



BAYSIDE CHURCH

Act Justly • Love Mercy • Walk Humbly

Bayside Community Church Constitution and By-laws

A Cooperative Fellowship of the Assemblies of God

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BAYSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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BAYSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION

1 PREAMBLE

1.1 Forward

- 1.1.1 WHEREAS, it is the express purpose of God, our Heavenly Father, to call out of this world a saved people who shall constitute the body or church of our Lord Jesus Christ, built and established upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief cornerstone; and
- 1.1.2 WHEREAS, the members of the body, the church (ecclesia) of Jesus 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 exercises of those Scriptural gifts and offices provided for in the New Testament,
- 1.1.3 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that we recognize ourselves a body of Christian believers according to the scriptural plan for the local church that we may worship God as a united body, exercising all other rights and privileges granted to religious bodies.
- 1.1.4 FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED: that we recognize ourselves to be in cooperative fellowship with the General Council of the Assemblies of God, and an active member of the Northwest District Council, with national headquarters at Springfield, Missouri.

CONSTITUTION

1 ARTICLE I NAME

- 1.1 This church shall be known as BAYSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH of the Assemblies of God, of Kingston, Washington.

2 ARTICLE II PURPOSE

- 2.1 The purpose of this church shall be:

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- 2.1.1 To establish and maintain a place of worship and Christian education.
- 2.1.2 To conduct under the guidance of the Holy Scriptures the work of evangelizing both the home and foreign field in obedience to the command of the Lord Jesus (Matt. 28:19,20); and in harmony with the teaching and practice of His servants, the apostles (Acts 8:4,5,25,35-40; 13:1-4; 16:6,10; Rom. 10:12-17; 15:18-21).
- 2.2 To establish such departments as may be necessary for the propagation of the gospel and the support of missionary activity.
- 2.3 To have the right to own, hold in trust, use or otherwise possess, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of such property, real or chattel, as may be needed for the furtherance of its work.

3 **ARTICLE III PRINCIPLES**

- 3.1 We hold as scriptural and fundamental that form of Church government which is voluntary, a cooperative fellowship among equals, the local church being sovereign under Christ.
- 3.2 The Bible, the Word of God, is to be held in the Spirit of Christ, supreme in all matters.
- 3.3 We hold it as basic that every Christian should endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace... "until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ" (Eph. 4:13).

4 **ARTICLE IV PEROGATIVES**

- 4.1 In assuming the responsibility of the maintenance of scriptural order in the local body, and related ministry interests, i.e., ministry projects consistent with the prescribed nature of ministry within the local body, we reserve the following prerogatives:
- 4.2 To have a membership which is determined by the local assembly, and to discipline its members according to Scripture.
- 4.3 To choose or call its pastor, elect its officers, and transact all other business pertaining to its life and conduct as a local church.
- 4.4 To establish and maintain such departments as deemed necessary for the propagation of the Gospel and for the work of the local assembly.
- 4.5 Private Inurnment: No part of the net earnings of the church shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its congregational members, council members, paid staff, or other private person,

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except that the church shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for the services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in ARTICLE II, PURPOSE.

- 4.6 Political Involvement: Whereas the church shall engage public policy and social and ethical issues, we shall not participate or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office, including the publishing or distribution of statements. This is not to be confused with the participation of any individual church members in the political process. Political engagement, including exercise of individual civic rights, is encouraged.
- 4.7 Dissolution: Upon the dissolution of the assembly herein mentioned, the church council shall, after paying or making provision for payment of all the liabilities of the church, dispose of all the assets of the church to the Assemblies of God, Northwest Ministry Network (Northwest District Council), a Washington corporation. The latter shall have full authority to use or dispose of the property at its discretion in the furtherance of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- 4.8 Racial Nondiscrimination: This assembly herein mentioned, does not discriminate against members, applicants, students, and others on the basis of race, color, national, or ethnic origin.
- 4.9 Limitation of Activities: Notwithstanding any other provision of these constitution and by-laws, the church shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the purposes stated in ARTICLE II.

5 **ARTICLE V TENETS OF FAITH (Assemblies of God Official Fundamental Truths)**

- 5.1 The Holy Bible is our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. This statement of Fundamental Truths is intended simply as a basis of fellowship among us (i.e., that we all speak the same thing) (I Cor. 1:10; Acts 2:42).
- 5.2 The phraseology employed in this statement is not inspired nor contended for, the truth set forth is held to be essential to a full gospel ministry. No claim is made that it contains all Biblical truth, only that it covers our need as to these fundamental doctrines.
- 5.3 The Scriptures Inspired
 - 5.3.1 The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct (II Tim. 3:15-17; I Thes. 2:13; II Peter 1:21).
- 5.4 The One True God

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5.4.1 The One True God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM", the creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Deut. 6:4; Isa. 43:10, 11; Matt. 28; Luke 3:22).

5.5 The Godhead

5.5.1 Terms Defined

5.5.1.1 The terms "Trinity" and "Persons," as related to the Godhead, while not found in the Scriptures, are words in harmony with Scripture whereby we may convey to others our immediate understanding of the doctrine of Christ respecting the Being of God, as distinguished from "gods many and lords many." We, therefore, may speak with propriety of the Lord our God, who is one Lord, as a trinity or as one Being of three persons, and still be absolutely Scriptural. (Example: Matt. 28:19; II Cor. 13:14; John 14:16, 17.)

5.5.1.2 Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead

5.5.1.2.1 Christ taught a distinction of Persons in the Godhead which he expressed in specific terms of relationship, as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, but that this distinction and relationship, as to its mode is inscrutable and incomprehensible, because unexplained (Luke 1:35; I Cor. 1:24; Matt. 11:25-27; 28:19; II Cor. 13:14; I John 1:3,4).

5.5.1.3 Unity of One Being of Father, Son and Holy Spirit

5.5.1.3.1 Accordingly, therefore, there is that in the Son which constitutes Him the Son and not the Father; and there is that in the Holy Spirit which constitutes Him the Holy Spirit and not either the Father or the Son. Wherefore the Father is the Begetter, the Son is the Begotten; and the Holy Spirit is the one proceeding from the Father and the Son. Therefore, because these three Persons in the Godhead are in a state of unity, there is but one Lord God Almighty and His name One (John 1:18; 15:16; 17:11, 21; Zech. 14:9).

5.5.1.4 Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead

5.5.1.4.1 The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are never identical as to Person; nor confused as to relation; nor divided in respect to the Godhead; nor opposed as to cooperation. The Son is in the Father and the Father is in the Son as to relationship. The Son is with the Father and the Father is with the Son, as to fellowship. The Father is not from the Son, but the Son is from the Father, as to authority. The Holy Spirit is from the Father and Son proceeding, as to nature, relationship, cooperation and authority. Hence, neither Person in the Godhead exists or works separately or independently of the others (John 5:17-30, 32, 37; 8:17, 18).

5.5.1.5 The Title, Lord Jesus Christ

5.5.1.5.1 The appellation, "Lord Jesus Christ," is a proper name. It is never applied, in the New Testament, either to the Father or to the Holy Spirit. It therefore belongs exclusively to the

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Son of God (Rom. 1:1-3, 7; I John 3).

5.5.1.6 The Lord Jesus Christ, God with Us

5.5.1.6.1 Lord Jesus Christ, as to His divine and eternal nature, is the proper and only begotten of the Father, but as to His human nature, He is the proper Son of Man. He is, therefore, acknowledged to be both God and Man; who, because He is God and man, is "Immanuel", God with us (Matt. 1:23; I John 4:2, 10, 14; Rev. 1:13,17).

5.5.1.7 The Title, Son of God

5.5.1.7.1 Since the name "Immanuel" embraces both God and man in the one Person, our Lord Jesus Christ, it follows that the title Son of God describes His proper deity, and the title Son of Man His proper humanity. Therefore, the title Son of God belongs to the order of eternity, and the title Son of Man to the order of time (Matt. 1:21-23; II John 3:1; I John 3:8; Heb. 1:1-13; 7:3).

5.5.1.8 Transgression of the Doctrine of Christ

5.5.1.8.1 Wherefore, it is a transgression of the Doctrine of Christ to say that Jesus Christ derived the title, Son of God, solely from the fact of the incarnation, or because of His relationship to the economy of redemption. Therefore, to deny that the Father is a real and eternal Father, and that the Son is a real and eternal Son, is a denial of the distinction and relationship in the Being of God; a denial of the Father and the Son and a displacement of the truth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh (II John 9; John 1:1-2, 14, 18, 29, 49; I John 2:22, 23; 4:1-5; Heb. 12:2).

5.5.1.9 Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord

5.5.1.9.1 The Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, having by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; angels and principalities and powers having been made subject unto Him. And having been made both Lord and Christ, He sent the Holy Spirit that we, in the name of Jesus, might bow our knees and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father until the end, when the Son shall become subject to the Father that God may be all in all (Heb. 1:3; I Peter 3:22; Acts 2:32-36; Rom. 14:11; I Cor. 15:24-28).

5.5.1.10 Equal Honor to the Father and to the Son

5.5.1.10.1 Wherefore, since the Father has delivered all judgment unto the Son, it is not only the express duty of all in heaven and on earth to bow the knee, but it is an unspeakable joy in the Holy Spirit to ascribe unto the Son all the attributes of Deity, and to give Him all the honor and the glory contained in all the names and titles of the Godhead except those which express relationship (see paragraphs B, C, and D) and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father (John 5:22,23; I Peter 1:8; Rev. 5:6-14; Phil. 2:8, 9; Rev. 4:8-11; 7:9, 10).

5.5.1.11 The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

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5.5.1.11.1 The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal son of God. The Scriptures declare:

5.5.1.11.2 His virgin birth (Matt. 1:23; Luke 1:31, 35)

5.5.1.11.3 His sinless life (Heb. 7:26; I Peter 2:22)

5.5.1.11.4 His miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38).

5.5.1.11.5 His substitutionary work on the cross (I Cor. 15:31; II Cor. 5:21).

5.5.1.11.6 His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matt. 28:6; Luke 24:39; I Cor. 15:4).

5.5.1.11.7 His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9, 11; 2:33; Phil. 2:9-11; Heb. 1:3).

5.5.1.12 The Fall of Man

5.5.1.12.1 Man was created good and upright, for God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." However, man by voluntary transgression fell and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God (Gen. 1:26, 27; 2:17; 3:6; Rom. 5:12-19).

5.5.1.13 The Salvation of Man

5.5.1.13.1 Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

5.5.1.14 Conditions to Salvation

5.5.1.14.1 Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Rom. 10:13-15; Eph. 2:8; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7).

5.5.1.15 The Evidences of Salvation

5.5.1.15.1 The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit (Rom. 8:16). The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness (Eph. 4:24; Titus 2:12).

5.5.1.16 The Ordinances of the Church

5.5.1.16.1 Baptism in Water

5.5.1.16.1.1 The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life (Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47, 48; Rom. 6:4).

5.5.1.16.2 Holy Communion

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5.5.1.16.2.1 The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements -- bread and the fruit of the vine -- is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (II Peter 1:4); a memorial of His suffering and death (I Cor. 11:26); and a prophecy of His second coming (I Cor. 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers "till He come!"

5.5.1.16.3 The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

5.5.1.16.3.1 All believers are entitled to, and should ardently expect, and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian church. With it comes the endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-8; I Cor. 12:1-31). With the baptism in the Holy Spirit come such experiences as an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (Acts 2:43; Heb. 12:28), an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work (Acts 2:43), and a more active love for Christ, for His Word, and for the lost (Mark 16:20).

5.5.1.16.4 The Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

5.5.1.16.4.1 The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is witnessed by an initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance (Acts 2:4). The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues (I Cor. 12:4-10, 28) but different in purpose and use.

5.5.1.17 Sanctification

5.5.1.17.1 Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God (Rom. 12:1,2; I Thess. 5:23, Heb. 13:12). The Scriptures teach a life of "Holiness without which no man shall see the Lord" (Heb. 12:14). By the power of the Holy Spirit we are able to obey the command: "Be ye holy, for I am holy" (I Peter 1:15, 16)

5.5.1.17.2 Sanctification is realized in the believer by recognizing his identification with Christ in His death and resurrection, and by faith reckoning daily upon the fact of that union, and by offering every faculty continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 6:1-11, 13; Rom. 8:1,2,13; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:12,13; I Peter 1:5).

5.5.1.18 The Church

5.5.1.18.1 The Church is the body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the General Assembly and Church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven (Eph. 1:22, 23; 2:22; Heb. 12:23)

5.5.1.19 The Ministry

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5.5.1.19.1 A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for a two-fold purpose: (1) The evangelization of the world, and (2) The edifying of the Body of Christ (Mark 16:15-20; Eph. 4:11-13).

5.5.1.20 Divine Healing

5.5.1.20.1 Divine Healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement, and is the privilege of all believers (Isa. 53:4, 5; Matt. 8:16,17; and James 5:14-16).

5.5.1.21 The Blessed Hope

5.5.1.21.1 The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the church (I Thess. 4:16, 17; Rom. 8:23; Titus 2:13; I Cor. 15:51, 52).

5.5.1.22 The Millennial Reign of Christ

5.5.1.22.1 The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on the earth for one thousand years (Zech. 14:5; Matt. 24:27,30; Rev. 1:7; 19:11-14; 20:1-6). The millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel (Ezek. 37:21, 22; Zeph. 3:19-20; Rom. 11:26, 27) and the establishment of universal peace (Isa. 11:6-9; Psalm 72:3-8; Micah 4:3, 4).

5.5.1.23 The Final Judgment

5.5.1.23.1 There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together with the devil and his angels, the beast, and the false prophet, will be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death (Matt. 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Rev. 19:20; 20:11-15; 21:8).

5.5.1.24 The New Heavens and New Earth

5.5.1.24.1 We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwells righteousness (II Peter 3:13; Rev. 21:22).

5.5.1.25 The Sacredness of Human Life and The Intrinsic Good of Marriage

5.5.1.25.1 Genesis 1:26-27 is [Biblical] revelation of our special creation in “the image of God.” In the Hebrew text of Genesis 1:26, “image” modifies “likeness;” and “likeness” modifies “image;” the “likeness-image” communicates that the image in view relates to, or is somehow like the original—God creates humanity in reference to (according to) the likeness-image of God. The “image of God” concept involves humanity’s special *connection* with God, which makes it possible for humanity to be a meaningful *reflection* of God—As God’s reflection, humanity is spiritual, rational and moral.

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Our special creation in the image of God is evidence of our humanness, even before we are born (Psalm 139:13-16). Moreover, Scripture reveals “... *God created mankind in his own image ...; male and female he created them*” (Genesis 1:27) —male and female identity, as sexual creatures, is distinctively, and communally, reflected in our special creation in God’s image.

- 5.5.1.25.2 The intrinsic value of every human being as God’s image bearer, is foundation for the inviolable dignity of every human being. From the moment of conception, a child is in the image of God (Psalm 139:13-16) —Marriage is therefore an *intrinsic good* for it is the sacred context for the sexual union of a man and a woman. In marriage, man and woman are made on flesh as husband and wife: “*For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh*” (Gen. 2:24). All of civilization is founded on the covenantal relationship of husband and wife; then following, the nuclear family, the extended family, and community—tribe, city, country—can only be constituted—by the acts of generation arising from the union of female and male.

6 ARTICLE VI MEMBERSHIP

- 6.1 Membership in this assembly shall be open to all those who give evidence of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who are in good standing, who have met the requirements of the church, who voluntarily subscribe to its tenets of faith, and agree to financially support the church and be governed by its constitution and by-laws. Membership shall consist of those believers possessing voting privileges for the purpose of conducting the business of the church, the calling of a pastor and the election of officers; their respective qualifications, responsibilities, and privileges shall be set forth in the by-laws. A non-voting member is one who is in good standing with the church but for reasons such as health or proximity is not physically able to attend services or meetings for an extended period of time.
- 6.2 Each prospective member shall be given access to a copy of the church constitution and by-laws for their review and records.
- 6.3 Membership constitutes a real value to the church: faithfulness, trustworthiness, stability and commitment to the spiritual welfare, ministries and financial support of the church. Members are: (1) given access to leadership roles in the church (e.g., the church council, missional and in-church ministry leadership, and staff positions); (2) voting privileges that determine, for example, election of a senior pastor, the election of council members, constitution & by-laws amendments, the purchase of property and the general direction of the church and (3) members are given access to the church's financial information as presented at the Annual Business Meeting.

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- 6.4 Each prospective member shall acknowledge their acceptance of the responsibilities of membership by signature as a condition of membership. Signed acknowledgement forms are to be retained by the assembly administration. The purpose is to maintain an active membership register.
- 6.5 An active membership of an individual or family may be temporarily placed on probation for up to six months with the loss of voting rights as the result of a church council inquiry concerning moral impropriety or sinful behavior. In an effort to pursue biblical restoration, a member is prohibited from terminating their membership during the probation period.
- 6.6 Membership may be terminated by a majority vote of the church council in the event of unscriptural conduct (see: ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP, 1. The Standard of Membership and 3. Discipline of Members, AMENDED 3/14)

7 **ARTICLE VII FINANCES**

- 7.1 This church shall be financed according to the scriptural method of tithes and offerings (Mal. 3:10; Acts 4:34, 35; II Cor. 9:6-8).

8 **ARTICLE VIII LEADERSHIP**

- 8.1 The officers of this church shall be the pastor and church council. The council is inclusive of a chairman, vice chairman, secretary and treasurer appointed by and from the church council.
- 8.2 The council shall be members of the church for at least one year, full of the Holy Spirit, of mature Christian faith, of good report and wisdom, who shall qualify according to scriptural standards.
- 8.3 They shall primarily help the pastor serve the church in the oversight of:
 - 8.3.1 Benevolence, Administration of (Luke 4:16-19; Acts 6:1-7; Gal. 2:10; 1 Tim. 5:9-10);
 - 8.3.2 Business of the Church (the stewardship of the resources of the church: 1 Tim. 3:8-13);
 - 8.3.3 Ministry (Serving, Acts 6:1-7; oversight of church ministries & advisor to the pastor: 1 Tim. 3:1-7);
 - 8.3.4 Discipline (Matt. 18:15-17; Rom. 16:17-18/Titus 1:9, 3:10; 1 Cor. 6:1-3);
 - 8.3.5 Membership (*et. al.*, 1 Cor. 10:17/Eph. 4:4-6).
 - 8.3.6 See the by-laws, Article V, for a fuller description of the church council.

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9 **ARTICLE IX PROPERTY**

9.1 All property of the Assembly shall be deeded to the Assembly and held in its name. No property of the Assembly shall be sold, leased or mortgaged, or otherwise disposed of, unless the same shall have first been recommended by a vote of at least two-thirds of the voting membership who are in attendance at a regular or special business meeting of the Assembly which has been properly announced and called for consideration of the proposal. The pastor and the treasurer of the Assembly shall certify in such conveyance, lease, or mortgage that the same has been duly authorized and recommended by a vote of the Assembly. Such certificate shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

10 **ARTICLE X MEETINGS**

10.1 Regular Church Services

10.1.1 The time and place for the regular church meeting shall be reviewed by the church council in consultation with the senior pastor.

10.2 Annual Congregational/Business Meeting

10.2.1 The Annual Congregational/Business Meeting of the church shall be held no later than the 31st day of March each year. The specific date is to be set by the church council.

10.3 Special Business Meetings of the church

10.3.1 May be called by:

10.3.1.1 The pastor.

10.3.1.2 The secretary of the church council upon written order of a majority of the church council.

10.3.1.3 By petition of members of the church exercising the Right of Initiative.

10.4 Notices

10.4.1 Notice of all business meetings of the church shall be published not less than ten days before the date of the proposed meeting.

10.4.1.1 Notice shall be announced from the pulpit on the two preceding Sundays and posted in writing where required by law.

10.4.1.2 The pastor shall be present at and/or advised of each meeting.

11 **ARTICLE XI QUORUM**

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11.1 A majority of the active voting membership shall constitute a quorum.

12 **ARTICLE XII RIGHT OF INITIATIVE**

12.1 Any member may exercise the Right of Initiative in the calling of a special business meeting of the church by presenting a request signed by at least one-third of the legal voting membership of the church, to the pastor or secretary of the church, who shall proceed to issue a call for said meeting as prescribed in ARTICLE VIII, 3, C, of this constitution.

12.2 This constitution may be amended or changed by a two-thirds majority vote of those present at any regular or special business meeting provided proposed changes have been posted in writing at least two weeks prior to the meeting and announcement has been made at least two Sundays preceding the time of such meeting.

BY-LAWS

BYLAWS

1 **ARTICLE I ORDER**

1.1 In order to facilitate the conduct of business in an orderly and satisfactory manner, business meetings shall be governed by the accepted Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

2 **ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP**

2.1 Standard of Membership

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2.1.1 The standard of membership of this Assembly shall be (a) evidence of a genuine experience in regeneration-the new birth (John 1:12-13; 3:3; Titus 3:4-7; 1 Peter 1:18-25) (b) evidence of a consistent Christian life (Romans 6:4; Galatians 5:22-25; Ephesians 4:1-3, 5:15-18; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-11) marked by a penitent disavowing of the 'world or anything in the world' (1 John 2:15-17; 'the lust of the flesh' (Romans 13:13-14; Galatians 5:17-21; Ephesians 4:17-19; 5:1-5); 'the lust of the eyes' (Leviticus 18:1-30; Matthew 5:28; Romans 1:26-29; I Corinthians 5:1, 6:9-10; Hebrews 13:4-5) and 'the pride of life' (Romans 1:30; Galatians 5:26; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; James 4:16). (c) full subscription to the tenets of faith as set forth in the constitution (d) a willingness to contribute tithes and offerings regularly for the support of the Assembly.

2.2 Steps to Membership

2.2.1 Persons desiring to become active voting members of the assembly shall be at least 18 years of age and meet with the pastor, who shall examine the applicant according to the standard for membership (see Article II, Section I, by-laws).

2.2.2 Prospective members will be given a copy of the Church constitution and by-laws.

2.2.3 The pastor shall present the names of those who apply for membership with his recommendation to the church council, who shall act upon said recommendation and render a final decision no earlier than six months from date of applicant regularly attending services at this local church body. All persons who shall have met the membership requirements and have been passed on favorably shall be required to sign a membership document acknowledging their acceptance of the terms of the church constitution and by-laws.

2.2.4 Upon formal acceptance and receipt of the membership acceptance document, they shall be received into the church publicly at any of the regular church services and their names inscribed in the church membership roster.

2.2.5 Members from other Assemblies of God churches who move into the area may transfer their membership to this church upon the approval of the church council.

2.3 Discipline, Revision of the Roster, Transfer of Membership

2.3.1 Unscriptural conduct (as defined in Scripture, et. al., 1. Standard of Membership) or doctrinal departure from the tenets of faith held by this Assembly shall be considered sufficient grounds for dismissal from membership.

2.3.2 There shall be a discipline committee consisting of the pastor and the church council. This committee shall have sole authority in determining heretical deviations from the Statement of Faith and violations of acceptable conduct (as defined in Scripture, et. al. 1. Standard of Membership). If the pastor or a council member is the subject of a disciplinary matter, said person shall not sit as a member of the discipline committee. The members of the church

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council (the pastor excepted) shall be entitled to the same steps as other church members (or adherents) and be subject to the same discipline. (In the case of pastoral misconduct, please see: Article V. 5. Pastoral Misconduct/Removal).

- 2.3.3 Members are expected to demonstrate special loyalty and concern for one another. When a member becomes aware of an offense of such magnitude that it hinders spiritual growth and testimony, he/she is to go alone to the offending party and seek to restore their fellow believer. Before he/she goes, he/she should first examine him/herself. When he/she goes, he/she should go in a spirit of humility and a commitment to restoration.
- 2.3.4 If reconciliation is not reached, a second member, either a council member or the pastor, is to accompany the one seeking to resolve the matter. This second step should also be preceded by self-examination and exercised in a spirit of humility with the goal of restoration.
- 2.3.5 If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in subsections (3) and (4) have been taken, the discipline committee, as the church representatives, shall hear the matter. If the matter is not resolved during the hearing before the disciplinary committee, the committee shall recommend to the members of the church that they, after self-examination, make an effort personally to go to the offending member and seek that member's restoration.
- 2.3.6 If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in subsections (3), (4) and (5) have been taken, such members who refuse to repent and be restored are to be removed from the membership of the church upon a majority vote of the membership present at a meeting called for the purpose of considering disciplinary action.
- 2.3.7 No matter may be heard by the discipline committee or the church unless the steps outlined in subsections (2) and (3) have been taken, except in the case of a public offense.
- 2.3.8 If an unrepentant offending party is removed from the church membership, contact with him from that point forward (except by family members) is encouraged to focus on the restoration of the individual. (For matters involving the civil courts, see: Article XII, Binding Arbitration).
- 2.3.9 The procedures provided in this section are based on: Matthew 18:15-20; Romans 16:17-18; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13, 2 Corinthians 2:1-11; Galatians 6:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:14; 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 10-15; 1 Timothy 5:19-10; and Titus 3:10-11. (see Constitution, 6.5, re: Termination of Membership during discipline process).
- 2.4 Revision of the Roster
 - 2.4.1 The church council shall examine the membership roll of the assembly annually, or before a business meeting, and remove from the list of active members the names of those who have withdrawn from the fellowship (either by written or verbal notice of non attendance in worship services in the preceding six months), along with those who deceased and those who have

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become inconsistent with the standards and teachings of the assembly. (No member of this church may hold membership in another church. The membership of any individual member in another church shall be among the reasons for automatic termination of membership in our Assembly.) The church council's action shall be final.

2.5 Transfer of Membership

2.5.1 Members, not under the disciplinary process of Section 3, may request that letters of transfer be sent to another church.

3 ARTICLE III FINANCE

3.1 All monies received from offerings and all other sources shall be deposited by the treasurer, or his designate, in a bank designated by the church council.

3.2 The disbursement of all funds shall be under the supervision of the church council.

3.3 The pastor shall be given regular and adequate financial support, the amount and manner of which shall be determined by agreement between the pastor and the church council and the same shall be reviewed annually by the church council.

3.4 The amount of salaries and reimbursements shall be agreed upon by the church council.

3.5 The amount and manner of compensation for evangelists, missionaries, assistant ministers, employees or agents of this church shall be determined by agreement between the pastor and church council.

3.6 Designated Contributions: Contributions that are designated by the contributor for a specific purpose impose a 'trust' obligation upon the recipient church to use the designated funds for that purpose only. All contributions made to specific funds or otherwise designated shall remain subject to the exclusive control and discretion of the pastor and the official church council. Once a designated contribution is placed in the trust of the pastor and the church council, there are only three things the church may legally do: (1) use it for the designated purpose, (2) return the gift to the donor or, (3) have the donor change or remove the designation.

4 ARTICLE IV PROPERTY RIGHTS

4.1 All property, real or chattel, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred, or conveyed in the assembly or corporate name.

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- 4.2 No real property of the assembly shall be sold, leased, mortgaged or otherwise alienated without the same shall have been authorized by at least two-thirds majority vote of the legal voting membership of the assembly present at a regular or special business meeting.
- 4.3 The pastor (president) and the secretary of the church shall certify in such conveyance, lease, or mortgage, that the same has been duly authorized by the vote of the assembly. Such certificate shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.
- 4.4 Upon the dissolution of the Assembly herein mentioned, the church council shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the church, dispose of all the assets of the church, real or chattel, to the Assemblies of God, the Northwest Ministry Network, a Washington corporation. The former shall have full authority to use or dispose of the property at its discretion in the furtherance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

5 **ARTICLE V LEADERSHIP**

5.1 The Pastor

- 5.1.1 Duties: The Church finds its headship, under the Lord Jesus Christ, in its pastor. He should be honored in his sacred office, as spiritual overseer of the church, and shall be the general supervisor of all of its activities. He shall be the president of the corporation. The pastor will not normally cast a vote as chairman of the church council, except in the instance of breaking a tie. He shall be an *ex officio* member of all committees and departments. He shall provide for the services of the church and arrange for special meetings, giving due regard to the church. He shall conduct annual evaluations of church staff, more if needed. No person shall be invited to speak or preach in the church without his approval. He shall be designated attorney in fact for the corporation by virtue of his office.
- 5.1.2 Qualifications: The pastor shall be a member in good standing of the General Council of the Assemblies of God and the Northwest Ministry Network and he shall comply with both the scriptural and Assemblies of God standards for the ministry (I Timothy 3:2-7; Titus 1:6-9; I Peter 5:2-3).

5.2 The Church Council

- 5.2.1 Duties: There shall be a minimum of five church council members. The church council shall act in an advisory capacity to the pastor in all matters pertaining to the church in its spiritual life and in the ministry of its ordinances. The church council's main responsibility is for counsel and for the mutual assistance of the business and work of the church. However, the actions of the church council do not preclude involvement by the congregation in the business of the church.

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- 5.2.2 The church council shall also act in the examination of applicants for membership and in the administration of discipline in the church. In the event the church is temporarily without a pastor, the council shall be empowered to provide for its own chairman from the membership of the council in order to transact business for the church. This also may include the hiring and dismissal of staff members. The council shall be custodian of all the property of the church and shall be responsible for the comfort of the congregation (See Constitution: Article VII.2 for summary of duties).
- 5.2.3 In accord with each council member's gifts/talents, additional responsibilities will be assigned.
- 5.2.4 Qualifications: Church council members shall be persons full of faith and the Holy Spirit whose lives and conduct conform to the following scriptures: Acts 6:3 ("men" shall be interpreted to allow men or women to serve on the church council); I Timothy 3:1-13 ("one wife" shall be interpreted as husband or wife and shall not exclude persons from the church council who have: (1) divorced and remarried prior to conversion (II Corinthians 5:17); (2) divorced and remarried because of sexual infidelity of the first partner (Matthew 5:31-32); (3) divorced and remarried because the first partner was an unbeliever and refused to live with a Christian spouse (I Corinthians 7:15); (4) or are not married (I Corinthians 7:7, 26, 32-35). The validity of such cases shall be proven to the satisfaction of the nominating committee before said individual's name is presented as a nominee.
- 5.3 Treasurer (a) Secretary (b)
- 5.3.1 Duties: The treasurer is appointed by and from the church council. The treasurer's responsibilities shall be to: (1) perform clerical work necessary to the discharge of duties of office (2) be custodian of all legal documents and the corporate seal (3) deposit all funds in a federally insured bank in the name of the assembly, and disburse the same by checks (all checks for two thousand dollars [\$2,000.00] or more shall be countersigned) (4) provide an itemized account of the receipts and disbursements, as detailed in a financial report, at the regular business meetings of the assembly (e.g., monthly church council meetings and the annual church business meeting). Accounts shall be audited under the direction of the council.
- 5.3.2 Duties: The secretary is appointed by and from the church council. The secretary's duties shall be to: (1) perform clerical work necessary to the discharge of the office (the secretary should possess clerical ability) (2) keep the minutes of the official meetings of the council and regular and special business meetings of the Assembly and (3) keep record of membership of the Assembly.
- 5.4 Pastor: Term of Office
- 5.4.1 The council, acting in the capacity of a pulpit committee, shall select an available scripturally qualified minister as nominee to the office of pastor and shall present his name for the vote of

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the church without undue delay. The counsel of the district superintendent and Northwest Ministry Network officials should be sought. Any member of the church may offer a minister's name for consideration of the committee. Election shall be by secret ballot, with a two-thirds majority vote of all votes cast required to constitute an election. The pastor shall be called initially for a one year period and shall be voted on. If he is re-elected, his term of office shall be for an indefinite period. The pastor should not presume that indefinite means permanent. The term "indefinite" means that the door is left open for unlimited ministry under the blessing of God, which can be terminated by the decision of the pastor or the membership.

5.4.2 The pastor shall undergo regular internal reviews and be provided regular feedback on job performance. The mechanism for this review will be agreed upon cooperatively by the church council and the pastor.

5.5 Pastor: Misconduct/Removal

5.5.1 The pastor is directly accountable to the Northwest Ministry Network and the Bayside Community Church Council. In the event of pastoral misconduct; and preponderance of evidence, the church council is empowered to dismiss the pastor. The church council will confirm their intention to dismiss the pastor through a secret ballot vote. A simple majority of the members present confirms the intention of the council to dismiss the pastor. Council members must be given notice two Sundays prior to such a meeting. The meeting is to be presided over by an official of the Northwest Ministry Network.

5.5.2 Pastoral misconduct warranting immediate dismissal includes (but is not limited to): sexual deviancy, e.g., adultery, pornography, lewd behavior (especially involving inappropriate physical contact with a minor); embezzlement, theft, manipulation of church members for personal financial gain and intentional misappropriation of designated giving; heretical teaching, consistent lapses of sound judgment and a consistent display of incompetence.

5.6 Church Council: Term of Office

5.6.1 Council members shall be chosen from the membership of the church. They shall be nominated by a nominating committee and shall be elected by a majority vote at the annual business meeting. (The nominating committee shall be made up of the pastor, two members of the council, and two members from the active membership at large. The two council members shall be appointed by the council, and the active members shall be nominated and elected by a vote of the membership at the annual business meeting.) A council member's term of office shall be three years for the initial term. If council members wish to run for a subsequent term, that term shall be for two years. Council members shall serve no more than two terms (five years) in a row. A person appointed or elected to fill an unexpired term shall be eligible for election.

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6 ARTICLE VI NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- 6.1 Nominating Committee: The nominating committee shall have five members, comprised of the pastor, two current council members, and two members in good standing from the membership at large, to be selected by the church council.
- 6.2 The nominating committee will make every attempt to determine three qualified nominees to place on the ballot for every available council position. Each committee member shall submit up to three names of individuals for the vacancies. If each individual is qualified according to bylaws (section 2A, Qualifications), then his or her name stands.
- 6.3 Committee members will then contact the nominees to see if they will accept nomination, beginning with those names submitted by multiple committee members. If three or more "multiple-submission" nominees accept, then the nominations are closed. If there are not enough "multiple-submission" nominees, those nominated once will be called. In the event there are not enough qualified nominees, the pastor and church council will agree on an appropriate number of nominees for the ballot. Additional meetings may be needed if not enough qualified nominees accept nomination.
- 6.4 Given that the senior pastor is a part of the nominating committee and also the chairman of the council, it is recommended that one of the two representatives from the council facilitate the nominating committee meeting for the purpose of avoiding any conflict of interest.

7 ARTICLE VII VACANCIES

- 7.1 Pastorate
- 7.1.1 When a vacancy in the pastorate occurs, an interim pastor shall be arranged by the council until a pastor is chosen as prescribed in Article V. 4. Pastor: Term of Office.
- 7.2 Other officers:
- 7.2.1 Should a vacancy occur on the church council, the members of the church council shall by mutual agreement appoint some qualified member of the assembly to fill the unexpired term until a permanent selection shall be made.
- 7.2.2 Should a vacancy occur on the church council as a result of:
- 7.2.2.1 unscriptural conduct;
 - 7.2.2.2 doctrinal departure from the tenets of faith;
 - 7.2.2.3 incompetency in office:

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- 7.2.3 Then, any incumbent under charges shall have opportunity for a fair and impartial hearing of his case before the Assembly if he so desires. The membership of the assembly shall have the power by vote of two-thirds of the members present at a meeting called for that purpose, to recall and terminate the term of office of any member of the church council for conduct which, in the opinion of the membership, disturbs the order, dignity, business or harmony of the Assembly, or for violation of its constitution or by-laws.
- 7.2.4 If in the event a majority of the church council should act in an unbiblical manner, according to the bylaws (Article II: Standards of Conduct), toward the pastor or any member(s) of the congregation, and such action be deemed by the pastor as unscriptural, or if the majority of the council would at one and the same time depart from the ascribed tenets of faith of the assembly, the pastor or one-third of the membership shall call a business meeting for the purpose of reviewing the matter. The membership of the Assembly shall have the power by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at a meeting called for such purpose to recall and terminate the term of office of any or all of the council members so charged. Each individual member of the majority charged by the pastor of misconduct or departure from the faith shall be considered on his own individual circumstances. The question of recall shall not be put to a vote by the Assembly until the council member in question shall be given an opportunity to be heard in his own behalf.
- 7.2.5 The council is empowered to fill by appointment any vacancy. Council vacancies are appointed until the next annual business meeting, at which time the candidates nominated by the nominating committee shall be voted on by the membership to complete an expired term.

8 ARTCILE VIII ADDITIONAL MINISTRIES

8.1 Specialized Ministries

- 8.1.1 In the event that the work of the church would be benefited by the ministries (full-time or part-time) of persons qualified in the areas of youth, music, Christian education, visitation, evangelism, etc. together with any other duties that may be assigned them, such persons may be engaged to serve by the pastor and church council and shall be responsible to the pastor for the duties assigned them. They shall comply with the Assemblies of God standards and conform with the Scriptures (I Tim. 3:2-7; Titus 1:6-9; I Peter 5:2,3).
- 8.1.2 All staff members shall be under the direct supervision of the pastor who shall determine their job description and term of office. The right to terminate a staff member shall be the prerogative of the pastor with the approval of the church council.
- 8.1.3 The church's due diligence extends to include persons volunteering or selected to have contact

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with children, and will be subject to a formal background check.

- 8.1.4 The church council and pastors will be the church's final authoritative interpreter of scripture for the church.

9 **ARTICLE IX DEPARTMENTS, COMMITTEES AND IN-CHURCH MINISTRIES**

9.1 All departments, committees and in-church ministries shall operate under the approval and general supervision of the pastor and church council. They shall contribute to the harmony and development of the whole. (Unrevised)

9.2 As ministry needs arise, departments, committees, missional and in-church ministries may be established with the approval of the church council.

10 **ARTICLE X CIVIL GOVERNMENT**

10.1 WHEREAS, we as citizens are thankful to God and this nation for all the privileges enjoyed under its laws, and for the freedom under its constitution to worship God after the dictates of our own conscience,

10.2 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That this church hereby declares its unswerving loyalty to our government and to its chief executive, and that we do hereby state our fixed purpose to assist in every way normally possible, consistent with our faith.

10.3 FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: That this church go on record as holding the same belief as the General Council of the Assemblies of God, whose headquarters are in Springfield, Missouri, regarding military service:

10.4 "As a movement we affirm our loyalty to the Government of the United States in war or peace. We shall continue to insist, as we have historically, on the right of each member to choose for himself whether to declare his position as combatant, or as non-combatant, or a conscientious objector."

11 **ARTICLE XI MARRIAGE**

11.1 INTRODUCTION

11.1.1 We believe that all human beings are created in the image of God and therefore, human dignity is to be preserved and honored. Therefore, philosophical, doctrinal and/or behavioral departures from Scripture must be recognized as immediately dishonorable and ultimately

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destructive to human dignity. We then resolve, for the sake of honoring all humanity, to be true to the Scriptures and speak the truth, but we will strive to do so in love.

11.1.2 We further believe that legitimate sexual relations are exercised solely within marriage (Heb. 13:4). Therefore, sexual activities outside of marriage, including but not limited to adultery, premarital sex, homosexuality and pedophilia, are inconsistent with the teachings of the Bible and the church. Further, lascivious conduct, transgender practices and the creation and/or distribution and/or viewing of pornography are behaviors that are incompatible with Scripture (e.g., 1 Cor. 3:16; 6:12-20; Rom. 1:18-32).

11.2 MARRIAGE, DEFINITION

11.2.1 Genesis 1:26-28 is revelation of man's special creation in the image of God.

11.2.1.1 The Scripture clearly implies that the unity of one man and one woman is necessary for the full representation of the image of God in mankind. Marriage is an institution ordained by God from the foundation of the world, and it [marriage] is intended to be a lifelong union of a biological man and a biological woman. (et. al.: Tenants of Faith, The Intrinsic Value of Marriage, page 11 of 27)

11.2.1.2 We therefore believe that marriage is the exclusive, covenantal union of one man and one woman, which union was designed by God: "For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). Jesus affirmed this in Matthew 19:4-6: "And He answered and said, 'Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.'"

11.2.1.3 God is immutable (Mal. 3:6; Heb. 13: 8) and sovereign (Ps. 146:10; Rev. 19:6) and therefore, we acknowledge, before God, that we have no authority to alter, change or modify God's covenants, to include marriage and therefore, we will faithfully follow this scriptural definition of marriage in the teachings and practices of this church. This church will not, therefore, officiate, solemnize, perform or host a marriage or marriage-like (e.g., "civil union") ceremony for the purpose of the union of two men, two women, or one man and multiple women or any other departure from the inviolable covenant of marriage clearly revealed in holy Scripture.

11.2.2 THE ROLE OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT

11.2.3 A civil government's sanction of a union will be recognized as legitimate marriage by the church only to the extent that it is consistent with the definition of marriage found in the by-laws of Bayside Community Church, Article XI.

12 ARTICLE XII THE USE OF THE CHURCH'S FACILITIES

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- 12.1 It is our policy, as founded on the above definition of marriage, that the facilities of this church may not be used for any ceremony that explicitly or implicitly approves of, solemnizes, supports or allows a same-sex union or polygamous union, or any union which, in the judgment of the church council departs from the definition of marriage so stated in Article XI, by-laws, Bayside Community Church.
- 12.2 In keeping with our Tenets of Faith, The Sanctity of Human Life and The Intrinsic Good of Marriage (*re: Constitution 5.5.1.25.1 and 5.5.1.25.2*): Scripture reveals “... *God created mankind in his own image ...; male and female he created them*” (Genesis 1:27) — male and female identity, as sexual creatures, is distinctively, and communally, reflected in our special creation in God’s image. We then conclude that rejection of one’s biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person. Therefore, proper Christian conduct includes: (1) using the restrooms, locker rooms, and changing facilities conforming with one’s biological sex; and (2) abstaining from all intimate sexual conduct outside the marital union of one biological man and one biological woman.

13 **ARTICLE XIII POLICY INVOLVING CLERGY**

- 13.1 It is further the policy of this church that no pastor or member of the church staff shall officiate at any ceremony designed to solemnize, promote, create, or approve of any union that clearly departs from Scripture, as stated Article XI, by-laws, Bayside Community Church.

14 **ARTICLE XIV BINDING ARBITRATION**

14.1 Submission to Arbitration

- 14.1.1 Any and all disputes between a church member (or adherent) and the church cannot be litigated in the civil courts for this is biblically forbidden (1 Cor. 6: 1-8). If a dispute arises, (civil in nature as opposed to criminal), which cannot otherwise be resolved, all members (and adherents) of this church agree to submit to binding arbitration and expressly waive any and all rights in law and equity to bringing any civil disagreement before a court of law (except that judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof).

14.2 Notice of Arbitration

- 14.2.1 In the event of any dispute, claim, question, or disagreement arising out of or relating to these by-laws or any other church matter, the parties shall use their best efforts to settle such disputes, claims, questions and disagreement as befits Christians. To this effect, they shall consult and negotiate with each other in good faith and, recognizing their mutual interests not to disgrace the name of Christ, seek to reach a just and equitable solution. If they do not reach such solution within a period of sixty (60) days, then upon notice by either party to the other,

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disputes, claims, questions, or differences shall be finally settled by arbitration as described in Section 1, above and such Procedures for Arbitration as are adopted pursuant to Section 4, below.

14.3 Limitations on Arbitration Decisions

14.3.1 Should any dispute involve matters of church discipline, the arbitrators shall be limited to determining whether the procedures for church discipline as stated under ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP, Section 3. Discipline, Revision of the Roster, Transfer of Membership were followed.

14.3.2 Should any dispute involve the removal from office of the pastor or any church council member, the arbitrators shall be limited to determining whether the procedures set forth in Section 3 were followed.

14.4 Arbitration Procedures

14.4.1 The Procedures for Arbitration shall be as adopted by the pastor and the church council.

15 **ARTICLE XV ORDER OF BUSINESS**

15.1 Devotional

15.2 Reading of Membership Roll

15.3 Reading of Minutes of Previous Annual Meeting

15.4 Report of the Pastor

15.5 Report of the Church Council (Secretary, Treasurer, or Vice President)

15.6 Departmental Reports

15.7 Unfinished Business

15.8 Election of Officers

15.9 New Business

15.10 Adjournment

16 **ARTICLE XVI AMENDMENTS**

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- 16.1 Amendments to these by-laws may be made by a two-thirds majority vote of those present at any regular or special business meeting provided proposed changes have been posted in writing at least two weeks prior to the meeting and announcement has been made at least two Sundays preceding the time of such meeting.