

ELLIJAY
CITY CHURCH

Bylaws

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Bylaws Preamble

WHEREAS, it is the express purpose of God our Heavenly Father to call out of the world a saved people who shall contribute to the Body of Christ, built and established on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the Chief Cornerstone.

WHEREAS, the members of the Body of Christ are enjoined to assemble themselves together for worship, fellowship, counsel, and instruction in the Word of God and the work of the ministry and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices provided for in the New Testament, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that we recognize ourselves as a body of Christian believers working together for the common purpose of spreading the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and that under the laws of the state of Georgia we may exercise all the rights and privileges granted to religious bodies.

Language

The masculine gender stated within this document shall refer to both men and women.

Article I: Name

The name of this corporation shall be Ellijay City Church, Inc.

Article II: Purpose

The purpose for which the corporation is initially organized is to establish and oversee places of worship, teach and preach the word of God to all people, conduct evangelistic and charitable outreach, license and ordain ministers of the gospel, establish educational opportunities, entrepreneurial opportunities and to also engage in activities which are necessary, suitable or convenient for the accomplishment of that purpose.

Article III: Tenets of Faith

The human phraseology employed in this statement is not inspired nor contended for, but the truth set forth is held to be essential to a full Gospel ministry. No claim is made that it contains all the truth in the Bible, only that it covers orthodox fundamental matters.

Scripture

- We believe there are 66 Books of the Holy Bible.
- Scripture (both Old and New Testaments) is God-breathed and given by divine inspiration.
- Scripture is our final authority in all matters.
- The Bible is the Living Word that is infallible and true.
- Context is important when interpreting scripture.
- Hebrews 4:12, II Timothy 3:15-17; I Thessalonians 2:13; II Peter 1:21

God

- There is only one true God who is eternal and exists as three separate persons: The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- Isaiah 43:10-11, Colossians 2:9, John 10:30, John 1:1-5

Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit dwells inside the believer and He is our helper who guides us into all truth.
- The Holy Spirit empowers us to live the way Jesus lived, do what Jesus did, and do even greater works.
- The Holy Spirit gives believers gifts to edify the body of Christ and equip us for service.
- John 16:5-15, Ephesians 1:13-14, Romans 8:17, Galatians 3:29, 2 Corinthians 6:18, John 16:12-14, Acts 1:4-8 and 2:4, Mark 16:15-18, John 16:13

Salvation & Transformation

- The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ provides a way for all to be reconciled back to God.
- The finished work of Christ restores to believers everything that was lost as a result of sin.
- Salvation is the beginning of transformation.
- Colossians 1:20-23

Creation

- God created the earth and everything in it.
- God created man in His own image and likeness; male and female.
- God gave man dominion over His creation.
- The goal of God was not to create a religion, but to establish a family.
- Genesis 1:26, 27, Genesis 2:7, Romans 8:15

The Kingdom of God

- The Kingdom of God is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.
- The Kingdom of God is here and is available to all who believe.
- Jesus reintroduced the Kingdom of Heaven, and the government of God, to earth and restored man's authority in the earth.
- Mathew 10:7, Romans 14:17, Isaiah 9:6, Luke 10:19, Matthew 16:19

The Church

- Jesus Christ is the head of the Church.
- The Church is a family of believers who are commissioned to love God and love others.
- Colossians 1:18, Matthew 28:19-20, Galatians 6:10, Mark 12:30-31

Our Spiritual Enemy

- The enemy came to steal, kill, and destroy. Jesus came to give us life. The enemy has been defeated.
- Believers have power and authority over any spiritual enemy.
- Ephesians 6:12, John 10:10, Colossians 2:15, Luke 10:19

Prayer

- We pray to God the Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- John 14:13-16

Charity / Generosity / Giving

- Generosity can come in different forms: Time, Talents, Treasures
- We give because we have already been blessed.
- Giving should come from a generous heart and not out of manipulation.
- God loves a cheerful giver.
- We have a nature that is like God and we should give ourselves as a living sacrifice.
- Ephesians 1:3, 2 Corinthians 9:8, Hebrews 7:4, 2 Corinthians 9:6–11, 1 John 3:16

Baptism

- Baptism of the Holy Spirit is entering into Christ's death and being raised to new life.
- Water baptism is an expression of a believer's faith, but is not required for salvation.
- Romans 6:3-8, Colossians 2:12, 1 Peter 3:21, John 1:29-33

Community

- God intends believers to walk in the following things:
 - Casting out demons
 - Speaking with new tongues
 - Protection from deadly things
 - Laying hands on the sick and seeing them recover.
- God intends and empowers His children to do the same types of works that Jesus did when He walked the Earth and even greater works.
- Mark 16:17-18, John 14:12

Article IV: Membership

There are no requirements or paperwork needed in order to attend a church gathering or be a part of the ministry.

Article V: Government

Section 1: Board of Directors

There shall be a Senior Leader/President.

There shall be a Vice President.

There shall be a Secretary.

There shall be a Treasurer.

Other individuals may be added as needed.

Section 2: Official Board of Directors and Voting Power

The Board of Directors is that group of persons vested with the management of the business and affairs of the corporation.

The Board of Directors may serve with remuneration. The majority may or may not be comprised of one group whose members are related by blood, business or marriage.

The Senior Leader/President shall be chairman of the Board of Directors.

The Senior Leader/President shall be chairman of the Board of Directors and chief executive of the corporation.

Each member of the Board of Directors shall have equal voting power among all of the other members.

A decision by the Board of Directors is considered valid with a unanimous vote, including the approval of the Senior Leader/President, unless otherwise specified in the Bylaws.

The Board of Directors Conflict of Interest Policy prevents voting by disqualified individuals, as defined in IRC Section 4958(f)(1). All members who are disqualified with respect to a decision shall recuse themselves from the vote.

The Board of Directors shall be authorized to create any additional committees as may be deemed necessary for the management corporation. Any board member may be an ex officio member of any committee and can at his discretion be the chair of such committee at the time of its creation.

Section 3: Conflict Resolution

Matthew 18:15-17 NKJV - 15 "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' 17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

If a dispute arises between parties related to the by-laws, the parties agree to engage in conciliation. The conciliation process shall begin within 30 days of one party inviting the other in writing to conciliation. If the dispute is not resolved within 60 days of the invitation, either party may refer the matter to legally binding arbitration.

This section's purpose is to ensure that any disputes are resolved through a biblically-grounded process, promoting peace and reconciliation within the Church.

Section 4: Removal From the Board of Directors

If conflict resolution Section 3 between parties does not produce positive results, any Board of Directors member may be removed from office with Biblical cause by a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors,

including the Senior Leader/President's approval. The Senior Leader/President may be removed by a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors, excluding any disqualified individuals, in accordance with Article VI.

The following reasons are considered just cause for Board of Directors member removal by the Board of Directors:

Any and all ungodly activity without repentance, deliverance and restoration.
Restoration is a process that may take some time.

Section 5: Vacancies

In the event of a Director vacancy, whether due to resignation or removal, the Senior Leader/President shall be given a reasonable amount of time to nominate an individual deemed qualified in accordance with these Bylaws. The nomination must be approved by a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 6: Resignation

Any Director may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Board of Directors. Such resignation shall take effect on the date of the receipt of such notice and, acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

Article VI: Official Functions

All officers listed below have a fiduciary responsibility to oversee that all listed duties are properly executed. The actual carrying out of necessary actions may be accomplished by any individual whom the Board of Directors sees fit.

Section 1: Senior Leader/President Qualifications

The Senior Leader/President shall have wisdom in handling the corporation's affairs. He shall be of sound doctrine and good judgment.

Duties

The Senior Leader/President shall be the leader of the church as provided by the Word of God, our Statement of Faith, and the Holy Spirit.

The Senior Leader/President shall be chairman of the official Board of Directors and preside over all corporation meetings. If the Senior Leader/President can not be present he may appoint another Board Member.

The Senior Leader/President shall hold the Ecclesiastical Authority (Article X) and shall be responsible for the day-to-day decisions.

The Senior Leader/President shall hold primary fiduciary responsibility to comply with all federal and state requirements set forth for a 501-C3 corporation.

Term of Office

The term of office of the Senior Leader/President has no limitations.

Succession

The Senior Leader/President may nominate a successor at any time. The nominee shall be confirmed by a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors, after the nomination is made. This person will assume the role of the Senior Leader/ President if the Senior Leader/ President retires, resigns, vacates the position, or passes away unexpectedly or is otherwise incapacitated.

No Successor Appointed

Should the Senior Leader/President fail to appoint a successor, the following shall serve as an order of succession:

- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

If the retirement, passing, removal or incapacity of the Senior Leader/President leaves the Board of Directors unbalanced or without a quorum, then the first motion of the person who assumes the role of the Senior Leader/President through this section, shall be to nominate prospective Board of Director nmember(s). The nominee(s) shall be confirmed by a unanimous vote of the remaining Board of Director members.

The successor will automatically and immediately become the Senior Leader/President. In the event the successor is not prepared to assume both the role of the Senior Leader and that of the President, the Board of Directors can move to separate the roles of the Senior Leader and President by a unanimous vote. Such action would require an amendment to the Bylaws. The Board of Directors will begin the search for the replacement Senior Leader and the successor will assume the role of the President. The Board of Directors may select an interim Senior Leader until a permanent replacement is found.

Section 2: Vice President Qualifications

The Vice President shall have wisdom in handling the corporation's affairs. He shall be of sound doctrine and good judgment.

Duties

He will serve as chief advisor to the Senior Leader/President.

He shall carry out the responsibilities that the Senior Leader/President delegates to him.

Manner of Appointment

The Senior Leader/President shall nominate and the Board of Directors shall confirm the Vice President to office by a unanimous vote.

Term of Office

The term of office of the Vice President has no limitations.

Section 3: Secretary Qualifications

The Secretary shall be a spiritually minded person, of sound judgment and wise. This person must be administratively minded with the ability to multi-task.

Duties

By virtue of this office, the Secretary shall keep a true and accurate record of all meetings, including business meetings of the corporation. This person shall perform clerical duties, and shall be the custodian of all legal documents. This officer has overall retention responsibilities for church records, and may delegate responsibilities to other Board Members or designees.

Manner of Appointment

The Senior Leader/President shall nominate and the Board of Directors shall confirm the Secretary to office by a unanimous vote.

Term of Office

The term of office of the Secretary has no limitations.

Section 4: Treasurer Qualifications

The Treasurer shall be a spiritually minded person, of sound judgment and wise. He shall be capable of doing the accounting required to maintain the corporation books.

Duties

By virtue of his or her office, the Treasurer shall: keep, in a business-like manner, an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements of moneys committed to his trust. Provide reports to be presented during official Board of Directors meetings. Deposit and make withdrawals in a manner prescribed in Article XVII. Oversee the creation and maintenance of financial policies related to the Church approved by the Board of Directors. Be a Steward of Church spending.

Manner of Appointment

The Senior Leader/President shall nominate and the Board of Directors shall confirm the Treasurer to office by a unanimous vote.

Term of Office

The term of office of the Treasurer has no limitations.

Article VII: Meetings

Section 1: Church Services

In any established place of worship the appointed Senior Leader/President will be responsible for regular church services.

Section 2: Corporation Meetings

The corporation year shall coincide with the calendar year beginning on January 1st, and running through December 31st.

Proper notice shall be given to all Board Directors prior to any Corporation Meeting.

The Senior Leader/President will call the official Board of Directors meeting to discuss the direction of the corporation. The Senior Leader/President shall set dates and times for Board of Directors meetings. The Board of Directors may have invited guests present at any meeting so long as the Senior Leader/President has approved it.

The Secretary shall keep an accurate account of the minutes that were discussed at any Board of Directors meeting. This person then has to archive those minutes and make them available for meetings.

Section 3: Meetings by Technology

Subject to the provisions in Section 2 of this Article, the Directors may also hold meetings by means of a remote electronic communications system, including video or telephone conferencing or the Internet, or any combination.

Article VIII: Quorum

A majority of the Board of Directors members (including the Senior Leader/ President) at an official Board of Directors meeting constitutes a quorum.

If a quorum shall not be present at any meeting of the directors, the directors thereat may recess the meeting from time to time, with announcement at the meeting, until a quorum shall be present.

Article IX: Ecclesiastical Authority

This church is theocratic in government. In any growing congregation, there will be people at all stages of spiritual growth and maturity. For that reason, it is not proper to submit the affairs of the church to a democratic vote, for the purpose of the church is not to do the will of the majority, but the will of God.

Any disputes that arise over the interpretation of these Bylaws, doctrine, or matters of faith, shall be deferred to the highest ecclesiastical authority of this church. In this case it would be the Senior Leader/President, with the advice of the Board of Directors. In *Watson v. Jones*, the court ruled that: "Whenever the questions of discipline, or of faith, of ecclesiastical rule, custom, or law have been decided by the highest church judicatory to which the matter has been carried, the legal tribunals must accept such decisions as final, and as binding on them . . ."

Article X: Mutual Interest

The behavior of anyone in fellowship with this church is of common interest to the Board of Directors and congregation. (Gal. 6:1) This church requires every member of the Board of Directors and every congregant to adhere to a Lifestyle that is consistent with the doctrines of this church as taught in the Word of God.

Therefore, this church reserves the right to refuse service to any individual that is not submitting their Lifestyle to this Scriptural mode of conduct. This refusal would include services, benefits and any use of church assets.

Article XI: Prohibited Activities

This church is prohibited from engaging in activities which violate its written statement of faith.

Article XII: Founder's Vision

In establishing effective leadership within church, the vision of the founding Senior Leader/ President will be represented and carried out. It is the responsibility of the founding Senior Leader/President to clearly articulate to the Board of Directors and the members of the congregation the vision and mission of the church. In the event of retirement, passing, removal, or incapacity of the Founding Senior Leader/President, his successor shall carry on the vision and mission for the life of the Church.

Article XIII: Ministry of Helps

To help ensure the protection, security and safety of congregants, guest and volunteers during church functions, this church recognizes the Ministry of Helps (Volunteers). The Board of Directors may establish teams and committees who are trained in the policy and procedures of the church to carry out this ministry.

Article XIV: Review of Church Records

Section 1: Requests Made by Congregant

To ensure the trust of the congregants and to also ensure that a public interest is being served, church records and basic financial information may be available for congregational inspection and review. At no time may

information be supplied that would violate Section 4 of this Article or Article XVII. Any questions by any congregant shall be addressed to the treasurer either in writing or by scheduled appointment.

Section 2: Required Provisions of the Request

The request must state the name of the individual, the reason for the request and that the information shall in no way be made public or shared with any other congregant in a way that will jeopardize the church.

Section 3: Required Fee

This corporation may require a reasonable per page fee for any copies that are required in order to accommodate approved records requests.

Section 4: Confidentiality

In order to keep the records of the church confidential, records shall not be released to any outside agency, person or entity unless due process has been served and a certified subpoena has been personally delivered. This includes the IRS, except under the provisions of Section 7611 which shall be limited only to information deemed to be relevant to the inquiry being made. At all times the IRS will be expected to comply with all of the provisions of Section 7611.

Section 5: Denying a Request

The Board of Directors reserves the right to deny such a request made by unanimous vote for any of the following reasons:

- The request is considered by the Board of Directors and deemed to be frivolous or beyond the scope of compliance negatively affecting overall operations of the Church;
- The individual making the request has a history of being divisive;
- The individual does not adequately provide the required information on the request as stated in this Article;
- The person making a request is not a regular attendee or tither.

Article XV: Privacy

This church shall diligently watch to keep private all records concerning employment records, HIPPA, polity, doctrine, counseling and information on individuals in fellowship with, employed by, or representing this church. This church will not disclose any records that may compromise information about a congregant's attendance, status, giving and counseling records.

Article XVI: Order

For the purpose of conducting business, the Senior Leader/President shall, in an orderly manner, preside over all of the affairs of the corporation.

Article XVII: Finances

Section 1: Audit

The Treasurer and or other Board of Directors appointed person shall complete an internal audit annually. This audit of all financial records shall be made after the close of the calendar year, prior to the end of March.

Section 2: Checks, Payments and Withdrawals

The Board of Directors of Ellijay City Church, Inc. handle the procedure for properly executing checks, payments and withdrawals.

Section 3: Salaries

All salaries shall be determined in the following manner:

- The Board of Directors shall consider each candidate, create a compensation package and vote on the package.
- All salaries shall be reviewed each year during the last meeting of the calendar year.
- Only the Board of Directors are able to allow staff to have a Housing Allowance.

Section 4: Investments and Other Financial Policies

The Treasurer shall create, oversee, and maintain financial policies related to the Church approved by the Board of Directors including but not limited to Investment Policies, Credit/Debit Card Usage, Capitalization, and Spending Authority.

Article XVIII: Property Rights

All property, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred or conveyed in the corporation's name. No real property of the corporation shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise alienated without authorization of the Senior Leader/President and a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors.

The Senior Leader/President of the corporation shall certify in such conveyances, leases, or mortgages.

Article XIX: Dissolution

In the event that the corporation ceases to exist, all assets of this church shall, at the discretion of the Board of Directors be distributed by the Board of Directors.

If the Board of Directors can not be represented then the appointed Advisory Board will have the power to disperse all assets of this corporation with a simple majority vote.

Article XX: Ministers of the Gospel

The Senior Leader/President of this ministry shall by virtue of his office automatically be recognized as an ordained minister.

Section 1: Classes of Ministers

This ministry shall have a set number of classes of ministers, as set forth below. Each class of minister will have distinct rights and privileges; they are listed below:

Commissioned Minister:

This recognition is automatically given to all believers in fellowship with this ministry. The Board of Directors are here to help empower believers and ask that congregants refrain from performing services that licensed and ordained ministers would perform, but primarily assist others in the Body of Christ. Individuals in this category may include, but are not limited to: teachers, worship leaders, instructors, hospital and jail visitation, ministerial assistance, and lay persons.

Chaplain:

This recognition is for ministers of the gospel that are called by God and recognized by the Board of Directors to minister primarily in prisons, hospitals and government agencies.

Minister's Apprentice:

This recognition is given by the Board of Directors of this ministry. This recognition is for those who are starting out in the ministry, but need extensive training. They are to work closely with a licensed or ordained minister. Such persons are not authorized to perform any sacerdotal services.

Licensed Minister:

This recognition is given by the Board of Directors of this ministry. This recognition is for those who are somewhat seasoned in the ministry, but need further experience. Many of these are individuals that have been working in their chosen vocation, but for some reason or another have never entered full-time ministry. Such persons are authorized to perform the following functions:

- Oversee Events
- Preach/Teach
- Provide spiritual counseling
- Serve on the Advisory Board

And other functions including:

- Conduct baby dedication ceremonies
- Perform baptisms
- Perform weddings
- Conduct funerals
- Visit the sick and shut-in
- Minister in prisons

However, this person is not in charge of a congregation. Limited authority is granted to run the affairs of the ministry.

Ordained Pastor/Minister:

This recognition is given by the Board of Directors to those persons who have an "established" or "proven" ministry. Ordained ministers are authorized to perform all functions of the Christian ministry and must be capable of doing so.

Ordained ministers are authorized to perform all functions:

- Oversee Events
- Preach/Teach
- Provide spiritual counseling
- Serve on the Advisory Board

And other functions including:

- Conduct baby dedication ceremonies
- Perform baptisms
- Perform weddings
- Conduct funerals
- Visit the sick and shut-in
- Minister in prisons

He must be capable, as determined by the Board of Directors, to take charge of a congregation.

Section 2: Senior Leader/President's Authority

The Senior Leader/President of this ministry shall have ecclesiastical authority to decide who, how or if a person will be licensed by this ministry to hold any of the classes mentioned above (Matt. 16:13-19).

Section 3: All Leader Qualifications

All Ellijay City Church Leaders must qualify by exemplifying the following in their lives:

- Above reproach (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:6-7)
- The husband of one wife (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:6-7)
- Temperate, sober, vigilant (1 Tim. 3:2)
- Sober-minded, prudent (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8)
- Of good behavior; orderly, respectable (1 Tim. 3:2)
- Hospitable (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8)
- Able to teach (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:9)
- Not a drunkard (1 Tim. 3:3,8; Titus 1:7)
- Not violent; not pugnacious (1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7)
- Patient, moderate, forbearing, gentle (1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7)
- Not a brawler; not contentious, not quick tempered (1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7)
- Not covetous; not a lover of money; not greedy for money (1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7)

- Rules his own house well; his children are faithful (1 Timothy 3:4; Titus 1:6)
- Not a new convert (1 Tim. 3:6)
- Well thought of, has a good reputation with outsiders (1 Tim. 3:7)
- Not self-willed (Titus 1:7)
- A lover of good (Titus 1:8)
- Just, upright (Titus 1:8)
- Holy, devout (Titus 1:8)
- Self-controlled (Titus 1:8)

Article XXI: Indemnification& Savings

This church shall, to the extent legally permissible, indemnify each person who may serve or who has served at any time as an officer, director, or employee of the church against all expenses and liabilities, including, without limitation, counsel fees, judgments, fines, excise taxes, penalties and settlement payments, reasonably incurred by or imposed upon such person in connection with any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding in which he or she may become involved by reason of his or her service in such capacity; provided that no indemnification shall be provided for any such person with respect to any matter as to which he or she shall have been finally adjudicated in any proceeding not to have acted in good faith in the reasonable belief that such action was in the best interests of the corporation; and further provided that any compromise or settlement payment shall be approved by a unanimous vote of a quorum of directors who are not at that time parties to the proceeding.

Additionally, if any provision of these By-Laws is determined to be void or unenforceable, the remaining provisions of these By-Laws will remain in full force and effect.

Article XXII: Other Considerations

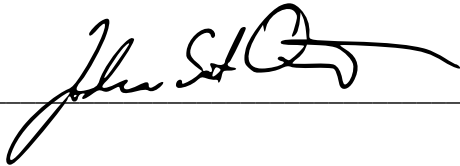
Anything that has not been discussed in these Bylaws shall be discussed and decided upon at an official Board of Directors meeting.

Article XXIII: Amendments

Amendments to the Bylaws may be made by a unanimous majority of the official Board of Directors, including the Senior Leader/President.

These Bylaws adopted on this the 5th day of May, 2025 make null and void all prior addenda, and these Bylaws supersede and replace all previous Bylaws voted on prior to this day.

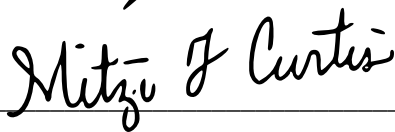
Signed and certified, to be effective immediately.



Senior Leader/President



Vice President



Secretary



Treasurer