



BYLAWS OF PIEDMONT BIBLE CHURCH OF VIRGINIA

Article I: Name and Location of Church

The name of the Church is Piedmont Bible Church (hereinafter referred to as the “Church”). It is a Virginia nonprofit religious organization with its principal offices in Haymarket, Virginia.

Article II: Purpose

This Church is organized for exclusively religious purposes (including charitable and eleemosynary purposes common to a pastoral church ministry as defined by Scripture).

Article III: Statement of Faith

The statement of faith of this Church is the most recent version of *Piedmont Bible Church—Statement of Faith* approved by the Board of Elders of Piedmont Bible Church (hereinafter referred to as the “Statement of Faith”).

Article IV: Church Membership

Section 1. Purpose and Definition of the Fellowship

The church is a gathering congregation of Christian believers who have applied for membership and have been duly accepted and shall constitute a spiritual body, united for the spiritual purposes set forth in Article II of these Bylaws, to the glory of God.

Section 2. Active Membership

Active membership in Piedmont Bible Church shall be open to all persons who confess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, who have been baptized, have signed a membership covenant, and have been interviewed by the elders.

Section 3. Voting Privileges

Membership in this Church conveys no voting rights or privileges. The elders of Piedmont Bible Church may submit a matter to the membership for a vote of affirmation. These votes are a mechanism for providing feedback to the elders, and in no way should be construed or understood as a binding plebicide.

Section 4. Applications for Membership

All requests for membership shall be made to an Elder and accompanied by a completed membership application. Upon receipt of a membership application, an interview with a delegation of elders will be scheduled. The purpose of these interview is to assess the applicant's profession of faith and subscription to the "The Basic Doctrines of the Christian Faith" document attached to the membership application.

Section 5. Denial of Membership

If, upon review of an application for membership or after meeting with a prospective member, the Board of Elders determines that the applicant does not confess Jesus Christ as his or her Lord and Savior, or that they do not subscribe to "The Basic Doctrines of the Christian Faith" document attached to the membership application, membership shall be denied. The decision made by the Board shall be final and there shall be no appeal to any court from that decision. Re-application will be considered if the aforementioned reasons for denial have been resolved.

Section 6. Admission of Applicants

Applicants admitted to membership shall, if possible, present themselves at a worship service designated by the Board of Elders, at which service such applicants shall publicly affirm their membership commitment and be publicly acknowledged as members of the church.

Section 7. Responsibilities of Members

Members shall seek to exercise their spiritual gifts for the mutual benefit of all the Church body and shall submit to the loving rule of the Elders.

Section 8. Church Discipline

- a) The purpose of church discipline is to glorify God by maintaining purity in the local church (1 Corinthians 5:6). The goal of the church discipline process is to restore a sinning member to full fellowship with the church. It is never to punish or to excommunicate. Any such actions will be taken reluctantly. The church discipline process is in no way a punitive process.
- b) Members of this church who err in doctrine, or who engage in conduct that violates Scripture as determined by the Board of Elders, shall be subject to the church discipline process, the end of which may be dismissal from church membership and exclusion from fellowship.
- c) The church discipline process will be conducted in accordance with Scriptural dictates. Passages of scripture that speak to this process include, but are not limited to, Matthew 18:15-18, 1 Corinthians 5:1-13, and Titus 3:10.

- d) The members of this Church, and all others who regularly attend or fellowship with this Church, agree that there shall be no appeal to any court because of dismissal or because of public statements to the congregation. Members who are under discipline by the Church, as defined in the previous paragraphs, forfeit and waive the right to resign from this Church. Resignation from membership is possible only by members who are in good standing and who are not under any disciplinary action.
- e) Separate and apart from the process of church discipline, but subject to the discretion the Elders, a member, non-member regular attendee, or any other individual may be notified that he or she is not to be present upon Church premises for such a period of time as is deemed necessary for the safety and well-being of others on Church premises. Such required absence may, but need not, be concurrent with church discipline of that person.
- f) Separate and apart from the process of church discipline, but subject to the discretion and approval of the Elders, the names of any members who have consistent non-attendance may be removed from the membership rolls.

Article V: Elders

Section 1. Powers

Subject to the limitations of these Bylaws, all the activities and affairs of the Church shall be exercised by or under the direction of the Board of Elders, who are responsible for shepherding, having oversight of the flock, and for the spiritual welfare of the Church. Without prejudice to such general powers, but subject to these same limitations, it is hereby expressly declared that the Board shall have the following powers in addition to the other powers enumerated by these Bylaws:

- a) To select and remove all the officers, agents, Elders, staff, and employees of the Church; prescribe such duties for them consistent with the Scriptures, with law, with the Constitution of the Church, or with these Bylaws; and fix the terms of their offices and their compensation.
- b) To make such disbursements from the funds and properties of the Church as are required to fulfill the purposes of this Church as set out in the Bylaws of the Church, and generally to conduct, manage, and control the activities and affairs of the Church and to make such rules and regulations consistent with the Scriptures, with law, and these Bylaws, as they deem best.
- c) To establish policies and practices for the worship of the Church consistent with the purposes of this church.
- d) To assist the Pastor in the administration of the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Table.
- e) To borrow money and incur indebtedness for the purposes of the Church and to cause

to be executed and delivered, in the Church's name, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, deeds of trust, mortgages, pledges, hypothecations, or other evidences of debt and securities.

- f) To carry on a business and apply any such profit that results from the business activity in which it may legally engage.

Section 2. Number of Elders

The goal of the church is to maintain a plurality of elders. If unforeseen circumstances cause the number of Elders to decrease to only one, the remaining Elder retains his powers and will appoint other qualified men to serve as Elder after an appropriate period of discipleship in the spiritual aspects of eldership. Under no circumstances will a biblically unqualified man be appointed.

Section 3. Nomination, Selection, and Tenure of Office

Elders in Piedmont Bible Church are appointed for life. Their tenure in the office of Elder ends either at death, transfer of membership to another church, resignation, or disqualification. Selection of Elders is determined solely by the Board of Elders as they take into consideration the input of the whole congregation and weigh the man's qualifications against the Biblical criteria.

Additionally, no man shall be appointed as an elder before a period of congregational input and feedback, of not less than 6 months. The period of congregational input shall commence immediately on an elder announcing from the pulpit of a man's candidacy.

No man shall be appointed as an elder without being subject to a public examination of his doctrine. This examination will take on a Sunday in the Sunday school hour. All Sunday school classes and other activities in that hour will be canceled on that Sunday. The pending examination will be included in the Sunday morning announcements for at least 2 consecutive weeks prior to the examination.

Section 4. Qualifications

Each member of the Board of Elders must be an active member of this Church, be in full agreement with the Statement of Faith, and be a man who possesses the qualifications described in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9 as understood by the current Elders.

Section 5. Resignation

Any Elder may resign effective upon giving written notice to the elder board, unless the notice specifies a later time for the effectiveness of such resignation.

Section 6. Removal of Elders

Any Elder may be removed from office at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Elders if he is found to be physically or mentally incapacitated or spiritually unqualified (according to

pertinent Scripture, including 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9) after a thorough corroborating investigation by the Elders.

If an Elder is removed because of sin that is deemed sufficient to disqualify him from shepherding, and if he refuses to repent from that sin, the removal shall be accompanied by a public rebuke, and notice shall be made before the church and the congregation thereof as prescribed in 1 Timothy 5:20.

Section 7. Place of Meetings

Any meeting (whether regular, special, or adjourned) of the Board of Elders of the Church may be held at any place within or without the State of Virginia by mutual agreement of the elders. This may include virtual meetings.

Section 8. Quorum

A quorum shall consist of 3/4 of the elders.

Section 12. Rights of Inspection

Every Elder shall have the absolute right at any reasonable time to inspect and copy all books, records, and documents of every kind and to inspect the physical properties of the Church of which such person is an Elder, for a purpose reasonably related to such person's interest as an Elder.

Section 13. Decisions of the Board of Elders

Decisions shall be reached after prayerful consideration by unanimous ascent of a quorum of elders in a spirit of humility, with each elder regarding one another before himself. In the case of the removal of a disqualified Elder, the Elder under question shall have no vote. In matters pertaining to the compensation of vocational elders, the elder whose compensation is being considered shall recuse himself from all discussions.

Article VI: Other Councils and Committees

Section 1. Deacons

The Deacons shall consist of members possessing the qualifications described in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. They shall be men appointed by the Board. The Deacons shall assist the Elders in ministering to the saints, assist at the Lord's Table and baptismal services, and perform other duties as assigned by the Board of Elders. A Deacon shall be a man of dignity, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not fond of sordid gain, holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience, first tested and found above reproach. Their wives must also be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things (1 Timothy 3:11).

Section 2. Vacancies

In any of the above-mentioned offices becomes vacant, the Board of Elders may fill them.

Article VII: Ordination and Commission

Section 1. Ordination

Ordination refers to the unanimous recognition by the Board of Elders of a man's call to the ministry, preparation as a shepherd, and qualification to serve. Ordination shall be conferred for life, so long as the man continues to manifest the qualifications of the office.

Article VIII: The Pastor

Section 1. Selection

The Pastor shall be selected by the Board of Elders, appointed to the position of Pastor, and also considered to be a member of the Board of Elders. He shall remain in office an indefinite period of time subject to the following reservations: The Elders reserve the right to dismiss the Pastor upon giving him three month's written notice of its intention to dismiss. Three month's notice shall not be required in cases of biblical disqualification (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9). The Pastor must give one month's notice if he intends to resign. The time limit of a Pastor's resignation or dismissal is subject to a lesser time if both the Pastor-Teacher and the Board by mutual agreement provide otherwise.

Section 2. Duties

The Pastor shall be responsible to the Board of Elders. The Pastor shall arrange for all public and regular services of the Church and shall be responsible for general oversight of the spiritual welfare of the Church. In the absence of the Pastor, the Board of Elders shall be responsible to arrange for the public and regular services of the Church.

Section 3. Qualifications

The Pastor, being a member of the Board of Elders, is subject to the same qualifications as the Board of Elders as described in Article V, Section 4, of these Bylaws.

Article IX: Settlement of Disputes

In any dispute arising between Church members, Elders, or staff pertaining to any matter of spiritual teaching or practices, Church finances, or title to property purchased with Church contributions, the dispute shall be resolved by the Board of Elders of the Church. A decision shall be reached after prayerful consideration, in a spirit of humility, with each Elder regarding one another before himself and striving to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:1-3).

In the event any dispute cannot be resolved by the elders, an appeal to the board of directors of the Master's Fellowship Mid-Atlantic (formerly known as Grace Advance Mid-Atlantic and the Mid-Atlantic Bible Fellowship) shall be made and should they dispatch a dispute resolution team, the elders will take their recommendation under advisement, and will regard their interpretation of pertinent Scripture passages as authoritative.

Article X: Other Provisions

Section 1. Endorsement of Documents and Contracts

The elders may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents, to enter into any contract or execute any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Church. Such authority may be general or confined to specific instances. Unless so authorized by the elders, no officer, agent or employee shall have any power or authority to bind the Church by any contract or agreement, or to pledge its credit, or to render it liable for any purpose or to any amount.

Section 2. Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended and new and additional Bylaws may be made from time to time at any time by the Board of Elders in the exercise of the power granted to said Board of Elders in these Bylaws.

Article XI: Receipt, Investment, and Disbursement of Funds

Section 1. Receipt of Funds

The Church shall receive all monies or other properties transferred to it for the purposes for which the Church was formed. However, nothing contained herein shall require the Board of Elders to accept or receive any money or property of any kind if it shall determine in its discretion that receipt of such money or property is contrary to the expressed purposes of the Church as shown by said Constitution.

Section 2. Management of Funds

The Church shall hold, manage, and disburse any funds or properties received by it from any source in a manner that is consistent with the expressed purposes of this Church.

Article XII: Church Records and Reports

Section 1. Records

The Church shall maintain adequate and correct accounts, books, and records of its business and properties. All such books, records, and accounts shall be kept at its principal place of business.

Section 2. Inspection of Books and Records

Every Elder shall have the absolute right at any reasonable time to inspect all books, records, documents of every kind, and the physical properties of the Church, and also of its subsidiary organizations, if any.

Section 3. Fiscal Year of the Church

The fiscal year of the Church shall begin on the first day of January and end on the last day of December each year and may be changed as necessary by the Elders.

Article XIII: Dissolution

Upon dissolution of this Church, the Board of Elders shall cause the assets herein to be distributed to another church or ministry with purposes similar to that identified in Article II of these Bylaws.

Article XIV: Miscellaneous Provisions

Section 1. Instruments in Writing

All checks, drafts, demands for money and notes of the Church and all written contracts of the Church shall be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents, as the Board of Elders may designate.