

# Bylaws

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Article I</b>	
Name.....	1
<b>Article II</b>	
Limitations.....	1
<b>Article III</b>	
Purpose.....	1
<b>Article IV</b>	
Location of Office.....	1
<b>Article V</b>	
Membership.....	2
<b>Article VI</b>	
Congregational Meetings.....	3
<b>Article VII</b>	
Church Discipline.....	4
<b>Article VIII</b>	
Government.....	4
<b>Article IX</b>	
Church Records.....	11
<b>Article X</b>	
Finances.....	11
<b>Article XI</b>	
Teachers.....	12
<b>Article XII</b>	
Missionaries.....	12
<b>Article XIII</b>	
Licensing & Ordination.....	12
<b>Article XIV</b>	
Ordinances.....	12

**Article XV**  
Weddings.....12

**Article XVI**  
Dissolution.....13

**Article XVII**  
Amendments.....13

**Article XVIII**  
Adoption of Bylaws.....13

### **Article I NAME**

This local expression of the body of Christ shall be called Twin City Bible Church, referred to herein as 'the church' or 'TCBC.' The name may be changed by the Elders with approval by a majority vote of the members present at a specially called Members Meeting.

### **Article II LIMITATIONS**

These Bylaws of the church are subordinate to the 66 books of the Old and the New Testaments, referred to herein as the 'Scriptures.'

### **Article III PURPOSE**

Twin City Bible Church (TCBC) is a local group of baptized believers whose purpose is to glorify God by proclaiming and living in obedience to the truth of Scripture. We will seek to fulfill this purpose by:

- Magnifying Jesus Christ through personal and public worship (Romans 15:6)
- Edifying others through service, fellowship, prayer, and teaching (Acts 2:42-47; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7)
- Equipping the saints for the work of the ministry (Ephesians 4:12)
- Making disciples through the proclamation of the gospel, and through the teaching of the Word of God (Matthew 28:19-20)
- Keeping our lives pure (Ephesians 5:26, 27) through personal examination (1 Corinthians 11:28-31) and public accountability (Matthew 18:15-20)
- Observing the Lord's Supper and baptism (1 Corinthians 11:23-24; Matthew 28:19-20)

Twin City Bible Church will operate exclusively for religious, charitable, and educational purposes within the classification of legal charities, and no part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of any individual; and no substantial part of the activities of the organization, or any receipt of its funds, shall be utilized for any other purpose except those mentioned above. All civil affairs pertaining to property and other temporal matters will be handled as required by the proper governing authorities.

The church shall not have or issue shares of stock, and no dividends shall be paid. No part of the income or assets of the church shall be distributed to any member or officer without a process of full consideration as determined by the Elders. The church is prohibited from lending money to guarantee the obligation of a member or officer of the church. No member or officer of the church has any vested right, interest in or privilege to the assets, property, functions, or activities of the church. The church may contract in due course, for reasonable consideration, with its members or officers without violating this provision subject to the church's then current Conflict of Interest policy.

### **Article IV LOCATION OF OFFICE**

The *registered* office of the church shall be located within Winston-Salem, North Carolina at such address as the Elders of the church shall determine. The Board of Elders, with confirmation by a majority vote of the members, may change the address of the

registered office from time to time, upon filing the appropriate statement with state officials.

## **Article V MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1. Purpose**

Membership in TCBC is identifying with and committing to the ministry of this local body. Membership is a public confirmation of a believer's desire to glorify the Lord through service in the body and through mutual accountability.

### **Section 2. Prerequisites**

The following prerequisites must be met for membership at Twin City Bible Church:

1. Salvation – Individuals desiring to become members of TCBC must present a verbal and written testimony of their saving faith in Christ.
2. Baptism – Believer's baptism is a public testimony to an individual's identification with Jesus Christ (Acts 2:41). Individuals must be baptized as believers prior to (or in conjunction with) joining (Matthew 28:19). TCBC baptizes by immersion those at least 16 years old who give credible testimony to the reality of salvation.
3. Statement of Faith – Individuals seeking membership must assent to the Statement of Faith. By assenting to the Statement of Faith, a person pursuing membership understands that these are the doctrines that TCBC teaches, and that no one may knowingly cause confusion or division in the body by teaching doctrines contrary to the Statement of Faith.
4. Membership Covenant – All potential members of TCBC are asked to read and affirm the membership covenant, thereby agreeing to support the policies and beliefs of this body; they must express a willingness to use their gifts for the edification of the body; they must agree to regularly gather together (1 Corinthians 11:20; Hebrews 10:25); they must agree to be held accountable by the members of TCBC (Hebrews 13:17); and they must agree to submit to the loving leadership of the Elders.
5. Age – Individuals must be at least 16 years old to join TCBC and enjoy the privileges associated with membership.

### **Section 3. Process for Joining**

The following process should be followed by persons desiring membership at TCBC (in any order):

- Complete the membership class (or classes).
- Read the Statement of Faith, Bylaws, Membership Covenant, Statement on Marriage & Gender, along with any additional material required by the Elders.
- Complete and submit the membership application to a staff pastor or Elder.
- Participate in a membership interview with an Elder or someone designated by the Elders.

The Elders will communicate in advance to the congregation the names of those desiring to join. After this communication, individuals who have completed the membership process will be presented to the congregation at a regularly scheduled worship service as a public affirmation of their agreement with the membership covenant and to be welcomed into the body.

#### **Section 4. Miscellaneous Guidelines**

- Members seeking to withdraw their membership from TCBC are requested to meet with an Elder to personally communicate this intent.
- Members who are absent from services for an unusual length of time are encouraged to notify church leaders of any difficulties. If a member is absent from services for two months or more, the Elders will seek to shepherd the absentee member through any problem or address any special circumstances (e.g. sickness, schooling, work, military). In the case of extended absences, membership voting privileges may be suspended for the individual. At the discretion of the Elders, the absentee member may be released from the membership roll of the church if absent two months or more.
- In certain cases, even though attendance requirements are met, a lack of fulfillment of the membership covenant may reach a level where the Elders may determine that removal of an individual from membership is necessary.
- The Elders, if they deem it appropriate, may approve the reinstatement of an individual who has been removed from membership.
- Erring church members (i.e., those in unrepentant sin) will be dealt with according to the four-step process of church discipline found in Matthew 18.
- TCBC appreciates letters from other churches, but does not recognize these as substitutes for the membership process.

### **Article VI CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS**

#### **Section 1. Weekly Services**

TCBC holds services on Sunday (the Lord's Day), and any other day deemed beneficial to the needs of the body.

#### **Section 2. Members Meetings**

##### **2.1. Annual Meetings**

The church will hold an annual Members Meeting for the purpose of providing financial and ministry reports, approval of the budget, or other appropriate business. Time and place shall be announced from the pulpit, and/or in written format at least one week prior to the meeting date.

##### **2.2. Special Meetings**

Special meetings shall be called by the Elders and announced to the church membership. Only subjects approved by the Elders will be discussed at these meetings. Unless circumstances require otherwise, members will be notified at least one week in advance of any called special meeting.

### **2.3. Decisions**

A congregational quorum shall consist of forty percent of all voting members. Once a quorum has been established, a simple majority of votes cast is required to approve a motion, unless otherwise indicated in these Bylaws. Within the confines of the Bylaws and as deemed appropriate by the Elders, the meetings shall be conducted in an orderly manner as befits a follower of Christ.

### **2.4. Required Votes**

A vote by the members is required for approval of the annual budget (simple majority of the members voting), confirmation of new elders (a two-thirds vote of the members voting), hiring of a senior pastor (two-thirds vote of the members voting), and large capital expenses outside the budget or designated funds (two-thirds vote of the members voting).

## **Article VII CHURCH DISCIPLINE**

Church discipline shall be carried out as set forth by Christ in Matthew 18.

## **Article VIII GOVERNMENT**

### **Section 1. Authority**

This church acknowledges only the Lord Jesus Christ as its Head; the Holy Scriptures as the only infallible guide in matters of faith, church order, and discipline; the Holy Spirit as its Teacher; and is neither accountable to nor under the jurisdiction or supervision of any other ecclesiastical body. The provisions of Article VIII, Section 1 shall not be abridged by any vote of the membership.

### **Section 2. Elders**

#### **2.1. Powers**

Subject to the limitations of these Bylaws, all the activities and affairs of TCBC shall be exercised by or under the direction of the Board of Elders, who are responsible for the shepherding and the spiritual oversight of the membership (Acts 20:28; Hebrews 13:17). This church can thrive only as decisions are made in conformity to the Word of God, and as each member (including leadership) submits in love to one another under the authority of Christ as the head of the body (2 Timothy 3:16; Ephesians 4:15, 16; 5:21).

#### **2.2. Priorities of the Board of Elders**

The following are the priorities of the Board of Elders:

- To live holy lives as an example to the congregation (Hebrews 13:7)
- To rule the church of God with a servant attitude (1 Timothy 5:17; 1 Peter 5:1-3)
- To feed (i.e., teach) and lead the flock of God (Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 5:17)
- To facilitate the ministries of the people (Ephesians 4:11, 12)
- To warn and protect the flock as a shepherd who loves and cares for the affairs of the sheep (Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 1:3, 4)
- To pray and study (Acts 6:4; 2 Timothy 2:15)
- To be free from self-interest (1 Thessalonians 2:5-6)

### **2.3. Number**

The number of biblically qualified Elders serving on the Elder Board will be determined by the shepherding needs of the body. Elders should be added as necessary to properly shepherd an increase in the flock. In the event a sufficient number of qualified men is not available to serve as Elders, the church will seek counsel when needed from the Elder Board of a like-minded church.

### **2.4. Equality**

All Elders are equally responsible for the spiritual oversight of the church, regardless of the position they hold in the utilization of their particular gifts. Those Elders with greater teaching giftedness, however, will carry the greatest responsibility for the teaching of the body. Staff Elders are expected to be responsible for oversight of most of the day-to-day operations of the church.

### **2.5. Selection**

Candidates being considered for the office of Elder shall be carefully examined by the Board of Elders as to their desire and qualifications (see Section 2.6), and their support of the Bylaws, Statement of Faith, and any other documents or policies created by the Elder Board.

The following steps are the process by which the Board of Elders evaluates a man to discern God's hand upon his life and to discern his qualifications for leadership:

1. Consideration – The Board of Elders must agree that a man who desires to be an Elder has the potential for leadership. This step of consideration may be initiated by the Elders or the nominee (1 Timothy 3:1).
2. Demonstration – Through the *Elder in Training* ministry (the details of which will be determined by the Elders), the Elders will evaluate a candidate's biblical qualifications, giftedness, spiritual maturity, and leadership skills (1 Timothy 3:1-7). In addition, the Elders will evaluate his time availability, his support of the present staff and Elders, and his pursuit of unity in the body. The congregation will be notified within six months of a man's entrance into the *Elder in Training* process.

Each Elder must be male (1 Timothy 3:2; though women are gifted by God to serve in various roles in the church, He has clearly stated in His Word that the office of Elder is limited to men), and meet the qualifications described in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. He shall manifest growth in the following characteristics:

- Blameless (above reproach) as a steward of God (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6, 7)
- A one-woman man (i.e., if married, faithful to his wife; 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6)
- Self-controlled (sober, vigilant, moderate, self-restrained) (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8)

- Sober-minded (prudent) (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8)
  - Of good behavior (orderly, respectable) (1 Timothy 3:2)
  - Given to hospitality (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8)
  - Apt to teach (exhort believers and refute false teaching) (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9)
  - Not addicted to wine; not a drunkard (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7)
  - Not violent (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7)
  - Patient (moderate, forbearing, gentle) (1 Timothy 3:3)
  - Not a brawler (not argumentative, not soon angry or quick-tempered) (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7)
  - Not covetous (not a lover of money) (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7)
  - Rules well his own house (which embodies proper relationships with all family members in his household as well as the responsible financial management of his family's needs) (1 Timothy 3:4; Titus 1:6; 1 Timothy 5:8)
  - His children must willingly follow his leadership, not accused of rebellion to God (Titus 1:6)
  - Not a novice (not a new convert, has demonstrated growth) (1 Timothy 3:6)
  - Has a good reputation with outsiders (1 Timothy 3:7)
  - A lover of good (men and things) (Titus 1:8)
  - Just (Titus 1:8)
  - Holy (devout) (Titus 1:8)
3. Presentation – After an adequate evaluation has been completed, and if the Elders are in agreement as to the individual's capability of serving as an Elder, the congregation will be notified. Once the Elders have considered any additional insight provided by the congregation, the Elders will present the candidate to the church body for affirmation (by a two-thirds vote of those members voting at an official meeting) as one whom God has qualified for leadership. Any prospective Elders presented to the congregation for affirmation will be voted on individually by secret ballot.

Elders may be staff Elders (staff Pastors employed by the church); or they may be non-staff Elders ('lay Elders' not employed by the church). Each non-staff member of the Board of Elders must have been a member of TCBC for at least one year. Staff Pastors will be hired with the understanding that they may not automatically be selected to serve on the Elder Board. The exception to this guideline is the Senior Pastor, who will always be expected to serve on the Board. All prospective staff Pastors must nevertheless meet the qualifications for Elders. The Elders presently serving will determine when any given staff Pastor will be nominated to serve on the Elder Board.

## **2.6. Accountability**

Elder accountability is first and foremost unto God (Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:1-5). It is mandatory, however, that the Elders be accountable to one another and to the

congregation. If an Elder is in a pattern of unrepentant sin, the primary goal should always be spiritual restoration (Galatians 6:1-5). In situations where the erring Elder has rendered himself disqualified, the Board of Elders will require his resignation. Accountability between Elders and before the people must always be consistent with Matthew 18:15ff and 1 Timothy 5:19.

### **2.7. Meetings**

The Board of Elders will determine the dates, agenda, and frequency of all their meetings. If a church member desires to attend an Elders' meeting, he/she must notify the Chairman of the Board. The Elders may still reserve a part of any Elders' meeting for confidential business.

### **2.8. Decisions of the Board of Elders**

The Board of Elders will function according to a principle of unanimity. Decisions shall be reached after prayerful consideration only by consensus of the Board of Elders in a spirit of humility with each Elder regarding one another before himself. This humility will be expressed at times in the willingness to defer to the majority viewpoint of the Board.

- In cases of normal business, a quorum consists of a majority of Elders participating in the meetings. However, Elders not present should be notified as soon as possible of decisions, and strong objections will warrant reconsideration of decisions.
- Whenever the matter to be considered concerns large capital expenditures (those not in budget and those not involving designated funds), affirmation of an Elder, selection of a new staff person, sending of a missionary, approval of the yearly budget, or the amendment to or modification of the Bylaws or the Statement of Faith, a quorum shall consist of all the members of the Board of Elders, whether voting in person, or by email/telephone.
- In calling a staff Pastor, the Board of Elders shall serve as the search team. In addition, the Board of Elders may designate other church members to be a part of this team.
- The Board of Elders may dismiss a staff Pastor (for reasons other than disqualification as in Section 2.6), or other church employees, if its decision is unanimous. In cases when this decision involves a staff member who has family members on the Elder Board, those family members will be required to refrain from voting on this issue.

### **2.9. Elder-appointed Membership Teams**

To promote efficient handling of church business, the Board of Elders may appoint various teams from within TCBC membership. The teams may exist for a specific time period as directed by the Board of Elders. Some teams may be long-standing (e.g. Finance Team, Building & Grounds Team, Missions Team; other teams may be short-term (e.g. special events). These teams shall perform tasks solely in accordance with the

duties and with the powers specifically delegated by the Board of Elders. The general functions of the teams shall be the following:

- To bring recommendations to the Board of Elders concerning ministries
- To provide a wider base of counsel to the Board of Elders in their general oversight of specific ministries

#### **2.10. Offices**

A Chairman, Vice-chairman and Secretary shall be chosen by the Board of Elders. These officers will serve one-year terms. No limit is set to the number of terms any given Elder may serve in one of these three offices.

#### **2.11. Terms**

All Elders are allowed to serve as long as they desire the office, are biblically qualified, are physically and mentally able, are affirmed in their role by the entire Elder Board, and can give the required time.

- Any Elder may be removed from office if he becomes physically or mentally incapacitated, if he becomes spiritually disqualified as outlined in Section 2.6, or if his inability to serve is established by the remainder of the entire Board of Elders.
- Any Elder may resign effective upon giving written notice to the Chairman or the Vice-chairman of the Board of Elders. However, a temporary absence from the Board may be requested and granted by the Board of Elders upon review of the circumstances surrounding the request.

#### **2.12. Selection of Deacons**

The Board of Elders shall select Deacons as delineated in Article VIII Section 5.

### **Section 3. Staff Pastors**

#### **3.1. Qualifications**

Staff Pastors must meet the qualifications set forth in Article VIII, Section 2.5 and must clearly possess a heart for shepherding people (1 Peter 5:1-4), along with the necessary giftedness to fulfill his ministry responsibilities.

#### **3.2. Responsibilities**

The primary task of a Pastor is the 'equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry' (Ephesians 4:11-12). Along with the task of equipping, the Pastors will be responsible with the Elders for the spiritual welfare of the congregation. The Elder Board will determine the specific job descriptions of all individual staff Pastors.

#### **3.3. Term**

The term of a staff Pastor is for an indefinite period of time. Dismissal shall be in accordance with Article VIII, Section 2.8 and, except in cases in which the man is rendered disqualified, should carry a thirty-day notice. A Pastor shall give a thirty-day notice prior to his resignation.

#### **Section 4. Non-staff Elders**

The non-staff Elders, in addition to their other biblical duties, are responsible for facilitating discussion of, and pro-active determination of, salary, benefit packages (i.e., health insurance, pension plans, vacation), and other financial issues related to the staff and church employees. In the event that there is less than two non-staff Elders, these issues will be determined by the currently serving non-staff Elder along with a team of deacons selected by the Elders.

The church is to have at least two non-staff Elders serving on the Board of Elders at all times. It is understood that this goal can only be reached if there are biblically qualified men to serve in this role.

#### **Section 5. Deacons**

##### **5.1. Purpose**

The role of Deacons shall be one of support to the Elders, furtherance of unity in the body, and protection of the church's mission. Deacons are to emulate our Lord's example of humble, loving service.

Deacons will serve in the ministries most needed to maintain the health of the body, as determined by the Elders.

##### **5.2. Qualifications**

A Deacon must have been a member of TCBC for a minimum of one year, faithful to the membership covenant, supportive of the Elders, and have the following characteristics (1 Timothy 3:8-13):

- grave (respectful)
- not double-tongued
- not given to wine
- not greedy
- holding forth the mystery of the faith
- pure in conscience
- tested and proven
- blameless
- (if male) a one-woman man
- rules well his own home

According to the original language of 1 Timothy 3:11, women may be selected to serve as Deaconesses if they meet the character qualifications, and if the Elders affirm this role to be needed in the ministry of the church.

##### **5.3. Selection and Terms**

Deacons shall be selected by the Elders. Unless designated otherwise by the Elders, the term of office for a Deacon is to be one year with the possibility of being affirmed yearly for another term.

## **Section 6. Additional Church Staff**

Additional support staff may be hired at the discretion of the Board of Elders with consideration of the current budget.

## **Section 7. Conflict of Interest Policy**

### **7.1. Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to assist TCBC in identifying, disclosing, and resolving potential conflicts of interest. Members of the Elder Board, Staff & Deacons (referred to below as Individuals) serve TCBC and have a clear obligation to conduct all affairs of the Church in an upright and honest manner. Each individual should make necessary decisions, using good judgment and Christlike ethical and moral considerations, recognizing that *it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy* (1 Corinthians 4:2).

### **7.2. Specific Disclosure**

Individuals shall disclose fully the precise nature of their interest or involvement when participating in any transaction for the Church in which another party to the transaction includes: himself/herself, any family member or an organization with which the member, or his/her family, is affiliated.

### **7.3. General Disclosure**

Individuals shall disclose all relationships and business affiliations which may now, or in the future, potentially conflict with the interests of the Church or bring personal gain to them or their family, or business. Disclosure must be made if any Individual or a member of his/her family:

- Is an officer, director, trustee, partner, employee, or agent of an organization with which TCBC has business dealings;
- Is either the actual or beneficial owner of more than one percent (1%) of the voting stock or controlling interest of an organization with which TCBC has business dealings;
- Is a consultant for any such organization; or,
- Has any other direct or indirect dealings with an individual or organization from which he is materially or intangibly benefitted (e.g., through the receipt directly or indirectly of cash, gifts, favors, privileges, or other property or advantages).

### **7.4. Reporting of Disclosures**

Any individual who is uncertain about a conflict of interest in any matter shall disclose such possible conflict to the appropriate individual. Disclosure shall be made at the first knowledge of the transaction. All disclosures required by staff will be received by their supervising pastor or Elder who will report to the Elder board, and all disclosures as they apply to members of the Board of Elders shall be received by the entire Board.

### **7.5. Restraint on Participation**

Individuals who have a conflict of interest in any matter shall refrain from participating in the consideration of the proposed transaction. The person or persons involved will not vote on such matters. However, for special reasons, the Board may request information or interpretation from the person or persons involved.

### **7.6. Failure to Disclose**

Individuals are requested to comply with this Conflict of Interest Policy. Such compliance is a requirement for continued ministry involvement (as an Elder, Staff member, Deacon) or employment with TCBC and, further, knowing failure to disclose a potential conflict of interest could result in the discontinuance in said ministry role or termination of employment.

All decisions of the Elder Board, Staff & Deacons of TCBC are to be made solely on the basis of a desire to promote Jesus Christ through TCBC and its ministry, in accordance with our mission statement.

## **Article IX CHURCH RECORDS**

The church shall keep the following records:

1. Minutes of Elders' meetings
2. Agendas of the Annual Members Meeting
3. Agendas of special called meetings of the congregation
4. Rolls of the members in the congregation with the dates of their reception
5. Resolutions adopted by the Board of Elders
6. Appropriate accounting records
7. The Bylaws and all amendments to them currently in effect

A member shall be entitled to inspect any of the church records described above, provided the Board of Elders finds that the member has a legitimate purpose. This shall be done at a reasonable time and location, specified by the Board of Elders, and upon reasonable notice of at least five business days. The Board of Elders may limit access to any records that contain confidential information about a particular person or persons in accordance with North Carolina law.

## **Article X FINANCES**

### **Section 1. Support**

TCBC will be supported by the offerings of its people, who give as God prospers and according to His leading (2 Corinthians 9:6-7).

### **Section 2. Treasurer**

The church treasurer shall be appointed by the Board of Elders, shall be responsible for financial records, and shall provide periodic reports to the Board of Elders.

### **Section 3. Annual Budget**

The annual budget will be prepared by the Board of Elders based upon the financial information provided them by the church treasurer, prior to being submitted to the

members for approval (by simple majority vote). The proposed budget will be made available to the congregation a minimum of one week prior to the Members Meeting.

#### **Article XI TEACHERS**

All teachers in the ongoing ministries of the church must be members in good standing who are faithful to the membership covenant, who seek to be an example of godly character to others, and who strive to maintain unity in the body. In addition, all teachers must submit themselves to, and teach in accordance with, the Statement of Faith, Bylaws, and any other documents/statements created by the Elders.

#### **Article XII MISSIONARIES**

All missionaries supported through the church shall affirm the Statement of Faith of the church and shall be approved by the Board of Elders. To help with these approvals, or oversight of the approved missionaries, the Board of Elders may appoint a Missions Team, which shall consist of at least one Elder, one Deacon, and members of the church body (the number of which shall be determined by the Board of Elders and which may vary from time to time).

#### **Article XIII LICENSING & ORDINATION**

##### **Section 1. Licensing**

A TCBC license, as recognized by the State, is issued by the Board of Elders. The purpose of the license is to allow a man who is not ordained to perform ecclesiastical duties and sacerdotal functions associated with the ministry (e.g. weddings, chaplaincy). The license indicates that he meets the qualifications of being a 'clergyman' in the eyes of the State.

##### **Section 2. Ordination**

Ordination by TCBC refers to the mutual recognition by the Board of Elders of a man's vocational call to the ministry of shepherding and teaching God's people, his preparation and training, and his ability and qualification to serve. The process by which a man will pursue and complete ordination will be determined by the Board of Elders. Ordination shall be conferred for life so long as the man continues to manifest the qualifications of the office and to support the TCBC Statement of Faith.

#### **Article XIV ORDINANCES**

##### **Section 1. Believer's Baptism**

See Article V, Section 2.

##### **Section 2. Lord's Supper**

All who have embraced Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and who are genuinely seeking to walk in loving obedience with Him are welcome to participate in the communion service.

#### **Article XV WEDDINGS**

TCBC allows the church property to be used for weddings according to the official 'Wedding Policy' and in line with the church's 'Statement on Marriage and Gender.'

These policies affirm that God's intention for marriage is 'one man and one woman for life.' In addition, at least one of the primary participants (either the groom or the bride) must be a member of TCBC, the couple must be affirmed for marriage by the Elders, the couple must receive pre-marital counseling from someone approved by the Elders, and a TCBC elder or staff pastor must oversee the wedding ceremony.

**Article XVI DISSOLUTION**

Dissolution of TCBC shall be only by three-fourths vote of the voting membership at a special meeting called for that purpose. In the event of dissolution, the assets of TCBC will be distributed in accordance with a plan adopted by the Board of Elders and approved by the congregation (simple majority vote). No part of the assets of TCBC shall benefit any Pastor, Elder, Deacon, staff member, member, donor or private individual (except for required dissolution expenses). All assets must be distributed to one or more organizations whose purpose is consistent with that of TCBC.

**Article XVII AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to these Bylaws may be made by a two-thirds vote of the voting members in attendance at any Members Meeting. Proposed amendments must first be approved by the Board of Elders. Once proposed amendments have been approved by the Board of Elders, they must be made available to the membership at least two weeks in advance of the Members Meeting.

**Article XVIII ADOPTION OF BYLAWS**

Adoption of this Statement of Faith and these Bylaws shall be by a two-thirds vote of the members voting.