

BAYSIDE OF SOUTH SACRAMENTO COVENANT CHURCH CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

“The Evangelical Covenant Church is a communion of congregations gathered by God, united in Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit to obey the great commandment and the great commission. It affirms its companionship in faith with other church bodies and all those who fear God and keep God’s commandments.

“The Evangelical Covenant Church adheres to the affirmations of the Protestant Reformation regarding the Bible. It confesses that the Holy Scripture, the Old and the New Testament, is the Word of God and the only perfect rule for faith, doctrine, and conduct. It affirms the historic confessions of the Christian Church, particularly the Apostles’ Creed and the Nicene Creed, while emphasizing the sovereignty of the Word of God over all credal interpretations.

“In continuity with the renewal movements of historic Pietism, the Evangelical Covenant Church especially cherishes the dual emphasis on new birth and new life in Christ, believing that personal faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord is the foundation for our mission of evangelism and Christian nurture. Our common experience of God’s grace and love in Jesus Christ continues to sustain the Evangelical Covenant Church as an interdependent body of believers that recognizes but transcends our theological differences.

“The Evangelical Covenant Church celebrates two divinely ordained sacraments, baptism and the Lord’s Supper. Recognizing the reality of freedom in Christ, and in conscious dependence on the work of the Holy Spirit, we practice both the baptism of infants and believer baptism. The Evangelical Covenant Church embraces this freedom in Christ as a gift that preserves personal conviction, yet guards against an individualism that disregards the centrality of the Word of God and the mutual responsibilities and disciplines of the spiritual community.

“The Evangelical Covenant Church has its roots in historical Christianity, the Protestant Reformation, the biblical instruction of the Lutheran Church of Sweden, and the great spiritual awakenings of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. These influences, together with more recent North American renewal movements, continue to shape its development and distinctive spirit. The Evangelical Covenant Church is committed to reaching across boundaries of race, ethnicity, culture, gender, age, and status in the cultivation of communities of life and service.

“The Evangelical Covenant Church, in order to accomplish its mission and purposes, has formulated and adopted this Constitution and Bylaws. The Constitution recognizes that the highest constituted authority of the Evangelical Covenant Church is the convention of delegates known as the Annual Meeting, which alone can adopt and amend the Constitution and Bylaws. The Evangelical Covenant Church shall be governed by this Constitution and Bylaws, its Articles of Incorporation, and all applicable laws.

This document, which is in harmony with the above preamble, is the Constitution and Bylaws of the Bayside Of South Sacramento Evangelical Covenant Church of Sacramento, California/USA.

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this church shall be the Bayside of South Sacramento Covenant Church of Sacramento, California/USA.

ARTICLE II

Affiliation

The church is a member of the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC) and its Pacific Southwest Conference or PSWC. It is pledged to work in harmony with the ECC and PSWC, and to faithfully support the mission, ministries, and policies of each.

ARTICLE III

Confession of Faith

We believe in the Holy Scriptures, the Old and New Testament, as the Word of God and the only perfect rule for faith, doctrine, and conduct. We believe in the necessity of personal faith in Jesus Christ as Savior for salvation.

ARTICLE IV

Purpose

Bayside of South Sacramento exists to:

Build a cross-cultural, cross-class body of disciple-making believers in Christ.

Offer dynamic worship services that excite the masses, explain the Gospel, and exalt the name of Jesus.

Serve South Sacramento by building relationships with and meeting the needs of its people, the people of greater Sacramento, and the world.

Show the community that it is possible to transform the lives of children and youth by the grace of God.

BOSS is a DIVERSE church, committed to life change by REACHING the lost, TEACHING believers and RELEASING leaders to serve.

Along with DIVERSITY, there are three major components to our mission at BOSS:

REACH:

We want to reach people with love and grace of God in Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20)

TEACH:

We want to teach believers the importance of the Word of God in their lives and help them to become self-feeders and kingdom builders (2 Timothy 2:15).

RELEASE:

We want to develop believers to reach their leadership potential and equip and empower them to use their spiritual gifts and talents to serve in faithful ministry inside the church, in the community and throughout the world (1 Corinthians 12).

ARTICLE V

Partnership

Members of the church are called Partners. Partnership in the church is open to anyone who affirms personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, has been baptized according to the Scriptures, and accepts the Constitution, Bylaws, statement of faith, and partnership commitment of the church.

ARTICLE VI

Governance

The authority of the government of this church is vested in its partnership acting through duly called congregational meetings. The management, administration and oversight of business and spiritual affairs are delegated by the congregation to appropriate leadership as delineated in the Bylaws. All elected leadership specified in the Bylaws shall be partners of the church.

ARTICLE VII

Officers

The officers of the church shall be a chair, a vice-chair, a secretary, and a financial officer.

ARTICLE VIII

Congregational Meetings

An Annual Meeting shall be held as near the first of the fiscal year as feasible. At the Annual Meeting, written progress reports shall be submitted by the pastor(s), ministry staff, officers, and ministry teams. Reports on an independent review of financial records shall be submitted by the treasurer for the church and each of its organizations. Election for offices shall be held. The church budget shall be submitted for action.

Additional congregational meetings may be called as needed. Items as required by the Constitution and By-laws shall be submitted for congregational action.

ARTICLE IX

Assets of the Church

1. The congregation shall hold title to its own assets.
2. In the event of schism within the church, in which there are competing claims to the assets by various factions of the partnership, the title of all church property, real or personal, shall remain with the group which abides by the constitution and bylaws, as determined by the executive board of the PSWC.

3. No action for the sale or transfer of assets may be taken when the closure of the church is under consideration without the prior approval of the PSWC executive board. In the event the congregation votes to cease, the property and all assets of the church shall become and be the property of the ECC and the PSWC, shared equally for the furtherance of the mission of both in that region, primarily through church planting.

ARTICLE X

Amendments

Amendments in harmony with this constitution, the Model Constitutions for Local ECC Churches, non-profit laws of the State of California, and not in conflict with ECC principles and policies may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting in an annual meeting of the congregation, providing the proposed amendment was presented in written form at the preceding annual meeting. Articles IX and X may be amended only with the approval of the PSWC executive board of the regional conference.

BYLAWS - LEADERSHIP TEAM MODEL

ARTICLE I

Partnership

Section 1. Purpose. Admission into partnership adds to the existing opportunities of open acknowledgment and commitment to the purposes and responsibilities this church adopts. The highest privilege included is the public testimony of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. This church also holds an open attitude regarding non-partner acceptance and involvement within the fellowship.

Section 2. Responsibilities. The partners of this church do covenant together by God's grace to live lives in a manner consistent with the standards of biblical teaching, including the support of this congregation in attendance, prayer, service, and giving, to live lives in word and deed that are an encouragement to others to know and be like Jesus Christ, to reflect in all our relationships the servant love of our Lord, and to support the broader mission of Christ through the ECC and PSWC.

Additionally, with regard to the legal definition of partnership, nothing in this Article shall be construed as limiting the right of the Church to refer to persons associated with it as "partners." No such reference, however, shall constitute any such person a partner within the meaning of Section 5056 of California Nonprofit Corporation Law. The Church may confer, by amendment of these Bylaws, some or all of the rights of a partner as set forth in the California Nonprofit Corporation Law upon any such person or persons. Reference in the Bylaws to "partners" are not references to such associated persons.

Section 3. Procedure for Admission. Persons joining this church will participate in a partnership/partnership orientation class. Upon completion of this process, an application for partnership will be completed and returned to the Leadership Team. The Leadership Team upon finding the applicant eligible, shall affirm the request and receive the prospective partner into the official partnership/partnership. These new partners shall be duly acknowledged in a timely manner at a public service or congregational meeting.

Section 4. Children. Children of the church shall be nurtured under its spiritual care. They shall receive instruction in the Word of God, Christian doctrine, and the history of the church, normally using the confirmation/discipleship material of the ECC. At age 16, they may apply for church partnership as outlined under Section 3 of this article.

Section 5. Discipline.

- a. Discipline of partners. The Leadership Team shall be responsible for admonishing partners who willfully neglect their responsibilities to the church or who err in doctrine or conduct.
- b. Erring partners. Any partner known to err in doctrine or conduct shall be counseled according to the procedure outlined in Matthew 18:15-18 and Galatians 6:1. Any partner having knowledge of such error shall, in the spirit of Christian love, seek to restore the erring partner. If he or she does not heed this counsel, the matter shall be brought to the attention of the Leadership Team in writing, which shall in meekness and gentleness seek to restore the partner.
- c. After the above process has been completed, dismissal of a partner remaining in gross error in doctrine or conduct may result by a two-thirds vote of all current Leadership Team partners. Such action may be appealed by the partner to the congregation for consideration at the next congregational meeting, at which a 2/3 vote of the active attending partnership can reverse the dismissal of the Leadership Team.

Section 6. Withdrawal and Removal of Partnership. Any partner desiring to transfer or withdraw from partnership shall make such request in writing to the Pastor or Leadership Team. Letters of transfer shall be issued by the Pastor if so requested, and the partner is in good standing. The Leadership Team shall annually review the partnership roster to determine inactivity. Those determined to have neglected their responsibilities may be approached under the process outlined in Section 5 of this article.

Section 7. Recording. The names of those joining and terminating partnership shall be duly recorded and reported and made available to the congregation upon request.

ARTICLE II

The Leadership Team

Section 1. Purpose. The Leadership Team shall be responsible for building, maintaining and overseeing the spiritual welfare of the congregation and for directing and overseeing all ministries and business affairs of the church. The BOSS Leadership Team is also known as the BLT.

The BLT shall;

1. Articulate and guard the vision of the Church
2. Develop w/ the Pastor the long range plans to advance the mission
3. Oversee a budget implementing those plans
4. Assess the effectiveness of Bayside of South Sacramento operations, services and product
5. Communicate with our church body
6. Model healthy leadership to our church
7. Commit to regular and active prayer for the church and staff and remain faithful to the mission and vision of BOSS

Section 2. Composition. The Leadership Team shall be comprised of an odd number up to 9 Leadership Team members. Up to 4/9 of the Leadership Team may be comprised of the Senior Pastor, the Executive Pastor, and other pastoral staff selected by the Senior Pastor, as ex-officio members. Pastors other than the Senior Pastor and the Executive Pastor shall not be eligible to vote on matters of pastoral compensation or pastoral dismissal that come before the Leadership Team unless otherwise prescribed in these Bylaws.

Section 3. Qualification. Any partner of the church meeting the biblical standards of character and giftedness for church leaders may be nominated and elected to the Leadership Team.

Section 4. Election. BLT members, above and beyond the ex-officio members, shall be nominated by the Nominating Task Force from among current active partners with demonstrated character, including the Senior Pastor, and elected by a 75% vote of the Task Force.

Section 5. Term of Office. BLT members shall be elected for a term of 3 years and shall not be elected for more than two consecutive terms. After at least one year off, a person may be eligible for subsequent service, subject again to the terms stated in this article. An initial Leadership Team will be elected for an interim period of 6 months, prior to approval of these Bylaws, by the Senior and Executive Pastor.

Section 6. Vacancies and Removal. A Leadership Team member may resign. A Leadership Team member may be removed from office by a 75% vote of congregational partners voting at a meeting called for that purpose. The Senior Pastor may remove a member of the Leadership Team with a 2/3 ratification of the current Leadership Team. Vacancies created by resignation or removal may be filled by appointment through the 2/3 vote of the Leadership Team. A Leadership Team member appointed to serve an unexpired term of less than half the remaining term shall not be precluded from being elected thereafter to two full consecutive terms.

Section 7. Notification of Meetings. All Leadership Team members shall receive a minimum 3-day advance notification of any meeting, including time and place of the meeting. In emergency situations, the 3-day notice may be waived by the 2/3 vote of the entire Leadership Team.

Section 8. Quorum. A majority of Leadership Team members shall constitute a quorum.

Section 9. Decisions. The Leadership Team shall strive for unanimity. Matters shall be determined by a majority vote of a Leadership Team quorum, unless on a matter in which the Constitution and Bylaws require a different percentage.

Section 10. Organization.

The Leadership Team shall elect from among themselves a chair, a vice chair, a secretary and a financial officer.

1. **Chair.** The chair shall preside at all business meetings of the church and of the Leadership Team. The chair shall confer with the senior pastor in preparing the agenda for such meetings, and shall utilize the counsel that the senior pastor can give by virtue of training, experience, and calling.
2. **Vice-chair.** The vice-chair shall assume the duties of the chair in the chair's absence, assist in the Chair's duties, and chair the mutual ministry committee.
3. **Secretary.** The secretary shall keep and preserve the minutes of all business meetings of the church and of the Leadership Team, conduct and preserve all official correspondence as shall be delegated, and be responsible for the official seal and documents of the church.
4. **Financial Officer.** The financial officer shall ensure proper policies, processes, reporting, and reviewing of all matters related to the finances of the church, including the submission of monthly financial reports to the Leadership Team.

Section 11. Responsibilities of the Leadership Team. In being responsible to the congregation for building, maintaining and overseeing the spiritual welfare of the church and for directing and overseeing all ministries and business affairs of the church, the Leadership team shall:

- a. present annual mission and ministry objectives to the congregation;
- b. determine Ministry Teams needed to carry out the church's mission and ministry, and appoint appropriate leadership for the Ministry Teams;
- c. approve church policies;
- d. be responsible for representing the congregation in certain staff relationships including:
 1. annual appraisal of the senior pastor and of the ministry staff, and providing godly counsel or discipline as required;
 2. annual review and approval of staff compensation and compensation for new staff; and other personnel expenses for any staff member or activity;
 3. establishment of personnel policies;
 4. make recommendations on the hiring and firing of staff members, and ratify new church pastors.
- e. be responsible for overseeing the preparation and submission of a proposed budget for each fiscal year to the partnership for approval. Upon approval of the budget by the partnership, the Leadership Team shall be responsible for seeing that the budget is carried out as approved. The Leadership Team shall have the authority to appropriately adjust budget items and amounts where ministry objectives necessitate, but shall report to the partnership at the next duly called congregational meeting revisions in projected total income or projected total expenses greater than 10%. The Leadership Team shall appoint a partner of the church as financial secretary (not necessarily a Leadership Team member) who shall be authorized to receive monies on behalf of the church and shall appoint a treasurer (not necessarily a Leadership Team member) to disburse funds for church purposes in accordance with standard accounting procedures for non-profit organizations. The Leadership Team shall annually appoint an independent review of the financial records of the church and report such findings to the congregation. Neither the treasurer nor financial secretary shall serve more than four consecutive years.
- f. hear and respond appropriately to concerns of partners;
- g. be responsible for church discipline as outlined in Article I, Section 5 of these Bylaws;
- h. act as the trustees of the church for the advancement and protection of its assets. The Leadership Team shall designate those Leadership Team members and any other partners of the church who shall be authorized to sign legal documents on behalf of the church;
- i. be responsible for action on applications for partnership as outlined in Article I, Section 3 of these Bylaws.

Section 12. Unity. Action by the Leadership Team shall be taken in such manner as to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

ARTICLE III

Ministry Teams

Section 1. Purpose. Ministry Teams shall be formed as required to implement the varied ministries of the church.

Section 2. Establishment. Ministry Teams shall be established by the church staff, upon agreement by the Leadership Team. New ministries will be presented to the BLT at the next monthly BLT meeting consistent with section II of this document. The configuration of Ministry Teams shall be reviewed regularly by the Leadership Team, upon recommendation of the church staff, in accord with the church's purpose, strategies, and objectives for mission and ministry.

Section 3. Duties. The duties of Ministry Teams shall be to:

- a. Meet as required to plan and execute specific mission and ministry objectives.
- b. Recruit and train ministry personnel.
- c. Define and provide the necessary materials required for ministry.
- d. Submit annually to the Leadership Team proposed budgets and objectives for the forthcoming year and manage consistent with approved budgets.
- e. Report as requested to the Leadership Team.

Section 4. Leadership.

- a. The leader of a Ministry Team shall be approved by the Leadership Team in consultation with the pastor(s). The team leader will serve as liaison to the Leadership Team to provide reports and information when requested, and to forward requests to the Leadership Team when necessary.
- b. Ministry Team partners may be selected by the Ministry Team leader. The Leadership Team may remove a Ministry Team partner.
- c. Each Ministry Team shall organize itself as required to perform its ministry.
- d. The Leadership Team may appoint one of its partners to be an ex officio partner of any Ministry Team, who may also serve as that Ministry Team's leader.

ARTICLE IV

Pastoral and Ministry Staff

Section 1. Purpose. Pastoral and additional ministry staff servant-leadership positions are created to help the congregation fulfill Christ's purposes in the world and among its partners.

Section 2. Pastoral Qualifications. Pastors of the church shall meet the qualifications for character, giftedness, and call set forth in the Holy Scriptures. The Senior Pastor shall be an ordained pastor in good standing with the ECC. Other pastors shall be credentialed by the ECC in accordance with their qualifications and duties. A pastor shall be a partner of the church by virtue of the call to serve the church.

Section 3. Call of the Senior Pastor. The Senior Pastor shall be called at a duly called congregational business meeting, the purpose of which shall be announced at least two weeks in advance. The Senior Pastor shall be nominated by a joint resolution of the senior pastor search task force, whose functions are delineated elsewhere in these Bylaws, and the non-pastoral partners of the Leadership Team. The Senior Pastor shall be called by a ballot of the attending active partnership with a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote required for a call.

Section 4. Call of Additional Pastors and Credentialed Ministry Staff. Other pastors shall be hired by the Senior Pastor and the Executive Pastor with a $\frac{2}{3}$ ratification by the Leadership Team.

Section 5. Duties of the Senior Pastor. The Senior Pastor shall preach and teach the Word of God, oversee the administration of the sacraments, provide missional leadership, and faithfully carry out pastoral work. The Senior Pastor shall direct the church staff, providing counsel, encouragement, and Christian discipline so as to assist in the accomplishment of objectives for each staff partner. All staff shall be responsible to the Senior Pastor. The Senior Pastor shall be a partner of the Leadership Team and an ex officio partner of all ministry teams and committees and in such capacity shall strive to establish and accomplish objectives and strategies in conjunction with the mission and purpose of the church. The Senior Pastor shall serve as the Chairman of the church unless declining to serve in that position for any term.

Section 6. Duties of Additional Pastors and Ministry Staff Partners. Additional pastors and ministry staff partners shall carry out specific areas of ministry under the direction of the Senior Pastor. They may be designated by the Leadership Team to be the leader or partner of one or more Ministry Teams.

Section 7. Cooperation. The pastor(s) shall, both in word and precept, work in harmony with the ECC, and the (PSWC).

Section 8. Resignation of a Pastor or Ministry Staff Partner. A pastor or ministry staff partner may resign by submitting a letter of resignation to the Leadership Team. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, six weeks notice should be observed.

Section 9. Dismissal. The dismissal of a pastor or ministry staff partner should be undertaken only after avenues of remediation have been pursued.

- a. **Dismissal of the Senior Pastor.** The dismissal of the senior pastor shall be by a 2/3 vote of the quorum at a duly called congregational meeting. The motion to remove shall come from the Leadership Team by a majority vote of the non-pastoral partners of the Leadership Team.
- b. **Dismissal of Additional Pastors and Ministry Staff.** Additional pastors and ministry staff shall be removed by the Senior Pastor with ratification by a 2/3 vote of the non-pastoral partners of the Leadership Team.

Section 10. Charges Against a Pastor. Charges against a pastor shall be submitted in writing to the Leadership Team and the (PSWC) superintendent, charging a pastor with indiscretion, immorality, doctrinal error, unethical behavior, or disloyalty to the ECC. The superintendent shall confer with the ECC executive minister of the ordered ministry. These two officers shall confer and determine the order of responsibility in pursuing the matter according to the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Ordered Ministry of the ECC regarding discipline, prior to further action by the church. A pastor or staff partner credentialed by the ECC may be suspended by the ECC during this process. However, any minister who fails to become credentialed with the ECC may be suspended or recommended for dismissal at any time without prior notice by the Leadership Team. However, ultimate and final action against a pastor is limited to the church itself.

ARTICLE V

TASK FORCES

Section 1. Nominating Task Force.

- a. **Composition.** The nominating committee shall consist of one Leadership Team partner designated by the Leadership Team, the Senior Pastor, and at least two partners at-large elected by a majority of the BLT. The Senior Pastor shall serve as Chair of the nominating committee.
- b. **Term.** The terms of the partner from the Leadership Team shall be at the pleasure of the Leadership Team. The at-large partners shall serve two year terms. The initial terms of the at-large partners shall be alternated so that at least one at-large partner shall be elected each year.
- c. **Quorum.** A majority of partners shall constitute a quorum of the nominating committee.
- d. **Responsibilities.** The nominating committee shall be responsible for nominations to fill the offices of Leadership Team, the at-large partners of the nominating committee, the at-large partners of the congregational relations committee, and any other positions assigned to it either by the Leadership Team or congregation.
- e. **Nominating procedure.** Any partner of appropriate character, giftedness, and call may be considered for any position. One or more candidates for the office of Leadership Team shall be nominated by the nominating committee. One or more candidates for the office of at-large partners of the nominating committee shall be nominated.
- f. **Unity.** Actions by the nominating committee shall be taken in such manner as to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Section 2. Pastoral Search Task Force. The Senior Pastor Task Force shall recommend to the congregation a candidate for the position of senior pastor. This task force shall be nominated by the Leadership Team. It shall be comprised of 5 to 9 partners, including at least two non-pastoral partners of the Leadership Team and at least two partners from the congregation at large. A non-pastoral Leadership Team partner shall chair the task force. It shall work closely with the regional conference superintendent.

Section 3. Mutual Ministry Task Force.

The mutual ministry task force shall work toward a vital, healthy, mutually beneficial relationship between the congregation and the pastors and ministry staff. The mutual ministry task force shall have four main areas of responsibility:

- a. care and encouragement for the pastors, ministry staff, and their families;
- b. receiving the perspectives and concerns of each pastor and ministry staff partner relative to the congregation and ministry;
- c. communicating the perspectives and concerns of the congregation to each pastor and ministry staff partner relative to that person's ministry; and
- d. periodic review of personal and church goals.

The mutual ministry task force shall be made up of the vice chair (who shall chair this committee), a partner of the Leadership Team selected by the Leadership Team, and two congregational partners elected by the congregation at a congregational meeting. Elected at-large partners shall serve a two year term and may not succeed themselves.

Section 3. Other Special Task Forces. The Leadership Team or the congregation may establish a task force to address a specific task. The task force shall report back to the body which formed it unless otherwise instructed by its founding body. The task force shall terminate upon the completion of its task.

ARTICLE VI

Congregational Meetings

Section 1. Annual Meeting. An Annual Meeting shall be held as near the first of the fiscal year as feasible. At the Annual Meeting, written progress reports shall be submitted by the pastor(s), ministry staff, officers, and ministry teams. Reports on an independent review of financial records shall be submitted by the treasurer for the church and each of its organizations. Election for offices shall be held. The church budget shall be submitted for action.

Section 2. Other meetings. Other duly called meetings may be called by the Leadership Team or by written request signed by 25% of the partnership, unless otherwise noted in these Bylaws.

Section 3. Notification of meeting. All meetings shall be announced by written communication to the partnership at least two weeks prior to the meeting date.

Section 4. Conduct of meeting. The Chair of the Leadership Team or such other person as may be designated by the Leadership Team in the Chair's absence shall serve as Chair of any meeting of the partnership.

Section 5. Voting. Each partner, age 18 or older, and only partners, shall be entitled to cast one vote on any matter at hand at any meeting of the partnership. Such votes must be cast in person. Vote by proxy shall not be allowed. All votes shall be by written ballot. The Chair of the meeting may call for open balloting where no objection is raised.

Section 6. Quorum. Fifteen percent of the partnership shall constitute a quorum for the annual meeting, with a minimum of 20 partners. Unless otherwise noted in these Bylaws, ten percent of the partnership shall constitute a quorum for any other meeting, with a minimum of 20 partners.

Section 7. Rules of order. All congregational meetings of the church and of any other committees or organizations shall be conducted according to the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, subject to the provisions of this Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 8. Final voice. The congregation reserves for itself final authority in any matter of its choice. A partner may advance an item to the agenda of a congregational meeting by the majority vote of the partnership at that meeting, providing that the item is not in conflict with other provisions of the constitution and by-laws. An item brought to the agenda in this way shall be decided by a majority vote of the partnership, unless the item requires a different percentage as outlined elsewhere in the Constitution and Bylaws, in which case that percentage shall be used.

ARTICLE VII

Assets

Section 1. Title. The congregation shall hold title to its own assets.

Section 2. Acquisition. Assets acquired through budgetary provisions do not need additional congregational approval. Assets acquired beyond budgetary provisions, particularly land or facility acquisition, require the approval of the congregation by majority vote.

Section 3. Disputed Assets. In the event of schism within the church, in which there are competing claims to the assets by various factions of the partnership, the title of all church property, real or personal, shall remain with the group which abides by the constitution and bylaws, as determined by the executive board of the (PSWC).

Section 4. Assignment of Assets. No action for the sale or transfer of assets may be taken when the closure of the church is under consideration without the prior approval of the (PSWC) executive board. In the event the congregation votes to cease, the property and all assets of the church shall become and be the property of the ECC and the (PSWC), shared equally for the furtherance of the mission of both in that region, primarily through church planting.

ARTICLE VIII

Closure

Section 1. Action Needed. The congregation may terminate its existence by a 3/4 vote of the partnership present and voting at a congregational meeting called for that purpose. Upon the dissolution of this organization, its assets remaining after the payment of, or provision for the payment of, all debts and liabilities of this organization, shall be distributed to both the PACIFIC SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE OF THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH and THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH, if it is then organized and operated exclusively for charitable and/or religious purposes and which have established their tax exempt status under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, but if not then in existence or so organized and operated or exempt, to another organization which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable and/or religious purposes and which has established its tax-exempt status under IRC Section 501 (c) (3).

Section 2. Meeting Provisions. The decision on whether to close the church cannot be a part of, or added to, the agenda of any other meeting. The congregational meeting for such a vote may be called by the Leadership Team or through the request of the congregation, accomplished by a petition for such a meeting signed by 20% of the partnership.

Section 3. Notification. All partners of record must be notified of the meeting through first class mail at least two weeks in advance.

Section 4. Quorum. The quorum for such a meeting shall be all partners of record who are present at the meeting.

Section 5. Asset Distribution. Upon the vote to close, the assets of the congregation shall be transferred according to Article VII, Section 4 of these Bylaws.

Section 6. Collaboration. Should congregational attendance stand below 25, the conference executive board may appoint an ex officio partner to the Leadership Team.

ARTICLE IX

Amendments

Section 1. Procedure. These Bylaws may be amended by a vote of two-thirds of the partnership present and voting at a duly called meeting for that purpose. A proposed amendment to the Bylaws must be presented in writing to the partnership not less than 90 days prior to the meeting called for the purpose of voting on bylaws changes. Article VII, Sections 3 and 4, Article VIII and Article IX may only be amended with the prior approval of the (PSWC) executive board.

Original Constitution adopted 2004

2013 Constitution presented at August 2012 Congregational meeting and adopted at the 2013 Congregational Meeting August 2013