

Bylaws for Fervent Church

ARTICLE I – NAME

The official name under which this church is incorporated or organized is “Fervent Church of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, Inc.” (hereinafter referred to as Fervent Church).

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

A. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

1. Applicants shall fill out the Fervent Church Membership Application form and provide their personal testimony of conversion and commitment to this church. The governance authority shall then act upon the applications. They shall also act upon requests for membership transfers from other Alliance churches.
2. Children may be accepted into membership of the church upon approval by the governance authority with the consent of their parents or guardian, provided they meet all qualifications stated herein.
3. All applicants will be provided with a copy of, and be required to read and consent to this Constitution, and these bylaws. Further, they must affirm their willingness to subscribe to the UNIFORM POLICY ON DISCIPLINE, RESTORATION, AND APPEAL, as found in the current edition of The Manual of The Christian and Missionary Alliance. Such consent and affirmation exists when applicants place their signature on the application for membership.

B. TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP

1. Active Membership: Active members shall consist of those members who adhere to the conditions stated in the Constitution and Bylaws, and are regularly attending this church.
2. Inactive Membership:
 - Those that have permanently moved from the community, but have not transferred their membership to another church shall be placed on

the inactive membership list. A letter shall be sent informing them of this action.

- Those, who for any cause, except physical disability or who are temporarily absent from the community, have absented themselves from the regular services of this church for one year or more, shall be placed on the inactive membership list. A letter shall be sent informing them of this action.
- An inactive member may be placed on the active membership list again by request to and approval of the **governance authority**.
- Inactive members shall not be eligible to vote on any question.

C. MEMBERSHIP LIST

The membership list shall be examined each year by the **governance authority** one month prior to the annual congregational meeting so that the church will have an updated membership list. After efforts have been made to contact inactive members as to their relationship to the church, the **governance authority** shall have the power to remove inactive members from the rolls who have exceeded the one-year mark or to extend the inactive status for another year. A letter shall be sent to the member concerned informing him/her of this action.

D. TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

Upon request, members in good standing may be granted a letter of transfer to other evangelical bodies upon approval of the **governance authority**.

ARTICLE IV – BIBLICAL CHARACTER AND STANDARDS

Section 4.1. Exercise and Expression of the Church's Biblical Beliefs. As described in the Preamble, the Church is a Christian community of faith that exists to exercise and express its biblical beliefs within the broader community of the C&MA. These beliefs are grounded in a shared understanding of Holy Scripture including those beliefs and standards specifically addressed in the Manual. The Church exercises and expresses its biblical beliefs and standards in the following ways:

- a) *As a Community.* The Church understands that the local church is the visible organized expression of the Body of Christ and that the local church finds broader meaning and outreach in

fulfilling its biblical responsibilities within the life and witness of the denomination. In addition, those who participate in the life of the Church, including the Church's members and employees, are following the biblical command to live out their faith in community and association with other believers. Accordingly, the Church community is itself an exercise and expression of the Church's biblical beliefs and standards.

b) *Through its Activities.* The Church believes that all Church activities, including the responsibilities of every Church member and employee, should be rendered in service to God as a form of worship. Therefore, the Church as a community of faith exercises and expresses its biblical beliefs and standards in every activity, action, and responsibility.

Section 4.2. Standards for Church Activities and Facilities. The Church shall engage in activities and use its facilities solely to exercise and express the biblical beliefs of the Church and the C&MA and to further the mission of both. In furtherance of this mission, the Church may provide services or goods to, and may allow use of its facilities by, other groups and persons who are not members of the Church. But no Church activity, nor any use of Church facilities by another group or person, may be conducted or permitted if the Church determines that such activity or use expresses a message of support by the Church for any view contrary to the biblical beliefs of the Church and the C&MA. The determination as to whether any particular activity or use of Church facilities is not permitted requires both spiritual discernment and an understanding of C&MA beliefs and standards which are applied to each particular circumstance. Such determination shall be made in conformance with this discernment and these beliefs and standards in the sole discretion of the spiritual leaders of the Church designated by either the governance authority of the Church or the senior pastor and elders. With respect to uses by other groups or persons, the Church may consider without limitation both the content of the proposed activities and whether the group or person is generally perceived as advocating views contrary to the biblical beliefs of the Church and the C&MA.

ARTICLE V – MEETINGS

A. ANNUAL MEETING

1. The annual congregational meeting shall be held on the third Sunday of March of each year. The **governance authority** shall determine the actual time and location. The **governance authority** also shall have the authority to change this in a given year when necessary

2. Annual reports are to be submitted by the pastor(s), elders, **governance authority**, secretary, treasurer, and others deemed necessary by the **governance authority**. The **governance authority** shall also determine the method of reporting.
3. Those to be elected at the Annual Meeting shall be the elders and **governance authority** (see Article XIV). All other ministry positions shall be determined and appointed by the **governance authority** at their first meeting following the annual congregational meeting. This authorization does not apply to other positions that may become necessary and require election by constitutional authority.

B. SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

When determined appropriate by the **governance authority**, special congregational meetings may be called. Notice of it shall be communicated for two consecutive weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

C. QUORUM.

A quorum of any properly-called congregational business meeting shall consist of those members who are present.

ARTICLE VI – CHURCH GOVERNMENT

A. FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS.

Meetings of the **governance authority** shall be held quarterly.

B. NAME AND COMPOSITION OF **GOVERNANCE AUTHORITY**

Single Board System with a Majority of Elders

1. NAME - The **governance authority** of the Fervent Church shall be known as the Governing Board.
2. NUMBER - The number serving as the Governing Board shall be at least five, including the senior pastor.

3. COMPOSITION - The Governing Board shall consist of the senior pastor, executive pastor, and three others; two of which must be elders.
4. QUALIFICATIONS - The qualifications for elders are set out in 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:6-9. Other members of the **governance authority** are expected to maintain a lifestyle in keeping with the spirit and intent of these same references. Further, each must be an active member of this church.
5. DUTIES - The duties of leaders are set forth in the Constitution, these bylaws, and position descriptions adopted by the Governing Board.
6. QUORUM - A quorum for the legal conduct of business shall be two-thirds of the board membership.

ARTICLE VIII – PASTORAL STAFF

- A. Staff salaries and benefits shall be determined and voted on by the **governance authority** with all salaried staff members recusing themselves from any vote pertaining to their salary or benefits. The **governance authority** may consult with the district superintendent as may be deemed necessary in making the appropriate recommendations.
- B. Vacations, guest speaking engagements, etc. of the pastor(s) shall be determined by the **governance authority**.

ARTICLE IX – DUTIES OF CHURCH OFFICERS

The elected secretary shall attend and keep the minutes of all congregational meetings and **governance authority** meetings. The **governance authority** shall issue individual position descriptions for remaining church officers. Such position descriptions shall define responsibilities, delegate authority, and specify accountability and are considered directive in nature.

ARTICLE X – COMMITTEES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Additional committees, organizations, and teams may be established as needed by the **governance authority**.

ARTICLE XI – MISSIONS MOBILIZATION

A missions point person (missionary treasurer), whether paid or volunteer, shall be appointed by the governance authority of the church. He/she shall be empowered to structure and facilitate short term missions teams. The missions team shall work with the pastor and elders to implement a strategy for Great Commission Ministries and missional living, for every member throughout the whole year and promote giving to the Great Commission Fund. The missions team shall be accountable to the governance authority.

ARTICLE XII – DISCIPLEMAKING MINISTRIES

Small groups (hereinafter to be referred to as Discipleship Communities), will consist of leaders that will assist the pastor (or pastoral staff) to oversee the disciple making (or educational) ministries of Fervent Church.

ARTICLE XIV – NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- A. The Nominating Committee shall prepare a written report of its work, and publish it at least seven days prior to the annual meeting.
- B. The two elected representatives on the nominating committee shall be submitted to the membership for approval. This may be done at a special meeting or at the church annual meeting. Church membership is required to be considered for inclusion on this committee. All members are eligible to approve, or disapprove of any nominee by written ballot. All ballots must include the member's name to be valid. Membership approval is required for a nominee to serve on the nominating committee.

ARTICLE XV – ELECTIONS

A. THOSE TO BE NOMINATED

Those to be elected at the annual congregational meeting shall be the governing board with the exception of the senior pastor and executive pastor.

B. NOMINATIONS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

Any active member of the membership may nominate any person for an elected position according to the following:

1. The member wishing to place someone in nomination must contact and obtain permission from the person to be nominated and receive assurance that the person will allow his/her name to be considered.
2. The member wishing to place the name in nomination will then submit the name to the Nominating Committee, in writing, within 7 days following the annual election of the Nominating Committee (See Article XIII above).
3. The Nominating Committee will satisfy itself that the person to be nominated meets the criteria of the Constitution and bylaws for holding elected office.
4. The Nominating Committee may consider the person to be nominated as their nominee if so desired. The Nominating Committee may also elect NOT to consider the person as their nominee.
5. Once the Nominating Committee has completed its work and rendered its report, an OFFICIAL BALLOT will be prepared for use at the annual meeting. The Official Ballot will contain the names as presented for each position by the Nominating Committee. Further, those names presented by the membership that meets the required criteria will also be placed on the Official Ballot. However, they will be identified by an asterisk (*), and an appropriate footnote explanation that they were nominated by the membership.
6. There will be no nominations received from the floor during the election process.

C. PLURALITY

Where required, the election shall be based on the rule of plurality.

D. TERM OF OFFICE

1. Elected members of the **governance authority** shall serve for a period of three years and shall commence office immediately following the election process.
2. The **governance authority** shall have the authority to appoint qualified persons to fulfill unexpired terms of those elected persons as necessary.

E. RESTRICTIONS

To prevent potential conflicts of interest, the spouses of all active board members are ineligible for election.

ARTICLE XVIII – AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast at any congregational meeting.