



Valley Community Chapel

Constitution & Bylaws

October 17, 2021

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS INDEX

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I – NAME	7
ARTICLE II – PRINCIPAL OFFICE	7
ARTICLE III – PURPOSE	7
ARTICLE IV – MISSION STATEMENT	7
ARTICLE V – TENETS OF FAITH	7
Section A – The Scriptures Inspired	7
Section B – The One True God	7
Section C – The Fall and Redemption of Man	8
Section D – The Salvation of Man	8
1 – Salvation through Faith Alone	8
2 – Being Born Again	8
3 – Evidences of Salvation	8
4 – Assurance of Salvation	8
Section E – Sanctification Process	8
Section F – Baptism of the Holy Spirit	9
Section G – The Great Commission	9
Section H – The Church	9
Section I – Purpose of the Local Church	9
Section J – Divine Healing	9
Section K – The Blessed Hope	10
Section L – The Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ	10
Section M – Final Judgment	10
Section N – The Lake of Fire	10
Section O – The New Heaven and New Earth	10
ARTICLE VI – ORDINANCES	10
Section A – Water Baptism	11
Section B – The Lord’s Supper	11
ARTICLE VII – MEMBERSHIP	11
Section A – Non-Voting Membership	11
Section B – Serving in Ministry	11
Section C – Discipline	11
Section D – Termination of Membership	12
Section E – Limitation of Corporate Membership	12

ARTICLE VIII – FINANCE	12
ARTICLE IX – GOVERNMENT	12
Section A – Officers of The Corporation	12
Section B – Governing Board	12
Section C – Committees	13
Section D – Off-Site Pastors	13
ARTICLE X – MEETINGS	13
Section A – Church Meetings	13
Section B – Members’ Meetings	13
Section C – Board Meetings	13
ARTICLE XI – MEMBERSHIP REVIEW OF CHURCH RECORDS	13
Section A – Requests Made By Members	13
Section B – Required Provisions Of The Request	14
Section C – Required Fee	14
Section D – Confidentiality	14
Section E – Denying A Request	14
ARTICLE XII – QUORUM	14
ARTICLE XIII – AMENDMENTS	14

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I – ORDER 15

ARTICLE II – DEPARTMENTS AND COMMITTEES 15

ARTICLE III – FINANCES 15

 Section A – Funding 15

 Section B – Review 15

 Section C – Transactions 15

 Section D – Loans And Mortgages 15

 Section E – Salaries 15

 Section F – Conflict of Interest 16

 1. Purpose 16

 2. Definitions 16

 3. Procedures 17

 4. Records of Proceedings 17

 5. Compensation 18

 6. Annual Statement 18

 7. Annual Review 18

 8. Use of Outside Experts 18

ARTICLE IV – PROPERTY RIGHTS 19

ARTICLE V – GOVERNMENT AND OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS 19

 Section A – Members’ Meetings 19

 Section B – Board Meetings 19

 Section C – The Governing Board 20

 Section D – Lead Pastor/President 20

 1. Qualifications 20

 2. Duties 21

 3. Manner of Appointment 21

 4. Terms of Office 21

 5. Termination 22

 Section E – Executive Pastor/Vice-President 22

 1. Qualifications 22

 2. Duties 22

 3. Manner of Appointment 22

 4. Term of Office 22

 4. Termination 22

 Section F – Treasurer 23

1. Qualifications	23
2. Duties	23
3. Manner of Appointment	23
4. Term of Office	23
5. Termination	23
Section G – Secretary	23
1. Qualifications	23
2. Duties	24
3. Manner of Appointment	24
4. Term of Office	24
5. Termination	24
Section H – Elders	24
1. Qualifications	24
2. Duties	24
3. Manner of Appointment	24
4. Term of Office	24
5. Termination	24
Section I – Deacons	25
1. Qualifications	25
2. Duties	25
3. Manner of Appointment	25
4. Term of Office	25
5. Termination	25
Section J – Board Advisors	25
1. Qualifications	25
2. Duties	25
3. Manner of Appointment	26
4. Term of Office	26
Section K – Pastors	26
1. Qualifications	26
2. Duties	26
3. Manner of Appointment	26
4. Term of Office	26
5. Termination	26
ARTICLE VI – OTHER CONSIDERATIONS	26
ARTICLE VII – MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL	27

Section A – Ministers Defined	27
Section B – VCC DOCTRINAL INTERPRETATION OF MEN & WOMEN SERVING IN MINISTRY ..	27
Section C – Ordained Minister	28
Section D – Licensed Minister	28
ARTICLE VIII – POSITION STATEMENTS	30
Section A – HERMENEUTICS	30
Section B – THE RAPTURE AND THE TRIBULATION PERIOD	30
Section C – SANCTITY OF LIFE	30
Section D – DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE	30
Section E – HOMOSEXUALITY	31
ARTICLE IX – ESTABLISHING PLACES OF WORSHIP	31
ARTICLE X – PRIVACY	31
ARTICLE XI – CONFIDENTIALITY PROTECTION	31
ARTICLE XII – SCHOOL AND DAYCARE	32
ARTICLE XIII – AMENDMENTS	32
SIGNATURE PAGE	32

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this corporation shall be Valley Community Chapel of Yucca Valley, herein referred to as VCC.

ARTICLE II – PRINCIPAL OFFICE

The principal office of VCC is 59025 Yucca Trail, Yucca Valley, CA 92284.

ARTICLE III – PURPOSE

The specific purpose for which this corporation has been organized is to form a local church for religious services for the people in the community, and to fulfill our Mission Statement (Article IV).

ARTICLE IV – MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of VCC is to draw people to Jesus Christ, disciple them in God’s Word, and deploy them to serve Christ. The result is that VCC is Christ-centered, inwardly strong and outwardly focused.

ARTICLE V - TENETS OF FAITH

The tenets listed below are the core beliefs of Valley Community Chapel of Yucca Valley. No claim is made that this Article contains all the doctrines found in the Bible. These tenets are written with the best of our Biblical understanding and interpretation of the Holy Scriptures.

SECTION A - THE SCRIPTURES INSPIRED

The Bible, both Old and New Testament, is God’s inspired Word, without error in its original writing, the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men. The Word of God is a “living and powerful” resource that serves as the believer’s final authority for Christian faith and living. In 2 Timothy 3:16-17 we see that the Scriptures were inspired or “breathed by God”—that is, the breath or Spirit of God infused the minds of the writers with His perfect will and truth. The end result of this inspiration is that the Bible reveals the truths which God wants His people to know and communicate to the world. (Hebrews 4:12; 1 Peter 1:23-25; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 46:11; Romans 10:15)

SECTION B - THE ONE TRUE GOD

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing simultaneously in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 3:16-17; Genesis 1:26; 1 John 5:6-7; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 18:19; Mark 12:29; Isaiah 43:10; 11, Matthew 28:19; John 14:16-20; Acts 10:36-38)

SECTION C - THE FALL AND REDEMPTION OF MAN

Man was created in the image of God to know Him and be like Him. For God said, “Let us make man in our image and after our likeness.” Through an act of man’s own free will, he fell from grace and became sinful in his entire nature and action. Man’s only hope of redemption is through the free gift of grace given by God through His son Jesus Christ. (Genesis 1:26-31; Genesis 3:17; Romans 5:12-21).

SECTION D - THE SALVATION OF MAN

1. Salvation through Faith Alone

Salvation is through faith in Jesus Christ alone. It is through the grace of God and is apart from any works. God has given man a freewill choice for all those who believe to be born of the Spirit (born again), and to be assured of their salvation from the very moment in which they trust Christ as their Savior. (Mark 6:12; Luke 24:47; John 6:44-47; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Acts 17:30; 1 Corinthians 1:18; Romans 1:16-17; Romans 5:8; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:5,8; Titus 3:5)

2. Being Born Again

To be *born again* means to have an inner spiritual renewal as a result of the power of God in a person’s life. The phrase *born again* comes from John 3:3, 7, where Jesus told Nicodemus, “Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Jesus meant that mankind is so sinful that they need to be recreated and renewed by God’s Spirit. (John 3:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Titus 3:5; John 6:63)

3. Evidences of Salvation

Personal salvation is evidenced by a present trust in Christ (John 5:24), regeneration evidenced by the desire and pursuit to live a holy life, (1 John 3:6-10; Titus 3:5-7; Ephesians 2:10; Philippians 2:12-13) and the Spirit Himself who bears witness with a believer’s spirit that they are a child of God. (Romans 8:16)

4. Assurance of Salvation

The assurance, which believers have as to their own personal salvation, is founded on the truth of the promises found in Scripture. “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.” John 5:24; also, (John 6:38-40; 47; 10:27-30; Romans 11:29). That the believer may have such a certainty appears from the testimony of Scripture (1 John 5:13), and from the fact that it has been attained (2 Tim. 1:12; 4:7, 8; 1 John 2:3; 4:16).

SECTION E - SANCTIFICATION PROCESS

By the power of the Holy Spirit we strive to obey the command, “Be ye holy, for I am holy.” We believe that sanctification is the work of God’s grace by which the believer is separated from sin and becomes dedicated to the pursuit of God’s righteousness. Sanctification is both instantaneous through God and Christ and progressive through man’s obedience to the Holy Spirit and the Word. The result of sanctification is the purification from sin by both the Word of God, and the Holy Spirit. (1 Peter 1:15-16; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; John 17:17; Romans 8:34)

SECTION F - BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Baptism of the Holy Spirit is the infilling of power for life and service and the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry. This experience may be distinct from and subsequent to being *born again*. (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31; Acts 2:38; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9)

SECTION G - THE GREAT COMMISSION

The Great Commission is a mandate given to all believers by Jesus Christ which says: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19–20; 24:14; 26:13; Mark 14:9; 16:15–18; Luke 24:46–49; John 20:21–22; Acts 1:8; Romans 1:8; Colossians 1:6)

We believe that the fulfillment of the Great Commission is accomplished through the public statement of the gospel of Jesus Christ and by witnessing to the unsaved in order to win disciples for Him and the church. The message is the Good News that Jesus died for our sins, and was resurrected according to prophecy, and that as the reigning Lord now offers the forgiveness of sins to all who repent and believe. (2 Corinthians 5:14–15; Matthew 5:16; 1 Peter 2:9; Philippians 2:15–16; 1 Peter 4:10–11)

SECTION H - THE CHURCH

The church is the collective body of Christ, made up of individual *born again* believers in Jesus. Each believer is an integral part of the church and his or her name is written in the Lamb’s Book of Life. (Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:47; 1 Corinthians 11:18; 14:19, 23, 28, 33, 34; 15:9; Ephesians 1:22–23; Colossians 1:24; Revelation 3:5)

SECTION I - PURPOSE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

The purpose of the local church is to fulfill the great commission (Section G), edification, and worship. Edification involves the building up of a person’s faith and dedication to Christ through preaching and teaching of the Word of God; fellowship through group interaction; and love through the application of the teachings of Jesus Christ. Worship involves, but is not limited to, blessing of God through music, prayer, communion, tithes and offerings, and giving ourselves for service. (Deuteronomy 12; Psalm 134; Psalm 147:7; Acts 17:22-31; Acts 20:33-35; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; 12:12; 2 Corinthians 4:5; Ephesians 4:1-12; Jeremiah 26:2)

SECTION J - DIVINE HEALING

Divine healing is both physical and spiritual in nature. The central focus of divine healing is in the person of Jesus Christ. He is the center and source of all healing gifts and miracles from God. All that we are and have is provided for in the atonement of Jesus Christ including the privilege of petition for divine physical healing. However, this privilege does not guarantee a physical healing.

The ultimate spiritual healing was done when Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins and we became *born again*. His righteousness at the moment of our salvation covered our sins and we have

been spiritually healed and saved from the penalty of death. (Numbers 21:5-9; Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:16-17; John 3:14-15; 1 Peter 2:24; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10)

SECTION K - THE BLESSED HOPE

The blessed hope is the resurrection of the saints (those who have died in Christ, together with those who are born again and are alive when the LORD returns. Those who are part of this first resurrection will rule and reign with Jesus during the millennial reign and be with Him for eternity. This is the hope and promise of spending eternity with Jesus Christ. (John 14:1-3; Romans 6:23; Titus 2:11-14; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 John 5:13; Revelation 20:4-5)

SECTION L - THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF JESUS CHRIST

The millennial reign of Jesus Christ consists of the following: The thousand years of Jesus Christ's literal reign as King on earth with His saints, the salvation of the nation of Israel, and the final judgment of all the nations of the world as prophesied in the Scriptures. (Romans 11:25-29; 2 Thessalonians 1:7; Revelation 19:11-16; Revelation 20:1-6; 12-15)

SECTION M – FINAL JUDGMENT

All people will be judged and stand before the righteous judge Jesus Christ and give account for their lives. True *born again* believers in Jesus Christ will not be judged by their works but receive crowns as rewards. Those people who have not been saved will be judged based on their own works and inability to live a sinless life apart from Christ. (Psalm 19:9; Romans 14:10-12; Romans 2:5-6; 2 Peter 3:7-15; Ezekiel 38:22; Revelation 2:23; Matthew 13:36-43; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 2 Timothy 4:6-8; James 1:12; 1 Peter 5:4; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-9)

SECTION N - THE LAKE OF FIRE

The devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, and whosoever is not found written in the Lamb's Book of Life shall be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burns fire and brimstone, which is the second death. (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9; Revelation 19:20; Revelation 20:10-15)

SECTION O - THE NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH

There will be a new heaven and a new earth after the end of the millennial reign of Jesus Christ and after the final Judgment, wherein righteousness dwells. (Isaiah 65:17; 2 Peter 3:13, Revelation 21-22:5)

ARTICLE VI - ORDINANCES

Water Baptism and the Lord's Supper are the two ordinances instituted by Christ to be observed by His church until He returns. (John 6:48-57; Matthew 28:18-20)

SECTION A - WATER BAPTISM

The ordinance of water baptism should be observed by all that have repented of their sins and in their hearts have believed on Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord as commanded by the Scriptures. This observance symbolizes and declares to the world that they have died with Christ and that they have also been raised to walk with Him in newness of life. Baptism is by immersion whenever possible as it is exemplified in the Scriptures. (Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 6:4; Matthew 3:16; Acts 8:38-39).

SECTION B - THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper (Communion) is the Biblical practice in which Christians partake of bread (symbolizing Jesus' body) and the fruit of the vine (symbolizing Jesus' blood) with the purpose of remembering Christ, the penalty He paid for our sin on the cross, the promise of living forever with Him, and the prophecy of His second coming. (John 6:48-57; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

ARTICLE VII – MEMBERSHIP

Membership consists of people who attend VCC on a regular basis, they are committed to the vision, mission, and ministries of VCC, and acknowledge the following:

1. Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior
2. The Tenants of Faith in this document (Article V)
3. Agrees to be governed by the constitution and bylaws of VCC as herein set forth

SECTION A - NON-VOTING MEMBERSHIP

We believe that scripture teaches a theocratic form of church government. That is to say, God chooses, calls and equips persons to be leaders in the church, investing and delegating to them degrees of authority according to His will. We believe that the model for a church is to be governed by a plurality of elders called by God and responsible for the affairs of the church. Therefore, VCC subscribes to a non-voting membership. (Acts 14:23; 6:2-6; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:2-3; 1 Timothy 6:1)

SECTION B – SERVING IN MINISTRY

We encourage each member of VCC to get involved in some area of ministry. We require that you attend VCC for at least 3 months prior to beginning your ministry service.

SECTION C - DISCIPLINE

Membership at VCC implies a willingness to be accountable to the church leadership for any serious or ongoing sinful patterns in one's life. Should any member err in doctrine or engage in conduct that violates Scripture as determined by the lead pastor, such shall endeavor to resolve the conflict directly with the involved member(s), in a spirit of Christian kindness and patience. If this effort fails, the lead pastor reserves the right to revoke the membership of the person(s) involved. (Matthew 18:15-18; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; Galatians 6:1-2)

Any person whose membership has been revoked shall have the right to appeal to the lead pastor for reconsideration of said action. If the lead pastor agrees the person has shown evidence of repentance and reformation, their membership may be restored. (2 Corinthians 2:4-11)

SECTION D – TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership status will be terminated if any of the following occurs:

1. Member leaves VCC
2. Member is asked to leave upon request by the lead pastor due to church discipline
3. Death of a member

SECTION E - LIMITATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Voting is limited to those individuals permitted to vote by the constitution and bylaws of this organization.

ARTICLE VIII – FINANCE

VCC shall be financed by the freewill offerings of the members and friends of VCC, by the established places of worship, by all other subordinate groups affiliated with VCC, and by fundraisers that are approved by the lead pastor. VCC shall have the authority to enter into transactions with banks, lenders and other providers of financial services to further its exempt purposes. (1 Chronicles 29:6-9; 2 Chronicles 24:10; 31:10)

ARTICLE IX - GOVERNMENT

SECTION A – OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION

There shall be a president/Lead Pastor
There may be a vice-president/Executive Pastor
There shall be a secretary
There shall be a treasurer
Other officers may be added as necessary

If the position of lead pastor is vacant and there is an executive pastor, the executive pastor will temporarily be the president of the corporation and ministry head until the vacancy is filled. If the position of the executive pastor is vacant, the lead pastor is responsible for the duties of the executive pastor. If there is no lead or executive pastor, the Board assumes all responsibilities of the ministry until one the positions are filled.

SECTION B – GOVERNING BOARD

The official governing board is called the VCC Board (herein referred to as the Board) and shall consist of elders as defined in the Bible and the VCC Bylaws Article V, Section H. If there are not enough qualified elders to fill the necessary positions, then a VCC member who qualifies as a deacon as defined in the Bible and the VCC Bylaws Article V, Section I, may be appointed to fill a vacant position(s).

SECTION C – COMMITTEES

There shall be (as the occasion may demand) operational committees appointed by the executive pastor to serve under the supervision of the Board in the capacity of expediting the work of the ministry.

SECTION D – OFF-SITE PASTORS

In any established place of worship other than our principal office, the Board will appoint a pastor to govern the affairs of said place of worship. The appointed pastor will give account to the Board concerning every aspect of the established place of worship.

ARTICLE X - MEETINGS

SECTION A – CHURCH MEETINGS

In any established place of worship, the lead pastor or an appointed pastor shall be responsible for regular church services.

SECTION B – MEMBERS' MEETING

The corporate year shall coincide with the calendar year beginning on January 1st, and run through December 31st.

There shall be an annual meeting of the membership during the month of January each year at the principle office of the organization. The secretary shall be present at the annual members' meeting to keep an accurate account of the minutes that were discussed. The treasurer or executive pastor shall attend and give a financial report during the annual members' meeting.

SECTION C – BOARD MEETINGS

There shall be board meetings throughout the year to discuss the direction of the corporation and make governing decisions. The secretary shall be present at all board meetings to keep an accurate account of the minutes that were discussed. The treasurer shall not be required to attend unless requested by the executive pastor.

ARTICLE XI – MEMBERSHIP REVIEW OF CHURCH RECORDS

SECTION A - REQUESTS MADE BY MEMBER

To ensure the trust of the membership and to also ensure that a public interest is being served, all church records, including financial information, are available upon request for member inspection and review. Any request by a member shall be addressed to a board member either in writing or by scheduled appointment.

SECTION B - REQUIRED PROVISIONS OF THE REQUEST

The request must state the name of the member, the reason for the request and that the information shall in no way be made public or shared with any other member in a way that will jeopardize the ministry of VCC.

SECTION C - REQUIRED FEE

If requested by a member, a photo copy of the records in question shall be given. The member shall pay a fee of \$0.25 per page.

SECTION D – CONFIDENTIALITY

In order to keep the records of VCC confidential, records shall not be released to any outside agency, person or entity unless due process has been served and a certified subpoena has been personally delivered. This includes the IRS, except under the provisions of section 7611 which shall be limited only to information deemed to be relevant to the inquiry being made. At all times the IRS will be expected to comply with all of the provisions of section 7611.

SECTION E - DENYING A REQUEST

The Board reserves the right to deny such a request for any of the following reasons:

1. The request is considered by the Board and deemed to be frivolous.
2. The member making the request has a history of being divisive.
3. The member does not adequately provide the required information on the request as stated in Section B of this article.
4. The person making a request is a non-member or a person whose membership was terminated.

ARTICLE XII - QUORUM

Two-thirds (2/3) of the board members, including the lead pastor, must be present at an official board meeting to constitute a quorum, unless otherwise defined in the VCC Constitution and Bylaws.

ARTICLE XIII - AMENDMENTS

Changes or amendments to this constitution may be made by a three-quarters (3/4) vote of the board members, including the lead pastor.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I - ORDER

For the purpose of conducting business, the Board shall, in an orderly manner, preside over all of the affairs of this corporation, herein referred to as VCC.

ARTICLE II – DEPARTMENTS AND COMMITTEES

VCC shall hereby provide for departments and committees to be created as needs may require. All such departments and committees shall be under the general supervision of the Board.

ARTICLE III – FINANCES

SECTION A – FUNDING

The funds for the maintenance of VCC shall be provided for by the freewill offerings of the members and friends of VCC, by the established places of worship, by all other subordinate groups affiliated with VCC, and by fundraisers that are approved by the executive pastor. All gifts and endowments shall be subject to approval by the Board. All monies shall be passed on to the treasurer for deposit into VCC's treasury.

SECTION B – TRANSACTIONS

The treasurer under the supervision of the Board including the executive pastor shall oversee all financial transactions for the VCC treasury. The treasurer may, with the approval of the Board and executive pastor, assign other persons to make withdrawals or deposits. Assigned persons shall be recorded in the minutes of VCC.

SECTION C – LOANS AND MORTGAGES

VCC shall have the authority to enter into transactions with banks, lenders, and other providers of financial services to further its exempt purposes.

VCC must follow the guidelines set forth below in order to enter into such transactions.

- The transaction must be approved by both the Board and the lead pastor.
- The Board and executive pastor must perform their own inquiry to ensure that the loan they seek is the best one available to the church, and have determined that the church can afford such transactions.

SECTION D – SALARIES

All salaries or wages, together with employee benefits, or other forms of compensation (housing allowance, transportation, or other allowances) paid or provided to any employee of VCC, will not exceed the value which is reasonable and commensurate with the duties and working hours

associated with such employment and with the compensation ordinarily paid persons with similar positions or duties.

No one, including a pastor, who is being compensated for their services, can vote on their own salaries. The pastors are allowed to participate in the discussions concerning their salary; however, they are not entitled to vote on their own compensation.

The salaries and wages of all employees of VCC shall be determined in accordance with the procedures outlined in the VCC Personnel Policy Manual for Church and School Staff, under the section titled Compensation, Insurance, Expenses, Benefits.

The Board shall approve any edits to the VCC Personnel Policy Manual for Church and School Staff by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

SECTION F – CONFLICT OF INTEREST

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this section is to protect this tax-exempt organization's (VCC's) interest when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of an officer or board member of VCC, might result in a possible excess benefit transaction. This section is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state and federal laws governing conflict of interest applicable to nonprofit and charitable organizations.

2. DEFINITIONS

Interested Person

Any officer or board member, who has a direct or indirect financial interest, as defined below, is an interested person.

Financial Interest

A person has a financial interest if the person has (directly or indirectly) through business, investment, or family:

- An ownership or investment interest in any entity with which VCC has a transaction or arrangement
- Compensation arrangement with VCC or with any entity or individual with which VCC has a transaction or arrangement
- A potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which VCC is negotiating a transaction or arrangement. Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are not insubstantial

If a question should arise regarding the potential of a conflict of interest, the board will review the facts and render a decision whether a conflict exists or does not exist.

3. PROCEDURES

Duty to Disclose

In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, an interested person must disclose the existence of the financial interest and be given the opportunity to disclose all material facts to the Board.

Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest Exists

After disclosure of the financial interest and all material facts, and after any discussion with the interested person, he/she shall leave the board meeting while the determination of a conflict of interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining board members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists.

Procedures for Addressing the Conflict of Interest

An interested person may make a presentation at the board meeting, but after the presentation, he/she shall leave the meeting during the discussion of, and the vote on, the transaction or arrangement involving the possible conflict of interest. The executive pastor shall, if appropriate, appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement. After exercising due diligence, the Board shall determine whether VCC can obtain with reasonable efforts a more advantageous transaction or arrangement from a person or entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest. If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably possible under circumstances not producing a conflict of interest, the board shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested board members whether the transaction or arrangement is in VCC's best interest, for its own benefit, and whether it is fair and reasonable. In conformity with the above determination it shall make its decision as to whether to enter into the transaction or arrangement.

Violations of the Conflict of Interest Policy

If the Board has reasonable cause to believe an officer(s) or board member has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, it shall inform the officer or board member of the basis for such belief and afford the officer or board member an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose. If, after hearing the officer or board member's response and after making further investigation as warranted by the circumstances, the board determines the officer or board member has failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take appropriate disciplinary and/or corrective action.

4. RECORDS OF PROCEEDINGS

The minutes of the board shall contain:

- The names of the persons who disclosed or otherwise were found to have a financial interest in connection with an actual or possible conflict of interest, the nature of the financial interest, any action taken to determine whether a conflict of interest was present, and the board's decision as to whether a conflict of interest in fact existed.
- The names of persons who were present for discussions and votes relating to the transaction or arrangement, the content of the discussion, including any alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement and a record of any votes taken in connection with the proceedings.

5. COMPENSATION

A voting member of the Board who receives compensation (directly or indirectly) from VCC for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to his compensation, with the exception of decisions regarding employee benefit packages.

6. ANNUAL STATEMENTS

Each board member shall sign a statement at the January board meeting which affirms such person:

- Has read and understands Article III, Section F of these bylaws
- Has agreed to comply with the Conflict of Interest policy
- Understands VCC is a charitable organization and in order to maintain its federal tax exemption it must engage primarily in activities which accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes

These statements will be filed with the January board minutes.

7. ANNUAL REVIEWS

To ensure VCC operates in a manner consistent with charitable purposes and does not engage in activities that could jeopardize its tax-exempt status, annual reviews shall be conducted. The annual review shall, at a minimum, include the following subjects:

- Whether compensation arrangements and benefits are reasonable
- Whether partnerships, joint ventures, and arrangements with management organizations conform to VCC's written policies, are properly recorded, reflect reasonable investment or payments for goods and services, further charitable purposes and do not result in inurement, impermissible private benefit or in an excess benefit transaction

8. USE OF OUTSIDE EXPERTS

When conducting the annual review as provided for in Section F, 7, VCC may, but need not, use outside advisors. If outside experts are used, their use shall not relieve the board of its responsibility for ensuring such reviews are conducted.

ARTICLE IV – PROPERTY RIGHTS

All property, real or chattel, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred or conveyed in the corporation's name.

No real or chattel property of the corporation shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise alienated without authorization of the Board.

The lead pastor/president of the corporation shall certify in such conveyances, leases, or mortgages.

In the event that the corporation ceases to exist, all assets of VCC shall at the discretion of the Board be given to organizations that are exempt as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The organization must be of similar purpose and also apply ARTICLE V, SECTION A, B, C and D of the VCC Constitution as essential tenets of the Christian faith.

ARTICLE V – GOVERNMENT AND OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS

SECTION A – MEMBERS' MEETINGS

There shall be an annual meeting of the membership on the last Sunday of January at the principal office of the organization. No notice of such meeting need be given if it is held on the last Sunday of January at the principal office of the organization. The Board reserves the right to change the date and time of such meeting and shall give a two (2) week notice before said meeting.

Special membership meetings may be called at any time by the lead pastor to discuss the business of VCC.

SECTION B – BOARD MEETINGS

The lead pastor is the president, spiritual head, and principle leader of the organization. The executive pastor shall be under the supervision and direction of the lead pastor. The executive pastor shall call official board meetings to discuss the direction of the corporation and shall set dates and times for board meetings. For an official board meeting to exist a quorum must be present and meet the requirements of Article XIII of the VCC Constitution. Guests may be present at any meeting with prior approval from the lead or executor pastor.

The secretary shall be present at all board meetings and responsible to keep an accurate account of the issues that were discussed at such meeting. He/She shall then submit the minutes at the next board meeting for approval by the board. Upon approval by a simple majority of the board, including the lead pastor, the minutes shall be adopted, and all policy and procedure in them will continue to be enforced.

The treasurer shall not be required to attend board meetings unless requested by the executive pastor.

SECTION C – THE GOVERNING BOARD

The official governing board will be called the Board and shall consist of elders as defined in the Bible and the VCC Bylaws Article V, Section H. If there are not enough qualified elders to fill the necessary positions, then a VCC member that meets the qualifications of a deacon as defined in the VCC Bylaws Article V, Section I, may be appointed to fill vacant positions.

The board shall not consist of a majority of members that are related by blood or marriage or who are in business together outside of VCC.

In the event of a board vacancy that the board determines cannot be filled from the current VCC membership, the lead pastor may appoint a qualified person from another Christian fellowship.

Manner of Appointment

Board members shall be appointed by the lead pastor and approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the current board, including the lead pastor.

Board Responsibilities

The board will govern over the matters of VCC. The board shall appoint the officers of the corporation.

Board Chairman

The lead pastor shall be chairman of the board.

Board Membership, Probation Period, and Term

The Board shall consist of a minimum of three (3) with no more than seven (7) members. A newly appointed board member will serve with a ninety (90) day probation period with full voting rights before the position becomes permanent. Each board member shall serve a minimum term of one (1) year and may serve successive terms. The lead pastor and executive pastor shall be permanent members of the board.

Board Voting

All governing issues will be decided by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the board members including the lead pastor unless otherwise specified.

The Board and the VCC Membership

The Board will notify the membership of VCC of any pending decisions that involve the hiring or replacement of the lead pastor or what the board deems to be a large financial decision. The membership will then have a minimum of two (2) weeks to voice any opinion for or against the pending decision with any board member. All members' opinions will be reviewed and discussed by the board members before a final decision is rendered.

SECTION D – LEAD PASTOR/PRESIDENT

1. QUALIFICATIONS

The lead pastor/president (herein called the lead pastor) shall demonstrate a calling and gifting for preaching, teaching, pastoral ministry, and administration. He has been born again at least five (5) years and meet all the qualifications of and be recognized as an elder

of VCC. (Article VII, Section C). He shall be of sound doctrine and good judgment. He shall have wisdom in handling the corporation's affairs. He has shown himself to be a servant-leader, is called by God to lead the congregation at VCC, and has been approved by the board as an ordained minister. Must have Biblical and pastoral training.

2. DUTIES

The lead pastor shall be the head of this organization (VCC) under the authority of Jesus Christ and follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit. He shall be accountable to Jesus Christ for the ministry and teachings of VCC. The lead pastor shall have all the rights and authority of an overseer/elder/bishop (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9) over the Body of Christ at VCC and may perform all the ordinances of the church.

The lead pastor shall be chairman of the board and preside over all official corporation meetings.

3. MANNER OF APPOINTMENT

In the event that VCC needs a new lead pastor, the following steps shall be taken:

- a) The Board shall seek, find and nominate a candidate(s) for lead pastor
- b) They shall seek first among the pastors from within VCC
- c) Upon unanimous approval of the Board, including the lead pastor, a candidate will be presented to the congregation and will engage in teaching, preaching and fellowship
- d) After such time, the Board will allow a minimum of two (2) weeks of discussion and feedback from the members of VCC on said candidate and then the board will render final decision
- e) If the candidate is rejected, another candidate will be presented until the position is filled
- f) If the vacancy is due to termination as described in Article V, Section D, 5, the lead pastor may not participate in the selection of his successor
- g) In the event of a vacancy and a replacement has not been approved, the executive pastor will assume all the responsibilities of the lead pastor until a new lead pastor has been appointed

4. TERMS OF OFFICE

The office of the lead pastor shall be for an indefinite period of time.

5. TERMINATION

The lead pastor may be subject to dismissal for indiscretion, immorality, doctrinal errors or unethical behavior.

A unanimous vote of the board (with the lead pastor abstaining) is necessary to initiate a termination of the lead pastor. This is done by submitting to the lead pastor, in writing, charges against him. A special board meeting shall be called to present these charges to the lead pastor and allow discussion. (Matthew 18:15-17, 1 Timothy 5:19-21, Galatians 6:1)

If the lead pastor is terminated, then the boards decision will be presented to the members of the church at a specially called meeting Article V, Section A.

SECTION E – EXECUTIVE PASTOR/VICE-PRESIDENT

1. QUALIFICATIONS

The executive pastor/vice-president (herein called the executive pastor) shall demonstrate a clear calling for pastoral ministry and a gifting in administration. He shall be of sound doctrine and good judgment. He has been born again for at least five (5) years. He shall have wisdom in handling the corporation's affairs. The executive pastor shall meet all the qualifications of and be recognized as an elder of VCC (Article VII, Section D). Must have Biblical and pastoral training.

2. DUTIES

He will serve as the vice-president of the corporation, the chief executive officer and advisor to the lead pastor. He shall serve on the board. The executive pastor is responsible for the overall ministry operations including the leadership and direction of the church staff.

3. MANNER OF APPOINTMENT

The lead pastor shall nominate and the board shall confirm the executive pastor to office.

4. TERMS OF OFFICE

The office of the executive pastor shall be for an indefinite period of time. He (executive pastor) is subject to dismissal if he violates the constitution and bylaws of VCC.

5. TERMINATION

The executive pastor may be subject to dismissal for indiscretion, immorality, doctrinal errors, unethical behavior, or dereliction of duties.

A unanimous vote of the board (with the executive pastor abstaining) is necessary to initiate a termination of the executive pastor. This is done by submitting to the executive pastor, in writing, charges against him. A special board meeting called by the lead pastor shall be called to present these charges to the executive pastor and allow discussion. (Matthew 18:15-17, 1 Timothy 5:19-21, Galatians 6:1)

If the executive pastor is terminated, then a written statement of his resignation shall be appended to the minutes and the decision will be final.

SECTION F – TREASURER

1. QUALIFICATIONS

The treasurer shall be a member of VCC and at minimum a deacon as defined in Section I, and of sound business judgment. He/She shall be capable of doing the accounting required to maintain the corporation books.

2. Duties

By virtue of his/her office, the treasurer shall keep, in a business-like manner, an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements of monies committed to his/her trust and shall make reports to be presented during the official board meetings. He/she shall deposit and make withdrawals in a manner prescribed in Article III of these bylaws.

The treasurer may appoint with board approval, including the lead pastor, an assistant to facilitate the duties described above.

3. MANNER OF APPOINTMENT

The senior pastor shall nominate and the board shall confirm the treasurer to office.

4. TERMS OF OFFICE

The office of treasurer shall be for an indefinite period of time. He/She is subject to dismissal if he/she violates the constitution and bylaws of VCC.

5. TERMINATION

The lead pastor may terminate the treasurer with approval of the board by a 3/4 majority.

SECTION G – SECRETARY

1. QUALIFICATIONS

The secretary shall be an individual who is a member of VCC and at minimum a deacon as defined in Section I. He/she must be capable of recording the minutes of meetings, and of doing all of the correspondence necessary in the conducting of official corporation business.

2. DUTIES

By virtue of his/her office, the secretary shall keep a true and accurate record of all meetings, including business meetings of the corporation. He/She shall be the custodian of all legal documents.

The secretary may appoint with board approval, including the lead pastor, an assistant to facilitate the duties described above.

3. MANNER OF APPOINTMENT

The lead pastor shall nominate and the board shall confirm the secretary to office.

4. TERMS OF OFFICE

The office of secretary shall be for an indefinite period of time. He/She is subject to dismissal if he/she violates the constitution and bylaws of VCC.

5. TERMINATION

The lead pastor may terminate the secretary with approval of the board by a 3/4 majority.

SECTION H – ELDERS

1. QUALIFICATIONS

An elder shall be male, be born again and shall have wisdom in handling the church ministry. He shall be a member of VCC, be of sound doctrine, good judgment and apt to teach. (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus: 1:5-9)

2. DUTIES

He will serve as a spiritual counselor and teacher to the congregation of VCC as defined in the scriptures and may serve on the VCC Board.

3. MANNER OF APPOINTMENT

The lead pastor shall nominate and the board shall confirm elders to office.

4. TERMS OF OFFICE

The office of elder shall be for an indefinite period of time. He (elder) is subject to dismissal if he violates the constitution and bylaws of VCC.

5. TERMINATION

The lead pastor may terminate an elder with approval of the board by a simple majority.

SECTION I – DEACONS

Deacons are those appointed to serve as board members, heads of ministries, ministry leaders, or servant volunteers who are in a position of authority over others at VCC.

1. QUALIFICATIONS

A deacon of VCC must be a member of VCC. He/She must meet the Biblical guidelines of a deacon as defined in the Scriptures, and regularly serve in a VCC ministry. (1 Timothy 3:8-13; Titus 2:2-4; Romans 16:1-2)

2. DUTIES

A deacon will lead or assist in the guidance of an official VCC ministry. Specific ministry duties will be defined individually and are dependent on the needs of that ministry.

3. MANNER OF APPOINTMENT

An individual automatically becomes a deacon when they are assigned the responsibility of a leadership position in any VCC ministry.

4. TERMS OF OFFICE

There is no term of office for deacons. He/She (deacon) is subject to dismissal if he/she violates the constitution and bylaws of VCC.

5. TERMINATION

The lead pastor or executive pastor may remove a deacon from service from the Board with approval of the Board by a simple majority. The lead pastor or executive pastor may remove a deacon from any other ministry at any time.

SECTION J – BOARD ADVISORS

Board advisors may be appointed to counsel the Board on the active work of the ministry and general ministry needs.

1. QUALIFICATIONS

A board advisor shall be a deacon of VCC as defined in the VCC Bylaws Article V, Section I.

2. DUTIES

Board advisors shall attend regular monthly board meetings and may be called to serve at any special board meeting called by the senior pastor. The board adviser is responsible to offer information and advice to the lead pastor and board on the details of his/her specific area(s) of responsibility and participate in general board discussion. (Proverbs 11:14)

3. MANNER OF APPOINTMENT

The lead pastor or executive pastor shall nominate and the Board will approve all board advisors. He/She (board advisor) is subject to dismissal if he/she violates the constitution and bylaws of VCC.

4. TERMS OF OFFICE

The board advisor will serve a minimum term of one (1) year but may serve indefinitely.

SECTION K – PASTORS

Pastors are men who are shepherds and teachers who assist in the ministry at VCC. It is a pastor's responsibility to help equip the members of VCC for service and be an example to the Body of Christ. Ephesians 4:11

1. QUALIFICATIONS

A pastor shall be a member of VCC and have been born again for at least five (5) years. He shall be of sound doctrine, good judgment and apt to teach. Must have Biblical and pastoral training. (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)

2. DUTIES

He will serve as a shepherd and teacher who helps equip the congregation of VCC for service. All pastors of VCC will be licensed with the state as a licensed minister of VCC and may perform marriages, funerals, communion, and baptisms.

3. MANNER OF APPOINTMENT

The lead pastor shall nominate and the board shall confirm all pastors.

4. TERMS OF OFFICE

Pastors shall serve for an indefinite period of time. He (pastor) is subject to dismissal if he violates the constitution and bylaws of VCC.

5. TERMINATION

The lead pastor may remove a pastor from service with approval of the board by a simple majority.

ARTICLE VI – OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Anything that has not been discussed in this constitution and bylaws shall be discussed and decided upon at an official board meeting.

Any disputes that arise over the interpretation of these bylaws shall be deferred to the highest authority of this corporation. In this case it would be the lead pastor, with the advice of the Board. The executive pastor shall be responsible for the day-to-day decisions and shall run the affairs of the church under the direction of the lead pastor.

ARTICLE VII – MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL

The purpose of this article is to provide for the ordination rites and privileges of the ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ at VCC.

The Board shall have the authority to license and ordain, through appointment, certain persons to legal minister status as it deems proper and prudent. Such appointments shall be in agreement with the VCC Constitution & Bylaws, and in compliance with this article.

SECTION A - MINISTERS DEFINED

A candidate for appointment as an ordained or licensed minister recognizes that only our sovereign, holy God can truly call His children for service in the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The calling of a minister is not the result of a title; rather, the title is the result of God's calling on that person's life. This calling is recognized as from the true and living God. It is man's privilege and specifically the privilege of the board at VCC to ratify the call of God when such is obviously placed upon a person's life.

There shall be two distinct positions of legal minister status:

- Ordained Minister
- Licensed Minister

Other than as delineated within this article, all authority and privileges of said positions shall be defined by the lead pastor and Board, in accordance with this organization's constitution and bylaws and applicable laws of the land.

SECTION B – VCC DOCTRINAL INTERPRETATION OF MEN & WOMEN SERVING IN MINISTRY

While the role of men in ministry is clearly defined in scripture (1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9), the role of women is not so clearly defined. We believe that the basic order laid out by God throughout scripture is summarized in 1 Corinthians 11:3 "I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God." (NKJV) In line with this God-given order, we at VCC believe that the headship and duty of leading, shepherding, and overseeing the local church is reserved for men.

However, we also believe that scripture provides many examples of women faithfully serving in ministry. For example: older women are instructed to "be teachers of good things" and "admonish the young women" in Titus 2:3-4; Timothy was taught at home by his mother and grandmother as seen in 2 Timothy 1:5; and in Acts 18:24-28, we see that Priscilla "explained the way of God" to Apollos in private.

From these examples, we conclude that women indeed may be called to a ministerial position in the local church, and therefore we allow for the appointment of women as licensed ministers. In keeping with the divinely appointed order mentioned in the above paragraph, licensed women ministers at VCC will operate in their assigned ministry under the authority of one or more of the pastors of the church, as stated in their position description. In addition, while we allow for women to become licensed ministers as teachers and ministry leaders, we do not allow them to conduct marriages or other official services that would place them in a position of official final authority over men.

SECTION C – ORDAINED MINISTER

The ordained minister is recognized by the state of California to authorize the performance of marriages, funerals, communion and baptism. VCC shall have one ordained minister who is the lead pastor as described in Article V, Section D.

CERTIFICATE OF ORDINATION

This is to certify that (Name of Ordainee) was ordained by Valley Community Chapel of Yucca Valley as the minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He has met all the requirements of VCC for recognition of ordination; further, by rite of ordination this date he is duly ordained to be the lead pastor and perform all ministerial functions as prescribed by the VCC Constitution and Bylaws, as accorded by the laws of the land, and in compliance with the ordinances of God's Holy Church as set forth in the Holy Bible. We now pray for God's Divine blessing and the power of the Holy Spirit upon him.

Given this _____ day of _____, _____

Executive Pastor

Elder

SECTION D - LICENSED MINISTER

1. LICENSED MINISTER DEFINED

A licensed minister is a person who is fulfilling his/her calling as a servant of God, and possesses those abilities, qualities, and preparation needed for the performance of their assigned duties within VCC. The issued license is recognized by the state of California to authorize the performance of marriages, funerals, communion, and baptisms. In accordance with Section B of this article, a male licensed minister may perform all such ordinances, whereas a female may perform only communion, and baptisms serving other women specifically.

2. QUALIFICATIONS FOR A LICENSED MINISTER

a) A candidate for certification 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 be born again for a minimum of five (5) years and be a member of VCC.

- c) A candidate must subscribe to the VCC Tenets of Faith.
- d) A candidate must meet the qualifications of a Deacon, Article V, Section I. (1 Timothy 3:8-13; Titus 2:2-4; Romans 16:1-2)
- e) A candidate must have completed two (2) years of Bible study that is acceptable by the board or the equivalent as designated by the board.
- f) A candidate shall have demonstrated the obvious calling of God upon his/her life to the satisfaction of the board.
- g) A candidate for licensed minister may be a man or a woman.

3. PROCEDURE FOR CERTIFICATION

- a) Each person fulfilling the above requirements and upon the lead pastor's recommendation to the Board, shall be considered for licensing status as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- b) The Board may make exceptions only with the educational requirements as set forth within this article. Any exception must be a unanimous opinion of the Board and under the strong compelling conviction of the Holy Spirit.
- c) Upon unanimous approval of the Board, the candidate will be certified as a licensed minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the right to perform ministerial functions as specified in their position description and in accordance with the board's direction.
- d) Certificate of Licensed Minister - The following is the text of the Certificate of Licensed Minister to be issued to each successful candidate:

LICENSED MINISTER

This is to certify that (Full Name) was certified by Valley Community Chapel of Yucca Valley as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He/She has met all the requirements of VCC for the recognition licensed minister; further, by rite of certification this date he/she is a duly licensed minister and able to perform all ministerial functions as prescribed by the VCC Constitution and Bylaws, and in compliance with the ordinances of the Word of God as set forth in the Holy Bible. We now pray for God's Divine blessing and the power of the Holy Spirit upon him/her.

Given this _____ day of _____, _____

Lead Pastor

Executive Pastor

4. Revocation of Licensed Minister

The Board by unanimous vote has the power to revoke any certificate of Licensed Minister it has issued.

ARTICLE VIII – POSITION STATEMENTS

The intent of the following position statements is to address theological and/or ethical issues in addition to those addressed in ARTICLE V – TENEMENTS OF FAITH of the VCC Constitution. Although these position statements are not required for all the members of VCC to believe, they are the teachings of this church and the pastors of VCC. They are not meant to prohibit honest and healthy discussions concerning what the Bible teaches about these issues; however, we believe that such discussions must be conducted under the guiding principle that believers are to strive to maintain unity.

SECTION A – HERMENEUTICS

Hermeneutics is the art and science of interpretation. The goal of the Biblical interpreter is to discover what the text (the Bible) meant in the mind of its original author for his intended audience. The means of accomplishing this is by applying a literal, grammatical, historical approach to interpretation. This means the customary, socially acknowledged meaning of a word or phrase within its context. The Bible uses figurative and poetic language and these portions should be interpreted accordingly. However, we reject any attempt to allegorize or spiritualize scripture which is not so intended.

SECTION B – THE RAPTURE AND THE TRIBULATION PERIOD

Prior to the tribulation, Jesus Christ will rapture or catch up (“harpazo” Greek, or “rapturus” Latin) all born again believers to meet Him in the air and they will be in His presence forever. This premillennial, pretribulational rapture of the Church is imminent and can happen at any moment. The seven-year Tribulation (Daniel’s 70th week) will be the fulfillment of the prophecies concerning the judgement aspects of the Day of the Lord when God pours out His wrath upon the earth through catastrophic judgements. The Antichrist will rise to power, establishing a world-wide political, military, economic and religious system until Jesus returns with His saints for the millennial reign. (John 14:3; 1 Corinthians 15:51-54; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 John 3:2-3; 1 Corinthians 15:52; Philippians 3:20-21; Revelation 3:11; Daniel 9:24-27; Matthew 24:4-28; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-12; Revelation 6:1-19; Revelation 10)

SECTION C – SANCTITY OF LIFE

We believe that the fetus, from the moment of conception, is a person (Psalm 139:13-18). We also believe that all persons are created in the image of God regardless of age, health, function and/or condition of dependency.

SECTION D – DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE

We believe the Biblical definition of marriage is between one man and one woman, created in His image (Genesis 1:27). We abide by Jesus’s teaching on marriage when He said, “Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? 6 So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has

joined together, let not man separate” (Matthew 19:4-6). This definition by Jesus includes several important truths: Marriage is a covenant designed by God. Marriage is not conditioned by culture or personal perspective but ordained by God from the beginning and expected to continue until eternity. Marriage is only between one man and one woman as God biologically created them male and female from conception. Any other proposals for marriage are outside of God’s design (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:9-10). God’s design is for marriage to last until the death of one of the spouses. Therefore, marriage is a divinely designed biblical covenant between one man and one woman with the marriage bond representing the lasting relationship of Christ and the church. (Genesis 2:23-25; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:22-33; Hebrews 13:4)

SECTION E – HOMOSEXUALITY

VCC holds that a homosexual lifestyle is contrary to God’s will and purpose for humanity. (Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-20)

Homosexual Marriage

Ministers of VCC will not perform any homosexual marriages nor shall any such marriages be conducted at its principle office or other VCC established places of worship. VCC will not condone or recognize such marriages, even if the state passes laws that provide for recognition of such unions.

Members and Homosexuality

Members of VCC are forbidden to practice homosexuality. Any member found to be in such sin shall be disciplined according to Article VII, Section E of the VCC Constitution.

ARTICLE IX – ESTABLISHING PLACES OF WORSHIP

VCC may establish new places of worship that are not located at the principal office of this corporation for religious purposes.

ARTICLE X – PRIVACY

VCC shall diligently watch to keep private all records concerning policy, doctrine, counseling and information on membership. VCC shall not disclose any records that may compromise information about a members’ attendance, membership status, giving and counseling records. Additionally, no request shall ever be released to any government authority without due process and a valid subpoena delivered by the proper government agency.

ARTICLE XI – CONFIDENTIALITY PROTECTION

All VCC ministers according to Article VII of these bylaws must follow the rules set forth below:

When an individual(s) asks to meet with a minister(s), the minister(s) must ask the following questions before proceeding:

- Are you seeking to communicate with me in my capacity as a minister, in confidence, while acting as a spiritual adviser?

- Do you intend the communication to be confidential?

If the answer to either question above is yes, then any information discussed during the meeting must be kept strictly confidential by the minister(s).

ARTICLE XII – PRESCHOOL & DAYCARE

VCC shall operate a preschool and daycare as an outreach program that is consistent with the VCC Constitution and Bylaws and directed by the VCC Board of Elders to further our 501(c)(3) purposes.

ARTICLE XIII – AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the bylaws may be made by a three-quarters (3/4) vote of the official board, including the lead pastor.

These bylaws adopted on this day make null and void all prior addendums and these bylaws supersede and replace all previous bylaws voted on prior to this day.

Approved by the VCC Board on the 17th day of October 2021.

Signed and certified this 17th day of October 2021 to be effective immediately.

Lead Pastor/President
Valley Community Chapel of Yucca Valley

Secretary, VCC Board of Elders
Valley Community Chapel of Yucca Valley