

# **CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF BOULDER CHINESE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH**

## **CONSTITUTION**

### **PREAMBLE**

We declare and establish this constitution to preserve and secure the principles of our faith and to govern the church body in an orderly manner. This constitution will preserve the liberties of each individual church member and the freedom of action of this body in relation to other churches.

### **ARTICLE ONE - NAME**

The name of this organization, a Non-Profit Corporation, shall be "The Boulder Chinese Evangelical Free Church" (the "Church").

### **ARTICLE TWO - NON-PROFIT STATUS**

The Church is organized and shall be operated exclusively for religious, charitable, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as amended.

### **ARTICLE THREE – AUTHORITY AND AFFILIATION**

The congregation, at its annual, quarterly, and special business meetings, is the legislative and governing body of this organization. This Church shall be affiliated with the Evangelical Free Church of America and its Rocky Mountain District and shall send delegates to their conferences, support their missions, and unite in all mutual efforts for the furtherance of the gospel of Christ in the measure that the Church itself may officially decide.

### **ARTICLE FOUR - PURPOSE**

The purpose of this organization shall be to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ in every way prescribed or approved by the Holy Scriptures, such as the preaching of the Word of God to the mutual edification of its constituents; winning the unsaved to Christ; helping young Christians grow by discipleship ministries; maintaining unity and purity of the Church by instruction, reconciliation and when necessary, exercising discipline over its members; promoting and participating in cross cultural missions both at home and abroad; and engaging in such religious, educational, charitable, benevolent and cultural work as the Constitution and Bylaws of this organization may determine, and owning and maintaining such property and equipment as may be required to carry out the above stated purpose.

### **ARTICLE FIVE - STATEMENT OF FAITH**

The statement of Faith of this organization shall be the same as that of the Evangelical Free Church of America and its Rocky Mountain District, which reads as follows:

1. We believe the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and the divine and final authority for all Christian faith and life.
2. We believe in one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.
3. We believe that Jesus Christ is true God and true man, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He died on the cross a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. Further, He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, where, at the right hand of the Majesty on High, He now is our High Priest and Advocate.
4. We believe that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ and, during this age, to convict men, regenerate the believing sinner, indwell, guide, instruct and empower the believer for godly living and service.
5. We believe that man was created in the image of God but fell into sin and is therefore lost and only through regeneration by the Holy Spirit can salvation and spiritual life be obtained.
6. We believe that the shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection provide the only ground for justification and salvation for all who believe, and only those who receive Jesus Christ are born of the Holy Spirit and, thus become children of God.
7. We believe that water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be observed by the church during the present age. They are, however, not to be regarded as means of salvation.
8. We believe that the true Church is composed of all such persons who through saving faith in Jesus Christ have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the Body of Christ of which He is the Head.
9. We believe that only those who are, thus, members of the true Church shall be eligible for membership in the local church.
10. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Lord and Head of the Church, and that every local church has the right, under Christ, to decide and govern its own affairs.
11. We believe in the personal, bodily, and glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service, and energetic mission.
12. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead, of the believer to everlasting blessedness and joy with the Lord; of the unbeliever to judgment and everlasting conscious punishment.

## ARTICLE SIX - LGBT+ and the Church

In accordance with the teaching of the Bible and with our doctrinal convictions as a church body, the Church believes that

1. God created man and woman as separate categories of people who function differently, though they share equal value, dignity, and worth as image bearers of God (Genesis 1:27).
2. God instituted marriage as a one-flesh union between one man and one woman for life as a reflection of the love that Jesus Christ shows toward His church and the church's response of love to Jesus (Genesis 2:23-25, Ephesians 5:22-33).
3. In addition to reflecting the image of Jesus Christ and His church, biblical marriage is meant for companionship (Genesis 2:18, Proverbs 18:22; Matthew 28:20), Enjoyment (Proverbs 5:18-19; Song of Solomon 2:1-6; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 7:3-5), Fruitfulness (Genesis 1:28; Psalm 127:5; Malachi 2:15; 1 Peter 3:7), and Protection (Ephesians 5:22-23; Malachi 2:15; Titus 2:4-5; Genesis 1:28).
4. "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).
  - 4.1 Therefore, we understand that people of the LGBT+ community are also image-bearers of God, and people in heterosexual relationships are also sinful beings.
  - 4.2 We do not condone the insulting or belittling of those in the LGBT+ community, but we do hope to see them come to faith in Jesus Christ, just as we do for anyone else who is living in sin.
5. This understanding of marriage is essential to understanding many other truths of the Christian faith.
  - 5.1 What is described above is marriage as a covenantal bond between one man and one woman for life.
  - 5.2 Marriage is a representation of the way in which God interacts with His people: covenantal relationships based upon mutual love, respect, and parameters.
  - 5.3 Furthermore, the otherness of male and female within marriage reflect the fact that Jesus is distinct from his church.
  - 5.4 Therefore, these statements concerning marriage are essential truths to the freedom to practice our religion, as guaranteed in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.
6. Pastors and members of the Church will not officiate any wedding ceremonies between individuals of the same sex. We will only officiate wedding ceremonies between one biological man and one biological woman. Additionally, our facilities may not be used for anyone to conduct a marriage ceremony that does not align with our doctrinal convictions, as outlined above.
7. We also affirm the statements presented in the Evangelical Free Church of America's *A Church Statement on Human Sexuality* as found at [https://go.efca.org/sites/default/files/resources/docs/2013/05/a\\_church\\_statement\\_on\\_human\\_sexuality\\_3.pdf](https://go.efca.org/sites/default/files/resources/docs/2013/05/a_church_statement_on_human_sexuality_3.pdf).

## **ARTICLE SEVEN – MEMBERS**

This Church shall receive as members those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord, have been born again, are manifesting the fruit of the Spirit in their lives, agree with the doctrine and policy of this Church, and are willing to support this Church by their prayers, participation, and contributions.

## **ARTICLE EIGHT – PROPERTY RIGHTS**

If the Church membership votes to dissolve and cease to function as a church of like faith and practice or if the membership should dissolve through some disaster, the property rights shall pass to the Rocky Mountain District of The Evangelical Free Church of America and/or to other benevolent organizations, which are to be determined by a majority vote of the remaining nucleus of the Church's members. In the event that this Church should vote to unite or combine with another church, it shall not be considered to have been dissolved as stated above, and the property rights shall be retained by the new church.

## **ARTICLE NINE – GOVERNMENT**

The ultimate authority lies in Christ as the Head of the Church and the Scriptures as the basis for all faith and practice. This Church shall remain free and self-governing. The government is vested in its membership and administered through its officers. In function, the final authority shall reside in the members. They shall approve/affirm Biblically qualified leadership to carry out Christ's purpose.

## **ARTICLE TEN – OFFICERS**

The officers of this church shall be the Pastor(s), Elder(s), Deacons, and other officers as deemed necessary by the local church.

## **ARTICLE ELEVEN – PROVISIONS FOR BY-LAWS**

A supplement to this constitution known as the By-Laws shall embody the stated qualifications for church leaders and officers. The By-Laws shall also include officers' duties, provisions for appointment of additional teachers and leaders, conditions for membership, method by which members are received, and the rules and regulations for church activities.

## **ARTICLE TWELVE – AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to this constitution must be submitted to the members in writing at least thirty days prior to a regular or special business meeting of the Church which is at least three months prior to the annual meeting. Any action taken must then receive a two-thirds majority vote of the membership present and voting in the annual meeting, without further amendments to the action taken at the prior business meeting concerning the proposed changes to this constitution, before it can be implemented.

# **BOULDER CHINESE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH BY-LAWS**

## **ARTICLE ONE - MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1. Qualifications for Membership**

Membership in Boulder Chinese Evangelical Free Church shall be open to all persons who:

- 1.1 give a clear profession of faith in Jesus Christ as personal Savior
- 1.2 have obeyed the Lord in believer's baptism or are willing to be baptized
- 1.3 are 16 years of age and older.

### **Section 2. Applications for Membership**

2.1 Anyone wishing to join Boulder Chinese Evangelical Free Church shall make a request for membership to a Pastor, an Elder, or the Church Board Chair. The individual shall be given a membership application, a copy of the Statement of Faith, and a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws.

2.2 The applicants shall sign the following Church Membership Covenant:

- 2.2.1 I do hereby affirm that I have been born again by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 2.2.2 I give assent to the doctrinal statement of the church so far as I understand it, and do not knowingly disagree with any point therein.
- 2.2.3 I agree with the Constitution and By-Laws and will seek to further the objective for which the church is formed.
- 2.2.4 I will constantly support the church by my giving, my prayers, and my attendance at services as regularly as possible.

2.3 The applicants shall attend the membership class led by a Pastor, an Elder, or the Church Board Chair, and then recommend to the Church Board.

2.4 The Church Board shall interview the applicant as to his or her Christian experience and doctrinal beliefs, and examine evidence of Christian character and public testimony.

2.5 Upon favorable recommendation by the Church Board and upon presentation to the Church of a copy of the Church Membership Covenant, signed by the applicant, the Church shall act upon the application at the next regular or special Business Meeting.

2.6 The Pastor and his wife and any full-time pastoral staff worker and their spouses automatically become full members on receipt and acceptance of a call from the Church.

### **Section 3. Responsibilities of Members**

Each member shall pursue the unity of the faith in cooperation with the other members of this Church, and shall serve in consideration of the other members. Each member who is not under any disciplinary action is entitled to vote at the church meeting.

### **Section 4. Membership Status**

4.1 Termination (removal)

- 4.1.1 If any member of the church is found to be living or teaching contrary to the Word of God and the Statement of Faith of this Church, he/she shall be

disciplined in love in accordance with Matthew 18:15-18; 2 Corinthians 2:5-11 and Galatians 6:1-2.

#### 4.2 Withdrawal

- 4.2.1 A member may withdraw his or her membership from the Church either through relocation or voluntarily by giving notice to the Church Board Chair. If a member has relocated and no longer resides in the locality, his membership is deemed to have ceased from the date of the departure.

#### 4.3 Inactivation

- 4.3.1 Any member who moved away from our area and is not able to attend our meetings will be put on the inactive list or at his or her request removed from the membership list.
- 4.3.2 Any member who has not attended regular and special meetings without prior notification to the Church Board for an excused absence for a six months period will be issued a letter informing him or her that his or her membership will be inactivated if he or she fails to show up for the next meeting.
- 4.3.3 Inactivated members will not have a vote in the business of the Church until they have been attending church meetings and come to business meetings of the church for six months. Their membership will be automatically reactivated at the end of the six months.

#### 4.4 Reinstatement

- 4.4.1 An inactive member may remain active member status by applying for reinstatement through the Church Board after meeting the qualifications for membership.

## **ARTICLE TWO - PASTOR**

### **Section 1. Qualifications**

- 1.1 The Pastor of the church shall be qualified as a minister of the Word of God and the doctrine thereof.
- 1.2 He shall be a worthy example in his life and teaching.
- 1.3 He shall abide by the Articles of Faith as set forth in the Constitution.
- 1.4 He must either be a member of the Ministerial Association of the Evangelical Free Church of America at the time he is called or join this organization as soon as possible following his employment by the church.

### **Section 2. Responsibilities**

- 2.1 The Pastor shall devote his time to the overall spiritual leadership of the Church, to the preaching of the Word of God, to the leading of devotional services, and to visitation.
- 2.2 He shall give a report at the Annual Meeting as to the ministry of the Church.
- 2.3 By virtue of his position, he shall have power of address and shall vote in all branches and committees of the Church.

### **Section 3. Election and Calling**

- 3.1 The Pastor shall be elected and called by the Church. Applicants shall be invited to be a candidate by the Church Board or a Pulpit Committee elected at a Business Meeting of the Church. The election and calling may take place at any regular or special Business Meeting called for that purpose.
- 3.2 Candidates shall be considered one at a time.
- 3.3 Congregational voting for calling of the pastor shall be by closed ballot.
- 3.4 The Pastor shall be called for an indefinite period and must receive a two-thirds majority of votes cast.

### **Section 4. Resignation**

- 4.1 If the Pastor wishes to resign, he shall give at least three-months, written notice to the church.
- 4.2 If mutually agreed between the Pastor and the Church, the provision of three-months' notice may be reduced or enlarged.

### **Section 5. Accusation and Discipline**

- 5.1 Accusations against a Pastor shall not be considered unless supported by two or three witnesses (1 Timothy 5:19).
- 5.2 Any such accusations shall first be considered by the Church Board. If the Church Board finds that the Pastor erred in doctrine or conduct, it should charitably admonish him. If this does not bring the desired results or the matter is of serious nature, the matter shall be laid before the Congregation.
- 5.3 If difficulties arise between the Church and the Pastor which they are unable to resolve, the matter may be brought to the attention of the Superintendent of the Rocky Mountain District of the Evangelical Free Church of America and/or the Ministerial Association of

the Evangelical Free Church of America.

**Section 6. Termination**

6.1 When the ministry of the Pastor is no longer in the best interest of the Church, the members may prayerfully terminate his call by a two-thirds majority of all votes cast in a meeting called and conducted in conformity with Article Five of these By-Laws:  
BUSINESS MEETINGS, QUORUM AND AMENDMENT.



## **ARTICLE THREE - OTHER CHURCH STAFF**

### **Section 1. Qualifications**

- 1.1 Any pastoral staff of the church shall be qualified as a minister of the Word of God and the doctrine thereof.
- 1.2 He She shall be a worthy example in his/her life and teaching.
- 1.3 He She shall abide by the Articles of Faith as set forth in the Constitution.
- 1.4 He She must either be a member of the Ministerial Association of the Evangelical Free Church of America at the time he is called or join this organization as soon as possible following his employment by the church.

### **Section 2. Responsibilities**

- 2.1 Pastoral staff shall be given different responsibilities according to the terms and titles in their call by the Church and shall work under the supervision of the Pastor of the church or the Church Board in the absence of the Pastor.
- 2.2 He She shall give a report at the Annual Meeting as to his/her ministry responsibilities.
- 2.3 When the Pastor delegates such responsibility to him/her, he/she shall have power of address and shall vote in that branch and/or committee of the Church.

### **Section 3. Election and Calling**

- 3.1 Pastoral staff shall be elected and called by the Church. Applicants shall be invited to be a candidate by the Church Board or a Pulpit Committee elected at a Business Meeting of the Church. The election and calling may take place at any regular or special Business Meeting called for that purpose.
- 3.2 Congregational voting for calling of pastoral staff shall be by closed ballot.
- 3.3 Pastoral staff shall be called for an indefinite period or for a specific term—subject to review and renewal—and must receive a two-thirds majority of votes cast.

### **Section 4. Resignation**

- 4.1 If any pastoral staff wishes to resign, he/she shall give at least three-months, written notice to the Church.
- 4.2 If mutually agreed between the pastoral staff and the Church, the provision of three-months' notice may be reduced or enlarged.

### **Section 5. Accusation and Discipline**

- 5.1 Accusations against any pastoral staff shall not be considered unless supported by two or three witnesses (1 Timothy 5:19).
- 5.2 Any such accusations shall first be considered by either the Pastor or the Church Board. If it is found that any member of the Pastoral staff erred in doctrine or conduct, the Pastor or the Church Board should charitably admonish him/her. If this does not bring the desired results or the matter is of serious nature, the matter shall be laid before the Congregation.
- 5.3 If difficulties arise between the Church and a member of the pastoral staff which they are unable to resolve, the matter may be brought either by the staff person or the Church, to the attention of the Superintendent of the Rocky Mountain District of the Evangelical Free Church of America and/or the EFCA Ministerial Association.

## **Section 6. Termination**

6.1 When the ministry of any pastoral staff is no longer in the best interest of the Church, the members may prayerfully terminate his/her call by a two-thirds majority of all votes cast in a meeting called and conducted in conformity with Article Five of these By-Laws:  
**BUSINESS MEETINGS, QUORUM AND AMENDMENT.**

## **ARTICLE FOUR – GOVERNMENT**

### **Section 1. Qualifications of members of the Church Board**

- 1.1** Every person nominated to be a member of the Church Board must be born again, be in hearty agreement with the Articles of Faith as set forth in the Constitution, be living a prayerful, consistent Christian life, be separated from the world and from Christ-dishonoring society or other entangling alliances with unbelievers, must have moral conduct beyond reproach, and must be free from carnal indulgences.
- 1.2** In cases of questions as to whether any person meets these requirements, the Church Board may rule—subject to review by the Congregation at the request of any member—or the Congregation may rule directly.
- 1.3** No one shall be nominated to an office of the Church Board who has not held membership in the Church for at least a year, unless the Congregation has specifically waived that requirement for a specified candidate.
- 1.4** A Sabbatical year must be taken by anyone who has served on the Church Board for six consecutive years except the Pastor or Pastoral staff, whose Sabbatical will be determined by the Church.

### **Section 2. Administrative Officers and Duties**

#### **2.1 The Chairman**

- 2.1.1 Elected for a term of two years, the chairman shall coordinate Church overall administrations; shall be actively invested in the welfare of the church; and, in the absence of the Pastor and other qualified pastoral staff, shall be responsible for the leadership of the church services and securing pulpit and inviting the preachers.
- 2.1.2 Should work with the Pastor(s) and the Deacon Board to organize new initiatives for church growth.
- 2.1.3 Shall have power to call and preside at business meetings of the Church, following parliamentary rules of order, and, by direction of the Church Board, to call special meetings of the church.
- 2.1.4 By virtue of his position, he shall have power to address and vote in all branches and committees of the church or delegate another member of the Church Board to preside those meetings on his behalf.
- 2.1.5 No person shall serve as the chairman of the Church Board without first serving on the Church Board, unless the congregation specifically waived that requirement for that particular year.
- 2.1.6 This position is not to be served by the same person for more than two consecutive terms (a total of four years).

#### **2.2 The Secretary**

- 2.2.1 Elected for a term of two years (not to coincide with the term of the Chair), the secretary shall keep minutes of all Congregational Business Meetings and of

the meetings of the Church Board. Should work with the Chair to keep all church documentation.

2.2.2 The secretary shall attend to all church correspondences delegated to the Secretary by the Church Board, preserve all such correspondence relating to the work of the church, and turn over to the successor all minutes and correspondence which may accrue from the term of office.

2.2.3 In cases when the Chair is incapacitated, the Secretary shall take on the responsibilities of the Chairman.

### **2.3 The Treasurer**

2.3.1 The Treasurer is elected for a term of two years.

2.3.2 The Treasurer shall receive a record of income from the Financial Secretary, make all disbursements, and pay all bills, within the limits set by the budget.

2.3.3 This position is limited to being served by the same person for two consecutive terms (a total of four years).

### **2.4 The Financial Deacon**

2.4.1 The Financial Deacon is elected for a term of two years. The Financial Deacon shall receive and be responsible for the money contributions to the church.

2.4.2 Shall keep a detailed record of the funds received, classified according to source and designation, and submit such to the Treasurer on a regular basis.

2.4.3 This position is only limited by the general provision that apart from the Pastor, no person is to serve for more than six consecutive years on the Church Board (see Article 4, Section 1.4).

### **2.5 The Other Deacons**

2.5.1 The Church usually has deacon positions responsible for the following ministries: **Caring, Education, Worship, Evangelism, General Affairs**. The Church can set up other deacon positions based on the needs of ministry.

2.5.2 The deacons are elected for a term of two years. If not specified, it is preferred that any deacon position will not be held by the same person for more than two consecutive terms (a total of four years).

2.5.3 If needed, one person can serve more than one of the deacon positions, but that person cannot hold two of the positions listed from Sections 2.1 to 2.4.

### **2.6 The Pastor**

2.6.1 Called for an indefinite term, the pastor shall serve on the Church Board as long as he remains the pastor of the church.

2.6.2 The pastor is normally not required to take on any administrative responsibility, though privileged to participate in all administrative decision making.

2.6.3 The Pastor shall be responsible to be acting Chairman if both the Chairman and the Secretary are incapacitated.

## **2.7 Other Pastoral Staff**

- 2.7.1 Unless specified in their employment terms and/or contract, other pastoral staff do not normally sit on the Church Board.

## **Section 3. Nomination, Election, Term of Office, and Vacancies of the Church Board**

- 3.1 The Church Board shall present to the Church a list of candidates for the vacant positions of the Church Board for the coming year prior to the Annual Meeting, which shall be held in the month of October, and the Congregation must be allowed to add to the nomination list.
- 3.2 Nomination by the Congregation should be handed to the Church Board on a piece of paper with the signatures of the one who nominates, the one who seconds the nomination, and with the prior agreement of the nominee who is accepting the nomination.
- 3.3 Election or affirmation of any position shall require a simple majority of all the votes cast by closed ballots.
  - 3.3.1 If the first ballot fails to produce a majority, a second ballot will be taken and in the case of multiple candidates, only the two candidates with the most and the second most votes previously cast will remain on the second ballot.
- 3.4 In case no candidate receives a majority vote, the election will take place in a special business meeting to be called by the Church Board or as determined by the Congregation at the Annual Meeting and which must be held no earlier than one month but no later than forty-five days after the Annual Meeting.
- 3.5 The beginning of the term of office for all Board members shall be the beginning of the calendar year following the election.
- 3.6 In case of resignation or when replacement is necessary, the election of such vacancy shall take place at any Business Meeting of the church duly called under the provision of 5.2 below.
  - 3.6.1 Any person so elected shall serve the unexpired term of the officer replaced.
- 3.7 The Congregation retains the right to name a nomination committee in place of the Church Board for the following year's election at the quarterly business meeting prior to the Annual Meeting.

## **ARTICLE FIVE - BUSINESS MEETINGS, QUORUM AND AMENDMENT**

- 5.1** Any regularly scheduled or special business meeting, in order to be duly called and to consider major items of business, such as calling a pastor or termination of his ministry, amendments to the constitution, approval of the annual budget, or procuring, conveying, and/or encumbering property, must be announced in the Sunday Church Bulletin and from the pulpit at two consecutive Sundays immediately prior to such meeting. Said notice shall contain the time of meeting and the nature of business to be considered.
- 5.2** Notice of meetings for the consideration of business of minor importance, such as the by-election of Church Board members, revision of some budget items, appointment of committees, amendments to the By-Laws, shall be announced in the Sunday Church Bulletin and from the pulpit at least once.
- 5.3** Changes to the By-Laws need the approval of a two-thirds majority of votes cast and can take effect in the business meeting following the meeting in which the changes were adopted. For changes to take effect immediately, votes of approval must exceed seventy-five percent of all votes cast.
- 5.4** Order of Business at Business Meetings:
- 5.4.1 Opening Prayer or prayer time and the Reading of the Word of God.
  - 5.4.2 Reading and correction (if any) of minutes from the previous meeting.
  - 5.4.3 Reports from Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Committees, etc.
  - 5.4.4 Unfinished business or tabled questions from previous meeting.
  - 5.4.5 New Business.
  - 5.4.6 Closing Prayer or prayer time.
- 5.5** Every motion requires a second before it can be placed on the floor for discussion.
- 5.6** Unless specified by the Constitution or By-Laws, a simple majority of votes cast will decide the question placed under a vote.
- 5.7** The church may conduct voting by mail-in ballots should a quorum not be met at a business meeting.
- 5.8** Robert's Rules of Order shall be used as a guide to conduct business meetings.
- 5.9** Quorums for different types of Business Meetings:
- 5.9.1 Annual Meeting: fifty one percent of the Membership of the church.
  - 5.9.2 Quarterly Meeting or Special Business Meeting: forty percent.
  - 5.9.3 Amendments to the Constitution, procuring, conveying, and/or encumbering property, or the calling or termination of the Pastor or any pastoral staff: sixty percent.

## **ARTICLE SIX - ELDERS**

### **Section 1. Qualifications**

- 1.1 The Elder candidate must be a member of the Church, who is a male servant of God and who has demonstrated maturity in such areas as integrity of character, understanding of biblical truths, and spiritual discernment as set forth in the Bible (Titus 1:6-9, 1 Timothy 3:2-7, 1 Peter 5:1-3).
- 1.2 He shall be a worthy example in his life and teaching.
- 1.3 He shall abide by the Articles of Faith as set forth in the Constitution.

### **Section 2. Responsibilities**

- 2.1 Elders are to work with the Pastor(s) to shepherd the Church with respect to teaching, strategic planning, caring for and disciplining of members, and oversight of various ministries.
- 2.2 In the absence of the Pastor(s), Elders are responsible for the pulpit and for the administration of the ordinances (communion and baptism).
- 2.3 By virtue of an Elder's position, he shall have power to address and vote in all branches and committees of the church, and he is a member of the Church Board.

### **Section 3. Election and Calling**

- 3.1 The Elder candidate shall be unanimously nominated by the Church Board, and announced to the congregation. If there are written objections from active members, the Church Board shall evaluate and determine whether to proceed with the nomination. If no written objection is received within three months, the Elder candidate shall be confirmed by two-thirds majority of the quorum members present in a congregational meeting.
- 3.2 Before every appointment of a new Elder, the Church should have a special period of prayer for this matter. The confirmed Elder(s) is/are then ordained by the Church. That is different from the Pastor ordination process by EFCA. The Elder(s) is/are then instated to his/their role and given his/their responsibilities in January.
- 3.3 Congregational voting for calling of Elders shall be by closed ballot.
- 3.4 An Elder serve for a term of three years and may be reconfirmed for another term of three years. After serving the second three-year term, he may not be reconfirmed for another term until a one-year sabbatical period has expired. The recommendation for the second terms of eldership and reconfirmation shall follow Subsection 3.1.
- 3.5 The election and calling may take place at any regular or special Business Meeting called for that purpose.
- 3.6 The number of Elders cannot exceed the number of positions for pastors at the church at any given time. Even if any of the positions for pastors are vacated, the elders may remain in their positions as elders while a search is made to fill the vacated pastoral position(s). If the entire position is terminated, then the number of elders must decrease to match the new number of pastoral positions. Likewise, the number of elders may increase to match the number of pastoral positions if the church adds new pastoral positions to the staff.

### **Section 4. Resignation**

- 4.1 If an Elder wishes to resign, he shall give at least three-months, written notice to the Church

Board.

### **Section 5. Accusation and Discipline**

- 5.1 Accusations against an Elder shall not be considered unless supported by two or three witnesses (1 Timothy 5:19).
- 5.2 Any such accusations shall first be considered by the Church Board. If the Church Board finds that the Elder erred in doctrine or conduct, it should charitably admonish him. If this does not bring the desired results or the matter is of serious nature, the matter shall be laid before the Congregation.

### **Section 6. Termination**

- 6.1 An Elder shall be dismissed or be requested to resign from the Eldership should his life and testimony become contrary to biblical principles. Such removal must be initiated by the Church Board and then affirmed by two-thirds majority of the members of the Church Board.



## **ARTICLE SEVEN - AMENDMENT AND REVISIONS**

- 7.1** The Constitution and By-Laws committee is responsible for drafting and future amendments to the existing By-Laws. The proposed amendments should be first reviewed and endorsed by the Church Board.
- 7.1** The proposed amendments must be submitted to the members in writing at least thirty days prior to a regular or special business meeting of the church, which is at least three months prior to the annual meeting.
- 7.2** Any action taken must then receive a two-thirds majority vote of the membership present and voting in the annual meeting, without further amendments to the action taken at the prior business meeting concerning the proposed changes to this constitution, before it can be implemented.
- 7.3** When the proposed amendments have been rejected by the Church, that amendment, or any amendment embodying the substance thereof, shall not be proposed again for at least six months from the date of the rejection of such an amendment.
- 7.4** The affirmed amendments to the Constitution or By-laws shall immediately go into full force and effect from their adoption.
- 7.5** The first Constitution and By-Law was affirmed by the Congregation on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 1997.