

OPEN GATE COWBOY CHURCH



Lampasas, Texas

Constitution and By-Laws

(REVISED 2020)

OPEN GATE COWBOY CHURCH CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS PREAMBLE

Under the guidance and leadership of the Lord Jesus Christ, we the members of Open Gate Cowboy Church, herein referred to as "OGCC", adopt the following constitution in order to declare and preserve the principles of our faith, the freedom of our church, and the rights and responsibilities of our individual members.

OPEN GATE COWBOY CHURCH CONSTUTUTION	3
ARTICLE I – NAME	3
ARTICLE II – PURPOSE	3
ARTICLE III – DOCTRINE.....	4
ARTICLE IV – POLITY AND RELATIONSHIP	4
ARTICLE V – ORDINANCES.....	5
ARTICLE VI – AMENDMENTS.....	5
OPEN GATE COWBOY CHURCH BY-LAWS	6
ARTICLE I – ESTABLISHING MEMBERSHIP	6
ARTICLE II – MINISTRERIAL LEADERSHIP AFFIRMATION BY EMPLOYEES	7
ARTICLE III – SUPPORT STAFF	12
ARTICLE IV – TEAMS.....	13
ARTICLE V – CORPORATE OFFICERS	17
ARTICLE VI – CHURCH BUSINESS.....	18
ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS.....	20

OPEN GATE COWBOY CHURCH CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I – NAME

Section 1 – The name of this church is Open Gate Cowboy Church and incorporated under the laws of the State of Texas.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

Section 1 – The church is organized and maintained to fulfill the following Mission Purpose Statement: The mission of OGCC is to reach the lost and unchurched people in the western culture with the gospel of Jesus Christ and provide a church home where they can become more like Him. The church will accomplish this mission by holding to these values:

Simplicity - The church will strive to keep all things it does as simple as possible.

Non-judgmental approach - The church will foster a non-judgmental atmosphere in all it does, accepting people just as they are, just as Christ himself does.

Cultural relevance/Western Heritage - The church will make sure that all it does, including all of its programming and ministries, will be geared toward reaching people in the western culture and those who love it.

Practice of Biblical Christianity -The church will practice biblical Christianity. This will be practiced by the leadership and the congregation.

Elimination of barriers to the cowboy culture - The church will do all that it can to lower or eliminate the barriers preventing the Gospel of Jesus Christ from reaching the western culture.

Empowerment with Accountability -The church will strive to empower as many people as it can to serve Christ through the church and bring out the giftedness in them while holding them accountable for their actions and commitments.

Power of the Gospel - The church believes in the power of the gospel for salvation of souls and healing of body, mind, and spirit.

ARTICLE III – DOCTRINE

Section 1 – We recognize the Baptist Faith and Message (1963) as our statement of doctrine with the exception of spiritual officers. We recognize the Pastor and Elders as scriptural officers.

Section 2 – Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality God wonderfully, unchangeably creates each person in the mother’s womb as male or female. These two distinct, complimentary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen 1:26-27). Rejection of one’s own biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person. The term “marriage” has only one meaning: The unifying of one biological man and one biological woman in a single, exclusive union, as set forth by scripture (Gen. 2:18-25). God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a biological man and a biological woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor. 6:18, 7:2-5, Heb. 13:4). God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a biological man and a biological woman. Intimate sexual activity outside of such a marriage is sinful. God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking his mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts. 3:19-21, Romans 10:9-10, 1 Cor. 6:9-11).

Every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect and dignity. (Mark 12: 28-31, Luke 6:31). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with the doctrines of this church.

ARTICLE IV – POLITY AND RELATIONSHIP

Section 1 – Jesus Christ is the head of the church: The true source of all that the church is and does, and His glory is to be the objective of every act, function, and motive of the body, both individually and corporately. It is before him that all other leadership must bow. He communicates His will for the church through His word, the Bible. He gives additional guidance by means of the specific leading of the Holy Spirit who dwells the heart of each believer. He calls forth leaders for the church to whom He gives responsibility for the oversight of the church body and the shepherding of its members. The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose its membership and leadership. Persons meeting the membership requirements and making a written request for membership shall constitute the membership. All internal groups created and empowered by the church shall exist to further the purpose of the church. They will be accountable to the church. As an autonomous local church is not subject to the control of any ecclesiastical body. However, it relates to and cooperates with the American Fellowship of Cowboy Churches and other entities of like faith in sharing the gospel

with the whole world. If an entity this church cooperates with ceases to agree with or support the mission of this church, this church reserves the right to disassociate with that entity.

ARTICLE V – ORDINANCES

Section 1 – BAPTISM A church is understood to be a fellowship of baptized believers brought together to carry out the work of Jesus Christ. A baptized believer is one who has been scripturally immersed and understands baptism to be a symbol of the salvation which has already been accepted in their life by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

Section 2 – THE LORD’S SUPPER The church will observe the Lord’s Supper on a regular basis as led by the Pastor. The Lord’s Supper is a symbolic act whereby the church, through partaking of the bread and Fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of Christ and anticipate His second coming. This observance is open to anyone who has accepted Jesus Christ as their personal savior and is seeking His righteousness.

ARTICLE VI – AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended by a three-fourth (3/4) vote of the active residents present at the church conference called for that purpose. Amendments may be proposed by the Elders or by written petition signed by 25% of the active resident members and duly presented to the Elders. Proposed amendments for church consideration shall be announced at the regular worship service and made available in written form to the congregation two weeks prior to the called church conference in which they will be voted on.

OPEN GATE COWBOY CHURCH BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I – ESTABLISHING MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 – Membership Membership in the OGCC is open to anyone who meets the following qualifications.

- A. A member must have a personal commitment of faith in Jesus Christ for salvation.
- B. A member must have been baptized by immersion after faith in Christ as a testimony of salvation.
- C. Membership may be established in the following ways:
 - 1. Transfer of Membership from a like faith church. Candidates who are members in good standing of another church of like faith ask their previous church to transfer their membership.
 - 2. Statement Candidates may join by affirming that they are baptized (immersed) believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, holding to historic teachings of Christianity.
 - 3. Baptism Candidates accepting Christ as their Savior and requesting believer's baptism by immersion will be accepted as members upon baptism.
- D. All candidates for membership shall give a verbal testimony of their conversion, baptism, walk with Christ and acceptance of the church's mission statement to the pastor or designated member of leadership.

Section 2 – TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP A person's membership in the OGCC may be terminated in one of the following ways: A. Death B. Transfer of Membership C. Exclusion If a member conducts himself/herself in a manner which brings the name of Christ and the church into disrepute, or is found to be undermining church unity, it will be the responsibility of the elders under the guidance of the pastor to attempt to restore the member in a spirit of love according to the guidelines set forth in Matthew 18:15-17. If the member fails to respond positively to these attempts, exclusion will require a consensus of the elder body and a written account signed by the elder body outlined the process laid out by Matthew 18:15-17 that they followed with the member. This written account will be available to members of the congregation upon request. D. Erasure If a member requests erasure or offers proof of membership in a church of another denomination, his name will be removed from the roll.

Section 3 – RIGHTS OF MEMBER Each active resident member present, 18 years of age and older, shall be entitled to one (1) vote on each matter submitted for a vote at any called church conference. The right of a member to vote shall cease upon the termination of his membership in the church. The right of a member to vote may be suspended if the member is involved in an unresolved elder intervention or if the member is no longer an active resident member. An active resident member is a member on the church roll who lives in or around the Open Gate Cowboy Church area and attends the church's regular worship services at least 6 times in a 90-day period. Active resident members have the right to vote on the following matters: the call of the pastor and other professional ministerial staff, the annual church budget, indebtedness for all other aspects of church business that exceeds 20% of the annual church budget, the disposition of all or substantially all the assets of the church, the merger or dissolution of the church, and any other matter submitted by the elders to the church for a vote.

ARTICLE II – MINISTERIAL LEADERSHIP AFFIRMATION BY EMPLOYEES

In order to preserve the function and integrity of this church as a part of the Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model for the members of this church and to the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by this church in any capacity affirm their agreement with, and agreement to abide by, doctrine statement written in Article iii of the OGCC constitution. (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess. 5:22)

Section 1 – PASTOR

A. Call Upon the pastor's termination, a church conference will be called and the church will elect a pastor search team. This team will consist of no fewer than three and no more than eight active resident members. This team will seek out and evaluate prospective pastoral candidates until they achieve complete consensus on a single candidate. Potential candidates will not be presented to the congregation as a part of the pastor process unless a call is being extended. When consensus is reached on a single candidate, the team will report to the elders who will set a time and date for the candidate to be received by the church. On that date, a church conference shall be called and after a full discussion, a vote will be taken by secret ballot. A three fourths (3/4) vote of the active resident members of the church present and voting is required to extend the call. If a call is not extended by the church to the candidate, or if the candidate declines to accept, then the pastor search team will begin a new search and come before the church with a second recommendation. This method will continue until a pastor is secured.

B. Duties The Pastor shall be the spiritual leader of the congregation. In that capacity, under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the leadership of the Holy Spirit, he shall preach and teach the word of God, lead the church in regular worship service, administer the ordinances of the church, serve as moderator at church conferences, provide leadership to the ministerial staff, serve as overall administrator of the church, work to implement the model of church structure and function laid out in this constitution, and generally fulfil all his pastoral duties as set forth in Scripture.

C. Termination The pastor's duties with the church may be terminated by resignation, death, or dismissal. A vote for dismissal must be preceded by appropriate intervention in accordance with Mathew 18 by the elders and a vote of at least 51% of the active members of the congregation at a called business meeting to call a church conference to vote on dismissal of the pastor. Such dismissal will require two thirds (2/3) vote of the active resident members present and voting at the called church conference. The moderator for this conference will be a disinterested 3rd party appointed by the elders.

Section 2 – PROFESSIONAL MINISTERIAL STAFF

A. Selection If it is determined that additional professional ministerial staff other than the pastor is needed for fulfilling the church's mission, they may be employed by the church. The church will select a search team. This team will consist of no fewer than three and no more than eight active resident members. This team will seek out and evaluate prospective candidates until they achieve complete consensus on a single candidate. They will then give their recommendations to the pastor and personnel team, who will make the final decision.

B. Duties Professional ministerial staff persons will have specific and written job descriptions as outlined by the pastor and personnel team.

C. Termination The minister's duties with the church may be terminated by resignation, death or dismissal. Dismissal will be made by the pastor, Elders, and personnel team.

Section 3 – LAY PASTORS

The Purpose and Function of Lay pastors shall serve as an extension of the pastor. They are directed by the pastor to help him carry out ministry duties. They are appointed and replaced by the pastor at his discretion. Lay pastors may be attached to one or more ministry teams. Lay pastors do not rule or lead the teams, they resource the team and act as a liaison between the team and the pastor. Ministers in worship Lay pastors may be called on to participate in the worship service, i.e., announcements, prayer requests, administering ordinances, assisting in

baptisms etc. Lay pastors may also be called on to bring devotions, preach, pray, or lead Bible studies depending on their gifts, talents, and spiritual maturity. Ministers to the congregation.

- A. Lay pastors help the pastor minister to the needs of the congregation in many ways, such as, visitation, meeting members physical needs as well as the physical needs of the church.
- B. Selection-Lay pastors shall be appointed as needed by the senior pastor. If there is no pastor, they may be appointed by the elders.
- C. Qualifications of a lay pastor-Lay pastors must be active resident members in good standing, be growing in the lord and have an active daily relationship with Jesus. Lay pastors must have a stable home life and be respected by others in the western culture and the community and not engage in activities that would bring reproach to the lord or the church. Divorce alone is not grounds for disqualification.
- D. Term of Office-Lay pastors will be appointed to a one-year term, but may serve multiple terms by mutual consent of the senior pastor, the elders, and the lay pastor involved.
- E. Removal A lay pastor may be removed before their term of office by death, resignation, or dismissal by the pastor and or elders.

Section 4 – ELDERS

A. Purpose and function Elders shall serve to provide spiritual leadership and accountability to the church in accordance with scripture. They will provide a brotherhood of support and accountability for the pastor, assist the ministry teams with difficult issues, serve as arbiters in matters of conflict or church discipline, and in general provide a spiritual leadership, guidance, and assistance wherever and whenever appropriate. The elder body shall be made up of up to 3 selected elders plus the pastor, who is the lead elder.

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP - Elders model what it is like to be Christ like. Elders are an example to the congregation of how to live a Christian life, this includes how to relate to other Christians, how to relate to non-believers. How to have a Godly and active personnel relationship with Jesus.

A BROTHERHOOD OF SUPPORT - Elders must be committed to the Pastor. Elders act as a buffer between the pastor and his critics, they also are an accountability group for the pastor, prayer partners for the pastor, and friends of the pastor. Elders are to meet with the pastor on a consistent regular basis. For consultation, prayer, and fellowship.

A LIMITED DECISION-MAKING BODY - The only time the elders become a decision-making body is when (1) they are called on by the pastor to help him make a decision, (2) when a ministry

team cannot reach consensus on an issue or asks for the elder's help, (3) when the functional structure does not exist or breaks down, (4) in matters of church discipline.

LIMITED VISIBLE INVOLVEMENT - Elders do not have ongoing roles in the worship service and are not overly involved with the ministry teams. Elders are not an oversight body for the finances, personnel, or pastor unless it is determined that unbiblical, immoral, or unethical behavior has occurred. They can be enlisted by the pastor, personnel team or the Stewardship Team if it is deemed necessary by one of these.

DUAL ROLES - Elders cannot have dual leadership roles. When a candidate for elder is nominated, he must be willing to step down from any other role in leadership that he occupies. Other leadership roles include: lay pastor, team leader, team member, paid staff or band leader.

CONFIDENTIALITY - All discussions between the elders are strictly confidential; this includes not discussing elder issues with the spouses of elders or other church members. Breaking confidentiality is grounds for removal. Elders do not meet without all the elders present including the pastor if this is possible and absolutely never meet to discuss problems about the pastor or another elder without them present. The Pastor-Elder and Elder-Elder relationship must be 100% transparent.

B. Qualifications God's Word gives specific qualifications, in 1 Timothy 3:1-12, for men who are called to serve as leaders in our church. Below are the biblical and culturally relevant qualifications that apply to Elders in the OGCC.

Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. (1 Tim 3:1)

1. Elder must acknowledge the importance and respect of God gives to someone called to lead the church. (1 Tim 3:2)
2. Elder must be someone with a good testimony in his home, the church, and in the culture that God has called this church to reach. The church acknowledges that none are without sin; an Elder must be someone who is seeking righteousness.
3. If an Elder is married, he must have only one wife and love her as Christ loves the church. Previous divorce alone is not grounds for disqualification. (1 Tim 3:2)
4. Elders are called to handle very difficult situations at times and must be able to control their personal feelings, emotions and actions in order to seek what God would have them do and not their own desires. (1 Tim 3:2 "respectable...")

5. An elder must be a man who is respected in the church, at home, and in the culture. An elder must respect people in his family, the church, and the community. (1 Tim 3:2 “hospitable...”)
6. An elder must be willing to open his home and give of his time to meet and to serve the people of the church. (1 Tim 3:2 “able to teach...”)
7. An elder must spend time in God’s Word and be comfortable and willing to instruct others in the church in studying the Bible. (1 Tim 3:3 “Not given to drunkenness...”)
8. An elder must not be controlled by alcohol or anything else that impairs his ability to make sound decisions or damages his testimony in the church, home, or culture. (1 Tim 3:3 “not violent but gentle...”)
9. An elder must be able to handle situations calmly and without becoming verbally, physically, or emotionally abusive. (1 Tim 3:3 “quarrelsome...”)
10. An elder must never be involved in matters that cause dissension in the church. (1 Tim 3:3 “not a lover of money...”)
11. An elder must be someone who is willing to put the needs of the church above his own desire for worldly possessions. (1 Tim 3:4)
12. An elder must be leading his family the way God directs in Scripture and be involved in the life of his family. (1 Tim 3:6)
13. An elder must not be a new Christian or someone who is not maturing in his faith. Until we are in the presence of God, it is also something that takes time. An elder must meet a minimum level of maturity as outlined in Hebrews 6:1-2. (1 Tim 3:7)
14. An Elder must be in good standing with people who are not a part of the church. He must have credibility with the rural/western culture we are seeking to reach. (1 Tim 3:9)
15. An Elder must look to Gods Word for the direction and words used to lead our church. (1 Tim 3:10)
16. An Elder must be someone who has led others in our church, (ministry teams, worship, etc.) or is active in church events/services.
17. The following qualification will go into effect no sooner than 5 years following adoption of this Constitution. An Elder must be an active resident member of OGCC for no less than two (2) years and be in good standing with the church.
18. An Elder must have an understanding and desire to see that the Mission of the OGCC and its values are upheld.

19. An Elder cannot have a spouse or family member who serves as paid or volunteer staff including but not limited to church clerk, church secretary or church finance secretary.
20. Elders must be willing to rearrange their daily schedules or do whatever it takes to ensure the Mission of the Church and any business necessary is fulfilled.
21. If arguments or disagreements arise in the church, an Elder must be able to take a neutral position, suspend judgment, hear both sides, and seek only Gods direction based on Scripture.
22. Elders must be men of age and maturity.

C. Selection and Term of Office

1. On or about January 1st of each year, the church will be asked to submit in writing the names of men to serve as elders. These names will be screened by the pastor and existing Elders to ensure that the nominees meet qualifications set. If it is determined that a nominee is qualified, he will be considered by the elders as a candidate.
2. Once a list of qualified candidates has been assembled, existing elders will select new elders on or before January 31st. The 3 candidates selected by the existing elders will serve as elders until the next selection unless precluded by death, resignation, or removal. An elder may not serve more than 3 consecutive terms.

D. Removal Any active resident member of the church may bring a written scriptural reason for removal of an elder. Elders other than the pastor may be removed from office by their own decision or by consensus decision of the other elders. Removal shall be based upon being spiritually unqualified, the inability to serve or as a result of the process laid out in Mathew 18:15-17 or failure to fulfill their commitments as an elder.

E. Vacancies Elder vacancies can occur by death, resignation, or removal. When a vacancy Occurs, the existing elders shall select an interim to fill the vacancy until the next selection process.

ARTICLE III – SUPPORT STAFF

The pastor and support team will employ and terminate other employees as necessary.

ARTICLE IV – TEAMS

Section 1 – GENERAL MINISTRY TEAMS

A. Purpose and function Ministry teams shall be organized to carry out the specialized ministries of the church. Each ministry team shall have specific functions and responsibilities as assigned or approved by the pastor and/or elders.

B. Structure Ministry teams will be made up of team representatives and team members. There will be no less than 4 and no more than 10 team representatives and as many members as needed to carry out the mission of the ministry team. Team representatives are responsible for attending regularly scheduled meetings and reaching consensus on decisions. Team members will have individual Functions and responsibilities. A staff member or lay pastor will be assigned to Each team to offer assistance and serve as a liaison between the team and the senior pastor and the team leader and will be responsible for ensuring that the team functions properly. Teams will function by consensus, not majority vote. Teams must arrive at decisions that can be supported by each member of the team. If consensus cannot be reached, the matter shall either be tabled or placed before the pastor and elders for a final decision. Ministry teams that have their own budget line must make a justified budget request to the Stewardship Team for the annual budget. The ministry team is responsible for staying within their budget and giving an account of all their activities at the monthly leadership team meeting. The teams make their own decisions about what they will do in their particular areas of ministry and they will choose how to allocate their budget dollars; however, all major decisions that could affect church direction or church sponsored activities should be brought before the leadership team before being implemented. Teams will hold firmly to the Mission Statement of the church and filter everything they do through this mission statement and each team will have its own Purpose Statement to help guide its direction.

C. Qualifications Team representatives are members who represent the team in reaching consensus about decisions, team representatives must be: active resident members of the church in good standing, love the Lord and have a desire to see his kingdom grow, have credibility with other church members, have a passion for the mission of the team, be determined to make the team a top priority in their lives (this means that they are willing to rearrange their daily schedules or do whatever it takes to participate in team meetings and activities), and desire to use their talents and abilities to accomplish the team’s mission. Team members must be willing to practice biblical Christianity. Non church members can be active on ministry teams, per Elder recommendation, but cannot be representatives that reach consensus on decisions.

D. Formation of Teams General Ministry teams may be formed as needed by the pastor and/or elders, by the Leadership Team, or by any lay pastor, ministry team leader or church member with the pastor's approval.

E. Selection of Term of Office Members of general ministry teams may be appointed by the pastor and/or elders, or be enlisted by a lay pastor or ministry team leader. The term of office for general ministry team members will be one (1) year, but members may serve multiple terms by mutual consent of the team leader, lay pastor, and team member involved.

F. Removal If a team member causes conflict, fails to carry out his or her responsibility to the team including meeting participation, or otherwise hampers the work of the team, every effort should be made by the team leader and assigned staff person 15 to rectify the issue in a positive redemptive manner. However, if the problem persists, a team member may be removed by the pastor and/or elders, or by consensus decision of the other team representatives.

Section 2 – STANDING MINISTRY TEAMS

A. Purpose and Function Standing ministry teams shall provide oversight of the church's regular business affairs and assist in finding and providing the tangible resources necessary to effectively carry out the church's ministries.

B. Structure Standing ministry teams shall be composed of six (6) members serving two-year terms with two members rotating off each year. A staff member or lay pastor will be assigned to each team to offer assistance and serve as a liaison between the team and the senior pastor and elders. Each year, one member of the team shall be designated by the pastor, lay pastor or staff member to be a team leader and will be responsible for ensuring that the team functions properly. Teams will function by consensus, not majority vote. This means that teams must arrive at decisions that can be supported by each member of the team. If consensus cannot be reached, the matter shall either be tabled or placed before the pastor and elders for a final decision.

C. Qualifications The Qualifications for standing ministry teams' members will be the same as those of general ministry team representatives. (Article IV, Section 1)

D. Standing Teams The standing teams of the church shall be:

1. Personnel Team The Personnel Team will have 6 members and will be responsible to ensure that the church has adequate support staff to effectively carry out its ministries. They will fill staff vacancies as needed or as directed by the church, conduct periodic staff evaluations, make salary recommendations, and mediate church/staff disputes.

2. Facility Team The Facility Team will be made of up 6 members. This team is responsible to ensure that the church has adequate facilities to effectively carry out its ministries. They will oversee the care, maintenance, and use of all facilities and grounds except the arena. They will not oversee paid staff. Any concerns the facilities team may have with paid staff are to be taken up the personnel team and the personnel team will interact directly with paid staff. The Facility Team will also assist the pastor and elders with long range planning which will ensure that the church has adequate facilities to meet future needs.

3. Stewardship Team The Stewardship Team is made of no less than 3 no more than 7 members. They meet once a month to audit the financial records. They only verify and report. They have no decision-making authority about how money is spent. It is the Stewardship Team's responsibility to get budget requests from all of the various ministry teams and church administrators and put together an annual budget to be presented to the church for a vote. The Stewardship Team will request each team, staff and employee (if applicable) turn in a budget on a designated date. The Elders and Stewardship Team will set a special called budget workshop to discuss each team budget. One representative from each must be present at the budget workshop. Upon the conclusion of the budget workshop, the Stewardship Team will begin developing the annual budget. When putting together the budget, the team will take into account projected church income based on history and realistic growth potential, church mission statement, church needs and priorities. A proposed budget will be presented at a monthly leadership team meeting for discussion before being put up for a vote. The budget will then be put up for a vote at a called business meeting where it will be voted on by the congregation. The budget can only be adopted by a 2/3 majority vote of the congregation. The Stewardship Team may be enlisted by the Pastor and Elders to come up with some policies related to finances. These policies can only be adopted by a 2/3 majority vote of the congregation.

4. Arena Team The Arena Team shall be responsible for the oversight, care, maintenance, and use of the arena. They will work with the Leadership Team as well as other ministry teams to develop strategies and plan events that will utilize the arena to effectively reach the cowboy/western culture for Christ and provide the hub for family life in the church. The Arena Team will be structured and function the same as a general ministry team as described in Article IV, Section 1.B. It may be determined that the arena team needs to separate checking account to handle incoming and outgoing funds. Any financial accounts are subject to the Stewardship Team and finance secretary and all financial accounts are subject to the policies and procedures set forth by this church for the handling of finances. The Qualifications for the arena team will be the same as for the general ministry teams as described in Article IV, Section 1.C. Formation of the Arena Team The formation of the Arena Team will be the same as for a general ministry team as described in Article IV, Section 1.D.

The selection and term of office will be the same as for a general ministry team as described in Article IV, Section 1.E. Grounds for removal are the same as for a general ministry team as described in Article IV, Section 1.F.

E. Selection and Term of Office Members of standing ministry teams may be appointed by the pastor and/or elders, or be enlisted by others who have been given that authority by the pastor and elders and do so under their supervision. The term of office for standing ministry team members will be two years with two members rotating off each year.

F. Removal If a standing team member causes conflict, fails to carry out his or her responsibility to the team, or otherwise hampers the work of the team, every effort should be made by the team leader and assigned staff person to rectify the issue in a positive redemptive manner. However, if the problem persists, a team member may be removed by the pastor and/or elders, or by a consensus decision of the other team members.

Section 3 – LEADERSHIP TEAM

A. Purpose and Function The Leadership Team will serve to provide a forum in which the various ministry teams can brainstorm, coordinate activities and events, share resources and generally work together to enhance the overall effectiveness of the church's ministries. It will be responsible for setting the church calendar and holding all ministry teams accountable to the church's mission statement, values and constitution.

B. Structure The Leadership Team will consist of the team leaders from each ministry team, the pastor, the elders, the lay pastors and staff. In addition, its meetings will generally be open to the participation and input of the entire church membership; however, the leadership team may meet in closed meetings but this cannot take place of the monthly leadership team meeting which is open to the congregation. Leadership team meetings shall be moderated by the senior pastor or a person whom the senior pastor will designate.

C. Meetings The Leadership Team will meet as often as necessary to effectively plan and coordinate the activities and events of the church. At a minimum, the leadership team will meet once every two months.

ARTICLE V – CORPORATE OFFICERS

Section 1. PRESIDENT

The senior pastor shall serve as the president and overall administrator of the corporation. He will serve as moderator at church conferences and be responsible for ensuring that the daily business affairs of the church are appropriately and effectively executed.

Section 2. TRUSTEES

A. Purpose and Function Trustees shall sign the title to church property; all legal documents involving the sale, mortgage, or rental of property; all notes and loan instruments; and other legal documents as may require execution on behalf of the church. There shall be 3 trustees.

B. Selection and Term of Office Three trustees will be nominated by the elders and voted on by the church. The trustees will serve indefinitely and may be removed or replaced by consensus of the elders.

C. Limitations The trustees will have no decision-making authority. They will only execute the will of the church in legal matters.

Section 3 – CLERK/SECRETARY

A. Purpose and function The Church Clerk shall serve as secretary of the corporation. The responsibilities of the clerk will be to keep the minutes of all church conferences, ensure that proper file of all members is maintained.

B. Selection and Term of Office A volunteer may be appointed by the pastors and elders. A paid staff position can be filled by the Personnel Team. The Church Secretary shall serve as Church Clerk.

Section 4 – VACANCIES In the event a vacancy occurs in any corporate office, the elders shall appoint a successor to fill the unexpired term.

ARTICLE VI – CHURCH BUSINESS

Section 1 – FINANCES

A. Fiscal Year The fiscal year of the church will be on a calendar year basis beginning on January 1 and ending on December 31 of each year.

B. Accounting Procedures A system of accounting that will adequately provide for the handling of all funds shall be the responsibility of the Stewardship Team.

C. Budget The Stewardship Team, in consultation with the pastor and ministry team leaders, shall prepare and submit a budget for congregational approval prior to the beginning of each fiscal year as outlined in Article IV, Section 3, D 3).

D. Checks, Drafts, Etc. All checks, drafts or orders for payment of money, notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the church shall be signed by at least two (2) people who have been designated by the Stewardship Team for that purpose.

E. Deposits All funds of the church shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the church in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as determined by the Stewardship Team.

F. Debit Cards Church will have three debit cards with a \$250 limit per day on each card.

Section 2 – CHURCH CONFERENCES

A. Annual Church Conference There shall be one annual church conference called in December of each year to vote on the annual budget and other major decisions.

B. Special Church Conferences Any church conference other than the Annual Church Conference must be called for a specific purpose. Church conferences may be called by the elders or by written petition of 50% of the active resident members presented to the elders, unless it is a conference to be called to vote on termination of the pastor; in this case refer to Article II Section 1.C.

C. Notices A notice of the time and place of all church conferences shall be given no later than Sunday prior to such meetings by publication in the church newsletter or worship bulletin, or by public announcement at the regular Sunday morning worship service.

D. Place of Church Conference All church conferences shall be held on the premises of the church

E. Quorum The active resident church members present at any duly called church conference shall constitute a quorum.

F. Proxies Voting by proxy at any church conference shall not be allowed or recognized

G. Conduct of Church Business All business of the church shall be conducted in a manner that honors Christ and respects others. The church shall strive to seek the will of God by prayerful deliberation and common consensus.

Section 3 – CONTRACTS

The Trustee's shall execute and deliver any contract or instrument in the name of the church which may be authorized by the church to be so executed and delivered. In this connection, the church body as a whole shall be the ultimate authority for all actions taken by the church and no other person, organization or corporate officer shall have any authority to contract or otherwise bind the church without express authorization from the church body.

Section 4 – BOOKS AND RECORDS

The church shall keep and maintain a complete and accurate record of all financial accounts, membership lists, and church conference minutes at its principle office. All books and records of the church may be inspected by any active resident member, or his agent or attorney, for any purpose by appointment only. All giving records must be sealed and only persons appointed by the elders that are restricted by confidentiality may handle these records.

Section 5 – PROHIBITION AGAINST SHARING IN CORPORATE EARNINGS

No member, officer, or person connected with the corporation, or any other private individual shall receive at any time any of the net earnings of pecuniary profit from the operations of the corporation, provided that this shall not prevent the payment to any such person of a reasonable compensation for services rendered to or for the corporation in effecting any of its purposes as shall be fixed by the church; and no such person or persons shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the corporate assets upon the dissolution of the corporation. All members of the church shall be deemed to have expressly consented and agreed that upon such dissolution or winding up of the affairs of the corporation, whether voluntary or involuntary, the assets of the corporation, after all debts have been satisfied, then remaining in the hands of the officers of the church shall be distributed, transferred, conveyed, delivered, and paid over, in such amounts as the church may determine or as may be determined by a

court of competent jurisdiction upon application of the church, exclusively to charitable, religious, or educational organizations which would then qualify under the provisions of Section 501 (C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and its regulations as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended.

Section 6 – EXEMPT ACTIVITIES

Notwithstanding any other provision of these bylaws, no member, officer, or representative of the corporation shall take any action or carry on any activity by or on behalf of the corporation not permitted to be taken or carried on by any organization exempt under Section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and its Regulations as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended, or by any organization contributions to which are deductible under Section 170 (C)(2) of such code and regulations as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended.

ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS

The AFCC will receive 5% of weekly tithes and offerings from the church until OGCC is no longer affiliated with the AFCC.