

**CONSTITUTION of
The Way Christian Fellowship Inc.**

PREAMBLE

The church, later to be incorporated on May 20, 2022, by Joel Fisher and Nick Gerringer, President and Vice-President respectively, as The Way Christian Fellowship Inc., and led by a group of nine elders (collectively, the “Board of Elders”) elected at a previous church, began meeting as a group of Congregants on April 24, 2022

Now therefore, for the glory of God, the preservation and security of the principles of our faith, and to the end that this body may be governed in an orderly manner consistent with the Bible, and for the purpose of reserving the liberties inherent in each individual Congregant of The Way and the freedom of this body, with respect to its relation to other churches of the same faith, and as it relates to our liberties as an autonomous self-governing body with regard to church and state, including all officially adopted related ministries, we do declare and establish the Constitution and Bylaws, by way of Exhibit A, of The Way Christian Fellowship Inc.

ARTICLE I NAME AND OFFICES

SECTION 1. Name.

This incorporated church body shall be known as The Way Christian Fellowship Inc. (hereinafter also referred to as ("The Way").

SECTION 2. Principal Office and Other Offices.

The principal office of The Way shall be in Kernersville, North Carolina but the location may be changed from time to time by the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees may at any time establish branch or subordinate offices at any place or places where allowed.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE

The purpose of The Way is to fulfill the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37-40) and the Great Commission of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18-20). The Church is to be a covenant community devoted to the teaching of the Word of God, prayer, making disciples through evangelism, and maturing disciples through weekly services, home fellowships, outreach and missions. The Church is driven by the Gospel of Jesus Christ to make God’s gracious gift of salvation known to the community and beyond by its preaching, the witness of its Congregants, its life of Spirit-empowered love, its outreach and support of missions, the partaking of the LORD’S Supper, and the celebration of baptism. The Way may from time to time commission or ordain ministers of the Gospel, elders, deacons and missionaries.

The general operational purposes for which The Way corporation is organized are exclusively religious, charitable and educational within the meaning of Sections 501(c)(3) and 508(c)(1)(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Code including, but not limited to, for such purposes as outlined in the Articles of Incorporation.

ARTICLE III VISION

The visions of The Way shall be:

To proclaim the good news of salvation by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ through any suitable method or media, which includes, but is not limited to the following:

- A.** Share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the people we encounter and through missions for the salvation of their souls and so that Jesus would be the foundation in their lives. We want to reach people who are spiritually lost and in need of the Gospel in our community, in North Carolina, in the United States, and around the world.
- B.** Establish and operate local fellowship for the worship of Jesus Christ, including conducting Bible studies, worshiping, and sharing the message and good news of Jesus Christ, using personal evangelism, radio, television, web/internet, missions, conferences, preaching, comforting, and any other activity directed for Christian purpose.
- C.** Provide Biblical Scripture to the community and other groups through the Holy Scriptures and other printed material by speaking at Bible studies, church services, and by providing speakers and other instructional and educational programs which may be deemed necessary or convenient in effecting the above purposes.
- D.** Establishing new programs of outreach and ministry, and the strengthening of existing programs and organizations which have a similar purpose and dedication to presenting Jesus Christ as Savior.
- E.** Foster the establishment and growth of home fellowships.
- F.** Engage in spiritual work and services based upon the authority of the Holy Bible.
- G.** Disciple and equip believers, so they grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ and experience the “abundant” life He promises. Matthew 22:37-38 & 28:19-20; John 10:10; John 15:1-8; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:42-47.

ARTICLE IV STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe that the Bible is inspired by God in its entirety, and is without error in the original autographs, a complete and final written revelation from God. (2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:21)

We believe that there is only one true God, who is eternal and immutable, and manifests Himself in three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Genesis 1:1, Deuteronomy 6:4, Matthew 28:19, John 10:30)

We believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the promised Messiah (John 1:36-42, John 4:25-26), born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23, Luke 1:34-35), totally without sin (Hebrews 4:15, Hebrews 7:26),

God in human flesh (John 1:1 & 14, John 20:28), the One who died on the cross for our sins (1 Corinthians 15:3, Ephesians 1:7, Hebrews 2:9), was buried (John 19:40-42), rose again from the dead on the third day (John 2:19), and ascended to the right hand of the Father in heaven, where He now intercedes for us who believe in Him. (Mark 16:19, Acts 7:56, 1 Timothy 2:5, Hebrews 7:25)

We believe that Jesus Christ is going to return for His church. (1 Thessalonians 4:14-17). At His return to earth, with His saints and His angels, He will set up His kingdom on earth, ruling and reigning forever and ever. (Matthew 24:30)

We believe that all humanity is lost and born with a sinful nature, and can only be saved by a personal faith in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, a personal relationship with the Triune God and not by any human merit or performance. (John 3:16-19, John 5:24, Romans 3:10, Romans 3:23, Romans 5:8-9, Ephesians 2:8-10, Titus 3:5)

We believe there is a real/literal devil, called Satan, who, along with all his fallen angels, demons, and evil spirits, are destined to spend eternity in hell, and now seek to deceive the world, defeat the believers, and destroy the work of God, but can be resisted by believers, who are protected by God, the Holy Spirit and the intercession of Jesus Christ our Lord. (Genesis 3:1, Job 1:6-12, Matthew 4:1-11, Luke 22:31-32, 1 John 4:4, Revelation 20:10, James 4:7)

We believe heaven is real and is being prepared for believers by Jesus Christ where they will join and dwell with Him forever and ever. We believe hell is real and is a place where, after judgement and according to their works, unbelievers will be cast into the lake of fire. (John 14:1-3, Revelation 20:11-15, Revelation 21:8, Revelation 22:5)

We believe that genuine believers are born again by the Holy Spirit of God, and are indwelt, baptized into the body of Christ, the true church, and sealed by the Holy Spirit, and thus, unable to be separated from the love of Jesus Christ. (John 3:1-6, Acts 1:4-5, Romans 8:35-39, Ephesians 1:13-14)

We believe that all believers need to be filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit to live a godly life and to be bold in our witness for the Lord. (Romans 8:13-14, 1 Corinthians 3:16, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Ephesians 4:30, Ephesians 5:18)

We believe in the spiritual unity of all genuine believers in the Lord Jesus Christ which is manifested by the spiritual gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit's presence through His love. (1 Corinthians 12:12-13, Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 4:8-13)

We believe that the nation of Israel has a special place in God's plan, and that all the promises of God to Israel will be fulfilled. (Genesis 12:3, Psalm 122, Romans 11:29, Roman 9:4)

We believe the human race was created as biological male and biological female by a direct act of God to fully reveal His image. (Genesis 1:26-28)

We believe marriage is a sacred covenant between a biological man, a biological woman and God, limiting sexual relations to this monogamous, heterosexual union. Marriage should only be entered into when the proposed covenantal union is in accordance with the Word of God. (Genesis 2:24 & 4:1)

We believe in the sanctity of human life in all stages from conception to natural death. The church, based upon clear biblical teaching and by obedience to the Holy Scriptures, believes that life is a gift of

God that should be protected by man. (Psalm 82:3-4, Genesis 1:27, Psalm 127:3, Exodus 20:13, Micah 6:7, John 10:10)

We believe in the standard of holy living set forth in Holy Scripture and agree that as believers in the Lord we are called to righteous living, preserving our witness before the unsaved world. We agree that we are living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God and that without the Holy Spirit's indwelling, we cannot fully display Christ to a lost and dying world. (Romans 12:1, 1 Peter 2:5)

Every pastor, assistant pastor, officer, deacon, employee, ministry leader, staff member, Congregant (collectively referred to as "Affiliates") shall be in submission to the spiritual authority of the Board of Elders. Any Affiliate whose actions or beliefs are found to be in opposition to the Statement of Faith of The Way Fellowship, or with God's Word, may be removed from their position of responsibility and without repentance and submission, removed from the fellowship by the Board of Elders and their assignees. Further, the Board of Elders or their assignees, may prohibit the fellowship and attendance of any Congregant or person from The Way's services and meetings as discussed in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE V THE WAY DISCIPLINE

SECTION 1. Biblical Process for Correction and Discipline.

We believe that Scripture requires the Board of Elders to exercise authority, correction and discipline over all Congregants who participate in fellowship at The Way. This is necessary to ensure that, among other reasons: 1) Sound doctrine is consistently practiced within the various ministries of The Way and 2) The message conveyed as a by-product of the mere association and fellowship with particular persons does not adversely impact the message intended to be presented by the Board of Elders. In other words, the practices and conduct of some individuals may significantly interfere with the ministry purposes of The Way and those in fellowship with The Way. Scripture provides direction regarding persons who should be disciplined because of their position, practices or conduct.

It shall be the practice of The Way to pursue every reasonable measure for peace and reconciliation. Should one Congregant sin against another or the body of Congregants (The Way), the aggrieved individual shall follow in a tender spirit the rules given by our Lord and Savior in Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; and 1 Thessalonians 5:12-14. If they sin against God either in sinful moral failure or biblical heresy, the Elders, Deacons, and mature Congregants are available for counsel and guidance.

The Way shall look to the Board of Elders for the effective functioning and discipline of the congregation. Only after good faith efforts to bring about repentance and reconciliation have proven futile, the Board of Elders or its designees shall give notice of the unrepentant sins, time and place to address the charges. Discipline can include but not be limited to dismissal, censure, suspension or any other measures that the Board of Elders decide facilitate repentance. If the Congregant is disciplined by the Board of Elders, it shall be announced to the Congregants to carry out the biblical admonitions to bring about repentance and restoration of the disciplined Congregant. The extent to which notice is given to the Congregants is dependent upon the position of the individual and the level of disobedience to scripture.

ARTICLE VI ELDERS

SECTION 1. Ministry and Responsibilities.

The Elders shall carry on various duties and ministries within the corporation to meet the needs of The Way.

The Elders shall meet regularly to consider the spiritual needs which arise in the body of Congregants of The Way; they shall pray for the furtherance of God's will being established in the body of Congregants of The Way as well as any people associated with or subject to the goals of The Way, including service to the beneficiaries of this ministry by exercising hospitality, spirit-led and scripturally-based teaching, love, care, and good counsel.

SECTION 2. Qualifications.

Elders shall be Congregants, men, who meet and maintain the scriptural qualifications of an Elder identified in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.

SECTION 3. Number, Appointment, and Term.

There is no authorized number of Elders, provided that such number shall not be less than three (3). Any Elder may recommend Elder candidates at any time to the Board of Elders. The Board of Elders, or its designee, shall interview potential candidates to determine if they meet the above qualifications and have a desire to serve. No candidates shall be nominated without their consent. Qualified candidates shall be appointed by motions and a unanimous first vote of the Board of Elders at a duly called meeting. Any motion having failed to pass a unanimous first vote shall be allowed an opportunity of a second vote as per process established in Article III section 9 of the Bylaws. A Board of Elders Member will Abstain through Abstention for any Conflict of Interest and Conscience as considered in Article III Section 10. Upon election, an Elder may serve in perpetuity unless removed through the Elder removal process provided in **Article VI Section 4 Resignation, Sabbatical and Removal.**

SECTION 4. Resignation, Sabbatical and Removal.

Any Elder may at any time deliver a written notice to the Board of Elders of intent to resign or take a Sabbatical which shall be effective upon motions and a unanimous first vote of the Board of Elders. Any motion having failed to pass a unanimous first vote shall be allowed an opportunity of a second vote as per process established in Article III section 9 of the Bylaws. A Board of Elders Member will Abstain through Abstention for any Conflict of Interest and Conscience as considered in Article III Section 10 of the Bylaws. An Elder who has resigned and/or is on Sabbatical shall be considered a non-active Elder without voting rights. Any Elder may be removed at any time with or without cause when, in the sole judgment and discretion of the Board of Elders, it is determined by motions and a unanimous first vote of the Board of Elders present and voting that such individual should no longer serve as an Elder. Any motion having failed to pass a unanimous first vote shall be allowed an opportunity of a second vote as per process established in Article III Section 9 of the Bylaws. A Board of Elders Member will Abstain through Abstention for any Conflict of Interest and Conscience as considered in Article III Section 10 of the Bylaws.

SECTION 5. Meetings.

The Elders shall have meetings, as often as necessary to carry out their duties and responsibilities. A chairperson may be elected as needed from among their members to facilitate meetings and regularly report to the Board of Trustees on the ministries of The Way.

ARTICLE VII DEACONS

SECTION 1. Ministry and Responsibilities.

The Deacons shall carry out various duties and ministries to meet the needs of The Way under the direction of the Board of Elders.

The Deacons shall counsel with the Board of Elders regarding the physical needs which arise in the body of Congregants of The Way; they shall pray for the furtherance of God's will being established in the body of Congregants of The Way as well as any people associated with or subject to the goals of The Way, including service to the beneficiaries of this ministry by exercising hospitality, spirit-lead and scripturally-based teaching, love, care, and good counsel.

SECTION 2. Qualifications.

Deacons shall be Congregants, men, who meet and maintain the scriptural qualifications of a deacon identified in I Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:2-4.

SECTION 3. Number, Appointment, and Term.

There is no authorized number of deacons. Elders and Congregants may recommend candidates at any time for Deacon to the Board of Elders. The Board of Elders, or its designee, shall interview potential candidates to determine if they meet the above qualifications and have a desire to serve. No candidates shall be nominated without their consent. Qualified candidates shall be appointed by motion and a unanimous first vote of the Board of Elders at a duly called meeting. Any motion having failed to pass a unanimous first vote shall be allowed an opportunity of a second vote as per process established in Article III section 9 of the Bylaws. A Board of Elders Member will Abstain through Abstention for any Conflict of Interest and Conscience as considered in Article III Section 10 of the Bylaws. Upon election, a Deacon may serve in perpetuity unless removed through the Elder removal process provided in **Article VII Section 4 Resignation, Sabbatical and Removal.**

SECTION 4. Resignation, Sabbatical and Removal.

Any Deacon may at any time deliver a written notice to the Board of Elders of intent to resign or take a Sabbatical which shall be effective upon motions and a unanimous first vote of the Board of Elders. Any motion having failed to pass a unanimous first vote shall be allowed an opportunity of a second vote as per process established in Article III Section 9 of the Bylaws. A Board of Elders Member will Abstain through Abstention for any Conflict of Interest and Conscience as considered in Article III Section 10 of the Bylaws. A Deacon who has resigned and/or is on Sabbatical shall be considered a non-active Deacon. Any Deacon may be removed at any time with or without cause when, in the sole judgment and discretion of the Board of Elders, it is determined by motions and a unanimous first vote of the Board of Elders present and voting that such individual should no longer serve as a Deacon. Any motion having failed to pass a

unanimous first vote shall be allowed an opportunity of a second vote as per process established in Article III Section 9 of the Bylaws. A Board of Elders Member will Abstain through Abstention for any Conflict of Interest and Conscience as considered in Article III Section 10 of the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII MINISTRY TEAMS AND COMMITTEES

The Board of Elders may establish such other ministry teams and committees (Standing and Special) as needed to assist in the performance of its responsibilities. These ministries shall function under the oversight of and through the Board of Elders but shall continue to pursue their delegated responsibilities as determined by the Board of Elders and those additional tasks specifically delegated to them. A Special Team or committee may only exist at the request of the Board of Elders and for the duration of time designated by the Board of Elders and has no authority to act beyond its specific mandate from the Board of Elders, or to legally bind the church in any way.

ARTICLE IX RITES OF ORDINATION

SECTION 1. Principles of Ordination.

A candidate for ordination recognizes that 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 minister is not the result of a title; rather the title is the result of His calling. This calling is recognized as from the true and living God. It is man's privilege and specifically the privilege of the overseers of the church of Jesus Christ to ratify the ordination of God when such is obviously placed upon a man's life. The purpose of this Article is to provide for the ordination rites of ministers of The Way in accordance with the Word of God.

SECTION 2. Qualification for Ordination.

The qualifications for ordination are as follows:

A. BORN AGAIN,

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. ACCEPTANCE OF STATEMENT OF FAITH,

A candidate for ordination must subscribe to the Statement of Faith as described in this Constitution.

C. CALLING.

A candidate should have evidenced the obvious calling of God upon his life to the satisfaction of the Board of Elders. He is qualified by the Scriptures in character and has the approval of the Board of Elders from The Way.

SECTION 3. Procedures for Ordination.

A. Each man fulfilling the above qualifications, and upon their presentation to the Board of

Elders of this body, shall receive full consideration for ordination into the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ by The Way.

- B.** Upon motions and a unanimous vote at a regular or special meeting of the Board of Elders present and voting, with allowance for a Board of Elders Member to Abstain through Abstention for any Conflict of Interest and Conscience as considered in Article III Section 10 of the Bylaws, the candidate will be ordained as a minister of the Gospel with the right to perform ministerial functions in accordance with the laws of the land, provided said laws are not contrary with the Word of God, and the ordinances of God's Word, with all prerogatives of such a calling and office.
- C.** All candidates, successful or otherwise, shall be notified of the Board of Elders' decision in writing within one (1) week of the final Board of Elders' action.

ARTICLE X AFFILIATIONS

The Way is a part of the body of Christ and operates as an independent fellowship with its own governance structure. The Way may collaborate and/or partner with other like-minded churches, fellowships, associations or denominations as it decides to further its purpose and outreach.

ARTICLE XI AMENDMENTS

The Board of Elders may submit and propose changes to the Constitution for consideration and comment. The Board of Elders shall debate the proposed changes at a regular or special Board of Elders meeting. This Constitution may be amended by motions and a unanimous vote of the Board of Elders present and voting, provided that the following procedure has been followed:

- A.** A Board of Elders Member will Abstain through Abstention for any Conflict of Interest and Conscience as considered in Article III Section 10 of the Bylaws.
- B.** The proposed written amendment has been presented at a previous Board of Elders meeting.
- C.** The proposed written amendment has been mailed or made available to the Board of Elders at least six (6) weeks before the meeting to act on the amendment.

Signatures Page Below

THE WAY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP INC. (THE WAY)

Signature

Printed or Typed Name

Title

Date

Signature

Printed or Typed Name

Title

Date