

**BYLAWS**  
**of**  
Greater Chicago Church

October 24, 2010

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**of GREATER CHICAGO CHURCH**

**ARTICLE I**

NAME

The name of this church shall be GREATER CHICAGO CHURCH as incorporated in the State of Illinois.

**ARTICLE II**

PURPOSES

The purposes of this church shall be to worship God, to obey God, to promote the interests and ministry of the Kingdom of God in the world and to fulfill the complete calling of God for the church in outreach and discipleship.

**ARTICLE III**

CONFESSION OF FAITH

*SECTION 1 - The Godhead*

We believe in the one triune God, eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Who are co-eternal in being, co-equal in power and glory and having the same attributes and perfections. (Deut. 6:4, Isa. 43:10-11, Matt. 28:19, Luke 3:22, II Cor. 13:14)

*SECTION 2 - The Father*

We believe in God the Father, the Almighty, creator of all the heavens and the earth, perfect in holiness, perfect in love, perfect in judgment, from Whom the Son and the Spirit proceed. (Gen. 1:1, 17:1, Isa. 5:16, 6:3, 43:15, Matt. 11:25, Jn. 6:57, 8:42, 14:16-17, 16:28, Rom. 11:17, I Jn. 4:16)

### *SECTION 3 - The Person and Work of Jesus Christ*

- A. We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, that He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary and is true God and true man. (Jn. 1:2,14, Luke 1:35)
- B. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, and that our justification is made sure by His literal, bodily resurrection from the dead and that His name and work are our sole means of salvation. (I Cor. 15:3-4, I Peter 2:24, Eph. 1:7, Rom. 4:25, Acts 4:12)
- C. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven, where He is exalted at the right hand of God above all power and dominion, and ministers as our High Priest and Intercessor. (Acts 1:9-10, Eph. 1:20-21, Heb. 4:14, 7:25, I Jn. 2:1)

### *SECTION 4 - The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit*

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person Who is with the Church forever and Who teaches the Church and guides the Church in all truth. The Holy Spirit gives varieties of gifts for the common good of the Church and guides the Church and the individual believer in service for the Church and in service towards the world. The Holy Spirit continues to manifest Himself through the gifts as described in Rom. 12:6-8, I Cor. 12:4-11 and Eph. 4:11-12. The individual believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit, has his life in Christ and final redemption guaranteed in the Spirit, and is supernaturally empowered by the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit Who convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. (Jn. 1:16, 16:7-11, 14:26, 16:13, I Cor. 3:16, 12:4-11, Acts 1:8, 10:19-20, 16:6-7, II Cor. 1:22, Eph. 1:13-14, 4:30)

### *SECTION 5 - Scripture*

We believe in the sixty-six canonized and commonly recognized books of the Old and New Testaments as inspired by God and inerrant in the original writing, and that they are the supreme and final authority in faith and life. (II Tim. 3:16, II Peter 1:19-21, I Thess. 2:13)

### *SECTION 6 - Depravity*

We believe that humanity was created in the image of God, that it sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death, which is separation from God, and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature, and become sinners in thought, word and deed. (Gen. 1:26-27, Rom. 3:23, 5:14, Eph. 2:1-4)

### *SECTION 7 - Salvation*

We believe that eternal salvation is solely the gift of God, and that all who in sincere contrition repent of their sins, believe the gospel and receive the Lord Jesus Christ by faith alone are born again of the Holy Spirit and become adopted sons and daughters of God. (Jn. 3:3-5, Titus 3:5, Acts 2:38, Eph. 2:8-10, Rom. 8:16)

### *SECTION 8 - Second Coming*

We believe in the personal, bodily and imminent return of Christ in the air for His saints. (Matt. 24:30-31, I Thess. 4:13-18)

### *SECTION 9 - Judgment and Eternal State*

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the everlasting punishment of the lost. (Jn. 5:28-29, Matt. 25:45, Rev. 20:11-15)

### *SECTION 10 - The Church*

We believe in the one universal Church as the Body of Christ, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, the purchased people of God, the bride of Christ. The Church is built and established upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone. The Church is united in having one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

one God and Father and one Head, Jesus Christ. The Church is all those who in faith look upon Jesus as the author and giver of salvation. God has called the believers in various places to join together into local churches as visible expressions of the Church in order to bring the power, the life, the character and the authority of God into the lives of people. (I Cor. 1:2, Eph. 1:22-23, 2:19-22, 4:4-6, 5:22-32, I Peter 2:5-10)

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **ORDINANCES**

We recognize and shall practice certain God-ordained ordinances which were specifically commanded by Jesus Christ and which are outward signs of an inward grace received by faith. These shall include baptism in water (Matt. 28:19, Mark 16:16, Acts 10:47-48, Rom. 6:4) and the Lord's Supper (Luke 22:14-20, I Cor. 11:23-29).

## **ARTICLE V**

### **OFFICES**

The church shall maintain in the State of Illinois a registered office and registered agent at such office and may have other offices within or without the state.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **MEMBERS**

#### *SECTION 1 - Classes of Members*

The church shall have one class of members, who are referred to hereinafter as "members" or as "Covenant Members." Members of the corporation who were admitted to membership prior to October 24, 2010, who have not also become Covenant Members under the process set up by the senior pastor in consultation with the Senior Leadership Team after January 1, 2009, will no longer be members of this corporation with voting rights until they complete the process to become Covenant Members.

## *SECTION 2 - Qualifications*

*The senior pastor shall set the qualifications for membership,, provided that those qualifications are approved by at least 2/3 of the members of the Senior Leadership Team,.* *SECTION 3 - Membership Rolls*

A prospective Covenant Member must complete an orientation class provided from time to time by the pastoral staff of the church. A new Covenant Member may then be added by the submission of a signed statement of commitment in which the applicant verifies that they meet the qualifications for membership (Section 2) and that they agree to be governed by the Bylaws of this corporation. By applying for membership all Covenant Members agree to be bound by all provisions of this Bylaws. Upon the approval of the president or vice-president the new Covenant Member shall be added to the list of active Covenant Members by the church secretary. This list may be reviewed and updated at any time by the Senior Leadership Team to ensure that all Covenant Members are members in good standing according to the provisions of this Article.

## *SECTION 4 - Removal from Membership*

(Matt. 18:12-18, Rom. 16:17-18, I Cor. 5:11, Gal. 1:8-9, Titus 3:10-11)

- A. Cause for removal shall be (1) significant disagreement with or deviation from the confession of faith as set forth in the Bylaws, in letter or in spirit, (2) continued lack of cooperation with the pastors of the church or disruption of the church so as to cause fellow believers to stumble in their walk with God or so as to promote schism, (3) continued immorality without a repentant attitude.
- B. If cause for removal shall be found in any Covenant Member, one of the staff pastors shall go to the Covenant Member privately and discuss the matter with the Covenant Member in an effort to bring that person to repentance and to restore that person to a proper place with God and the church. If this fails to correct the problem, two staff pastors or a staff pastor and a leader designated

by the President shall go to the Covenant Member and again confront the person with the offense. If this attempt also fails, the Senior Leadership Team shall attempt to meet with the Covenant Member. If this fails to bring correction and /or reconciliation, the staff pastors shall inform the Covenant Members of the church. Upon hearing the matter, the church membership shall prayerfully appeal to the Covenant Member involved, in a manner approved by the church. If after a reasonable length of time (not less than 30 days) this fails to resolve the matter, the Senior Leadership Team shall consider removal from membership.

- C. The Senior Leadership Team shall inform the membership of its decision, and the Covenant Member shall be excluded from the list of active members of the corporation. SECTION 5 - Forfeiture of Membership

Enrolled Covenant Members who shall without good cause absent themselves from the services of the church for a period of six consecutive months or more, or who willfully cease to contribute of their means to its support shall forfeit their membership.

#### *SECTION 6 - Resignation of Membership*

Any Covenant Member may resign at any time by giving written notice to the secretary of the church. Resignation of a Covenant Member does not necessarily terminate or preclude the completion of a process of discipline as described in Section 4 above.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **MEETINGS OF COVENANT MEMBERS**

#### *SECTION 1 - Annual Meetings*

An annual meeting of the Covenant Members shall be held in the first quarter of each fiscal year for such purposes as hearing reports on the business of the church, making inquiries of the pastors regarding the affairs of the church, both business and spiritual, transacting

such business as may be needed at the time, and seeking God as to the progress and direction of the church.

### *SECTION 2 - Special Meetings*

Special meetings of the Covenant Members may be called by the senior pastor or by the Senior Leadership Team or by petition of a majority of the official membership.

### *SECTION 3 - Notice of Meetings*

Written or printed notice stating the place, day and hour of the meeting and, in case of a special meeting, the purpose(s) for which the meeting is called, shall be delivered not less than five nor more than forty days before the date of the meeting, either personally or by mail, by or at the direction of the president, or the secretary, or the officers or persons calling the meeting, to each Covenant Member entitled to vote at such meeting. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail addressed to the Covenant Member at his or her address as it appears on the records of the church, with postage thereon prepaid.

### *SECTION 4 - Place of Meetings*

The place of meetings shall be determined by the Senior Leadership Team, and the Covenant Members shall be notified of the place when the meeting is announced.

### *SECTION 5 - Quorum*

One-half of the total membership and at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Senior Leadership Team shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the church. No business may be transacted without such quorum.

### *SECTION 6 - Decisions*

Except as otherwise provided, decisions at all meetings, shall be reached by a simple majority of the Covenant Members present and a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Senior Leadership Team present. Each Covenant Member shall be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote of the Covenant Members.

### *SECTION 7 - Proxies*

Each Covenant Member entitled to vote at a meeting of Covenant Members or to express consent or dissent to church action at any meeting may authorize another person to act for the Covenant Member by proxy. The proxy must have written authorization from the Covenant Member or Covenant Members for which he or she is to act.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **GOVERNMENT**

#### *SECTION 1 - The Headship of Christ*

The government of the church shall be founded upon the Lordship and direction of Jesus Christ. Everyone in authority shall continually seek His mind and will, through the Holy Spirit and the Word of God in all actions and decisions.

#### *SECTION 2 - The Oversight of His Body by the Senior Leadership Team*

The Senior Leadership Team (the "SLT" and formerly referred to within of these Bylaws as the "Church Council") shall serve under the leadership of the Senior Pastor, who is to function as the President of the SLT and of the Corporation. The Senior Leadership Team shall be the governing body of the church in respect to matters concerning business being done by the church (i.e. financial investment, buying or leasing of facility, maintenance, contract negotiation, etc.) and any other matters specifically given to the Senior Leadership Team in this Bylaws.

#### *SECTION 3 - The Senior Leadership Team*

##### **A. Job Description**

1. The Senior Leadership Team shall oversee the business of the church under the leadership of the Senior Pastor, who is automatically a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

2. The Senior Leadership Team shall be responsible to review the church financial record and handle financial-related matters under the leadership of the President.
3. The Senior Leadership Team shall approve a yearly budget, which shall constitute approval of all budgeted items. Approval of the budget requires the consent of the President and ratification by more than one-half of the Senior Leadership Team.
4. For non-budgeted items, the President has the power to approve expenditures outside the budget up to a maximum of 3% of the prior calendar-year total church expenses. A majority of the Senior Leadership Team can approve non-budgeted expenditures that are greater than 3% and up to 10% of the prior calendar-year total church expenses. For non-budgeted expenditures over 10%, approval by a majority of the Senior Leadership Team and a majority of the church membership is required.
5. The Senior Leadership Team shall be responsible to set the compensation arrangements for the church, including compensation for the pastors and officers.
6. Upon request of the Senior Pastor or a majority of the Senior Leadership Team, a certified public accountant will be employed to perform an independent audit of the church books. At any time the Senior Leadership Team may review a financial or legal decision of the officers, and may by a two-thirds majority of those present overrule any action.
7. Subject to limitation of the Articles of Incorporation, other sections of the Bylaws, and of Illinois law, all corporate powers of the corporation shall be exercised by or under the authority of the Senior Leadership Decision, and the business and affairs of the corporation shall be controlled by

the Senior Leadership Decision. The Senior Leadership Decision is the equivalent of a board of directors and shall have the following powers:

- a. To select and remove all other officers, agents and employees of the corporation, prescribe such powers and duties for them as may not be inconsistent with law, the Articles of Incorporation or the Bylaws, fix their compensation, and require from them fidelity bonds with acceptable sureties.
- b. To conduct, manage and control the business affairs of the corporation, and to make rules and regulations not inconsistent with law, Articles of Incorporation or the Bylaws.
- c. To borrow money, and incur indebtedness for the purpose of the corporation and for that purpose cause to be executed and delivered, in the corporate name, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, deeds of trust, mortgages, pledges or other evidence of debt and securities.
- d. To receive reports from the pastoral staff on the condition of the church and to offer advice and counsel to the Senior Pastor and pastoral staff on matters of the church.

#### B. Number of SLT Members

The Senior Leadership Team shall consist of no more than eleven (11) members and at least four (4) members until the number of members is changed by amendments to this Bylaws.

#### C. Appointment and Vacancies

SLT members shall be appointed by the Senior Pastor and ratified by a majority vote of the Senior Leadership Team and a majority vote of the members of the church. They must be members of this church in order to be eligible for

appointment. At least a majority of the SLT must not be employed by the church.

Vacancies shall also be filled by appointment of the Senior Pastor and ratified by the Senior Leadership Team then in office, even though less than a quorum, or by the sole remaining SLT member. A successor SLT member so appointed shall serve for the unexpired term of the predecessor. SLT members need no further ratification after they have served their first full term. In the event of the Vice-president assuming the role of president, the Senior Associate Pastor will automatically become a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

#### D. Term of Office of SLT Members

The Senior Pastor shall serve as an SLT member as long as he serves as pastor. The term of office for all other SLT members shall be one (1) year or until a successor is appointed. Successors for SLT members whose term of office are then expiring shall be appointed at the annual meeting of the members in the year such terms expire. An SLT member may succeed himself in office if re-appointed by the Senior Pastor. In such cases of reappointment, a second ratification by the membership is not needed.

#### E. Quorum

The greater of three (3) members of the Senior Leadership Team or a majority of the SLT shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

#### F. Place and Time of Meetings

Regular meetings of the Senior Leadership Team may be held at any place that has been designated by the SLT and at any time designated by the SLT. Special meetings of the Senior Leadership Team for any purpose or purposes may be called at any time by the President (Senior Pastor) or a majority of the other SLT members.

#### G. Organization Meeting

Before each annual meeting the Senior Leadership Team shall hold a regular meeting for the purpose of organization, appointment of officers, approval of the budget and transaction of other business.

#### H. Telephonic Meetings

Any meeting, regular or special, may be held by conference telephone or similar communication equipment, so long as all members participating in the meeting can hear one another, and all such members shall be deemed to be present in person at the meeting.

#### I. Action Without Meeting

Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Senior Leadership Team may be taken without a meeting, if all members of the SLT shall individually or collectively consent in writing to that action. Such action by written consent shall have the same force and effect as a unanimous vote of the Senior Leadership Team. Such written consent or consents shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the SLT.

#### J. Removal

- a. A SLT member other than the Senior Pastor may be removed from office by the vote of a majority of the total SLT membership. The Senior Pastor may only be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the combined total SLT membership and by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total church membership. The Senior Pastor may not vote on his own dismissal. Grounds for removal include departure from the confession of faith, serious breach of the Bylaws, immoral conduct, and failure to faithfully fulfill the duties of the office.
- b. Provision of conflict mediation. Should there be a conflict between the SLT and the Senior Pastor, that conflict shall be resolved by binding mediation.

The mediators will include three individuals as so named on an annual basis by a 2/3 vote of the Senior Leadership Team.

#### K. Compensation

The SLT members shall receive no compensation for their services as SLT members. However, the pastors can receive compensation for their services as pastors. SLT members may also serve as officers of this church for which they may be compensated. No member can vote on his or her own compensation or spouse's compensation.

#### *SECTION 4 - Ecclesiastical Matters vs. Business Matters*

All matters relating to the spiritual health of the church, matters of doctrine and interpretation, matters of spiritual ordinances for the church, direction of ministry, leading and discernment for initiating or terminating ministry activities, and any other matters reasonably connected to spiritual leadership shall be the ultimate responsibility of the Senior Pastor and under his authority.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **OFFICERS**

#### *SECTION 1 - Officers*

The officers of the church shall be a president, one vice-president, a secretary, a treasurer and such other officers as the Senior Leadership Team may appoint. No two offices may be held by the same person.

### *SECTION 2 - Appointment*

The Senior Pastor shall serve as President and the Senior Leadership Team shall appoint all other officers of the corporation. Each officer shall hold office until a successor shall have been duly appointed, or until death, resignation or removal as provided herein. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment of the Senior Leadership Team.

### *SECTION 3 - Removal*

Any officer other than the Senior Pastor may be removed by the Senior Leadership Team at any time by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the SLT members. The Senior Pastor (President) and the vice-president may only be removed by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the total Senior Leadership Team membership and two-thirds (2/3) of the total church membership on the basis of the grounds outlined in Article VIII, Section 3, Paragraph J.

### *SECTION 4 - Powers and Duties*

The officers shall have power to execute documents, contracts and routine legal or financial business of the church, except as delegated to the Senior Leadership Team.

### *SECTION 5 - Terms of Office*

Terms of office shall be one year for all officers other than the President, who shall serve until death, resignation or removal as provided herein. In the event of death, resignation or removal before a term expires, the new officer shall complete the term.

### *SECTION 6 - President*

#### *A. Job Description*

The President shall be the principal executive officer of the corporation. He or she shall see that the resolutions and directives of the Senior Leadership Team are carried into effect, except in those instances in which that responsibility is assigned to some other person by the Senior Leadership Team, and, in general, shall discharge all duties incident to the office of president and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Senior Leadership Team. Except in those instances in which

the authority to execute is expressly delegated to another officer or agent of the corporation or a different mode of execution is expressly prescribed by the Senior Leadership Team or these Bylaws, the President may execute for the corporation any contracts, deeds, mortgages, bonds or other instruments which the Senior Leadership Team has authorized to be executed, and the President may accomplish such execution either under or without the seal of the corporation and either individually or with the secretary, any assistant, or any officer thereunto authorized by the Senior Leadership Team, according to the requirements of the form of instrument.

As the President, the Senior Pastor shall have general supervision, direction and control of the business and affairs of the corporation except as otherwise provided herein. He shall preside at the meetings of the Senior Leadership Team and serve as its Chairman. He shall oversee the business of the church on a daily basis and give leadership to the Associate and Assistant Pastors, the Senior Leadership Team, the general church body and its ministries. The Senior Pastor shall have general supervision of the entire church and charge of all services, gatherings and meetings as he shall deem necessary.

#### B. His Appointment

1. The Senior Leadership Team shall seek and appoint a new Senior Pastor should a vacancy arise in the pastorate. They shall seek first among the Associate and Assistant Pastors from within the fellowship, but may appoint a Senior Pastor from outside.
2. The resigning or retiring Senior Pastor may nominate a successor and/or participate in the appointment of his successor.

3. Upon approval by at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Senior Leadership Team the candidate for Senior Pastor must be ratified by a majority of the members present.

#### C. Termination

Should two-thirds (2/3) of the total Senior Leadership Team membership, two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total church membership concur that the Senior Pastor should terminate his pastorship of the church, the Senior Pastor shall resign or be terminated.

#### *SECTION 7 - Vice-president*

The Vice-president shall assist the president in the discharge of duties as the President may direct and shall perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the President or by the Senior Leadership Team. In the absence of the President or in the event of the President's inability or refusal to act, the Vice-president shall perform the duties of president and when so acting, shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the president.

#### *SECTION 8 - Secretary*

The secretary shall record the minutes of the meetings of the members and of the Senior Leadership Team in one or more books provided for that purpose, see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws or as required by law, be custodian of the corporate records and of the seal of the corporation, keep a register of the members and their addresses and perform all duties incident to the office of secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the President or by the Senior Leadership Team.

#### *SECTION 9 - Treasurer*

The treasurer shall be the principal accounting and financial officer of the corporation. The Treasurer shall: (a) have charge of and be responsible for the maintenance of adequate

books of account for the corporation; (b) have charge and custody of all funds and securities of the corporation, and be responsible therefor, and for the receipt and disbursement thereof; and ( c) perform all the duties incident to the office of treasurer and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the President or by the Senior Leadership Team. If required by the Senior Leadership Team, the Treasurer shall give a bond for the faithful discharge of the duties of the office in such sum and with such surety or sureties as the Senior Leadership Team shall determine.

*SECTION 10 - Associate or Assistant Pastors*

A. Job Description

The Senior Pastor shall define an Associate or an Assistant Pastor's ministry upon appointment. They shall serve under the Pastor's direction and with the Pastor in the administration and oversight of the church and its business.

B. Their Appointment

The Senior Pastor may appoint with the agreement of a majority of the Senior Leadership Team an Associate or Assistant pastor.

C. Termination

It shall be the prerogative of the Senior Pastor, after consulting with the Senior Leadership Team, to require the resignation of Pastoral Associates or Assistants.

*SECTION 11 - Indemnification*

Recognizing that serving as an officer or member of the Senior Leadership Team of Greater Chicago Church entails potential legal liability, Greater Chicago Church agrees to indemnify (repay) its current and past officers and SLT for legal expenses incurred related to their good-faith conduct as an officer or member of the SLT.

**ARTICLE X**

ORDINATION

### *SECTION 1 - Principles of Ordination*

Only our Sovereign Holy God can truly call and ordain His children for service in the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The calling of a pastor or other full-time minister is not the result of a title, rather the title is a result of God's calling. This calling is recognized as from the true and living God.

It is the privilege of the church of Jesus Christ to ratify the ordination of God when such is obviously placed upon a person's life.

The purpose of this Article is to provide for the ordination of pastors or ministers of the Gospel.

### *SECTION 2 - Qualifications*

The qualifications for ordination are as follows:

- A. A candidate for ordination must be a "Born Again" believer in Jesus Christ as described by our Lord in the third chapter of the Gospel of John.
- B. A candidate must subscribe to the statement of faith of this church.
- C. A candidate must meet the scriptural requirements for the office of elder as described in I Tim. 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9.
- D. A candidate must believe in the objectives of this body and its concepts concerning the work of the Holy Spirit today.
- E. A candidate should have evidenced the obvious calling of God in terms of ministerial experience and report. Normally a person will be "licensed" for a probationary period of time before receiving full ordination.

### *SECTION 3 - Procedure for Ordination and Licensing*

- A. Each person fulfilling the above qualifications shall be recommended by the Senior Pastor to the Senior Leadership Team of this body. Senior Leadership Team may elect one of two types of ordination:
  - 1. Full, permanent ordination into the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

2. Provisional ordination (licensure) on a year to year basis until said candidate has established an independent body with its own ordination procedures who will thereafter ordain the candidate, or until said candidate has demonstrated a calling and proficiency for long-term ministry within this body.
- B. The Senior Leadership Team may make exceptions to these qualifying standards where in the unanimous opinion of the SLT and under the strong compelling conviction of the Holy Spirit such exception is according to the will of God and consistent with His Word.
  - C. Upon approval of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Senior Leadership Team present, the candidate will be ordained or provisionally licensed as a minister of the Gospel with the right to perform ministerial functions in accordance with the laws of the land and the ordinances of God's Word with all the prerogatives of such a calling and office.
  - D. All candidates, successful or otherwise, will be notified of the SLT's decision in writing within one week of the final SLT action and to provide a certificate of ordination or licensure. Provisional ordination (licensure) shall continue on a year to year basis until such time as the candidate receives full ordination, or is no longer in ministry connected with this church, or the licensure is otherwise terminated by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Senior Leadership Team present. After initial approval, provisional ordination shall continue if a simple majority of the Senior Leadership Team votes to continue it. Provisional ordination must be approved annually.

#### *SECTION 4 - Revocation of Ordination*

- A. Ordination is a privilege extended to the candidate and can be revoked at any time for cause according to the following provisions.

- B. The matter giving rise to revocation shall be sent to the candidate in writing thirty (30) days prior to a vote for revocation by the Senior Leadership Team after a majority of the SLT present has voted to send such notice of revocation.
- C. The candidate shall submit a defense to the charges either in writing or orally before the Senior Leadership Team.
- D. Following the defense or within thirty (30) days from notification the Senior Leadership Team shall vote on the revocation or ordination. The revocation shall be made by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senior Leadership Team present.
- E. The outcome of the vote on revocation shall be communicated to the candidate in writing within seven (7) days of the vote on revocation.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **AMENDMENTS**

The Senior Leadership Team shall have the power to alter, amend or repeal the Bylaws by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senior Leadership Team with the ratification of two-thirds (2/3) of the membership, except as provided in Article VIII, Section 4.

## **ARTICLE XII**

### **SEAL**

The corporate seal shall have inscribed thereon the name of the corporation and the words "Corporate Seal, Illinois".

## **ARTICLE XIII**

### **FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year of the corporation shall be fixed by resolution of the Senior Leadership Team.

#### **ARTICLE XIV**

##### **DISSOLUTION OF PROPERTY**

In the event of the dissolution of this organization, any outstanding obligations, bills or debts shall be paid. Remaining assets will be distributed to 501.C.3 organizations or other organizations that previously received contributions.

In case of schism within the congregation, all the property shall go to that group which adheres to the adopted Bylaws of this church.