

# Evangel By-Laws

## Table of Contents

**Preamble**

**Article I – Name**

**Article II – Purpose**

**Article III – Statement of Faith**

**Article IV – Membership**

**Article V – Officers**

**Article VI – Governance**

**Article VII – Meetings**

**Article VIII – Licensing, Commissioning and Ordaining**

**Article IX – Acquisition, Holding and Disposing of Property**

**Article X – Contracts, Checks, Deposits and Funds**

**Article XI – Finance**

**Article XII – Amendments**

**Article XIII – Dissolution of Church**

## Evangel Echos Church of the Air Constitution

### **Preamble**

The Bible admonishes us saying, “Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way” (1 Corinthians 14:40). To this end we the members of Evangel Echos Church of the Air do solemnly and sincerely agree to be governed by these articles.

### **Article I – Name**

The name of the church shall be Evangel Echos Church of the Air, herein referred to as “Church” or the “Corporation” located at 13660 Standbury of Detroit, Michigan 48227.

### **Article II – Purpose**

#### **Section 1- Purpose**

To encourage and promote the advancement of the Gospel of Jesus Christ by Equipping Christians, Enriching Families and Empowering Communities.

## **Section 2- Reformation**

This corporation recognizes it is in its reformation stages and has made, as part of this Constitution, provisions for a temporary Board of Elders nominated by the steering committee and elected by the membership. The Reformation board will be comprised of at least (5) members. Under the direction of the steering committee, the congregation shall within one year, nominate, qualify, and duly elect the Board of Elders by a majority vote of the members of the congregation in good standing, at a special meeting called for this purpose and shall serve as detailed by the By-Laws.

## **Article III – Statement of Faith**

### **Section 1 – God**

We believe that within the One Supreme Being God, there eternally exists three co-equal and co-eternal persons revealed to mankind as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, otherwise known as the Trinity. We believe that God is infinite, perfect, all-powerful, all-knowing, all-present, all-loving and unchangeable.

Deut. 6:4, 4:39; 1 Cor. 8:4; John 17:1-3; Phil. 1:2

### **Section 2 – The Bible**

We believe the Bible is the inspired and inerrant Word of God and totally accurate in all matters it addresses. We believe that the Holy Spirit is the author of all Scripture and that He superintended holy men of old as they penned the divine Word of God. We attest to the all-sufficiency of the Bible, that within it is found all that is needed for Christian faith and practice, and that it alone is the believer's final authority. We define the Bible as those 66 divinely inspired books which have been historically accepted by the Protestant Church as Canon.

Num. 23:19; Heb. 6:18; 2 Tim. 3:15-16; 2 Pet.3:15-16

### **Section 3 – Jesus Christ**

The Lord Jesus Christ is the second person of the Godhead. He has manifest as man, and is the eternal Son of God. The Scriptures declare:

- His virgin birth (Matthew 1:23, Luke 1:31,35)
- His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26, I Peter 2:22)
- His redemptive work on the Cross (I Cor. 15:3,II Corinthians 5:21)
- His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6, Luke 24:30, I Corinthians 15:4)
- His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9 and 11; 2:33, Philipians 2:9-11, Hebrews 1:3)

## **Section 4 – The Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Godhead and co-equal with the Father and Jesus Christ the Son. The Scriptures declare:

- The Holy Spirit is the agent of salvation and regeneration in believers. (John 3:3-5; Titus 3:5-6)
- The Holy Spirit is the seal, guarantee and deposit given to believers to confirm their salvation. (Romans 8:16-17; 2Corinthians 1:22, 5:5; Ephesians 1:13, 4:30; 2Timothy 2:19)
- The Holy Spirit is the Comforter and Helper sent by Jesus to live in and walk with the believer. (Romans 8:11; John 14:16-17)
- The Holy Spirit serves as the believer's teacher and guide into all truth. (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13)
- The Holy Spirit manifests through the cultivation of the fruit of the Spirit and through the bestowing of spiritual gifts for life and service; (Galatians 5:25-26; Romans 12: 3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7; Ephesians 4:11-14).

The Scriptures also make reference to the "baptism" of the Spirit. With the Baptism of the Holy Spirit comes power for life and service, the bestowment of spiritual gifts and their uses in the building the Kingdom of God (Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4-8; 1Corinthians 12:1-31). This baptism or filling or equipping empowers the believer for Christian service throughout the earth, and the performance of acts of power (signs and wonders) and of love which will edify the body of Christ and testify to the world of the good news (Gospel) of Jesus Christ. (Acts 2:4, 10:44-46; 19:2, 6; 1:8, 2:42-43; Gal. 5:22,23). The evidence of salvation and "fruit" of the Baptism (the filling or gift of the Holy Spirit) and work of the Holy Spirit in a person's life is in 3 of these 4 instances accompanied with speaking with other tongues as the Holy Spirit gives them the ability to speak, or "utterance." (Acts 1:8; 2:4, 10:44-46; 19:2-7).

## **Section 5 – Salvation**

We believe that humanity by nature is fallen and has inherited the condition of sin from the original man, Adam. We believe that Jesus Christ who was God incarnate, fully God and fully Man, came to earth and though He was tempted in all manners as we are, remained without sin. We believe that Jesus Christ died, as the Bible records, for the sins of all mankind as a substitutionary sacrifice for men. We believe that on the third day He rose from the grave. The only way for a man to be redeemed is by placing his faith in the person and works of Jesus Christ. Those works being especially His death, resurrection and Lordship. Finally, we believe that salvation is a completely free gift of God's grace for those He alone has chosen to redeem. This does not, however, relieve man from his responsibility to accept and obey God's Word

concerning His plan for salvation.

Acts 2:38; Phil. 2:5-8; Col. 1:19, 2:9; John 5:18, 8:58, 1:1; Mark 2:5-8; Matt. 1:18-20, 24-25

## **Section 6 – The Church**

We believe that the Church is comprised of the community of believers in Jesus Christ throughout all times and that for all eternity God's divine plan was to establish the Church as His bride and His body so that through the Church He might display His manifold wisdom to the world. We believe in the priesthood of all believers and that every Christian has a portion with God's plan for redemption. We believe that the Church was intended to operate as a diverse and multi-faceted organization while within the world, in order to effectively minister to the unique needs of the local communities of people they live among.

1 Pet. 2:9-10; Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-20; Rev. 1:6; 20:6

## **Section 7 – Worship Service**

We believe that worship services should be relevant, orderly and held frequently. We believe the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, provides clear instructions on what is acceptable within the context of public worship. We believe that the gifts of the Holy Spirit should be used within every service but confined to the restraints prescribed in Scripture for the edification of the body of assembled believers and for the demonstration of God's love to all people. We believe that Praise and Worship should be God-centered, holy and sincere, fully expressing the believer's appreciation of God and the redemption that He alone has provided.

Col. 3:16-17; Ps. 33:1-3; Lev. 11:4; 1 Pet. 1:16; Eph. 1:4, 5:27

## **Section 8 – Teaching and Preaching**

We believe that the ministry of teaching is God's divine plan for the passing on of His will to mankind and from one generation to the next. We believe that God has ordained that the teachers of His will be redeemed men and women who have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior and that these individuals not be new converts but those who have proven to have a reliable track record of godly living. We believe that the basis of all Christian teaching should be deeply rooted in the Bible.

Ex. 18:15-20; Deut. 4:1-2; Matt. 5:1-2; Lev. 10:6-11; Eph. 4:11-13; 1 Cor. 12:28-30

## **Section 9 – Spiritual Gifts**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the seal, guarantee and deposit given to believers to confirm their salvation and that the manifestation of any of the gifts of the Spirit listed in the Bible is sufficient evidence of the presence of salvation and the Holy Spirit in a person's life. We believe that all the gifts of the Spirit are available and active within the Church until the second coming of Christ Jesus. We believe that the Holy Spirit distributes the gifts to empower the believer for Christian service and the performance of acts of love which will edify the Body of Christ and

testify to the world of the goodness of God.

2 Cor. 1:21-22; Rom. 8 12-16; 1 John 3:23-24; 2 Cor. 5:1-5; Gal. 4:1-6

### **Section 10 – Evangelism**

We believe that the mission of the Church is to reach lost humanity with the message of the Gospel. We believe that God has ordained the preaching of the Gospel to be the vehicle by which men must learn about His plan of redemption, and by confessing and believing in the person and works of Jesus Christ, thereby might be saved. Finally, we believe that the family has been, and will always be, God's most prized institution and His intended plan for the spreading of the Gospel. God's plan is that godly husbands and wives should produce godly children which they should raise in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

1 Cor. 15:1-4; Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8

### **Section 11 – Baptism and Holy Communion**

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ commanded that His Church keep two ordinances, these being Water Baptism and Holy Communion. We believe that Water Baptism is an act which a believer performs after he has accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior, at the beginning of his Christian life. This act is a public confession of the believer's allegiance to Christ and the Christian lifestyle and his denouncement of all false religions and his former way of sinful living. We believe that Holy Communion is a memorial act reserved only for believers whereby we place ourselves in remembrance of the atoning death of our Lord Jesus Christ and communicate to a watching world our ongoing fellowship with Jesus Christ.

Matt. 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26

### **Section 12 –The Future**

We believe in the soon coming rapture of the Church at the second coming of Jesus Christ. We believe that at the conclusion of the millennial reign of Christ and His Church there will be two judgments. The first shall be for the judging of all men according to their deeds, those who trusted Jesus shall receive immortal bodies and everlasting life (Heaven); those who lived wickedly shall receive immortal bodies and everlasting condemnation in the lake of fire (Hell). In the second judgment, for believers only, during which God will distribute rewards and crowns based upon the Christian service the individual performed.

Acts 1:11; 2 Pet. 3:10; Tit. 2:11-13; Matt. 24:44

### **Section 13 – Marriage**

Marriage is a covenant relationship designed and ordained by God from the very beginning of creation as a union between one man and one woman. God instituted monogamous marriage between male and female as the foundation of the family and

the basic structure of human society. A civil government's sanction of a union will be recognized as a legitimate marriage by this church only to the extent that it is consistent with the definition of "marriage" as found in this Article.

Genesis 2:24-25; Matthew 19:4-6; Ephesians 5:22-33

### **Section 14 – Human Sexuality**

Human sexuality is part of God's plan and a gift to be expressed only within the context of marriage (as described in Section 13 above). God has commanded abstinence from any form of sexual activity outside of a marriage between one man and one woman and that any other expression is a perversion of God's created order. God created human beings male and female; therefore we hold the distinction between the two sexes to be sacred. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to change the appearance or identity of one's biological sex by medical, surgical, non-binary acts, conduct, or by any other means. (Matthew 19:5-6; Mark 10:6-9; Romans 1:18–32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-19)

## **Article IV – Membership**

### **Section 1 – Reception, Qualifications and Termination**

#### **A. Membership**

Persons confessing Christ as personal Savior and having participated in Believer's Baptism may be received into membership. Evangel Echos Church of the Air shall practice baptism by immersion. In extreme circumstances, individual exceptions to the baptism by immersion requirement may be granted by the Elder Board for purposes of membership. Prospective members must complete any assigned training/examination for prospective members as established by the Elder Board. If a member desires to withdraw membership, a letter should be written to the Church Clerk so that the Elder Board can officially acknowledge the withdrawal and remove him or her the membership list.

Evangel Echos Church of the Air members have the following voting rights:

- Electing the Senior Pastor
- Electing the Elders
- Amending By-Laws
- Real Property Transactions
- Budget
- Mergers, Partnerships and Dissolutions
- Other Matters of Business

## **B. Associate Membership**

An individual may become an associate member if he or she is a student or non-permanent resident who wishes to retain his or her membership in their home church (a member in good standing in a church of like faith), while committing to serve the Lord at Evangel Echos Church of the Air. Also, seasonal residents of the metro Detroit area may choose to become associate members. Associate members enjoy the privileges of full membership except voting rights and becoming a church officer. They must be able to express their faith in Jesus Christ as personal Savior and have followed Him in Believer's Baptism.

## **Section 2 – Discipline**

The Elder Board shall deal with all cases of discipline in accordance with Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 12:25-27 and other New Testament teachings on the subject. Members who are actively and unrepentantly engaged in any sinful practice, which is contrary to the teachings of the Holy Bible or the practice contradicts or undermines the doctrine of the Evangel Echos Church of the Air, understand that this is grounds for church discipline, up to and including revocation of membership.

## **Article V – Elders and Officers**

### **Section 1 – Elders**

#### **A. Qualifications**

An Elder must meet and maintain the standards of an Elder as outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9 and 1 Peter 5:1-4. Elders must have been active members of Evangel Echos Church of the Air for at least three years and be in agreement with our Statement of Faith. Potential Elders will undergo the same screening process of a staff member.

#### **B. Role and Responsibility**

The Elders shall serve as partners with the Senior Pastor as overseers of the spiritual welfare of the Church. Christ is the Chief Shepherd, and Scripture is the final and sufficient guide. Elders are Christ's under-shepherds or God's stewards (Titus 1:7). Their leadership should be Christ-like, humble and loving. The Congregation looks to Elders for wise leadership; the Elders look to the Congregation for inspiration, creative ideas, help and prayer. Their role shall be to advise, oversee and provide accountability for the Senior Pastor's leadership and teaching ministries. They shall be fully

responsible for ensuring that his overall leadership and teaching ministries are in alignment with God's Word and that they are furthering God's purposes for His Church. In addition they are responsible for the oversight of all clergy and their duties.

### **C. Removal and Discipline**

It is the Elder Board's responsibility to discipline or remove any board member who no longer fulfills the qualifications of an elder, who fails to fulfill his responsibilities, or who violates the intent of these By-Laws. Elders must meet and maintain a Christian lifestyle above reproach as set forth in Scripture. Discipline or removal shall be by a majority vote of all Elders (except the Elder being disciplined or removed) or a two-thirds majority vote of the members.

### **D. Vacancies**

Vacancies arising between Annual Meetings are to be filled as soon as possible by appointment by the Elder Board. Persons appointed to complete partial terms may be appointed for the same office when that term expires.

### **E. Compensation**

Elders shall not receive any compensation for services rendered on behalf of the corporation (unless otherwise stated in the By-Laws, i.e. Senior Pastor).

## **Section 2 – Elder Board and Officers**

### **A. President and Vice-President Role and Duties:**

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Elder Board and the corporation, and in his absence the Vice-President, is the executive officer of this corporation. The Vice-President shall assist the President in his duties.

### **B. Secretary Role and Duties:**

The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings, both of Elder Board and the membership, and shall have charge of all corporate books and records, excepting those of the Treasurer. The Secretary shall also be custodian of the corporate seal.

### **C. Treasurer Role and Duties:**

The Treasurer is to track all deposits made by the Church and make all disbursements under the authority of the Elder Board. The Treasurer shall keep a full and accurate account of all receipts and expenditures. The Treasurer shall be the fiscal officer of the corporation and keep a book wherein shall record receipts and expenditures of funds of



the corporation and shall render a complete accounting of his doings at each Annual Meeting of the corporation.

### **Section 3 – Church Officers**

#### **A. Clerk Role and Duties**

The Clerk shall keep a correct and permanent record of all business meetings of the Church, take charge of all Church records, and maintain a register of all members. The Clerk also shall keep records of any current events in the life of the Church that are likely to be of historical value. The Clerk is appointed by the Elder Board for a one (1) year term and may be re-appointed each year.

#### **B. Financial Recording Secretary**

The Financial Recording Secretary shall keep a confidential record of all offerings, provide reports of individual giving, keep records of designated giving and coordinate designations with the Treasurer. The Financial Recording Secretary is appointed by the Elder Board for one (1) year and may be re-appointed each year.

### **Section 4 – Teaching Elder (commonly known as Senior Pastor)**

#### **A. Qualifications**

The Senior Pastor must meet the qualifications of 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9 and 1 Peter 5:1-4. He must be ordained by an Evangelical, Bible-believing church and shall be in agreement with our Statement of Faith.

#### **B. Duties**

The Senior Pastor shall serve as a partner with the Elder Board as a shepherd of the spiritual welfare of the Church. Christ is the Chief Shepherd, and Scripture is the final and sufficient guide. Elders are Christ's under-shepherds or God's stewards (Titus 1:7). His leadership should be Christ-like, humble and loving. He shall serve primarily in teaching and preaching and shall also oversee the entire work of the Church. He shall be a member of the Elder Board, an ex-officio member of all other boards and committees, and shall preside at all business meetings of the Church except when any subject is being discussed by the Church, which pertains to his own personal interests, at which time the President of the Elder Board shall perform the duties ordinarily falling to the Senior Pastor.

### **C. Term**

The term of the Senior Pastor shall be indefinite. The relationship, however, may be terminated by a three (3) month written notice on the part of the Senior Pastor or of the Church. By mutual consent, his employment may be terminated at any time.

### **D. Call**

The pastoral office shall be regarded as a divine appointment. A Senior Pastor shall be chosen by the membership as hereinafter provided:

1. The Pastor Screening Committee shall be responsible for recommending a prospective pastor to the Elders who meets the above stated qualifications. Members of the Pastor Screening Committee shall be appointed by the Elder Board, with as many members as the Elder Board deems necessary from various boards and committees and from the congregation-at-large. The Committee shall secure pastoral candidates and provide pulpit supply during the time the Church is without a Senior Pastor. They shall investigate all candidates thoroughly and make regular reports to the Elder Board. It is recommended that Church members who desire to suggest the name of an individual for consideration as Senior Pastor do so in writing to the Secretary of the Elder Board, who shall forward it to the Pastor Screening Committee for consideration.

2. The Elders shall consider the recommendation of the Pastor Screening Committee, and, if approved by at least a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Elder Board, shall recommend the prospective pastor to the membership. It shall be the policy of the Church to consider only one prospect at a time, for a six month trial period.

3. A prospective Senior Pastor shall be considered by the membership in a business session for which an announcement has been made by a public reading of notice at two (2) preceding Sunday morning services. The recommendation of the Elders must be accepted by at least three-quarters (3/4) qualified members present and voting before a call to minister can be extended. One hundred (100) voting-eligible members or 20 percent of the voting-eligible members, whichever is less, shall constitute a quorum at this election. Church membership shall be automatic for the Senior Pastor and his wife on acceptance of the call to minister at Evangel Echos Church of the Air.

### **E. Removal**

If at any time the Senior Pastor deviates from the Statement of Faith or his conduct is unbecoming a minister of the Gospel as determined by the Elder Board, the Elders shall

make a recommendation to the Congregation for his dismissal. A public notice of the meeting must be given at two preceding Sunday morning services. The outcome of the vote shall be determined by a majority of the eligible members present. If the outcome of the vote is for dismissal, he shall be given a two (2) week notice rather than the three (3) month notice stated in Article V, Section 1, paragraph C and shall be removed from the pulpit immediately.

#### **F. Retirement and Severance**

The Elder Board shall determine the retirement and severance pay, if any, of the Senior Pastor.

### **Article VI – Governance**

#### **Section 1 – Governance**

The government of this Church shall be vested in the congregation whose action by majority ballot (except when otherwise specified in the By-Laws) shall be decisive in all matters. There shall be an official Board of Elders (as hereafter defined), to carry into effect the policies established by the congregation.

#### **Section 2 – Elder Board**

##### **A. Function**

Elders are responsible for meeting the spiritual needs of the Church. Elders are not mere representatives of the people; they are spiritually qualified shepherds who protect, care, lead and teach the flock. The Elder Board shall govern by establishing clear policy to guide the Church in its work and achieve its purposes in an efficient, effective and orderly fashion. The Elder Board shall advise, oversee and provide accountability for the Senior Pastor's leadership and teaching ministries. The Senior Pastor is viewed as the only employee of the Elder Board. Its members shall be fully responsible for ensuring that his overall leadership and teaching ministries are in alignment with God's Word and heart and that they are furthering God's purposes for His Church. The Elder Board shall appoint all other Church Officers and Clergy and Finance Committee Members with affirmation by the Membership. The Elders shall also serve as the final approving and accountability body in Church financial and legal matters, and shall approve the annual budget and present it to the membership for affirmation. The Elders are herewith vested with power to acquire and dispose of all property, real or personal, belonging to the Church in accordance with Article IX of this Constitution; to make contracts and purchases; to receive bequests; and to collect and disburse money.

## **B. Delegation**

The Elders may delegate any responsibilities to the Clergy, the Finance Committee or any other duly appointed officers or committees as deemed appropriate for carrying out specific tasks or necessary activities required for protecting or furthering the purposes of the Church. The delegation of responsibility shall not be considered a relinquishment of authority to these committees, and the Elders reserve the right to object to and override any recommendations and/or decisions of these committees.

## **C. Number and Tenure**

The number of Elders shall not be less than five (5) and as many as members of the Church shall confirm from time to time. The number shall be determined each year by the Elders' assessment of need, the ability to find qualified candidates, and the confirmation of the membership. Each Elder shall serve a three (3) year commitment. The terms of service shall be staggered so that, as nearly as possible, one-third (1/3) of the Elders' terms shall expire each year. Elders are appointed for three (3) year terms and may not be re-appointed until the lapse of one (1) year has occurred from the expiration date of their consecutive three (3) year term of office. Each Elder shall be subject to approval of the Elder Board and affirmed by the members of the Church for each term.

## **D. Meetings**

Regular meetings shall be held at least monthly for the purpose of maintaining community relationships, discussion of relevant ministry issues, and the transaction of such business as may come before the Elders. Meetings shall be held at the Church building unless otherwise specified. Special meetings may be called by the Senior Pastor, President, or by 50 percent of the Elder Board. Notice of such special meetings must include appropriate notification to all members of the meeting and intended subject and shall provide reasonable opportunity for attendance of all members. Teaching Elders who are also staff members of Evangel Echos Church of the Air may be excluded from meetings of the Board when deemed appropriate by the President of the Elder Board.

## **E. Quorum and Manner of Acting**

A simple majority of the Elders shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or special meeting. The decision of a majority of the Elders present at any regular or special meeting at which a quorum is present shall be accepted as the act of the entire Elder Board, except where otherwise provided by law or by this Constitution.

## **F. Elder Selection Process**

## **1 – Nomination**

Members of the Elder Board may nominate prospective members of the Elder Board based on the Qualifications of an Elder as stated in Article V, Section 1. In addition, any Church member may suggest other church members for consideration to the Elder Board. Names must be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Elder Board, who shall pass it along to the Elder Screening Committee for consideration.

## **2 – Elder Screening Committee**

The Elder Board shall appoint three (3) of its members to an Elder Screening Committee along with at least three (3) clergy and two (2) members in good standing. Members of this Committee shall receive nominations and obtain the nominees' indication of interest and permission to proceed with the screening process. Once permission is obtained, a nominee, along with his wife (if applicable), shall complete and submit self-assessment application materials to the Elder Screening Committee. The Committee shall review the application materials to determine if the nominee meets the qualifications of an Elder. Qualifying nominees shall meet with the Elder Screening Committee for further clarification and discussion of application responses. Once all qualified candidates are interviewed by the Elder Screening Committee, the information shall be shared with the Elder Board, and the Elder Board shall select the candidates to be introduced to the Church for affirmation.

## **3 – Congregational Scrutiny and Affirmation**

At least two weeks before the Annual Meeting, the Elder Board shall introduce the nominees for the Elder Board to the congregation. If there is a concern on the part of a member of the Congregation regarding the candidate's qualifications, it is that individual's responsibility to confront the candidate using the Public Scrutiny of an Elder process, which is based on Matthew 18:15-20. Nominees to the Elder Board shall be affirmed by a majority vote of the membership at the Church's Annual Meeting and by the laying on of hands by Elders in a public congregational setting.

## **G. Resignation and Termination**

Any member of the Elder Board may resign voluntarily at any time by submitting a written resignation to the Senior Pastor or the Chairman of the Elder Board. An Elder may be removed from his position for cause after an appropriate hearing and by at least a two-thirds majority vote of the Elder Board or a two-thirds majority vote of the membership.

## **H. Vacancies**

Vacancies arising between Annual Meetings are to be filled as soon as possible by appointment by the Elder Screening Committee, subject to approval by the Elder Board. Persons appointed to complete the partial term may be nominated for the same office when that term expires.

## **Section 3 – Finance Committee**

Finance Committee members must be active members of Evangel Echos Church of the Air who are not staff members and be in agreement with the Statement of Faith and the Church philosophy and vision. Finance Committee members must have been members of Evangel Echos Church of the Air for at least one (3) years. The Finance Committee shall be subject to the direction of Elder Board, oversee the financial and asset management of the Church including all church revenues and expenditures. A non-budgeted expenditure exceeding three (3) percent of the annual budget cannot be made by the Finance Committee unless approved by the Elder Board. The Finance Committee shall present to the Elder Board, for its approval, an operating and capital budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The number of Finance Committee members shall be determined each year by the Elder Board who will also appoint the Finance Committee Chairman each year. An Elder shall be assigned to interface with the Finance Committee on a regular basis. The Finance Committee shall meet periodically as deemed necessary by the Chairman of the Finance Committee. Finance Committee members are appointed for three (3) year terms and may not be re-appointed until the lapse of one (1) year has occurred from the expiration date of their consecutive three (3) year term on the committee.

## **Section 4 – Staff and Employees**

All ministry staff must be a member of the Church and agree to conduct their ministries in accordance with this Constitution and maintain a Christian testimony above reproach.

## **Section 5 – Other Committees**

The Elder Board recognizes the worth of committees as valuable adjuncts to the ministry of the Church. The Elders shall appoint qualified church members to such other committees as are needed to effectively carry out the purpose of the Church. The Elders shall assign an Elder to interface with each committee. Each committee shall appoint a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman. The Church membership shall be informed of standing committee appointments at the annual meeting.

## **Section 6 – Removal**

Clergy and committee members must meet and maintain a Christian lifestyle above reproach as set forth in Scripture. A clergy or committee member may be removed from his or her position for cause after an appropriate hearing and by at least a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Elder Board.

## **Article VII – Meetings**

### **Section 1 – Regular Meetings**

The Church shall meet every Lord's Day and any other day deemed appropriate by the Elder Board for public worship. On the first Sunday of each month, the ordinance of The Lord's Supper shall be celebrated unless otherwise arranged by the Elder Board.

### **Section 2 – Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting shall be held on or before the third Sunday in May, for the purpose of approving the Church's next fiscal year's budget and the affirmation of officers, board members and committee members. At the Annual Meeting, the Church shall present a report of the year's work and a ministry plan for the coming year. This report shall include but not be limited to a current financial statement. Matters of Church discipline shall not be included within the report.

### **Section 3 – Special Meetings**

Special meetings may be called by the President or the Elder Board upon written petition specifying the purpose, or by any 20 members of the congregation directed to the Secretary. Notification of special meetings shall be given by announcement of the place, time and purpose at least two (2) Sundays prior to the meeting at the worship service. In the event that a condition or situation arises which is deemed an emergency by the Elder Board, the advance notice regulation may be waived.

### **Section 4 – Quorum**

One hundred (100) voting-eligible members or 20 percent of the voting-eligible members, whichever is less, shall constitute a quorum at any regular or special business meeting of the Church.

### **Section 5 – Voting Requirements**

To be eligible to vote, a member must be in good standing with the Church. Members who have attained their 16th birthday are eligible to vote. All voting at any called or special meeting of the Church shall be conducted by voice or visible vote unless a secret ballot is requested by a member.

## **Section 6 – Parliamentary Guide**

Robert's Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary guide for all business meetings of the Church, provided it does not conflict with the Constitution of Evangel Echos Church of the Air. The President shall preside at all meetings except when any subject is being discussed by the Church which pertains to his own personal interests, at which time the Vice President of the Elder Board shall perform the duties ordinarily falling to the President.

## **Section 7 – Absentee Ballot**

Any voting-eligible member may receive an absentee ballot from the Church Clerk prior to any vote, provided he or she cannot attend the meeting because of sickness, work or out-of-town commitments.

## **Article VIII – Licensing, Commissioning and Ordaining**

### **Section 1 – Licensing**

As Spirit-filled men and women are called out from among us to proclaim the Gospel, such men may be given a license to preach and administer the ordinances by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Elders, provided that two-thirds (2/3) of the Elders are of the opinion that the Candidate has the suitable gifts; and further provided that their judgment is based on actual experience rather than on their hopes of what he or she may do; and that this experience shall have covered a period of at least one year of appropriate service.

### **Section 2 – Commissioning**

When a missionary has requested to be commissioned and it has been approved by the Missions Committee, the request must be presented and approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Elder Board to become effective.

### **Section 3 – Ordaining**

When, in the judgment of the Elders, a member, or in special cases a non-member, is called to the Christian ministry (including both the preaching and non-preaching ministries), it shall be within the power of the Elder Board to call and conduct a Council of Ordination after announcing it to the Church. This Council shall consist of five (5) or more ordained Evangelical ministers. The Council shall thoroughly examine the Candidate regarding their personal Christian experience, call to the ministry, educational training, doctrinal belief, reputation, and demonstrated efficiency in Christian service. The Candidate shall give evidence of their agreement with the



provisions of the Church Constitution with respect to doctrine, independence of the local Church, and Scriptural qualifications for Church leadership. The Council of Ordination shall recommend to the Elder Board whether or not to proceed with ordination. The ordination requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Elders.

#### **Section 4 – Power of Revocation**

The Elders shall have the power to discipline, even to revoke the ordination credentials, license, or commission of any minister or missionary ordained, licensed or commissioned under this Constitution, if said minister or missionary is found guilty of doctrinal or moral defection after an impartial trial has been conducted in the spirit of 1 Corinthians 13.

### **Article IX – Acquisition, Holding and Disposing of Property**

#### **Section 1 – Personal Property**

Personal property shall be acquired, held or disposed of in the name of the Church in accordance with the Church budget approved by the Elder Board.

#### **Section 2 – Real Property**

Real property shall be acquired, held or disposed of in the name of the Church. The purchasing of real property and related indebtedness must be approved by the Elder Board and authorized by a majority vote of eligible members at a duly called business meeting of the Church.

#### **Section 3 – Donated Property and Gifts**

When property, gifts or personal goods are given or left to the Church (as a beneficiary), the Elder Board is hereby empowered to appropriately dispose of the property at a fair market price and apply the proceeds towards the ongoing ministry of the Church.

### **Article X – Contracts, Checks, Deposits and Funds**

#### **Section 1 – Contracts**

The Elder Board may authorize any officer(s) or agent(s) of the Church to enter into any contract or execution and delivery of any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Church and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

#### **Section 2 – Checks and Drafts**

All checks, drafts or other orders for the payment of money, notes or other evidences issued in the name of the Church shall be signed and countersigned by two (2) signatories approved by the Elders.

### **Section 3 – Deposits**

All funds of the Church shall be deposited in an expeditious manner to the credit of the Church in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as the Elders may select.

## **Article XI – Finance**

### **Section 1 – Financial Support**

This Church shall be supported in all its endeavors by the tithes and free-will offerings of the people and other means as approved by the Elder Board. However, upon approval of the membership at either a regular or special meeting, a quorum being present, the Church may borrow money from any individual, corporation or banking institution and may execute such notes, bonds, or other documents as may be necessary or proper to evidence any such loans, and secure the payment thereof to renew and extend any such evidence of indebtedness and security therefore and from time to time, and to pledge and assign to such individual, corporation, banking institution, trustee, or other entity, any property of the Church to secure any such indebtedness, and to substitute other property in lieu of that so pledged or assigned, and to do such other act or acts as may be necessary to properly secure the person, firm or institution from whom the money is borrowed.

### **Section 2 – Fiscal Year**

The Church fiscal year ends on the last day of April each year.

## **Article XII – Amendments**

This Constitution may be amended at any business meeting of the Church by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present provided that such proposed amendment shall be approved by the Elder Board and the text of such proposed amendment be posted in a conspicuous place within the Church building for at least two (2) Sundays immediately preceding the meeting. Any proposed amendment shall be distributed to the Congregation in written form before the meeting.

### **Article XIII – Dissolution of Church**

In case the Church is ever dissolved, the properties and/or proceeds of said organization shall revert only to an Evangelical, Bible-believing organization in agreement with our Statement of Faith. Such action must have a two-thirds (2/3) majority of either 100 voting-eligible members or 20 percent of the voting-eligible members, whichever is less, for approval.