

# Constitution of the Vineyard Christian Church of Evanston

## Article I – Name

The name of this church shall be Vineyard Christian Church of Evanston, as incorporated in the State of Illinois.

## Article II – Purposes

The purposes of this church shall be to worship God, to obey God, to promote the interests and ministry of the Kingdom of God in the world, and to fulfill the complete calling of God for the church in outreach and discipleship.

## Article III – Confessions of Faith

### Section 1: The Godhead

We believe in the one triune God, eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Who are co-eternal in being, co- equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections. (*Deut. 6:4, Isa. 43:10-11, Matt. 28:19, Luke 3:22, II Cor. 13:14*)

### Section 2: The Father

We believe in God the Father, the Almighty, creator of all the heavens and the earth, perfect in holiness, perfect in love, perfect in judgment, from Whom the Son and the Spirit proceed. (*Gen. 1:1,17:1, Isa. 5:16, 6:3, 43:15, Matt. 11:25, Jn. 6:57, 8:42, 14:16-17, 16:28, Rom. 11:17, I Jn. 4:16*)

### Section 3: The Person and Work of Jesus Christ

a) We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, that He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and is true God and true man. (*Jn. 1:2,14, Luke 1:35*)

b) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, and that our justification is made sure by His literal, bodily resurrection from the dead, and that His name and work are our sole means of salvation. (*I Cor. 15:3-4, I Peter 2:24, Eph. 1:7, Rom. 4:25, Acts 4:12*)

c) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven, where He is exalted at the right hand of God above all power and dominion, and ministers as our High Priest and Intercessor. (*Acts 1:9-10, Eph. 1:20-21, Heb. 4:14, 7:25, I Jn. 2:1*)

### Section 4: The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person Who is with the Church forever and Who teaches the Church and guides the Church in all truth. The Holy Spirit gives varieties of gifts for the common good of the Church and guides the Church and the individual believer in service for the Church and in service towards the world. The Holy Spirit continues to manifest Himself through the gifts as described in Rom. 12:6-8, I Cor.

12:4-11 and Eph. 4:11-12. The individual believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit, has his life in Christ and final redemption guaranteed in the Spirit, and is supernaturally empowered by the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit Who convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. (*Jn. 1:16, 16:7, 14:26, 16:13, I Cor. 12:4-11, Acts 10:19-20, 16:6-7, I Cor. 3:16, II Cor. 1:22, Eph. 1:13-14, 4:30, Acts 1:8, Jn. 16:8-11*)

### Section 5: Scripture

We believe in the sixty-six canonized and commonly recognized books of the Old and New Testaments as inspired by God and inerrant in the original writing, and that they are the supreme and final authority in faith and life. (*II Tim. 3:16, II Peter 1:19-21, I Thess. 2:13*)

### Section 6: Depravity

We believe that man was created in the image of God, that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death, which is separation from God, and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature, and become sinners in thought, word, and deed. (*Gen. 1:26-27, Rom. 3: 23, 5:14, Eph. 2:1-3*)

### Section 7: Salvation

We believe that eternal salvation is solely the gift of God, and that all who in sincere contrition repent of their sins, believe the gospel and receive the Lord Jesus Christ by faith alone are born again of the Holy Spirit and become adopted sons of God. (*Jn. 3:3-5, Titus 3:5, Acts 2:38, Eph. 2:8-10, Rom. 8:16*)

### Section 8: Second Coming

We believe in the personal, bodily and imminent return of Christ in the air for His saints. (*Matt. 24:30-31, I Thess. 4:13-18*)

### Section 9: Judgment and Eternal State

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the everlasting punishment of the lost. (*Jn. 5:28-29, Matt. 25:45, Rev. 20:11-15*)

### Section 10: The Church

We believe in the one, universal Church as the Body of Christ, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, the purchased people of God, the bride of Christ. The Church is built and established upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone. The Church is united in having one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father and one Head, Jesus Christ. The Church is all those who in faith look upon Jesus as the author and giver of salvation. God has called the believers in various places to join together into local churches as visible expressions of the Church in order to bring the power, the life, the character, and the authority of God into the lives of people. (*I Cor. 1:2, Eph. 1:22-23, 2:19-22, 4:4-6, 5:22-32, I Peter 2:5-10*)

## ARTICLE IV - ORDINANCES

We recognize and shall practice certain God-ordained ordinances which were specifically commanded by Jesus Christ and which are outward signs of an inward grace received by faith. These shall include baptism in water by immersion (*Matt. 28:19, Mark 16:16, Acts 10:47-48, Rom. 6:4*) and the Lord's Supper (*Luke 22:14-20, I Co. 11: 23-29*).

# By-Laws of the Vineyard Christian Church of Evanston

## ARTICLE I - OFFICES

The church shall maintain in the State of Illinois a registered office and registered agent at such office and may have other offices within or without the state.

## ARTICLE II - MEMBERS

### Section 1: Categories of Members

The church shall have two categories of members: voting and non-voting members. All members shall be voting members other than those placed on the list of non-voting members by action of the Church Council. By majority vote, the Church Council may transfer a member to the non-voting category who is unable to regularly attend services and activities of the church but who desires to remain affiliated with the church. Non-voting members shall not be counted in determining if a quorum is present at any meeting, but may, with the consent of the President or other officer presiding at any meeting where non-voting members are present, have a voice in discussing any matter under consideration. By majority vote the Church Council may transfer a non-voting member back to the voting category when said member is able to return to active participation in the church.

### Section 2: Qualifications

In order to be eligible for membership, the following qualifications shall be met:

1. The individual must have had a genuine experience of regeneration through belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God.
2. The individual must agree to and endorse the constitution and by-laws of the church and be able to agree to the confession of faith as set forth in the constitution.
3. The individual must have been obedient to the Lord through water baptism. The pastors shall have the right and responsibility of reviewing the validity of all baptisms.
4. The individual must have demonstrated a commitment to Vineyard Christian Church of Evanston, the evidences of

## ARTICLE V - AMENDMENTS

The Church Council shall have the power to alter, amend or adopt a new constitution at any time, provided that such action is approved by a unanimous vote of the Church Council and ratified by two-thirds of the members.

which include but are not limited to the following: Regular attendance at the meetings and activities of the church; financial support of the church; contribution of services; hospitality toward the members and interested parties of the church; an attitude of cooperation with the pastors and leaders of the church. (*I Thess. 5:12-13, Heb. 13:17*)

### Section 3: Membership Rolls

A prospective member must complete an orientation course provided from time to time by the pastoral staff of the church. A new member may then be added by the submission of a signed statement of commitment in which the applicant verifies that they meet the qualifications for membership (*Section 2*) and that they agree to be governed by the constitution and bylaws of this corporation. By applying for membership all members agree to be bound by all provisions of these constitution and bylaws. By majority vote the Church Council shall add the new member to the list of members. This list may be reviewed and updated at any time by the Church Council to ensure that all members are members in good standing according to the provisions of this Article.

### Section 4: Removal from Membership

(*Matt. 18:12-18, Rom. 16:17-18, I Cor. 5:11, Gal. 1:8-9, Titus 3:10-11*)

1. Cause for removal shall be (a) significant disagreement with or deviation from the confession of faith as set forth in the constitution, in letter or in spirit, (b) continued lack of cooperation with the pastors of the church or disruption of the church so as to cause fellow believers to stumble in their walk with God or so as to promote schism, (c) continued immorality without a repentant attitude.
2. If cause for removal shall be found in any member, one of the staff pastors shall go to the member privately and confront the member in an effort to bring that person to repentance and to restore that person to a proper place with God and the church. If this fails to correct the problem, two staff pastors shall go to the member and again confront the person with the offense. If this attempt also fails, the Church Council shall attempt to meet with the member. If this fails to bring correction and/or reconciliation, the staff pastors shall

inform the members of the church. Upon hearing the matter, the church membership shall prayerfully appeal to the member involved, in a manner approved by the church. If after a reasonable length of time (not less than 30 days) this fails to resolve the matter, the Church Council shall consider removal from membership.

3. The Church Council shall inform the membership of its decision, and the members shall cease to fellowship with such person until he or she is reinstated by decision of the Council.

#### ***Section 5: Forfeiture of Membership***

Enrolled members who shall without good cause absent themselves from the services of the church for a period of six consecutive months or more, or who willfully cease to contribute of their means to its support shall forfeit their membership. Said forfeiture shall be approved by majority vote of the Church Council.

#### ***Section 6: Resignation of Membership***

Any member may resign at any time by giving written notice to the secretary of the church. Resignation of any member does not terminate or preclude the completion of a process of discipline as described in Section Four above.

### **ARTICLE III - MEETINGS OF MEMBERS**

#### ***Section 1: Annual Meeting***

An annual meeting of the members shall be held in the first quarter of each calendar year for such purposes as hearing reports on the business of the church, making inquiries of the pastors regarding the affairs of the church, both business and spiritual, transacting such business as may be needed at the time, and seeking God as to the progress and direction of the church.

#### ***Section 2: Special Meetings***

Special meetings of the members may be called by the senior pastor or by the church council, or by petition of a majority of the official members.

#### ***Section 3: Notice of Meetings***

Written or printed notice stating the place, day and hour of the meeting and, in case of a special meeting, the purposes or purposes for which the meeting is called, shall be delivered not less than five nor more than forty days before the date of the meeting, either personally, by mail or email, by or at the direction of the president, or the secretary, or the officers or persons calling the meeting, to each member entitled to vote at such meeting. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail addressed to the member at his or her address as it appears on the records of the church, with postage thereon prepaid.

#### ***Section 4: Place of Meetings***

The place of meetings shall be determined by the Church Council, and the members shall be notified of the place when the meeting is announced.

#### ***Section 5: Quorum***

One-third (1/3) of the total voting membership and at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Church Council shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the church. No business may be transacted without such quorum.

#### ***Section 6: Decisions***

Except as otherwise provided, decisions at all meetings, shall be reached by a simple majority of the members present and a two-thirds majority of the Church Council present. Each member shall be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote of the members.

#### ***Section 7: Proxies***

Each member entitled to vote at a meeting of members or to express consent or dissent to church action at any meeting may authorize another person to act for the member by proxy. The proxy must have written authorization from the member or members for which he or she is to act.

### **ARTICLE IV - GOVERNMENT**

#### ***Section 1: The Headship of Christ***

The government of the church shall be founded upon the Lordship and direction of Jesus Christ. Everyone in authority shall continually seek His mind and will, through His Spirit and the Word of God in all actions and decisions.

#### ***Section 2: The Oversight of His Body by the Church Council***

The Church Council shall serve under the leadership of the Senior Pastor, who is to function as the President of the Council and of the Corporation. The Church Council shall be the governing body of the church in respect to matters concerning business being done by the church (i.e. financial investment, buying or leasing of facility, maintenance, contract negotiation, etc) and any other matters specifically given to the Church Council in this Constitution and By-Laws.

#### ***Section 3: The Church Council***

##### **A. Job Description**

1. The Church Council shall oversee the business of the church under the leadership of the Senior Pastor.

2. Subject to limitation of the Articles of Incorporation, other sections of the Constitution and Bylaws, and of Illinois law, all corporate powers of the corporation shall be exercised by or under the authority of the Church Council and the business and affairs of the corporation shall be controlled by the Church Council. The Church Council is the equivalent of a board of directors and shall have the following powers:

a) To select and remove all other officers, agents, and employees of the corporation, prescribe such powers and duties for them as may not be inconsistent with law, the Articles of Incorporation or the Constitution and Bylaws, fix their compensation, and require from them fidelity bonds with acceptable sureties.

b) To conduct, manage, and control the business affairs of the corporation, and to make rules and regulations not inconsistent with law, the Articles of Incorporation, or the Constitution and Bylaws.

c) To borrow money, and incur indebtedness for the purpose of the corporation and for that purpose cause to be executed and delivered, in the corporate name, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, deeds of trust, mortgages, pledges, or other evidence of debt and securities.

d) To receive reports from the pastoral staff on the condition of the church and to offer advice and counsel to the Senior Pastor and pastoral staff on matters of the church.

#### B. Number of Council Members

The Church Council shall consist of no more than nine(9) members and at least five (5) members until the number of members is changed by amendment to this Constitution and Bylaws. The Senior Pastor and Executive Pastor (chief associate pastor) shall each be members of the Council, serving as the President and Vice-President, respectively, of the Council.

#### C. Appointment and Vacancies

Council members shall be appointed by the Senior Pastor and ratified by a majority vote of the Church Council and a majority vote of the members of the church. They must be members of the church in order to be eligible for appointment. At least a majority of the council must not be employed by the church. Vacancies shall also be filled by appointment of the Senior Pastor and ratified by the Church Council then in office even though less than a quorum or by the sole remaining council member. A successor council member so appointed shall serve for the unexpired term of the predecessor. Council members need no further ratification after they have served their first full term.

#### D. Term of Office of Council Members

The Senior Pastor and Executive Pastor shall serve as council members as long as they serve as pastors. The term of office for all other council members shall be one (1) year or until a successor is appointed. Successors for council members whose term of office are then expiring shall be appointed at the annual meeting of the members in the year such terms expire. A council member may succeed himself in office if reappointed by the Senior Pastor. In such cases of reappointment, a second ratification by the membership is not needed.

#### E. Quorum

The greater of three (3) members of the Church Council or a majority of the Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

#### F. Place and Time of Meetings

Regular meetings of the Church Council may be held at any place that has been designated by the Council and at any time designated by the Council. Special meetings of the Church Council for any purpose or purposes may be called at any time by the president (Senior Pastor) or a majority of the other council members.

#### G. Organization Meeting

Before each annual meeting the Church Council shall hold a regular meeting for the purpose of organization, appointment of officers, approval of the budget and the transaction of other business.

#### H. Telephonic Meetings

Any meeting, regular or special, may be held by conference telephone or similar communication equipment, so long as all members participating in the meeting can hear one another, and all such members shall be deemed to be present in person at the meeting.

#### I. Action Without Meeting

Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Church Council may be taken without a meeting, if all members of the Council shall individually or collectively consent in writing to that action. Such action by written consent shall have the same force and effect as a unanimous vote of the Church Council. Such written consent or consents shall be led with the minutes of the proceedings of the council.

#### J. Removal

A council member other than the Senior Pastor or Executive Pastor may be removed from office by the vote of a majority of the total council membership. The Senior Pastor and Executive Pastor may only be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the combined total council membership and by 2/3 vote of the total church membership. The Senior Pastor or Executive Pastor may not vote on their own dismissal. Grounds for removal include departure from the confession of faith, serious breach of the constitution or by-laws, immoral conduct, and failure to faithfully fulfill the duties of the office.

#### K. Compensation

The council members shall receive no compensation for their services as council members. However, the pastors can receive compensation for their services as pastors. Council members may also serve as officers of this church for which they may be compensated.

#### ***Section 4: Ecclesiastical Matters vs. Business Matters***

All matters relating to the spiritual health of the church, matters of doctrine and interpretation, matters of spiritual ordinances for the church, direction of ministry, leading and discernment

for initiating or terminating ministry activities, and any other matters reasonably connected to spiritual leadership shall be the ultimate responsibility of the Senior Pastor and under his authority, with advice and counsel being received from the Church Council.

## **ARTICLE V - OFFICERS**

### ***Section 1: Officers***

The officers of the church shall be a president, one vice-president, a secretary, a treasurer, and such other officers as the Church Council may appoint. No two offices may be held by the same person.

### ***Section 2: Appointment***

The Senior Pastor shall serve as President, the Executive Pastor as Vice-President, and the Church Council shall appoint all other officers of the corporation. Each officer shall hold office until a successor shall have been duly appointed, or until death, resignation, or removal as provided herein. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment of the Church Council.

### ***Section 3: Removal***

Any officer other than the Senior or Executive Pastors may be removed by the Church Council at any time, by a vote of two-thirds of the council members. The Senior Pastor (President) and the Executive Pastor (Vice-President) may only be removed by a vote of 2/3 of the total Church Council membership and 2/3 of the total church membership on the basis of the grounds outlined in Article IV, Section 3, Paragraph J.

### ***Section 4: Powers and Duties***

The officers shall have power to execute documents, contracts, and routine legal or financial business of the church, except as follows:

1. The Church Council shall be responsible to review the church financial records and handle financial-related matters under the leadership of the President and Vice-President. Any church expenditure that exceeds 1.0% of the prior calendar-year total church expenses must have the consent of the President and Vice-President and be approved by a majority of the Church Council members present.
2. The Church Council shall approve a yearly budget, which shall constitute approval of all budgeted items. Any single expenditure that exceeds 5% of the prior calendar-year total church expenses must have the consent of the President and Vice-President and be ratified by more than one-half of the church members present. The Church Council shall be responsible to set the compensation arrangements of the church, including compensation for the pastors and officers.

Upon request of the Senior Pastor, Executive Pastor, or of a majority of the Church Council, a certified public accountant will be employed to perform an independent audit of the

church books. At any time the Church Council may review a financial or legal decision of the officers, and may by a two-thirds majority of those present overrule any action.

### ***Section 5: Terms of Office***

Terms of office shall be two years for all officers other than the President and Vice-President, who shall serve until death, resignation, or removal as provided herein. In the event of death, resignation, or removal before a term expires, the new officer shall complete the term.

### ***Section 6: President***

#### **A. Job Description**

The president shall be the principal executive officer of the corporation. He or she shall see that the resolutions and directives of the Church Council are carried into effect, except in those instances in which that responsibility is assigned to some other person by the Church Council, and, in general, shall discharge all duties incident to the office of president and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Church Council. Except in those instances in which the authority to execute is expressly delegated to another officer or agent of the corporation or a different mode of execution is expressly prescribed by the Church Council or these by-laws, the president may execute for the corporation any contracts, deeds, mortgages, bonds, or other instruments which the Church Council has authorized to be executed, and the president may accomplish such execution either under or without the seal of the corporation and either individually or with the Secretary, any assistant, or any other officer thereunto authorized by the Church Council, according to the requirements of the form of instrument. As the President, the Senior Pastor shall have general supervision, direction, and control of the business and affairs of the corporation except as otherwise provided herein. He shall preside at meetings of the Church Council and serve as its Chairman. He shall oversee the business of the church on a daily basis and give leadership to the Executive, Associate, and Assistant Pastors, the Church Council, the general church body and its ministries. The Senior Pastor shall have general supervision of the entire church and charge of all services, gatherings, and meetings as he shall deem necessary.

#### **B. His Appointment**

- 1) The Church Council shall seek and appoint a new Senior Pastor should a vacancy arise in the pastorate. They shall seek first among the Executive, Associate, or Assistant Pastors from within the fellowship, but may appoint a Senior Pastor from outside.
- 2) The resigning or retiring Senior Pastor may nominate a successor and/or participate in the appointment of his successor.
- 3) Upon approval by at least two-thirds of the church council the candidate for Senior Pastor must be ratified by a majority of the members present.

### C. Termination

Should two-thirds (2/3) of the total Church Council membership and a 2/3 vote of the total church membership concur that the Senior Pastor should terminate his pastorship of the church, the Senior Pastor shall resign, or be terminated.

#### **Section 7: Vice-President**

The vice-president shall assist the president in the discharge of duties as the president may direct and shall perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the president or by the Church Council. In the absence of the president or in the event of the president's inability or refusal to act, the vice-president shall perform the duties of president and when so acting, shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the president.

#### **Section 8: Secretary**

The secretary shall record the minutes of the meetings of the members and of the Church Council in one or more books provided for that purpose, see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these by-laws or as required by law, be custodian of the corporate records and of the seal of the corporation, keep a register of the members and their addresses, and perform all duties incident to the office of secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to by the president or by the Church Council.

#### **Section 9: Treasurer**

The treasurer shall be the principal accounting and financial officer of the corporation. The treasurer shall: (a) have charge of and be responsible for the maintenance of adequate books of account for the corporation; (b) have charge and custody of all funds and securities of the corporation, and be responsible therefor, and for the receipt and disbursement thereof; and (c) perform all the duties incident to the office of treasurer and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the president or by the Church Council. If required by the Church Council, the treasurer shall give a bond for the faithful discharge of the duties of the office in such sum and with such surety or sureties as the Church Council shall determine.

#### **Section 10: Associate or Assistant Pastors**

##### A. Job Description

The Senior Pastor shall define the Executive, an Associate or an Assistant Pastor's ministry upon appointment. They shall serve under the Pastor's direction and with the Pastor in the administration and oversight of the church and its business.

##### B. Their Appointment

The Senior Pastor may appoint with the agreement of a majority of the Church Council an Associate or Assistant Pastor, or a replacement for the Executive Pastor. He is not

required, however, to appoint a replacement for the Executive Pastor.

### C. Termination

It shall be the prerogative of the Senior Pastor, after counseling with the Church Council, to require the resignation of Pastoral Associates or Assistants. Removal of the Executive Pastor must be according to the provisions outlined in Article V, Section 3.

#### **Section 11: Indemnification**

Recognizing that serving as an officer or member of the Council of Vineyard Christian Church of Evanston entails potential legal liability, Vineyard Christian Church of Evanston agrees to indemnify (repay) its officers and Council for legal expenses incurred related to their good-faith conduct as an officer or member of the Council.

## **ARTICLE VI. - ORDINATION.**

### **Section 1: Principles of Ordination**

Only our Sovereign Holy God can truly call and ordain His children for service in the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The calling of a pastor or other full-time minister is not the result of a title, rather the title is a result of God's calling. This calling is recognized as from the true and living God. It is the privilege of the church of Jesus Christ to ratify the ordination of God when such is obviously placed upon a person's life.

The purpose of this Article is to provide for the ordination of pastors or minister of the Gospel.

### **Section 2: Qualifications**

The qualifications for ordination are as follows:

A. A candidate for ordination must be a "Born Again" believer in Jesus Christ as described by our Lord in the third chapter of the Gospel of John.

B. A candidate must subscribe to the statement of faith of this church.

C. A candidate must meet the scriptural requirements for the office of elder as described in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9.

D. A candidate must believe in the objectives of this body and its concepts concerning the work of the Holy Spirit today. E. A candidate should have evidenced the obvious calling of God in terms of ministerial experience and report. Normally a person will be "licensed" for a probationary period of time before receiving full ordination.

### **Section 3: Procedure for ordination and licensing.**

A. Each person fulfilling the above qualifications shall be recommended by the Senior Pastor to the Church Council of this body. The Church Council may elect one of two types of ordination:

1) Full, permanent ordination into the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

2) Provisional ordination (licensure) on a year to year basis until said candidate has established an independent body with its own ordination procedures who will thereafter ordain the candidate; or until said candidate has demonstrated a calling and proficiency for long-term ministry within this body.

B. The Church Council may make exceptions to these qualifying standards where in the unanimous opinion of the Council and under the strong compelling conviction of the Holy Spirit such exception is according to the will of God and consistent with His Word.

C. Upon approval of at least 2/3 of the Church Council present, the candidate will be ordained or provisionally licensed as a minister of the Gospel with the right to perform ministerial functions in accordance with the laws of the land and the ordinances of God's Word with all the prerogatives of such a calling and office.

D. All candidates, successful or otherwise, will be notified of the Council's decision in writing within one week of the final Council action and to provide a certificate of ordination or licensure. Provisional ordination (licensure) shall continue on a year to year basis until such time as the candidate receives full ordination, or is no longer in ministry connected with this church, or the licensure is otherwise terminated by a vote of 2/3 of the Church Council present.

#### ***Section 4: Revocation of Ordination***

A. Ordination is a privilege extended to the candidate and can be revoked at any time for cause according to the following provisions.

B. The matter giving rise to revocation shall be sent to the candidate in writing thirty (30) days prior to a vote for revocation by the Church Council after a majority of the Council present has voted to send such notice of revocation.

C. The candidate shall submit a defense to the charges either in writing or orally before the Church Council.

D. Following the defense or within thirty (30) days from notification the Church Council shall vote on the revocation or ordination. The revocation shall be made by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the Church Council present.

E. The outcome of the vote on revocation shall be communicated to the candidate in writing within seven (7) days of the vote on revocation.

## **ARTICLE VII - AMENDMENTS**

The Church Council shall have the power to alter, amend, or repeal the by-laws or adopt new by-laws by a two-thirds vote of the Church Council with the ratification of two-thirds of the membership, except as provided in Article IV, Section 4.

## **ARTICLE VIII - SEAL**

The corporate seal shall have inscribed thereon the name of the corporation and the words "Corporate Seal, Illinois".

## **ARTICLE IX - FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year of the corporation shall be fixed by resolution of the Church Council.

## **ARTICLE X - DISSOLUTION OF PROPERTY**

In the event of the dissolution of this organization, one half of the property shall be apportioned to the agencies (foreign missions and others) which received regular contributions from this church in the last fiscal year. The amounts will be in direct proportion to that year's contribution to that agency. The distribution of the other half of the property shall be decided at the same time as the dissolution of this organization.

In case of schism within the congregation, all the property shall go to that group which adheres to the adopted constitution and by-laws of this church.