

Homestead Bible Church & Ministries

PREAMBLE

So that things may be done decently and in order in accordance with the accepted tenets of other churches of like precious faith, and that we may more readily build one another up in our Christian faith and service, we declare and establish this Constitution to which we voluntarily submit ourselves.

ARTICLE I

NAME AND PURPOSE

SECTION 1 - NAME

This fellowship of believers shall be known as Homestead Bible Church & Ministries (HBC).

SECTION 2 - PURPOSE

(A) This fellowship of believers is organized as a New Testament church.

(B) HBC shall ordain and license men to the Gospel ministry, evangelize the unsaved by the proclaiming of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; educate believers in a manner consistent with the teachings of Holy Scripture, both in Sunday and weekday schools of Christian education, maintain missionary activities in the United States and any foreign country, and engage in any other ministry that HBC may decide, from time to time, to pursue in obedience to the will of God (Mt. 28:18-20, 2 Cor. 11:2, Col. 1:28, 1 Tim. 1:5, 2 Tim. 2:1-2, 15).

ARTICLE II

STATEMENT OF FAITH

SECTION 1 - STATEMENT OF FAITH

(A) The Holy Scriptures

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the verbally and plenary (full, complete, entire) inspired Word of the living God. The Scriptures are infallible, that is, unailing in every purpose for which God directs them. Being in accord with the perfect mind of God, the sixty-six books, as we now have them, were originally written in perfection, and henceforth preserved infallible by God Himself. They are therefore the final authority for faith and life. The Bible is the complete and divine revelation of God to mankind. The Scriptures shall be interpreted according to their normal, grammatical-historical meaning (Ps. 119:89; Isa. 40:8, 55:11, 66:2; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:19-21).

(B) Dispensationalism

(1) We believe that the Scriptures interpreted in their natural, literal sense reveal divinely determined dispensations or rules of life which define man's responsibilities in successive ages. These dispensations are not ways of salvation, but rather are divinely ordered stewardships by which God directs man according to His purpose. Three of these dispensations—Law, Grace, Millennium—are the subjects of detailed revelation in Scripture (Gen. 1:28; 2 Cor. 3:9-18; Gal. 3:13-25; Eph. 1:10, 3:2-10; Col. 1:24-27; Rev. 20:1-6).

(2) We believe that the Scriptures clearly recognize Israel as a people chosen by God with promises and prophecies that are distinct from those promises and prophecies given to the Church. We, therefore, reject any teaching that places the Church as a replacement for Israel in God's plans and promises (Gen. 12:1-3, 15:4-18, 17:1-8; 2 Sam. 10-17; Jer. 31; Ezek. 36; Zech. 12).

(C) The Godhead

We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—each coeternal in being, co-identical in nature, coequal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; John 14:10, 26; 2 Cor. 13:14).

(D) The Person and Work of the Father

(1) We believe the Father, often referred to as the First Person of the Godhead, is the Creator of heaven and earth, along with the Son and the Holy Spirit (Gen. 1:1, 27; Eph. 3:9).

(2) All things, in heaven and earth, are to be done for His glory (John 11:4; Acts 12:23; Rom. 15:7; 1 Cor. 10:31; Php. 1:11).

- (3) The Son and the Spirit were sent forth from the Father (John 5:23, 10:36, 14:16, 26; Gal. 4:6; 1 John 4:14).
- (4) The Father is seeking true worshipers to worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:23).
- (5) The Father is the source of all provision, both spiritually and physically (Matt. 5:45; Eph. 1:3; James 1:17).
- (6) The Father keeps and sanctifies His children (John 17:11, 17, 20).

(E) The Person and Work of Christ

- (1) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men (Isa. 7:14, 9:6; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2, 14; 2 Cor. 5:19-21; Gal. 4:4-5; Php. 2:5-8).
- (2) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice and, that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Acts 2:18-36; Rom. 3:24-25; Eph. 1:7, 1 Peter 1:3-5, 2:24).
- (3) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate (Acts 1:9-10, 5:29-31; Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25, 9:24; 1 John 2:1-2).
- (4) We wait for Jesus, God's Son, and believe He will return from heaven to rapture the Church saints after which He will present them to God the Father Who is the living and true God. Jesus has delivered us from God's wrath to come upon the earth which is a future period of tribulation known as Jacob's trouble and the 70th week of Daniel 9. The Lord Jesus Christ will return after this seven-year period to sit on the throne of David, in Jerusalem, for one thousand years where He will rule the nations in righteousness (1 Thess. 1:9-10, 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Rev. 3:10, 19:11-16, 20:1-6).

(F) The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

- (1) We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Godhead Who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He is the Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the Body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption (John 16:8-11; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 3:6; Eph. 1:13-14).
- (2) We believe that He is the divine Teacher Who illuminates believers to understand and appropriate the Scriptures and that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled or, controlled, by the Spirit (Eph. 1:17-18, 5:18; 1 John 2:20, 27).
- (3) We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowal of spiritual gifts to every believer. God uniquely uses evangelists, pastors, and teachers to equip believers in the assembly in order

that they can do the work of the ministry. These gifts are to be used to edify the Body of Christ (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-11, 28; Eph. 4:7-12).

- (4) We believe that the sign gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues (human languages), healings, and prophesying, were temporarily used by God as a primary means of edification in the early Church. We believe that speaking in tongues was never the common or necessary sign of the baptism or filling of the Holy Spirit and that ultimate deliverance of the body from sickness or death awaits the consummation of our salvation in the resurrection, though God frequently chooses to answer the prayers of believers for physical healing. The spirit of prophecy is the testimony of Jesus Christ, which is fully contained in the closed canon of Scripture (1 Cor. 1:22-24, 13:8, 14:21-22; Rev. 19:10).

(G) The Sinfulness of Man

We believe that, because of the fall of Adam, every person inherits a nature and environment inclined toward sin and will sin if capable of moral action. Sin brings the wrath of a holy God, broken fellowship with Him, destructiveness, death, and condemnation to an eternity in hell. Man cannot achieve salvation through his own effort. However, we believe that any man, woman, or child can be saved through a personal faith response to the Holy Spirit's drawing through the Gospel. We are utterly unable to remedy our lost condition without God's provision of His Gospel (Gen. 3; Ps. 51:1-5; Rom. 3:22-23, 5:12-19, 6:23; Eph. 2:1-3, 4:17-19).

(H) Salvation (Gospel)

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, Whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins after which He was raised to life for our justification. (John 1:12; Rom. 4:25; Eph. 1:7, 2:8-10; 1 Pet. 1:18-19).

(I) The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers

- (1) We believe that the redeemed are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever (John 6:37-40, 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1, 38-39; 1 Cor. 1:4-8; 1 Pet. 1:4-5).
- (2) We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh (Rom. 13:13-14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:11-15).

(J) The Church

- (1) We believe that the Church, which is the spiritual Body and Bride of Christ, is solely made up of born-again persons (1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22-23, 5:25-27, 30, 32).
- (2) We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Acts 14:27, 20:17, 28-32; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11).

(3) We believe in the autonomy of the local church free of any external authority or control (Acts 13:1-4, 15:19-31(?), 20:28; Rom. 16:1, 4; 1 Cor. 3:9, 16, 5:4-7, 13; 1 Peter 5:1-4).

(4) We recognize water baptism and the Lord's Supper as the Scriptural ordinances of obedience for the Church (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 1 Cor. 11:23-26).

(K) Separation

We believe that all Christians should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord and that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations, is commanded by God. This separation should not prevent a believer from being a witness of Christ to all peoples and groups in the world. (Rom. 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 9-11).

(L) The Second Advent of Christ

We believe in that "blessed hope," the personal, imminent return of Christ Who will rapture His Church prior to the seven-year tribulation period. At the end of the tribulation, Christ will personally and visibly return with His saints to establish His earthly, Messianic Kingdom which was promised to the nation of Israel (Ps. 89:3-4; Dan. 2:31-45; Zech. 14:4-11; I Thess. 1:10, 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Rev. 3:10, 19:11-16, 20:1-6).

(M) The Eternal State

(1) We believe in the bodily resurrection of all people-- the saved to eternal life and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (Matt. 25:46; John 5:28-29, 11:25-26; Rev. 20:5-6, 12-13).

(2) We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:8; Php. 1:23, 3:21; I Thess. 4:16-17; Rev. 20:4-6).

(3) We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious punishment and torment until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment and torment (Matt. 25:41-46; Mark. 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Rev. 20:11-15).

(N) The Personality of Satan

We believe that Satan is a person, an angel created by God, the author of sin, and the tempter of mankind. He was the serpent in the garden of Eden that enticed Adam and Eve to sin who continues to distort the word of God to his own benefit at the expense of humans. He is the open and declared enemy of God and man and will be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire (Gen. 3; Job 1:6-7; Isa. 14:12-17; Matt. 4:2-11, 25:41; 1 Pt. 5:8; Rev. 20:2, 10).

(O) Creation

We believe that God created the universe in six literal, 24-hour periods. We reject evolution, the Gap Theory, the Day-Age Theory, and Theistic Evolution as unscriptural theories of origin (Gen. 1, 2, 5; Ex. 20:11; John 1:1-3; Heb. 1:1-3).

(P) Civil Government

We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: 1) the home, 2) the Church, and 3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and His Word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to impinge or diminish another. The home, the Church, and the state are sovereign in their respective Biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God (Rom. 13:1-7; Eph. 5:22-24; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 2:13-14).

(Q) Human Sexuality and Marriage

- (1) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a biological man and a biological woman. We believe that any deviations from this are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex (Gen. 2:24, 19:5-7, 26:8-9; Lev. 18; Rom 1:18-32; 1 Cor. 5:1, 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4).
- (2) We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one biological man and one biological woman (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23).
- (3) We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the Church. The husband is to be the leader of the home and biological men are to be the leaders (elders and deacons) of the local church. Accordingly, only biological men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the Church (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18; 1 Tim. 2:8-15, 3:4-5, 12).
- (4) Every effort should be made through prayer, Biblical counseling, study of the Word, and godly submission by the married couple and church family for as long as possible to strengthen and restore a struggling marriage (Gal. 6:1-2; 1 Cor. 7:10-16; 2 Cor. 5:17-21; Eph. 5:18-25).

(R) Divorce and Remarriage

We believe that God hates divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. However, divorced or remarried persons may hold positions of service in the local church and be greatly used of God for Christian service (Mal. 2:14-17; Matt. 19:3-12; Rom. 7:1-3; 1 Tim. 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6)

(S) Sanctity of Life

We believe that the God of the Bible is the source of life. Death is a result of sin entering His "very good" creation and will one day no longer be a reality. We believe that human life begins

at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the mental well-being of the mother are acceptable reasons for abortion. Furthermore, we believe any other attempt to end human life by way of euthanasia or physician-assisted suicide is likewise an egregious violation of God's gift (Job 3:16; Ps. 51:5, 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24, 49:1, 5; Jer. 1:5, 20:15-18; Luke 1:44; Rev. 20:14).

(T) Missions

We believe that God has given the Church a great commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ, we must use all available means to go to the foreign nations and not wait for them to come to us (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:20).

(U) Giving

We believe that every Christian is a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him. We believe God desires that every Christian should give offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the Church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel (Gen. 14:20; Prov. 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17).

SECTION 2 - AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We, the board of elders, do believe, however, that the foregoing Statement of Faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible.

ARTICLE III

FELLOWSHIP

SECTION 1 – FELLOWSHIP IN THE ASSEMBLY

Those who commit to share our common purpose based on our common beliefs, will be considered active partners with HBC. We believe that all who by faith have been born again by the Holy Spirit are members of the spiritual Body of Christ and members of one another. As such, we do not limit our fellowship or scope of ministry to a written roll. Anyone who attends HBC will be encouraged to live as a partner of HBC and participant in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and will be challenged to grow in obedience to the Scriptures (Rom. 12:3-5; 1 Cor. 12:27; Eph. 1:22-23, 4:15-16; Php. 1:3-5).

SECTION 2 – FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER GROUPS & CHURCHES

Homestead Bible Church & Ministries unequivocally renounces the attitudes and actions of those who embrace or propagate ecumenism and will not be a part of any such endeavor. Ecumenical evangelism promotes the unification of all professing believers in ministerial and evangelistic endeavor, regardless of theological persuasion or doctrinal belief (even pertaining to the doctrine of salvation), in order to reach unbelievers for Christ. Those who embrace ecumenical evangelism reject the Scriptural injunction to separate from ministry endeavor with those who preach a false Gospel and who embrace false doctrine. Homestead Bible Church & Ministries refuses to compromise the pure Gospel and obedience to the Word of God by joining in any ecumenical evangelism endeavors. However, this position does not prevent HBC from leading outreach ministries that include participation with likeminded groups and churches. Nor does this position prevent HBC from inviting non-believers and other Christian groups to HBC-led events. (Acts 10:24-35, 16:31; Rom. 1:16, 16:17-18; 1 Cor. 1:17; 2 Cor. 6:14-18; 2 Thess. 3:14-15; Titus 3:10).

SECTION 3 - DUTIES OF FELLOWSHIP

On joining into the fellowship of HBC each one agrees to love and honor the leadership, to pray for them, and to recognize their God-given authority in spiritual affairs of HBC. In addition, those in fellowship agree to cherish a brotherly love for all at HBC and to support one another in prayer and by giving of their time and money as the Lord provides. In accordance with Biblical commands, those in fellowship will support through a Spirit-led walk, affirmation of the beliefs and practices of HBC.

We engage, therefore, in the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love, to strive for the edification of fellow believers in knowledge, holiness, and unity in Christ, to sustain the worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines of the faith, and to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of HBC, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel to all nations (Gal. 5:22-26; Eph. 4:12-13, 28, 5:1-2).

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love, to remember one another in prayer, to aid one another in sickness and distress, to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy of speech, to be slow to take offense being always ready for reconciliation, to be mindful of the commandments of our Savior, and to secure reconciliation without delay (Php. 4:1-7).

SECTION 4 - PRIVILEGES AND DUTIES OF REGULAR FELLOWSHIP

Homestead Bible Church & Ministries functions as a New Testament church under the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ and the direction of the elders as the under-shepherds with the counsel of the deacons. Regular fellowship at HBC does not afford those individuals with any property, contract, or civil right. Determination of the internal affairs of HBC are ecclesiastical matters and shall be determined exclusively by HBC's own rules and procedures. The elders shall oversee and/or conduct all aspects of HBC. The deacons may give counsel and assistance to the elders as requested. Those in regular fellowship may not vote to initiate any church action. The direction of HBC is determined by the elders as they are led under the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ. Though the elders maintain these duties, believers in regular fellowship have freedom to exercise their God-given gifts for the edification of the Body and are encouraged to speak freely and openly with the elders regarding matters of doctrine and church direction (Eph. 4:10-16).

SECTION 5 – DISCIPLINE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

The elders shall have sole authority in determining heretical deviations from the Statement of Faith and violations of the Body. As in all ministry, edification of believers shall be the guiding principle concerning discipline (Matt. 18:15-22; Gal. 6:1-2; 1 Cor. 5).

(A) Believers are expected to demonstrate special loyalty and concern for one another. When a believer becomes aware of an offense of such magnitude that it hinders spiritual growth and testimony,

1. He is to go alone to the offending party and seek to restore his brother. Before he goes, he should first examine himself, mourning in sorrow for the sin of the brother. When he goes, he should go with a spirit of humility and have the goal of restoration.
2. If reconciliation is not reached, a second believer, preferably an elder or deacon, 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.
3. If the matter is still unresolved, the elders, as the church representatives biblically responsible for the spiritual health of the Body, should hear the matter. They, after self-examination, shall make every effort to personally go to the offending party and seek that brother's restoration.
4. If the matter is still unresolved, such who refuse to repent and be restored are to be removed from the fellowship of the church by the elders for the purpose of disciplinary

action. All contact with him from that point forward must be for the sake of restoration only (except family members) (2 Cor. 2:1-11).

ARTICLE IV

SECTION 1 – LEADERSHIP

A board of elders shall compose the leadership of HBC. Deacons shall support HBC in various forms of service and in the provision of wise counsel. Only biological men are eligible to hold the offices of elder or deacon at HBC. Any appointment of a divorced or remarried man to the office of elder or deacon shall be determined solely by the board of elders (Acts 6:1-7, 14:21-23, 20:17; Eph. 4:10-16; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9).

SECTION 2 - DESIGNATION OF CORPORATE OFFICERS

As an accommodation to legal/corporate relationships outside the church, elders, deacons, and deaconesses shall serve as chairman, secretary, and treasurer of the corporation.

SECTION 3 - ELIGIBILITY FOR CONTINUANCE IN OFFICE

(A) All elders, deacons, and corporate officers shall affirm their agreement with the Statement of Faith (as set forth in Article II) annually in the presence of one another.

(B) All elders, deacons, and corporate officers must be approved initially and thereafter bi-annually by the board of elders in order for them to commence or continue in their offices.

SECTION 4 - TERMS OF OFFICE

The length of terms of office shall be as follows:

(A) The relationship between an elder and the church shall be permanent unless dissolved at the option of the elder board or by mutual consent. A restoration to eldership after disciplinary removal will be subject to the unanimous approval of the elder board.

(B) A vacancy occurring in any office or board may be filled at any regular elder meeting.

(C) All officers shall serve in their respective offices until their successors are duly appointed unless circumstances demand otherwise.

SECTION 5 - ELDER OVERSIGHT OF OFFICERS AND STAFF

- (A) The board of elders may hire associates and/or assistants to assist the elders in carrying out legal or corporate matters pertaining to HBC.
- (B) The board of elders is responsible for ensuring all staff, whether paid or volunteer, agree to and sign the HBC Statement of Faith prior to hiring.
- (C) All HBC staff, whether paid or volunteer, shall be under the supervision of the elders who have the sole authority to hire, appoint, suspend, or dismiss the same.
- (D) Any appointment of a divorced or remarried person shall be determined solely by the board of elders.
- (E) The board of elders may suspend the appointment of any individual for any reason when it is deemed prudent for said individual to prioritize his or her focus on family, finances, or other important relationships that require attention. Suspended staff shall be considered for restoration after appropriate time, prayer, and counsel have been conducted.

ARTICLE V

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1 - ELDERS

- (A) The teaching elders shall preach the Gospel regularly and shall be at liberty to preach the whole counsel of the Word of God as the Lord leads them. They shall administer the ordinances of the Church, act in elder board meetings for the transaction of church matters, supervise the teaching ministries of HBC, and tenderly watch over the spiritual interests of the same. They shall provide the pulpit supply and act as leaders for all meetings. An elder who is ordained or licensed by the church shall be considered designated to perform marriages.
- (B) The elder board shall select a chairman who shall act as moderator at all elder board meetings and annual fellowship meetings.
- (C) Officers of the corporation shall inform all newly elected officers of the particular functions and responsibilities of their respective offices. The elders shall be free to choose the means and methods by which they exercise the ministries that God has given them.
- (D) The board of elders shall constitute the board of trustees of the corporation. The board of trustees shall exercise only the following specific powers:
 - (1) to purchase, hold, lease, or otherwise acquire real and personal property on behalf of HBC, and to take real and personal property by will, gift, or bequest on behalf of the same.
 - (2) to sell, convey, alienate, transfer, lease, assign, exchange, or otherwise dispose of, and to mortgage, pledge, or otherwise encumber the real and personal property of HBC, to borrow money and incur indebtedness for the purpose and the use of HBC; to cause to be executed, issued, and delivered for the indebtedness, in the name of HBC, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, or other evidence of indebtedness; and to secure repayment by deeds of trust, mortgages, or pledges.
 - (3) to exercise all powers necessary for the dissolution of the HBC corporation, if such action is mandated by a vote of HBC's elders and deacons.

SECTION 2 - DEACONS AND DEACONESSES

- (A) The ministry of deacons shall assist the elders, in such manner as they shall request, in promoting the spiritual welfare of HBC, in conducting the religious services, and in performing all other work of HBC. They shall make provision for the observance of the ordinances of the Church. They shall, in cooperation with the elders, disburse the benevolence fund. They shall

assist the elders in visitation and all other evangelistic efforts of HBC. The deacons shall assist the elders in caring for the administrative needs of HBC's various ministries as requested by the elders.

- (B) The ministry of deaconess shall be to assist the elders, in such manner as they shall request. They shall also serve in areas such as children's ministries, organizing hospitality, visitation, and other functions of HBC's various ministries.

SECTION 3 - SECRETARY

The secretary shall keep a record of HBC's proceedings, of all baptisms, of certificates of ordination, licenses and commissions as directed by the elders, and preserve all documents, papers, and letters coming into his hands during his term of office. All records are to be kept in HBC's office and delivered to any successor upon leaving office. He shall keep an account of any special events in the life of HBC which are of historical interest.

SECTION 4 - TREASURER

The treasurer shall account for all funds contributed to HBC and shall disburse the same as ordered by the board of elders. He shall present a written report of itemized disbursements at the regular monthly elder meeting and make a general report for the year at HBC's annual fellowship meeting. All expenditures of the HBC, except miscellaneous petty cash disbursements, shall be paid by check.

SECTION 5 - DUTIES OF ALL OFFICERS

(A) All officers shall prepare a written report of their work for the annual fellowship meeting and shall surrender any records in their possession to the secretary at the close of their term of office to be filed as a permanent record of the work of HBC. All records are the property of HBC and must be kept in such location designated by the board of elders.

(B) Any officer who neglects his duties as outlined in the Constitution for a period of three months may be removed from his office at the discretion of the board of elders and another may be appointed by the board of elders to serve the unexpired term.

ARTICLE VI

MEETINGS

SECTION 1 - MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Unless otherwise determined by the elders, HBC shall meet each Sunday morning for public worship and more frequently as determined by the elders. Except when circumstances forbid it, the ordinance of the Lord's Supper should, at a minimum, be observed monthly.

SECTION 2 - MEETINGS FOR CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

Administrative responsibilities shall be performed by the board of elders which shall meet monthly and as needed to discuss needs and administrative tasks.

SECTION 3 – ANNUAL FELLOWSHIP MEETING

- (A) A general meeting of interested regular attenders of HBC shall occur annually for the purpose of receiving reports from the elders and deacons of ministries over the previous year and discussions of plans for the current year.
- (B) The annual meeting shall occur in the spring on a date set by the board of elders.
- (C) Reports should include a financial report of how funds donated to HBC have been utilized.

SECTION 4 - FISCAL YEAR

Homestead Bible Church & Ministries' fiscal year shall begin January 1st and end December 31st of the same year.

ARTICLE VII

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

SECTION 1 - PURPOSE

Homestead Bible Church & Ministries believes that children should receive an education which is based upon and consistent with Biblical teachings. Furthermore, parents, as instituted by God, have the primary responsibility for this education of which HBC shall provide support and assistance.

SECTION 2 - STATEMENT OF FAITH ACCORD

All educational programs or courses of instruction sponsored by HBC shall be taught and presented in full accord with HBC's Statement of Faith.

SECTION 3 - UNITY

All educational programs or courses of instruction sponsored by HBC shall be conducted as an integral and inseparable ministry of this church.

SECTION 4 - TEACHING

All educational programs or courses of instruction shall be conducted consistent with the teaching of the Word of God. It is the responsibility of every instructor or teacher to present the Word of God as the sole infallible source of knowledge and wisdom.

All administrators, instructors, and teachers shall continue or adopt a life-style consistent with the precepts which they teach, whether in or out of the classroom.

ARTICLE VIII

UNAUTHORIZED EXPENDITURES

Any expenditures in excess of \$200 and not authorized in the regular annual budget must be authorized by the board of elders.

ARTICLE IX

ORDINATION AND LICENSING

SECTION 1 - ORDINATION AND LICENSING QUALIFICATIONS

Any man who has been participating in the fellowship of the Church or its mission churches, who gives evidence of a genuine call of God into the work of the ministry, and has been observed by the elders and the Church body to possess the qualities of overseer in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9, may be ordained or licensed as a minister of the Gospel.

SECTION 2 - ORDINATION PROCEDURE

- (A) Upon a conference with the board of elders and after they have approved the candidate for ordination, the chairman of the board of elders shall call a council to examine and pass on the qualification of the candidate. The ordination council shall consist of ordained ministers of like faith invited to participate in the examination of the candidate.
- (B) If the candidate is found worthy of the ordination by the council, the ordination council may recommend the candidate to the board of elders.
- (C) The board of elders may ordain the candidate at a public meeting of the church.
- (D) The board of elders shall arrange for the ordination service.

SECTION 3 – LICENSING

Upon a conference with the board of elders and after they have approved the candidate for licensing, the board of elders may license the candidate as a minister of the Gospel.

ARTICLE X

TAX-EXEMPT PROVISIONS

SECTION 1 - PRIVATE INUREMENT

No part of the net earnings of the church shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, 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 I, Section 2 hereof.

SECTION 2 - POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT

No substantial part of the activities of the church shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. The church shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

SECTION 3 - DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of the church, the trustees shall, after paying or making provision for payment of all the liabilities of the church, dispose of all of the assets of the church to such organization or organizations formed and operated exclusively for religious purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the trustees shall determine. Assets may be distributed only to organizations which agree with the church's Statement of Faith.

SECTION 4 - RACIAL NONDISCRIMINATION

The church shall have a racially nondiscriminatory policy and therefore shall not discriminate against members, applicants, students, and others on the basis of race, color, or national or ethnic origin in accordance with Acts 17:26, "*And [God] hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth...*"

ARTICLE XI

DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTIONS

From time to time the church, in the exercise of its religious, educational, and charitable purposes, may establish various funds to accomplish specific goals. Contributors may suggest uses for their contributions but all suggestions shall be deemed advisory rather than mandatory in nature. All contributions made to specific funds or otherwise designated shall remain subject to the exclusive control and discretion of the board of elders. No fiduciary obligation shall be created by any designated contribution made to the church other than to use the contribution for the general furtherance of any of the purposes stated in Article I, Section 2.

ARTICLE XII

AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be revised or amended by a majority vote of the elders and deacons present and voting at any church meeting.

ADOPTION

This Constitution was adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the elders and deacons present and voting at a duly-called meeting in which a quorum was present.

This Constitution and bylaws supersede any other constitutions and/or bylaws of Homestead Bible Church & Ministries.

Date

Secretary

CHURCH BYLAWS

NUMBER 1

Each member of the board of elders shall be entitled to vote on all matters pertaining to the business of HBC.

NUMBER 2

All church meetings shall be opened and closed with prayer for divine guidance and blessing.

NUMBER 3

All appointments for public worship and Bible study and the arrangements thereof including time and place and the use of the property belonging to HBC for purposes other than the stated appointments shall be under the control of the board of elders.

NUMBER 4

The date of the annual church fellowship meeting shall be determined at the regular board of elders meeting in January of each year and announced to the fellowship.

NUMBER 5

All literature used for teaching or evangelistic purposes at or through HBC shall be in agreement with the Statement of Faith.

NUMBER 6

These bylaws may be altered, suspended, or amended at a combined meeting of the board of elders and deacons, by a majority vote of those present and voting.