

BYLAWS
(as revised February 1, 2018)
OF FREEDOM CHURCH
A NONPROFIT CORPORATION
3083 Trails End, Aubrey, TX 76227

ARTICLE I
PRINCIPAL OFFICE AND REGISTERED AGENT

1.01 Principal Office. The principal office of the corporation in the State of Texas shall be located in the County of Denton. The corporation may have such other offices, either within or without the State of Texas, as the Board of Elders may determine or as the affairs of the corporation may require from time to time.

1.02 Registered Office and Registered Agent. The corporation shall have and continuously maintain in the State of Texas a registered office, and a registered agent whose office is identical with such registered office, as required by the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act. The registered office may be, but need not be, identical with the principal office of the corporation in the State of Texas, and the address of the registered office may be changed from time to time by the Board of Elders.

ARTICLE II
Membership (Partnership)

2.01 Defined. And when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the ***right hand of fellowship*** to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised (Galatians 2:9)

The ***right hand of fellowship*** was a ritual token of agreement or covenant that was instituted and practiced by the three pillars of the early church, namely, Peter, James, and John, whereby they welcomed, with full consent, partners into their society. In this case, Paul (an apostle untimely born) and Barnabas, were recognized as fellow workers, or “partners,” by virtue of their confession of faith, character, and calling.

Membership at Freedom Church is better identified, and will hereafter be referred to, as “partnership.” Also, members will be referred to as “partners” in our fellowship. Partnership comes with privileges and responsibilities.

2.02 Types of Partnership.

- a. Regular partnership includes partners of the church who have the usual privileges and responsibilities of church partnership.

- b. Associate partnership includes partners who have the usual privileges and responsibilities of church partnership, with the exception of holding appointed office. Such partnership is for those who desire to fellowship with us while retaining regular membership in another church. Any person holding an associate partnership will be removed from the church roll when he moves from this area.

2.03 Reception of Partners. Prospective partners may present themselves for partnership in the church upon profession of personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ pursuant with the teaching regarding salvation in the Church Constitution. They should be baptized and confess agreement with the doctrine as outlined in the Church Constitution and sign the Freedom Church Memorandum of Understanding that defines the privileges, expectations, and responsibilities that exist between the partner and the church. Upon the recommendation of the Elders reviewing the partnership application, they may be approved for church partnership by the Board of Elders.

2.04 Termination of Partnership.

- a. Transfer. Partners in good standing shall be granted on written request a letter of transfer to an evangelical church of their choice. At the discretion of the Elders, members who move from the Denton area will be removed from partnership.
- b. Dismissal. God's Word enjoins upon the church the duty of exercising discipline over its partnership. The Board of Elders after due biblical process of discipline may remove from the partnership of the church any partner who departs from his or her previously expressed agreement with the doctrinal statement, or evidences a continued, unrepentant departure from biblical morality. The Board may also remove from partnership anyone who clearly manifests disinterest and inactivity in the life of the church. Such a partner shall be contacted before he or she may be dismissed.
- c. Withdrawal. Any member may request to withdraw his or her partnership. However, partnership cannot be withdrawn to avoid church discipline.

2.05 Freedom Church Memorandum of Understanding.

FAITH	I have received Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and have assurance of my salvation.
DOCTRINE	I have read the Constitution of Freedom Church and I believe and accept its foundational doctrines, standards, and purposes. With the Lord's help I will endeavor to do the following:
FELLOWSHIP	Attend regularly the services of my church.
PRAYER	Pray for my fellow partners, church leaders, church activities, and its missionaries.
SUPPORT	Be a steward and invest in the support of my church and its projects.
SERVICE	Seek to be a blessing to others by using the spiritual gifts the Lord has given me by assuming an active responsibility in the program of the church.
UNITY	Guard my tongue from destructive criticism and gossip, submit to discipline of this church, and work for the good of all partners, thus pleasing the Head of the Church, our blessed Lord.

ARTICLE III MEETINGS

3.01 Annual Meeting. The fiscal year of the church shall begin on January 1st and end on December 31st. The annual meeting of the church shall be held in January, notice of which meeting shall be given in the bulletin or from the pulpit two consecutive Sundays preceding the meeting. Expiring terms of elective office shall end and all new terms begin at the annual meeting.

The agenda shall include the following:

- a. Annual report of the treasurer including presentation of the budget for the ensuing year.
- b. A resume of the year's work shall be made by oral or written reports from the Pastor(s) and/or staff.

3.02 Called Meeting. Special business meetings of the congregation may be called by the Pastor or Board of Elders. Notice of such meeting shall be given at least three regular meetings covering a period of two Sundays prior to the called meeting.

3.03 Parliamentary Procedure. In business meetings, any parliamentary question not covered by the Constitution, Articles of Incorporation, or Bylaws of Freedom Church shall be

decided by the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

3.04 Regular Meetings. The regular services of the church shall include a weekly worship service, and such other times as may be approved by the Board of Elders.

ARTICLE IV

GOVERNMENT

4.01 General Powers of Board of Elders and Spiritual Leadership. The affairs of the corporation shall be managed by its Board of Elders. This church acknowledges the Lord Jesus Christ as its head; the Holy Scriptures as the infallible guide in the matter 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. Executive authority in spiritual matters and material matters is invested in the Board of Elders.

4.02 Number and Tenure. The Board of Elders shall consist of a minimum of three members, which number may be increased by the Elder Board. Membership shall be determined by the Board itself. Each Elder, other than the Pastor, shall serve a term of three years unless otherwise determined. Pastors shall serve as members of the Board of Elders in addition to their regular duties.

4.03 Organization. At the first meeting of the fiscal year the Board of Elders shall elect a chairman, secretary, and treasurer. It may also appoint from its members individuals or committees to represent the Board of Elders in the oversight of the various spiritual activities and material aspects of the church. The Board of Elders has the power to delegate to individuals or to committees or organizations the right to transact any of their business or to exercise any of their powers, but the exercise of such delegation shall be subject to the supervision and control of the Board of Elders.

4.04 Deacons. The Board of Elders may from time to time appoint Deacons to perform specific tasks for specified lengths of time.

ARTICLE V

OFFICERS

5.01 Officers. The officers of the church shall be the Pastor and the Board of Elders. The Board of Elders shall elect a chairman, a secretary, a treasurer and such other officers as the Board deems appropriate. All officers shall meet the spiritual standards set forth in 1 Timothy 3.

5.02 The Pastor.

- a. Duties. The duties of the Pastor shall be to preach the gospel, supervise the administration of the ordinances, and exercise pastoral oversight of the Church. The Pastor shall act as ex-officio member of the organizations and committees of

the Church and shall suggest appointments of such committees as may be considered necessary.

- b. The Pastor's Staff. The church staff will be selected by the Pastor and the Elder Board at a duly called meeting of the officers of the Church, with the exception of the Pastor (who also serves as Elder). The church staff shall not be officers of the church. The Pastor shall direct the remunerated church staff.
- c. A Pastor shall be called or dismissed by a 3/4 majority vote or by such number as would constitute at least a 3/4 majority vote of the Board of Elders and shall continue in office as long as both parties are agreed to continue the relationship. The call or dismissal of the Pastor shall come from the Board of Elders' regularly called business meeting, notice of such meeting and its purpose having been given from the pulpit on two consecutive Sundays.

5.03 The Board of Elders.

- a. The Elders shall preach the gospel, supervise the administration of the ordinances, and exercise pastoral oversight of the church. The Pastor shall act as an ex-officio member of the organizations and committees of the church and shall suggest appointment of such committees as may be considered necessary. The Elders shall be the executive officers of the church and shall in general supervise and control all of the business affairs of the church. The Chairman of the Elder Board may sign, with the Secretary of the Elder Board, any deeds, mortgages, bonds, contracts, or other instruments which the Board of Elders have authorized to be executed except in cases where the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the Board of Elders or by these bylaws or by statute to some other officer or agent of the church; and in general he shall perform all duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Elders from time to time.
- b. Duties. The Board of Elders have executive authority in all spiritual matters of the Church. Board of Elders may assist the Pastor in the observance of the Lord's table.
- c. The Chairman of the Board of Elders or someone designated by him shall act

as moderator over all congregational meetings.

5.04 Duties of the Secretary of the Church. The secretary of the church shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Elders in one or more books provided for that purpose; give all notices in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws or as required by law; be custodian of the corporate records and of the seal of the corporation, and, in general perform all duties incident to the office of the Secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him by the Pastor or by the Board of Elders.

5.05 Duties of the Treasurer of the Church. The Board of Elders shall appoint a Treasurer, who shall have custody of funds contributed to the church for any purpose and shall pay out the same as directed by the Board of Elders.

ARTICLE VI

ORDINATION

6.01. Ordination Application. When a member of this church or other applicant feels that God has called him or her to the Christian ministry, he may make application for ordination. This application shall be considered by the Board of Elders.

6.02. Ordination Council. If the Board of Elders feel that the applicant should be considered for ordination by this church to the gospel ministry, the Board may ask the Pastor to call an ordination council which shall thoroughly examine the candidate as to his call to the ministry, education, Christian experience and doctrinal belief. The candidate shall be publicly ordained to the Christian ministry upon the recommendation of this council.

6.03. Ordination. This title is reserved for those pastors or ministry directors who are in full time ministry and meet the qualifications of an elder.

6.04. Commissioning. This title is reserved for those pastors or ministry directors who are in full time ministry and not yet qualified to be an elder.

6.05. Licensing. This title is reserved for those who are engaged in ministry on a part time basis, or who are bi-vocational. That is, anyone who is involved in part time ministry and either a full time or part time non-ministry (secular) job would fall into this category.

ARTICLE VII

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

7.01 Committees and Boards. The Board of Elders, by resolution adopted by the Elders in office, may designate and appoint one or more committees, each of which shall consist of one or more Elders, which committees, to the extent provided in said resolution shall have and exercise

the authority of the Board of Elders in the management of the church. However, no such committee shall have the authority of the Board of Elders in reference to amending, altering, or repealing the bylaws; electing, appointing, or removing any member of any such committee or any Elder or officer of the church; amending the Articles of Incorporation; adopting a plan of merger or adopting a plan of consolidation with another church; authorizing the sale, lease, exchange, or mortgage of all or substantially all of the property and assets of the church; authorizing the voluntary dissolution of the church or revoking proceedings therefore; adopting a plan for the distribution of the assets of the church; or amending, altering, or repealing any resolution of the Board of Elders which by its terms provides that it shall not be amended, altered, or repealed by such committee. The designation and appointment of any such committee and the delegation thereto of authority shall not operate to relieve the Board of Elders, or any individual Elder, of any responsibility imposed on it or by him by law.

7.02 Other Committees. Other committees not having and exercising the authority of the Board of Elders in the management of the church may be designated by a resolution adopted by the Elders present at a meeting at which a quorum is present. The Elders of the church shall appoint the members of such committees. Any members thereof may be removed by the Elders whenever in their judgement the best interests of the church shall be served by such removal.

7.03 Term of Office. Each member of a committee shall continue as such until the next annual meeting of the church and until his successor is appointed, unless the committee shall be sooner terminated by the Board of Elders, or unless such member be removed from such committee, or unless such member shall cease to qualify as a member thereof.

7.04 Chairman. One member of each committee shall be appointed chairman by the person or persons authorized to appoint the members thereof.

7.05 Vacancies. Vacancies in the membership of any committee may be filled by appointments made in the same manner as provided in the case of the original appointments.

7.06 Quorum. Unless otherwise provided in the resolution of the Board of Elders designating a committee, a majority of the whole committee shall constitute a quorum and the act of a majority of the members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the committee.

7.07 Rules. Each committee may adopt rules for its own government not inconsistent with these bylaws or with rules adopted by the Board of Elders.

7.08 Finance Board.

- a. Membership. The Finance Board shall be composed of the Church Treasurer and such other persons from the congregation deemed necessary by the Elder Board.
- b. Duties. The Finance Board shall prepare a proposed budget which will be

presented to the Elders annually.

- c. The Finance Board shall operate under such policies as the Elder Board may adopt.

ARTICLE VIII

CONTRACTS, CHECKS, DEPOSITS, AND FUNDS

8.01 Contracts. The Board of Elders may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents of the church, in addition to the officers so authorized by these bylaws, to enter into any contract or execute and delivery any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the church. Such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

8.02 Checks and Drafts. All checks, drafts, or orders for the payment of money, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the church shall be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents of the church and in such manner as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Board of Elders. In the absence of such determination by the Board of Elders such instruments shall be signed by one Elder and the Treasurer, or two Elders.

8.03 Deposits. All funds of the church shall be deposited from time to time to the credit to the church in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as the Board of Elders may select.

8.04 Gifts. The Board of Elders may accept on behalf of the church any contribution, gift, bequest, or devise for the general purpose or for any special purpose of the church.

8.05 Use of Monies and Other Assets. All monies and assets received by this church body shall be used to accomplish the purpose of this body as set forth in the Freedom Church constitution.

ARTICLE IX

BOOKS AND RECORDS

9.01 Books and Records. The church shall keep correct and complete books and records of account and shall also keep minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Elders and committees appointed by the Board of Elders.

9.02 Congregational Minutes. Minutes of congregational meetings shall be kept by the Secretary of the Board of Elders.

9.03 Elder Minutes. Minutes and records of Elder transactions shall be kept by the Secretary of the Board of Elders.

ARTICLE X FISCAL YEAR

10.01 The fiscal year of the church shall begin on the first day of January and end on the

last day in December in each year.

ARTICLE XI SEAL

11.01 The Board of Elders shall provide a corporate seal, which shall be in the form of a circle and shall have inscribed thereon the name of the church and the words "Corporate Seal of Freedom Church."

ARTICLE XII WAIVER OF NOTICE

12.01 Whenever any notice is required to be given under the provisions of the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act or under the provision of the Articles of Incorporation or by bylaws of the corporation, a waiver thereof in writing signed by the person or persons entitled to such notice, whether before or after the time stated therein, shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice.

ARTICLE XIII AMENDMENTS

13.01. If it does not infringe upon the doctrinal principles of this church, these Bylaws, the Articles of Incorporation and Constitution, may be altered, amended, or repealed by the Elders at any regular meeting or at any special meeting, if at least two days written notice is given to each Elder by the Elder requesting a change of an intention to alter, or repeal these documents or to adopt a new constitution at such meeting. A three-quarter (3/4) majority vote of the Elder Board is required for the approval of any proposed change to the Articles, Constitution or Bylaws.

FREEDOM CHURCH

By: _____

Chairman, Board of Elders

ATTEST:

By: _____

Secretary of the Church