

# **Bylaws of Kingdom Community Church**

## **Article I: Name**

The name of this church shall be "Kingdom Community Church" (hereinafter referred to as the "Church"), located in Cookeville, Tennessee.

## **Article II: Purpose**

The purpose of the Church is to glorify God by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ, making disciples, and building a community of believers who are committed to worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, and evangelism, in accordance with the principles and teachings of the Bible, and in adherence to the beliefs and practices of the Southern Baptist Convention.

## **Article III: Statement of Faith**

The Church affirms the Holy Bible as the inspired, infallible, and authoritative Word of God and adopts the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 as its statement of faith. The Church shall not adopt any other statement of faith that conflicts with the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 without the approval of the elder board.

## **Article IV: Church Governance**

### **Section 1: Elders**

1.1 Elder Board: The Church shall be governed by a plurality of biblically qualified elders who are appointed and recognized by the congregation. The elders shall oversee the spiritual well-being, direction, and ministry of the Church, including but not limited to, preaching and teaching of the Word of God, administration of the ordinances, prayer, and pastoral care.

1.2 Qualifications: Elders shall meet the qualifications set forth in the Bible (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9) and shall be members of the Church in good standing, exhibiting godly character, and being exemplary in their Christian walk.

1.3 Appointment: Elders shall be appointed by the existing elder board and presented to the congregation for affirmation. The process of appointment and affirmation shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures established by the elder board and communicated to the congregation.

1.4 Term of Service: Elders shall serve for an indefinite term until they resign, are removed by the elder board, or are affirmed by the congregation to serve as an elder emeritus. The elder board may appoint additional elders as needed.

1.5 Responsibilities: Elders shall collectively oversee the spiritual direction, doctrine, and ministry of the Church. They shall shepherd the congregation, provide spiritual leadership, and exercise oversight over the staff, ministries, and resources of the Church.

Section 2: Congregational Affirmation

2.1 Congregational Affirmation: The Church affirms the biblical principle of congregational affirmation in major decisions, including the appointment of elders, the adoption of the annual budget, and other matters deemed significant by the elder board.

2.2 Affirmation Process: The elder board shall seek the affirmation of the congregation through a process established by the elder board, which may include providing opportunities for members to express their affirmation or concerns, and conducting votes or surveys in a transparent and prayerful manner.

## **Article V: Membership**

### **Section 1: Membership Requirements**

1.1 Membership: The Church shall have a membership consisting of believers who have repented of their sins, professed faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, been baptized by immersion, and voluntarily submitted to the teachings, beliefs, and practices of the Church.

1.2 Membership Process: The elder board shall establish a process for membership, which may include submitting an application, attending a membership class, and being interviewed by an elder or designated representative of the Church. Approved members shall be received and recognized by the congregation.

1.3 Member Responsibilities: Members shall be committed to regular attendance, financial support, active participation, and submission to the authority and teachings of the Church. They shall also strive to maintain a godly lifestyle, promote unity, and serve the Church and the community.

### **Section 2: Member Rights and Privileges**

2.1 Member Rights: Members shall have the right to participate in the congregational affairs of the Church, including but not limited to, voting on matters requiring congregational affirmation, participating in ministry opportunities, and receiving pastoral care and guidance.

2.2 Member Privileges: Members shall have the privilege of receiving spiritual oversight, instruction, and pastoral care from the elders and other designated leaders of the Church. They may also have access to Church resources, facilities, and ministries as deemed appropriate by the elder board.

## **Article VI: Church Meetings**

### **Section 1: Worship Services**

1.1 Worship Services: The Church shall hold regular worship services for the purpose of corporate worship, teaching, and fellowship. The worship services may include preaching of the Word of God, singing, prayer, ordinances, and other activities consistent with the mission and beliefs of the Church.

1.2 Special Services: The Church may also hold special services, events, or activities as deemed necessary or beneficial for the spiritual growth and edification of the congregation.

Section 2: Congregational Meetings

2.1 Congregational Meetings: The Church shall hold congregational meetings for the purpose of conducting Church business, affirming major decisions, and providing opportunities for members to express their affirmation, concerns, and input.

2.2 Notice of Meetings: The elder board shall provide notice of congregational meetings in a timely and appropriate manner, which may include announcements during worship services, written communication, or electronic means.

2.3 Quorum: A quorum for congregational meetings shall be defined as a majority of the voting members present in person or by designated proxy.

2.4 Voting: All matters requiring congregational affirmation shall be decided by a majority vote of the members present and voting, unless otherwise specified in these bylaws.

## **Article VII: Church Finances**

### **Section 1: Budget and Financial Stewardship**

1.1 Budget: The Church shall adopt an annual budget, which shall be approved by the elder board and presented to the congregation for affirmation. The budget shall reflect the priorities, needs, and resources of the Church, and shall be administered in a prudent and transparent manner.

1.2 Financial Stewardship: The Church and its members shall be committed to biblical principles of financial stewardship, including giving tithes and offerings, being faithful in the stewardship of resources, and supporting the ministries and missions of the Church.

### **Section 2: Financial Records and Accountability**

2.1 Financial Records: The Church shall maintain accurate and complete financial records, which shall be subject to regular review by the elder board or its designated representatives.

2.2 Financial Accountability: The Church shall exercise appropriate financial accountability, including conducting annual audits, providing financial reports to the congregation, and adhering to applicable laws and regulations related to financial management and reporting.

## **Article VIII: Amendments**

### **Section 1: Amendment Process**

1.1 Amendment Process: These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present and voting at a congregational meeting called for that purpose, provided that notice of the proposed amendment(s) has been given to the congregation in accordance with the notice requirements for congregational meetings.

1.2 Elder Board Approval: Any proposed amendment(s) to these bylaws shall be reviewed and approved by the elder board before being presented to the congregation for affirmation.

# **Article IX: Dissolution**

## **Section 1: Dissolution Process**

1.1 Dissolution Process: In the event that the Church ceases to exist or decides to dissolve, the assets and property of the Church shall be distributed to one or more charitable or religious organizations as determined by the elder board in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

# **Article X: Indemnification**

The Church shall indemnify and hold harmless its officers, directors, employees, and agents to the fullest extent permitted by law against any and all liabilities, damages, expenses, and losses incurred in connection with the performance of their duties and responsibilities on behalf of the Church, except in cases of willful misconduct or gross negligence.

# **Article XI: Miscellaneous**

## **Section 1: Church Policies and Procedures**

1.1 Church Policies and Procedures: The elder board may adopt policies and procedures as necessary to implement and administer these bylaws, provided that such policies and procedures are consistent with the mission, beliefs, and values of the Church.

1.2 Policy and Procedure Review: Church policies and procedures shall be reviewed periodically by the elder board to ensure their effectiveness and alignment with the mission and beliefs of the Church.

## **Section 2: Conflict Resolution**

2.1 Conflict Resolution: The Church shall strive to resolve conflicts and disputes in a biblical manner, in accordance with the principles of Matthew 18:15-20 and other applicable biblical teachings.

2.2 Elder-led Resolution: In the event that a conflict or dispute arises among members, leaders, or staff of the Church, the elder board shall have the authority to mediate, arbitrate, or make final decisions as deemed necessary and appropriate.

## **Section 3: Legal Compliance**

3.1 Legal Compliance: The Church shall operate in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including but not limited to, tax laws, employment laws, and nonprofit corporation laws.


3.2 Non-Discrimination: The Church shall not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, or any other characteristic protected by applicable laws and regulations.

## Article XII: Adoption and Ratification

These bylaws shall be adopted and ratified by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present and voting at a congregational meeting called for that purpose, and shall become effective immediately upon such adoption and ratification.

These bylaws were adopted and ratified by the members of Kingdom Community Church on April 16, 2024 and supersede all previous bylaws or governing documents of the Church.

Signed:

 (Chairperson of the Elder Board)

 (Lead Pastor)

 (Church Secretary)

Date: 4/16/2024