

CONSTITUTION of GALVESTON BIBLE CHURCH
an EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

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PURPOSE

To the glory of God, Galveston Bible Church exists to make disciples for Jesus Christ. We are committed to this purpose beginning in our city and to the ends of the earth.

It is our desire to: Seek Jesus Christ for the Good of Our City.

In the strength God provides we will carry out:

Christ-Centered Community

Prepare followers to model Jesus where they live, work, and play

1. Teach and preach Scripture in a clear and relevant manner that applies to life
2. Develop and sustain relationships that challenge us to grow in grace and stimulate love toward one another
3. Create and sustain active small groups that will provide deep community for believers and a safe place for people to encounter Jesus for the first time

Christ-Centered Worship

Create reverent worship to impact lives in vital and relevant ways

1. Make our place of worship inviting and accessible to people of all ages
2. Regularly express the gospel in our services in clear and easy to understand terms that exalt the work of Jesus Christ
3. Choose the best theologically sound and musically appealing hymns and songs blended with a variety of styles appropriate to express praise and adoration of God
4. Pray constantly and fervently for our church family, our city, our nation and the world

Christ Centered Service

Love our island with its varied people with our actions

1. Move outside the walls of the church, both physically and relationally, to develop an awareness of the needs of our community and how we can meet them
2. Seek to meet the real needs of Galveston families, children and students & internationals from the UTMB, TAMUG, & GC campuses
3. Seek justice for those who are least able to seek it for themselves
4. Partner with other ministries and missionaries both here and around the world

Christ Centered Witness

Seek those Jesus came to save

1. Follow our Savior's example and go to the Spiritually lost and needy and meet them where they are
2. Foster a spirit of humility that meets the Spiritually lost in their sin and points them to Christ
3. Speak the Gospel as the Spirit leads us at every opportunity

ARTICLE I - INCORPORATION

The name of this church shall be Galveston Bible Church, an Evangelical Free Church, of the City of Galveston, State of Texas, a Texas corporation having its principal place of worship at 424 19th St., Galveston, Texas, hereinafter referred to as the church.

This corporation is a non-profit Christian organization established for the purposes as set forth in the purpose hereof. The term for which this corporation is to exist is perpetual. In the event of dissolution of said corporation, all assets, revenues, proceeds, and funds from whatever source, must be distributed to organizations within the Evangelical Free Church of America (EFCA) as designated by the Council of Elders in the Church Policy Statement.

ARTICLE II - DOCTRINE

This church shall function as an autonomous, evangelical church committed to the historic Christian truths recorded in God's inerrant revelation--the Holy Scriptures. All elders, teachers, and members must agree with the 10 Points of the EFCA Statement of Faith.

EFCA Statement of Faith Adopted by the Conference on June 19, 2019

God

1. We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.

The Bible

2. We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

The Human Condition

3. We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed.

Jesus Christ

4. We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus—Israel's promised Messiah—was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.

The Work of Christ

5. We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.

The Holy Spirit

6. We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christlike living and service.

The Church

7. We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.

Christian Living

8. We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed.

Christ's Return

9. We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission.

Response and Eternal Destiny

10. We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace. Amen.

ARTICLE III - GOVERNMENT

Section 1 - Authority and Responsibility

The ultimate authority for the operation of this church resides in the head of the Church, the Lord Jesus Christ. For purposes of carrying out our Lord's will in the life of this church, the church as a body shall have the responsibility to recognize all qualified men in the church as elders. These men shall serve as the Council of Elders and shall have the responsibility for, and the direction of, all of the ministries of the church, including the pulpit ministry, the finances, and the facilities of the church. The operating procedures for the church are contained in this Constitution and church policy statements developed by the Council of Elders.

Section 2 - Congregation

A - Responsibility: The congregation shall be prayerfully involved in the decision making process, in a manner outlined further in this Constitution with regard to the following issues:

1. Selection and review of all elders
2. Selection of deacons
3. Selection of new paid ministerial staff, removal of paid ministerial staff
4. Discipline of members
5. Purchase of property and new building programs
6. The annual budget

B - Membership: Types of Membership: all believers in Christ are recognized as members of His body with us. However for the purpose of local church government, two types of congregational members are defined.

Regular Membership: This is available to individuals 18 years or older who are willing to commit themselves to this church and its ministry. It includes the privilege of voting in congregational meetings and the holding of church office.

Associate Membership: This is available to individuals who are committed to the Church and its ministry under any of the following circumstances:

1. Less than 18 years of age
2. Unable to attend on a regular basis for a valid reason
3. Those desiring to retain their regular membership in another church

Associate members shall be extended the same privilege and benefits as regular members except they shall be unable to vote in congregational meetings or to hold the office of elder or deacon.

Associate Members who joined Galveston Bible Church and were approved for associate membership as adults, and who wish to become Regular Members may do so with the approval of the Council of Elders. The Council of Elders shall notify the church of its decision at a regular Sunday service and shall notify the church secretary of such changes so that the membership records may be updated.

Membership candidates, including children under age 18, may join as Associate Members of Galveston Bible Church, if they follow the procedures established by the Elders (Section 2.C) and meet the Qualifications for Membership outlined in the Constitution (Section 2.D).

The associate membership of children ends at age 18. Associate Members who were accepted to associate membership as children must complete the membership requirements again upon reaching

the age of 18, if they wish to continue as members. This includes classes, interviews, and approval, in accordance with the procedure established by the Council of Elders. (Amended 03/28/2021)

Conditional Membership:

1. Shall meet all of the qualifications of membership except the six months attendance
2. After six months the member shall be voted on
3. No conditional membership shall last beyond six months

C - Procedure for Joining the Membership: The elders shall be responsible for and shall establish ongoing procedure for interviewing and approving all prospective members. This procedure shall include an opportunity for any members of the church to express to the elders as a whole or to an individual elder any comments he may have as to the prospective member's qualification. All candidates for membership shall be voted on at the regularly-called congregational meetings.

D - Qualifications for Membership:

1. Statement of faith in Christ
2. Believers' baptism
3. Must be in regular attendance of worship services for at least six months
4. Willingness to submit to the elders of this church
5. Complete agreement with the EFCA Statement of Faith or the doctrinal statement of Galveston Bible Church as determined by the elders, and a willingness not to propagate doctrine contrary to it
6. Not involved in any unrepentant sin as determined by the Council of Elders that would disgrace the name of Christ and discredit the testimony of this church
7. Adherence to church Covenant

E - Removal from Membership:

1. The elders shall be responsible for the review of the membership rolls every six months
2. Members may be removed from the roll of the Church for any of the following reasons:
 - i. Joining another church
 - ii. Death
 - iii. Requesting that their names be dropped from the roll
 - iv. Absence from the worship services of the church for one year or longer without valid reasons
 - v. Failure to maintain qualifications for membership

F - Discipline: General Statement: All discipline in the church is intended for the good of the whole body as well as the individual members. Both the holiness of Christ's bride and the honor and glory of Christ himself are at stake. Though the term discipline has associations that are primarily negative in people's minds in the biblical understanding discipline is multifaceted and has both formative (building up) and corrective aspects. All Christian discipline is to be pursued out of a heart of love for our brothers and passion for our Savior Jesus Christ.

1. Formative Discipline/Positive Instruction: Every disciple (follower) of Christ must be under His discipline (His instruction and correction), which is administered primarily to each one through the church (Matt. 28:18-20; I Cor. 12:12-27; I Thess. 5:12-15; Heb. 3:12-13; 10:24-25). Formative discipline, with its many aspects, will result in the sanctification of each member individually and of the whole body of the church collectively. There are occasions, however, when one's failure to respond to this formative discipline makes the application of corrective discipline necessary. Formative church discipline is the 'building up' aspect of Christian discipline that involves instruction and example. This is captured in the biblical concept of 'discipleship'. Formative discipline is accomplished through the teaching of God's Word, the example of Christian living, and the mutual ministry of the members of the body of Christ to each other. Its goal is the instruction of disciples, the transformation of their lives, and their edification in love (Eph. 4:11-13; Rom. 12:1-16; 1 Cor. 12:4-27). Formative discipline has a sanctifying influence. It utilizes the talents of each member, whether young or old, for the edification of all.

2. Every member should be satisfied with his/her God-given ministry, and thus we shall all grow continually in grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Pet. 4:7-12).
3. Corrective Discipline: Corrective discipline becomes necessary when heretical doctrine or disorderly, immoral, or scandalous conduct appears in a member of the church. As a general rule and whenever feasible, an effort must be made to resolve difficulty, correct error, and remove offense through private counsel and admonition before more drastic steps are taken (Gal. 6:1; James 5:19-20). The principles given to us in Matt. 18:15-16, Rom. 16:17-20, I Cor. 5:1-13, II Thess. 3:6-15, I Tim. 5:1-2, 19-20, and Titus 3:10 must be carefully followed and applied to each case of corrective discipline as appropriate. In some cases public admonition and/or public repentance may be warranted (Matt. 18:17; Rom. 16:17-20; I Cor. 5:1-15; I Tim. 1:20; Titus 3:10). All the members of the church are obliged to submit to and enforce as appropriate the decision of the church in acts of corrective discipline. Since the church is a spiritual and religious institution, the punishments inflicted by the church in corrective discipline are also spiritual (II Cor. 6:7; 10:1-6; John. 18:36). They include public verbal reproof (Matt. 18:17; I Tim. 5:20), social avoidance (Rom. 16:17; I Cor. 5:9-11; II Thess. 3:6, 14), suspension from the Lord's Supper (I Cor. 5:11), and removal from the membership of the church (Matt. 18:17, I Cor. 5:13). They are intended to effect repentance through a sense of sorrow and shame (II Cor. 2:7; II Thess. 3:14). The church has no right, however, to confiscate goods, revoke conjugal rights, or inflict corporal punishment of any kind. Nevertheless, a member guilty of criminal actions may be delivered to the civil authorities according to the rule of Scripture (Rom. 13:1-5; I Peter 4:15). The goals of corrective discipline are always the glory of God, the welfare and purity of the church (I Cor. 5:6-7) and the restoration and spiritual growth of the offender (I Cor. 5:5; II Cor. 2:5-8; I Tim. 5:20). The discipline of a member shall require congregational approval at a duly called congregational meeting. Three-fourths majority of members present and voting will effect such removal.
4. Discipline of Church Officers: While elders are overseers of the flock, they are themselves members of the flock. Therefore, each elder as an individual is under the oversight of his fellow elders and is subject to the same discipline as are all the members of the church. Church officers are subject to the same rules of discipline as the other members. In addition they are subject to public reprimand by the elders (Gal. 2:14; I Tim. 5:20) and/or removal from office (I Tim. 3:1) under two conditions. This may occur if they are no longer qualified for their office or capable of fulfilling its functions and refuse to resign their office voluntarily. This may occur also if their behavior is disorderly or scandalous, thereby bringing reproach to Christ and the church and setting a bad example before the brethren. The process of discipline may be initiated either by the elders or by individual members of the congregation. Any member who is offended at the behavior of any church officer should first approach that officer privately and express his concerns. If the concerns are not resolved, the member should inform the elders of the situation and wait upon them in their determination of the matter (Matt. 18:15). Since this is such a delicate and serious matter, the elders shall proceed with due caution and earnest prayer (I Tim. 5:19). If the elders judge discipline to be necessary, they shall inform the congregation of the basis for the proposed discipline. The removal of an officer shall require congregational approval at a duly called congregational meeting. Three-fourths majority of members present and voting will effect such removal.

G - Congregational Meetings:

1. Congregational meetings are held for the hearing of reports, the election of officers, and the transaction of other business.
2. The congregation shall meet at least twice a year (in November and May) in a business session.
3. Special congregational meetings may be called by the majority of the elders, or 5% of the regular membership (but not less than 10 members).
4. Notice of all congregational meetings shall be given at regular worship services. A minimum of six days notice shall be given for any meeting at which official church business is to be conducted to allow for prayerful consideration of any decisions. However, in the case of an emergency, a meeting may be called on shorter notice by notifying each regular member of the time, place, and purpose of the meeting.
5. An elder shall preside over the meeting.
6. A quorum for congregational meetings shall be 10% of the voting membership but not less than 20 members. In the event a quorum is not present, the meeting shall be rescheduled for a date not less than one week later, and shall be announced in a Sunday worship service. At the rescheduled meeting, those present shall constitute a quorum.
7. All meetings are open to any who regularly attend Galveston Bible Church services. However, only members may participate in discussions and voting during the portion of congregational

meetings pertaining to fundamental church issues. Meetings may be closed to non-members at the discretion of the elders.

8. Unless otherwise stated in this constitution, a 75% vote shall be sufficient to pass any item of business before the congregation. Provision shall be made for absentee balloting. As much as is possible, unanimity shall be sought on all issues.
9. In case of health concerns or other extenuating circumstances, and at the discretion of the Elders, Congregational Meetings will be made available remotely via 2-way video or audio technology. Members or others attending remotely will be counted, will have the opportunity to participate as if they were physically present, and will be given the opportunity to vote remotely.

(Amended 03/28/2021)

Section 3 - Leadership

A - Church Officers: Jesus Christ alone is Head of the church (Col. 1:18), and He governs His church through officers whom He appoints (Acts 20:28; Eph. 4:11) and who are endowed by His Spirit with the graces and gifts needed to accomplish their work (I Cor. 15:9 -10). Because Christ appoints church officers, they have authority (II Cor. 13:10) and their authority is limited by Him in the Scriptures (I Cor. 14:36-38; III John 9). There are two kinds of church officers, elders and deacons (Phil. 1:1; I Tim. 3:1-13). Beside these two offices the Scriptures acknowledge no office which continues in the church today (Phil. 1:1; I Tim. 3:1-13). Elders are called: "bishops" (meaning "overseers") because they are charged with the oversight of the assembly (Acts 20:28; I Pet. 5:2); "pastors" because they shepherd the flock of God (Acts 20:28); and "rulers" because they govern and care for the house of God (I Tim. 3:4; Heb. 13:17,24). Some church officers may be paid by the church.

B - Elders Qualifications and Tenure: The Church shall recognize as elders (through the selection process indicated in this Section) all active, male members of the Church who qualify according to Titus 1 and I Timothy 3, who are in agreement with the EFCA Statement of Faith, and who demonstrate shepherding and ruling qualities as described in Titus and Timothy. These men shall continue to be regarded as elders unless and until they cease to be qualified or to function as elders. An elder may also need to step away for a season due to life circumstances. The specifics of this will be handled on a case-by-case basis by the Council of Elders.

C - Selection of Elders: The congregation shall pray that God will provide qualified men for consideration as elders. Men of the congregation shall be accountable for filling these positions by preparing themselves to serve as elders.

1. At any time, members of the congregation may recommend to the existing elders other men in the congregation whom they consider qualified to become elders.
2. At any time, the Council of Elders, by a 100% vote of approval, may select a man in the congregation (who has been a member of the church for at least one year) to be an elder candidate.
3. Soon after the Council of Elders approves a man to be an elder candidate, an existing elder will announce this to the congregation during a Sunday morning worship service.
4. After an elder candidate is selected by the elders, he will begin an elder candidacy period of at least one year. See Policy Statement for details regarding the elder candidacy period.
5. During the elder candidacy period, the congregation shall prayerfully consider the qualifications of the elder candidate. Any concerns about the candidate's qualifications shall be discussed directly with the elder candidate or voiced to an elder during the candidacy period.
6. Once the elder candidacy period is completed (as determined by the Council of Elders), the Council of Elders will vote whether or not to recommend the elder candidate to the church as an elder.
7. If the Council of Elders vote 100% to recommend the candidate to the church, a meeting will be held soon after for the church to vote on the elder candidate to become an elder. A 75% vote by the members of the church is required for the individual to become an elder.
8. Soon after approval to being an elder, the new elder shall be publicly identified with the Council of Elders by the laying on of hands in a regular worship service (Acts 6:6, 8:18, 18:3).

D - The Council of Elders:

1. The Word of God defines the limits and boundaries of the authority of church officers and of the congregation.
2. The eldership as a body is authorized and responsible to give comprehensive oversight to the church (Acts 20:17-35; I Peter 5:1-2), including the preaching and teaching of the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:20-21,27; Titus 1:9); the watching out for the welfare of the soul of every member of the church (Eph. 4:11-16; Col. 1:28; I Thess. 2:11; Heb. 13:17); and the directing of the church in all its tasks by setting general policy and by making specific decisions (I Tim. 3:4-5; Heb. 13:17; I Peter 5:1-2). Nonetheless, the elders must exercise this authority with sensitivity to the consensus of the congregation (Ezek. 34:4; I Tim. 3:4-5; I Pet. 3:7) in the posture of servants and examples to the congregation (Matt. 20:25-28; I Pet. 5:3). Therefore, the elders should seek the advice and support of the congregation respecting any major endeavor or large expenditure and should be willing to yield to the congregation when appropriate (Acts 19:30; 21:11-14).
3. The Council of Elders shall select a meeting facilitator, secretary, and any others the elders deem necessary.
4. The time, place, and content of elders meetings, shall be set by the current facilitator of the elders as provided herein.
5. All regular Council of Elders meetings are open to church members unless the Council of Elders deems otherwise.
6. Decisions made by Council of Elders requires 100% approval. If 100% approval is not obtained on an initial vote, the item will be set aside to be brought up at a later time as determined by the Council of Elders. The next time the item is brought to the Council, it may be passed upon a 67% or above approval. There are some instances which require 100% approval even upon second review such as the selection of elder and deacon candidates, the appointment of elders and deacons, primary doctrinal positions, and any other items the Council of Elders deems appropriate according to a 67% vote.
7. The Council of Elders shall also serve as the Church's legal trustees. Any Board required by the laws of the state to act as the legal representatives of the church shall consist of the officers of the church (elders and deacons). Should the number of members required for any such Board be beyond the number of church officers, the officers shall nominate, and the congregation shall approve by its suffrage, enough male members of the church to make up the minimum number of persons required to comply with the laws of the state or as is thought needful by the church officers. Any such Board would represent the church in legal matters, including holding in trust the church's property, but the Board shall not act on matters of consequence without a specific vote of the church authorizing such action.
8. The Treasurer shall make regular reports to the Council of Elders as required by the Council, and at least twice a year, report to the Congregation.
9. The appointment of all boards and committees shall be the responsibility of the Council of Elders. The Council of Elders shall produce and periodically review a "Church Policy Statement" covering major areas of church government and ministry including but limited to the following:
 - i. Staff positions
 - ii. Ministry committees
 - iii. Non-officer leadership positions
 - iv. Procedures for selecting paid staff
 - v. Financial policies and procedures
 - vi. Missionary-support policy
 - vii. Procedures for accepting new members
 - viii. Evangelism/Cultural Engagement
 - ix. Elder Candidacy
 - x. Small Groups
 - xi. Discipleship
 - xii. Elder Meetings (how they should be conducted)
 - xiii. Landscaping

Such policy statement must be in conformity with all other provisions contained within this constitution.

10. Elders will facilitate and actively participate in the Purpose of the Church as stated in the opening section of this document. In addition to leadership and shepherding roles, elders shall be responsible, but not limited to the following actions:
 - i. Selection of paid ministerial staff
 - ii. Removal of paid ministerial staff
 - iii. Discipline of members
 - iv. Purchase of property
 - v. New building programs
 - vi. Appointing new elders
 - vii. Any matter requested by the Council of Elders.
11. Communication with the Congregation and the Council of Elders: Minutes of all Council of Elders meetings shall be made available to the congregation.

E – Deacons:

Role of Deacons (Acts 6:2-4) Assist and support the Elders in ministry to the church by addressing physical needs with spiritual wisdom.

Qualifications of Deacons

1. Meets biblical qualifications (Acts 6:3; 1 Timothy 3:8-13)
2. Male or Female member of Galveston Bible Church in good standing
3. Faithful in service to the Lord and Galveston Bible Church

Process for Recognizing Deacons (Acts 6:3-6)

1. Recommended by the congregation, or selected by the Council of Elders for recognition as a Deacon
2. Candidate completes Elder approved Deacon Development Discipling with Head Deacon (see Policy)
3. Head Deacon reports to Council of Elders regarding the candidate
4. Candidate presents, in writing, to the Council of Elders why he/she desires to serve as a Deacon
5. and how she/he meets the scriptural qualifications
6. Council of Elders examine the candidate
7. Council of Elders vote to recognize or not recognize him/her, 100% vote required for recognition
8. Council of Elders publicly recognize Deacon before the congregation

Responsibilities of Deacons

1. Deacons shall be available to the Elders to assist the planning and carrying out of ministries and assessing and meeting needs within the church.
2. Deacons shall recommend and, with the approval of the Elders, initiate ministry to meet needs of the church.
3. Deacons shall meet informally as needed with the Head Deacon, as a group or individually, to pray and coordinate activities.

F - Officer Review:

1. Every year in a congregational meeting to be held no later than the last Sunday in March, all of the church officers including elder candidates shall be presented to the congregation and the regular members shall be given the opportunity to indicate by a written evaluation including areas of weakness or concern regarding each officer's role as an officer of the church in accord with the biblical qualifications.
2. Evaluations shall include a text of the biblical passages addressing the responsibilities and qualifications for elders and deacons and a place to indicate responses. Only signed ballots will be considered.
3. All officers and candidates shall be shown evaluations concerning themselves and shall be asked to meet with the council of elders to prayerfully evaluate the congregational responses.
4. The detailed results of the evaluations need not be publicized, but shall be available to any member who wishes to see them.

5. If serious concerns are raised, a maximum of one month shall be extended by the council of elders in order to allow for resolution of the problems with those members submitting serious concerns in their evaluations. Those members shall be invited to attend the next regularly scheduled meeting of the council of elders to discuss the reported problems. If the problems still exist and the council of elders deem it appropriate, discipline may be initiated.

Section 4 - Church Staff

A - Positions: The Council of Elders shall determine what staff positions the Church should have. All Staff must be members, associate members, or for those who have not been attending Galveston Bible Church for six months, conditionally-approved members. See Policy Statement. Elders or staff being compensated by the church shall not be able to vote on his or her own salary.

B - Procedure for Calling a Minister:

1. A 100% approval by all elders present shall be required before a recommendation may be brought to the Congregation.
2. At least a 75% approval of the votes cast by the regular members in a properly called congregational meeting shall be sufficient to authorize the Council of Elders to proceed with the call of the candidate. The Council of Elders shall consider comments or objections raised before proceeding with the call.
3. The exact procedure for finding God's man shall be determined by the Council of Elders .

C - Procedure for Dismissing a Staff Elder

1. The staff elder shall be given clear Scriptural grounds for dismissal, relative to his moral and spiritual qualifications and/or his quality of ministry to the church
2. A staff elder is not eligible to vote on his own dismissal.
3. A 75% vote of the Council of Elders shall be sufficient to present to the congregation.
4. A simple majority of those voting in a properly called congregational meeting shall make the elders' resolution for dismissal final.

Section 6 - Treasurer and Finances

The Council of Elders shall select a church treasurer, whose responsibilities shall be to supervise the collections, deposits and disbursement of all funds. Adequate care shall be taken by the Council of Elders to guarantee the propriety of all financial activities including periodic audits or review of the financial record. At any time the Treasurer may be required to present the financial records to the Council of Elders .

Section 7 - Maintaining Unity

The Church as a whole and the elders in particular are to follow the Scriptural patterns for developing healthy unity in balance with sound, biblical convictions through the development of servant attitudes (Phil. 2:1-9). Should major division in the church develop, any two elders or any 20% of the regular membership may request of the District Board of the Evangelical Free Church or the elders of another church of like doctrine and practice (that is agreeable to a majority of the regular members), to counsel, arbitrate, and if necessary, function with apostolic authority to resolve the problems and restore unity of the church.

ARTICLE IV - AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be revised or amended by a two thirds vote of the Council of Elders and a 75% vote of qualified voting members in attendance at a properly called congregational meeting.