equipping God's people for the work of the ministry. (Eph 4:11-12).
- b) The Lead Pastor is a Shepherd of the church and shall be accountable to the Board for the performance of his duties. He serves on the official Board as a Shepherd. He will not be subject to term limits.
- c) He shall have the right to be an ex officio member of all committees and other organized groups within the church.
- d) He shall participate in the BFC Regional Fellowship and the annual BFC General Council meetings.

##### 2. Calling a Lead Pastor

- a) The Board shall appoint a search team consisting of four to seven church partners, at least one of whom is a Shepherd.
- b) All discussions of the search committee shall be confidential, as to the names and evaluations of each potential candidate, although they will keep the congregation well informed of their process.
- c) The team shall review résumés and shall send a copy of these bylaws and the BFC Constitution to each viable candidate.
- d) The search committee will be instructed to contact the Regional Fellowship Leader for names of potential candidates as well as assistance with the process.
- e) Though many potential candidates may be considered, only one will be chosen, by unanimous vote of the Team, for recommendation to the Board.
- f) If the Board has a favorable response to his application, résumé, and ministry experience, it will seek the assistance of its Regional Fellowship. If after reviewing a pastoral candidate the representatives of the Regional Fellowship do not recommend the candidate as a lead pastor the search team should continue to review resumes to identify a different candidate to recommend.
- g) After receiving input from the Regional Fellowship, if the Board wishes to proceed, it shall extend an invitation to the prospective candidate to visit the church, to meet with the Board, and to preach.
- h) Upon a unanimous affirmative vote of the Board, the candidate shall be presented to the congregation for a vote of affirmation.
- i) Upon an affirmative vote of three fourths of the church partners present at a specially called meeting, a call shall be extended to the candidate.

3. A pastor shall serve as long as mutually agreeable between him and the church, provided that he continues to affirm the Pastor's Covenant.
4. Pastor's Covenant: Throughout his tenure with this church, the pastor will maintain the character and commitments of the following Covenant:

I, (name), ask God for His grace to help me shepherd Colorado Freedom Church. I commit to God's assignment to lead this flock through shepherding, teaching, evangelizing, and equipping believers for the work of ministry. I recognize that I will give an account to the living God for my time at this church, and so I ask for His help to grow in my love for Him, and grow in a committed love for my church and community.

I commit to seek the Holy Spirit's help in setting an example in godliness, integrity, and repentance, relying on God's grace to live out the character qualities of 1 Timothy 3. I *commit to maintain a soft heart before the living God* by practicing the spiritual disciplines, intentionally keeping my eyes on Jesus the Chief Shepherd.

I commit to cooperate with the Berean Fellowship of churches, using my influence to further the interdependent mission of the Berean Fellowship. I commit to being sensitive to God's leading regarding the completion of my current ministry assignment, and will graciously resign when I sense God's leading. If at any time I am unable to submit to the authority of this church's Elders or the Berean Fellowship, I ask these Elders to call it to my attention. If I fail to be reconciled I will resign immediately and will quickly and quietly leave the community, causing no trouble which would damage this church.

Upon my departure from this ministry, I will release my pastoral responsibilities with the congregation, recognizing that all pastoral functions should henceforth *rightfully be conducted by my successor*.

5. Any pastor not previously ordained shall be licensed for ministry, as set forth in the BFC bylaws. If the pastor was formerly ordained, his ordination may be formally recognized and endorsed by the church and reported to the BFC.
6. An Interim Pastor has the same duties and covenant as a Lead Pastor and must be chosen by vote of the Board.

#### F. Additional Ministry Staff

1. The Pastor, in conjunction with the Board may hire/appoint staff, whether full-time, part-time or volunteer, who are deemed necessary to effectively lead the church in accomplishing its mission and expected outcomes. These staff members shall be directly accountable to the Pastor and annually evaluated by him.
2. All ministry staff shall abide by these bylaws, and will quietly resign if he/she is unwilling to submit to the authority of the Pastor and Board.

### VIII. Officers of the Church Corporation

- A. A Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary will be appointed annually by the Board from its partnership, also filling the roles of President, Vice-President and Secretary of

the Corporation. These officers will be granted the authority and responsibilities generally accorded these positions to act on behalf of the Corporation.

- B. The Secretary shall also serve as the church clerk. They shall keep a record of all church business and minutes of any church meetings and shall be responsible for any correspondence associated with his office.
- C. Treasurer
  - 1. The Treasurer shall be appointed annually by the Board to oversee receipt and disbursement of funds for church finances.
  - 2. The Treasurer will provide financial reports, as required by the Board, and prepare for and assure an annual audit or financial review.
- D. In the event of a vacancy in any office, the Board will appoint a replacement to complete the remainder of term for that year.

## **IX. Church Property**

- A. Titles. This locally incorporated church shall hold titles to all church property, real or personal.
- B. Use. Property held by this locally incorporated church shall be for the use of church ministry consistent with the doctrine, practice, and ministry contained within these bylaws.
- C. Division. In the case of an organizational division of the church, the group of partners that abides by these bylaws shall retain all church property. Should controversy arise as to which group that may be, the question shall be submitted to the BFC Board of Directors or its successor, and their decision shall be final. Upon determination by the BFC Board of Directors, all titles for church property shall be conveyed to the group of members retaining ownership.
- D. Dissolution. If at any time there are insufficient members to continue a viable church work and a decision is made to close the church, the ownership and title of all church property, real and personal, shall be transferred to the BFC.
- E. Disaffiliation. This church may vote to disaffiliate from the BFC, as provided in Article V, C of the BFC bylaws.

## **X. Rules of Order**

- A. General Powers: This organization shall receive gifts, bequests and legacies; acquire, buy, hold, improve, rent, lease, mortgage, sell and convey, and otherwise deal in real and personal property as may be necessary to conduct the business of this church and fulfill its stated mission. Appeals for funds may be made as deemed advisable by the Board.
- B. Fiscal Year: The fiscal year of this church shall be January 1 through December 31.
- C. Quorum: A quorum for any meeting of the partnership shall be 50% and not less than 10 people of the active partnership. A quorum for a duly called meeting of any board or committee shall consist of 50% of its partnership.

- D. Decisions will be by the majority vote of those present, unless alternately defined in these bylaws or previously stipulated. Each partner has one vote.
- E. Parliamentary Guide: In order that "...all things be done decently and in order," Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised (of the most recent edition) shall be followed in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the bylaws of this church.
- F. "Ex officio" members, meaning "by virtue of office," shall have the right to vote and function in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*.
- G. Policies: Each board, committee and auxiliary organization of this church may formulate and maintain its own manual of policies and procedures, which shall be approved by the Board and be in harmony with these bylaws. A current copy of these manuals shall be kept on file at the church office.

## **XI. Limitation of Liability**

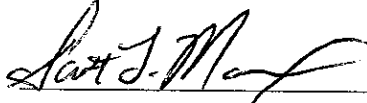
- A. No member of the Board of Freedom Church shall be personally liable for the debts, liabilities, or other obligations of Freedom Church.
- B. To the extent that a person who is, or was, an officer, employee or other agent of this organization has been successful on the merits in defense of any civil, criminal, administrative or investigative proceeding brought to procure a judgment against such person by reason of the fact that he or she is, or was, an agent of the Freedom Church, or has been successful in defense of any claim, issue or matter, therein, such person shall be indemnified against expenses actually and reasonably incurred by the person in connection with such proceeding.
- C. If such person settles any such claim or sustains a judgment against him or her, then indemnification against expenses, judgments, fines, settlements and other amounts reasonably incurred in connection with such proceedings shall be provided by this organization but only to the extent allowed by, and in accordance with state law.
- D. The Board of Freedom Church may adopt a policy authorizing the purchase and maintenance of insurance on behalf of any agent of the organization against any liability other than for violating provisions of law relating to self-dealing asserted against or incurred by the agent in such capacity or arising out of the agent's status as such, whether or not Freedom Church would have the power to indemnify the agent against such liability under the provisions of state law.


## **XII. Interpretation and Amendments**

- A. These bylaws may be amended upon three-fourths affirmative vote of the church partnership at a meeting in which a quorum is present, provided that written notice of the proposed amendment has been distributed, either physically or electronically, to the church partnership at least thirty days prior to the meeting at which the amendment is to be considered.
- B. The counsel of the Regional Fellowship of the BFC will be sought before considering the revision or amendment of these bylaws.

- C. Upon adoption of an amendment to these bylaws, a current copy will be provided to the Board of Directors of the BFC.
- D. Matters of clarification and interpretation of these bylaws will be referred to the Regional Fellowship of the BFC.
- E. These bylaws of Colorado Freedom Church supersede and replace all prior bylaws.

**XIII. THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFY** that the above bylaws have been approved by the Board of Directors of this church on January 22, 2023, and are adopted for the Corporation.

  
Chairman of the Corporation

  
Vice-Chairman of the Corporation