

BYLAWS OF JOURNEY EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF WESTMINSTER, CALIFORNIA

(DRAFT #13)

PREAMBLE

Journey Evangelical Church (herein referred to as either the “Church” or the “Corporation”) is a member congregation of Evangelical Free Church of America (EFCA). As such, the Church will abide and operate consistent with the principles articulated in the Statement of Faith of EFCA (See Exhibit A).

This Corporation constitutes the legal entity through which this Church acts legally according to EFCA and contains the provisions for the governance and operation of the Corporation. These bylaws are subject to the Articles of Incorporation of the Church and California Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Statement of Faith of this Church shall be the same as that of The EFCA (See Exhibit A). The Statement of Faith may or may not adopt any future changes of the EFCA Statement of Faith as deemed acceptable by the Church.

DEFINITIONS

Congregants: Any attendee of the Church worship services, members of the Church or associated ministries

Members: Those congregants who have been officially accepted as a church member according to membership requirements, standards and expectations subsequently put forth in the following Articles of these Church bylaws. In additions, members are expected to be actively participating in the life and ministry of the church which may be manifest by worshiping in/with the church body, participation or support of church ministries or financial support of the church.

Church members are afforded the privilege to officially vote on Church business matters and the official church roll is used in determining quorum requirements for congregational meetings and voting requirements or thresholds.

Church Leaders: Pastors, Elders and Deacons

Church Leadership Team (herein referred to as the “CLT”): Pastors and Elders

ARTICLE 1

THE CONGREGATION

1.1 Nature and Purpose

The Church is visible whenever two or more are gathered in Jesus’ name. The congregation is composed of members of the body of Christ who have joined together to engage in the mission of God in their particular context, with Jesus Christ as Head. Each congregation should strive to be a tangible demonstration of the Kingdom of God. Congregations exist in a variety of forms yet have these ends in common: sharing the Good News of reconciliation to God in and through Jesus Christ, gathering people for divine worship and nurturing relationships for spiritual accountability and mutual ministry, all the

while preparing disciples to be sent as the people of God into the world. This congregationalism is the basis for the governance of the Church.

1.2 Church Membership and Accountability

While believers experience their membership in Christ's body in spontaneous and unstructured gatherings, they fulfill the Lord's purposes best when they participate to fulfill the biblical vision of membership in particular congregations. These relationships provide the real-life context for the Holy Spirit's ongoing transformation of believers into spiritual maturity, with the belief that these strong relationships nurture understanding, encouragement, correction, and discipleship-in-mission. In becoming members of the congregation, Christ-followers put themselves under the spiritual leadership of the church leaders and agree to abide by Church Membership Covenant as adopted by the CLT and comply with the provisions set forth in the Church Bylaws.

Similarly, though congregations discover that the Holy Spirit leads them to network with a variety of other congregations in order to fulfill the Lord's purposes, they interact with congregations to form a distinct expression of the Church universal. These relationships provide the context for the Holy Spirit's continual reformation of the Church into more faithful and effective participation in God's mission. By submitting to the spiritual authority of their colleagues, leaders of congregations honor Christ as the Lord of the Church, and welcome the opportunity for renewal and refinement.

Church members shall participate meaningfully in the life of the church, expressing the fruits of the Holy Spirit and utilizing the gifts that God gives all believers to serve the church. Active participation in the life of the church is demonstrated by commitment to a covenant relationship as expressed in the Journey Evangelical Church Membership Covenant.

The leadership of the congregation shall be an active part of EFCA to increase accountability and encouragement. This commitment may be evidenced by willingly cooperating and collaborating with other EFCA's local ministries and participating in district ministries and conferences whenever possible. In addition, church leadership will be involved in EFCA Leadership conferences and supporting financially national and international ministries, whenever possible.

1.3 The Membership of the Congregation and Its Inclusiveness

Through the church membership, an individual is joined to the local congregation and is able to be fully involved in its mission to the local community and the world. It is understood that church members have professed their faith in Jesus as their Lord and Savior and have been baptized as a declaration of this relationship.

The congregation's fellowship shall be open to all who seek to explore spiritual life by participating in the fellowship of the risen Lord. The congregation shall be gracious in providing pastoral care to all who consider themselves a part of the congregation, in the hope that these spiritual friends might become members of Christ's body.

1.4 The Membership of the Congregation and Accountability

Church members may be accepted upon recommendation of the CLT and having made or upon a profession of faith in Christ. Candidates for membership must be of age and maturity to reasonably understand the responsibilities of Church membership as determined by the CLT or designees. Members

must agree to voluntarily submit to the government of this Church, participate in worship and the work of the Church. Membership may be withdrawn if a member is no longer active and supporting the ministry of the Church or acts in any fashion that is deemed harmful to the well-being of the Church and/or its ministries.

Church members are eligible to vote in congregational meetings and may receive other benefits afforded to members in good standing within the Church unless restricted by local (legal) statutes or regulations.

Members may not file lawsuits against the Church related to removal from the membership rolls.

Termination of membership shall be determined by the CLT by reason of:

- a) Death.
- b) Moving from the area and no longer attending the church.
- c) Transfer of membership to another church.
- d) Personal request by the member (should be in writing).
- e) Inactivity for a period of two years without due cause as determined by the CLT.
- f) Disciplinary dismissal.
 - a. The disciplinary philosophy recorded in Matthew 18:15-17 shall govern, and the intents of discipline shall be repentance, restoration, reconciliation and maintaining the purity of the church.
 - b. A majority of the CLT at a duly-called meeting, a quorum being present, shall determine disciplinary dismissals.
 - c. A member pending disciplinary dismissal (due to unrepentant or irreconcilable behavior or actions that are deemed harmful to the Church, its ministries or other congregants, or repeated or egregious violations of the membership covenant) may present evidence or statements to CLT. There is no right to contact or confront witnesses or accusers.
 - d. A member dismissed by the CLT may, within seven calendar days of such dismissal, request to appeal the dismissal. In such case, the CLT shall convene a "voting members-only" meeting to consider charges and to hear the member's case. There is no right to require attendance of, question or confront any persons related to the matter at hand.

1.5 Meetings of the Congregation

Meetings of the congregation may be governed by the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised if deemed necessary by simple majority of the CLT present at the congregational meeting (e.g. if a specific agenda item becomes contentious and resolution not achievable.)

Church officer elections and other church business such as presentation of annual budgets for approval should occur at a minimum of annually. As the budget is a spending plan, approval is limited to the overall spending plan's main categories of expenditures and does not extend to individual line items or day-to-day management of the budget, or meeting emerging and pressing needs which are delegated to the CLT.

For the election of elders and deacons, potential candidates shall be identified by the Nominating Committee, CLT and by church members. Potential elder and deacon candidates shall be approached by members of the nominating committee or their designees prior to congregational meetings held to elect church leaders to allow time for prospective candidates to pray and reflect on the role in which a person

is being nominated. This process would also provide the opportunity for the nominee to review the qualifications and responsibilities related to this area of ministry. The slate of candidates shall be presented by the Nominating Committee at a congregational meeting called for this purpose.

1.5.1 Quorum and Avenues for Voting

The congregation shall hold an annual meeting and special meetings, as needed, with a quorum of twenty-five percent of church members. Only members in good standing may vote in a congregational meeting. Virtual participation of members via teleconference or on-line is acceptable for quorum and voting purposes for those members whose membership standing is validated. In addition, absentee balloting may be available if approved by the Church Leadership Team in advance of the meeting and processes to validate votes are in place and verified.

1.5.2 Calling Meetings

Meetings of the congregation may be called the church leadership (Pastors or Elders) or when requested in writing by twenty-five percent of the church members. Adequate notice of the meeting shall ideally be at least two weeks prior and utilizing all appropriate communication venues.

1.5.3 Business that must be conducted at a Congregational Meeting

The following business items must be conducted at a congregational meeting, but not necessarily at every congregational meeting; nor are congregational meetings limited to the following:

- a. Electing Elders, Deacons, and members of next year's Nominating Committee.
- b. Hiring of the Senior pastor or to request the removal of a Senior pastor.
- c. Buying, mortgaging, transferring, or selling real property.
- d. Requesting a change in denominational affiliation
- e. Approving any amendments to the congregation's articles of incorporation, bylaws or other corporate governing documents and dissolution, merger and any other corporate action requiring voting member approval.
- f. Review and approval of the annual budget
- g. Election of members to a Pastoral Nominating Committee

1.5.4 Moderator

The Senior Pastor shall ordinarily moderate all meetings of the congregation, however, an Elder may moderate the meeting if recommended by the CLT and agreed (by simple majority) to by the members attending the meeting. If it is impractical, or if considering actions or voting on actions pertaining to a Pastor that may require the Pastor to be excused from participation (e.g. when a meeting agenda item involves a Pastor in which his/her presence may inhibit necessary dissemination of information, gather information from congregants and/or to ensure open and transparent discussion), an Elder may preside over that portion of the meeting whenever deemed appropriate by the CLT.

1.5.5 Secretary and Minutes

The Corporate Secretary of the Church or designee will take minutes of all congregational meetings. Minutes will be available for review by any church member in good standing after approval of the minutes.

1.6 The Church Leadership

1.6.1 Purpose, Composition and Responsibilities of Church Leadership

Our congregation is governed by the CLT. The CLT consists of Elders duly elected by and from the members of the congregation, along with the congregation's pastor(s). The congregation may choose to elect additional replacement Elders if an Elder is unable or unwilling to complete their elected terms at the next annual congregation meeting or at a duly called special congregational meeting.

The CLT has the responsibility and authority for governing the congregation and guiding its mission for Christ in the world in accordance with the church by-laws and principles of EFCA. The CLT has the freedom to structure the ministry of the Church in whatever manner deemed necessary in order to maximize missional impact. The CLT is also responsible for overseeing and directing the ministry of the Deacons, for oversight and management of the financial affairs of the Church and any church property.

1.6.2 Meetings of the CLT

A member of the CLT (not a Pastor) shall ordinarily moderate all meetings of the CLT. A pastor may preside, however, with the CLT's approval.

Meetings may be governed by the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised (if deemed necessary by simple majority of the CLT present at the meeting) if a specific agenda item becomes contentious and resolution not achievable.

The CLT shall hold stated meetings at least quarterly, and shall meet at the request of two or more members of the CLT. Full minutes of the meetings and actions of the CLT shall be maintained and shall be available to any members of the congregation.

The CLT is authorized to conduct ordinary and emergency business of the Church and act on its behalf if a state of emergency (as defined in Section 9140 the California Corporations Code) were to arise. These meetings may be via video conferencing, conference calls or similar modalities if needed.

ARTICLE 2

CORPORATE OFFICERS, THE CONGREGATION & ITS LEADERS

2.1 Corporate Officers

Corporate officers shall be Elders who are actively serving on the CLT and elected by simple majority of the Elders and comprise of:

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

Secretary or Clerk

2.2 Church Leadership, Ordination and Qualifications

Pastors, Elders, and Deacons have unique roles in the structure of the Church. We also recognize the importance of lay leadership at every level for effective ministry.

Indemnification Provision:

The Church shall, to the maximum extent permitted by California corporation law, defend and indemnify any and all of its agents, and representatives against any claims or legal action resulting in expenses, judgments, awards, fines, costs, settlements, including attorney fees, and other amounts actually and reasonably incurred in connection with any proceeding arising out of the fact that such person is or was an agent or representative of the Church. For purposes of this indemnification, an "agent or representative" of the Church includes any person who is or was an Elder, Deacon, Ministry Team Leader, Director, Officer, employee, representative, or other agent of the Corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the Church as an agent or representative of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, or other enterprise, or was an agent or representative of a corporation which was a predecessor corporation of the Church or of another enterprise, at the request of such predecessor corporation.

The private property of the agents or representatives of the Church shall not be assessable, nor shall be subject to the payment of any corporate debts, nor shall the agents or representatives of the Church become individually liable or responsible for any debts or liabilities of the Church.

This indemnification provision, however, is void if the claim or legal action arises from an illegal act or action that is in violation of the Church Bylaws or Articles of Incorporation

The Senior Pastor is expected to either be ordained or appropriately credentialed by EFCA at the time of hire or with the agreement to complete their ordination/credentialing within two years of hire. Pastoral candidates will not be presented to the congregation until after consultation with EFCA. If the Senior Pastor is unable to obtain ordination from the EFCA, the affected pastor will also agree to dismissal by the Church. The CLT, with approval of the church members may choose to ordain, certify or commission other pastors as a local church body. All pastors are understood to be hired "at will".

2.3 The Ministry and Election of Elders

Elders are given authority and responsibility, along with pastors, to oversee the spiritual health of the congregation, the congregation's faithfulness to God's mission, and the ministry of the Deacons.

Elder candidates are to be identified from the church membership and brought forth by the Nominating Committee for CLT review. If a candidate is deemed qualified for the role of Elder by the CLT, the candidate will be brought forth at a Congregational meeting for election for vote by members of the Church.

There shall be a minimum of six elders on the CLT. The length of term shall be either a two or 3-year term, as recommended by the Nominating Committee and approved by the congregation, and cannot exceed six consecutive years. If six elders are not available to serve any given year, the Nominating Committee will continue to its work in identifying potential candidates

2.4 The Ministry and Election of Deacons

Deacons lead ministries that nurture fellowship and caregiving within and beyond the congregation. Deacons shall be duly elected by and from the church membership. If a candidate is deemed qualified for the role of Deacon by the CLT, the candidate will be brought forth at a Congregational meeting for election for vote by members of the Church.

The length of term shall be either 2 or 3 years, as recommended by the Nominating Committee and approved by the congregation but cannot exceed 6 consecutive years.

Ideally, there should be a minimum of 6 Deacons, evenly divided among three classes.

2.5 Elders and Deacons Commissioned for Particular Service

2.5.1 Administration of the Sacraments and Performing Baptisms

In addition to the Pastors, Elders may be commissioned to administer the sacraments and perform baptisms during worship services.

Elders and Deacons may be commissioned to administer the sacraments or perform baptisms within small group settings, such as but not limited to fellowship or bible study groups, youth group retreat gatherings, house churches, satellite congregations, and so forth under the supervision of the CLT and a pastor. The CLT shall pre-authorize the administration of the sacraments performance of baptisms, and also determine the process by which pre-authorization occurs. This commission shall be for a period of twelve months and may be renewed indefinitely.

2.5.2 Serve as Pastor

Elders and Deacons, in consultation with the CLT, may also be authorized to serve in the role of pastor for a congregation or a new church development in conformity with the standards set forth by EFCA. The CLT and resources of EFCA shall ensure training to include theological education, and ministry skill development as well as continued mentorship during this commission. This commission shall be determined by CLT.

2.6 The Ministry of the Pastors

Pastors are to use spiritual gifts for ministry, with a particular emphasis on the gifts of teaching and leadership. A pastor is to nurture the spiritual health and maturity of the body of Christ in order that the body may be equipped to partner with God in His redemptive work in the world.

2.6.1 Senior Pastor Qualifications and Ordination Standard

The CLT with consultation with EFCA shall ensure that candidates for the Senior Pastor role are adequately trained for their task. Candidates must demonstrate significant theological and biblical competence as well as the necessary skills for pastoral ministry. The Church requires the Senior Pastor to continue to abide by the ordination/accreditation/licensing standards established by the EFCA.

2.6.2 Pastors (non- Senior Pastor) Qualifications

Pastors (non-Senior Pastor)

Candidates must demonstrate significant theological and biblical competence as well as the necessary skills for pastoral ministry. The Church may require ordination/accreditation/licensing standards established by the EFCA.

2.7 The Election and Hiring of Pastors of the Church

All pastoral positions are hired and remain employed “at will” of the Church.

2.7.1 Senior Pastor Election and Term - The congregational members must elect the Senior Pastors at a congregational meeting called by the CLT for that purpose. All Senior pastoral candidates must be evaluated by EFCA West prior to election for hire.

The Senior Pastor holds office until the pastor’s resignation or removal. Failure to maintain active standing in EFCA once ordained/accredited or certified is grounds for dismissal.

The Senior Pastor Nominating Committee - In the event of a current or pending vacancy in the position of Senior Pastor, the CLT will call a special meeting of the congregation to elect a Senior Pastor Nominating Committee consisting of generally six to eight congregational members. The CLT will assign an elder liaison to provide guidance and direct communication with the CLT.

Members (including members of the Nominating Committee or the CLT) may nominate candidates to serve on that committee. At that special meeting, the members will vote for no less than four committee members from the candidates nominated as determined by the members. The final number of committee members will be determined by simple vote of the members attending the meeting. The candidates receiving the most votes will be elected according to the existing voting policy and procedure of the Church.

Twenty-five percent of the members will constitute a quorum for the election of the Pastor Nominating Committee members. Church members participating in the congregational meeting virtually will count toward the quorum and may vote if processes are in place to validate the votes.

2.7.2 Voting for a Senior Pastor - When a Senior Pastor Nominating Committee has identified a candidate they wish to present to the members, the CLT will call a special meeting of the congregation to vote on the candidate. Church members participating in the congregational meeting virtually will count toward the quorum (Seventy-five percent of active members are required for voting to hire a Senior Pastor) and may vote if processes are in place to validate the votes. To be elected the candidate must receive at least two-thirds of the votes cast in the person’s favor (abstention votes count are not considered in the two-thirds threshold)

2.7.3 Non-Senior Pastor Hiring

Non-Senior Pastors are hired and employment terminated by the CLT. Salary, benefits, scope of responsibilities and work performance are determined by the CLT. Non- Senior Pastors will be ordained by EFCA or by the Church, certified or credential by EFCA as deemed appropriate by the CLT

2.8 Elder and Deacon Nominating Committee

The Elder and Deacon Nominating Committee members shall be duly elected by and from church members and must be members of the Church and be in good standing within the Church.

The Elder and Deacon Nominating Committee, which is subordinate to the CLT, will be chaired by an Elder from the CLT. The Elder and Deacon Nominating Committee is entrusted with identifying nominees for the positions of Elder, Deacon and the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee should consist of one Elder, one Deacon and 4 members at large. The Elder and Deacon members of the committee will be appointed by the CLT and the congregation should be encouraged and given the opportunity to nominate candidates.

The length of term shall be two years and shall normally be two classes of 3 members per class.

ARTICLE 3

THE CONGREGATION & ITS PROPERTY AND RESOURCES

3.1 Incorporation and Trustees

The state of California permits incorporation of religious bodies. The Chinese Presbyterian Church of Orange County DBA Journey Evangelical Church was incorporated on September 8, 1988.

3.2 The Elders as Trustees and Acting as the Governing Board of the Church.

3.2.1 Powers granted to the Governing Board

The nonprofit Corporation of a congregation so formed, or the individual trustees, shall have all powers of a nonprofit corporation under applicable law, including the power to:

- a. Receive, hold, encumber, manage, and transfer property, real or personal, provided that in buying, selling, and mortgaging real property, the trustees shall act only after the approval of the congregation, granted at a duly constituted meeting.
- b. Accept and execute deeds of title to such property and hold and defend title to such property.
- c. Manage any permanent special funds for the mission of the congregation.

3.2.2 Governing Board Vacancies

Corporate officers unable to complete their term shall notify the CLT of such in writing by letter or email or by verbal report at a formal CLT meeting. The vacancy shall be filled by the CLT within two months of a vacancy.

3.3 Church Property and Resources

The congregation and its leadership are governed by the church bylaws and requirements of EFCA. Consequently, all investments and use of the congregational resources should be consistent with our Statement of Faith, and the goals and principles of Journey Evangelical Church so enumerated within these Bylaws.

Journey Evangelical Church is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as

exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

3.4 Church Finances

The annual budget will be presented to the congregation for approval at a duly called congregational meeting no later than December of the prior year.

No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other purposes not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from the federal income tax under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

The Fiscal Year of the Church shall be the calendar year.

ARTICLE 4

THE BYLAWS

4.1 Distribution

A copy of the current Bylaws shall be made available to all members of the congregation.

4.2 Amendments

Amendments or additions to these Bylaws not in conflict with the Constitution of EFCA or with the laws of the State of California, may, by a two-thirds vote of the members present, be made at a meeting of the members at which a quorum is present and provided notice of such proposed amendment or addition is included in the notice of such meeting.

4.3 Review

The Bylaws shall be reviewed by the CLT as needed and at least every five years and recommended amendments made to the congregation and voted upon at a congregational meeting

Exhibit A – EFCA Statement of Faith (National EFCA statement adopted June 19, 2019)

1. **God:** 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.
2. **The Bible:** 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.
3. **The Human Condition:** 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.
4. **Jesus Christ:** 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.
5. **The Work of Christ:** 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.
6. **The Holy Spirit:** 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 Christ-like living and service.
7. **The Church:** 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.
8. **Christian Living:** 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.
9. **Christ's Return:** 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.
10. **Response and Eternal Destiny:** 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.

Exhibit B – Membership Covenant

*May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Romans 15:5-6*

Journey Evangelical Church Membership Covenant

By God's grace, I have placed my faith in Jesus Christ for forgiveness of my sins and I desire to follow Him as Lord with all my heart, mind, soul, and strength as a member of the community of believers gathered at Journey Evangelical Church.

I have read the Journey Evangelical Church and I commit to uphold the Church doctrines and practices as they are expressed in that document.

As a member of Journey Evangelical Church I covenant to:

1. **Agree** with the primary doctrines of the ministry and believe that they are true. If I have disagreements with the secondary doctrines, I will not teach against them. *(Eph 4.3-6; 4.13; 1 Pet 3.8; Phil 1.27)*
2. Willingly **submit**, or place myself under the will and authority of God as represented by the _____ Church Council of Elders in their spiritual care and, if necessary, their spiritual discipline. I will choose to practice biblical procedures for church discipline in love and grace, for the sake of repentance from sin and to seek restoration to the Lord and the Church. *(1 Pet 5.1-5; Heb 13.17; Eph 5.21; Matt 18:15-17; Gal 6.1; 2 Cor 13.11)*
3. **Attend and Fellowship** with other Journey Evangelical Church members in Gospel-centered community on Sundays and through small groups in joy and privilege as we worship God, love & forgive one another, and grow in our faith together. I will pursue Jesus Christ through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship and practice of spiritual disciplines. *(Heb 10.25; Col 3.13; Jam 5.16; Eph 4.15-16)*
4. **Give** sacrificially, cheerfully, and generously for our Lord's glory. That means regular financial giving and stewarding the resources God has given me, including time, talents, and spiritual gifts. *(Matt 25.14-30; Rom 12.1-2; 2 Cor 9.6-15; 1 Pet 4.10-11).*
5. **Make Disciples** by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others and teaching them to obey and love Jesus in a personal relationship. That also means that I will live for Jesus in a lifestyle of holiness that represents the Gospel, and to refrain from activities Scriptures deems foolish, sinful, irresponsible or hurtful, taking seriously the responsibility of Christian freedom, especially actions or situations that could present a stumbling block to another. *(Mt 28.18-20; 2 Tim 2.2; 1 Cor 8.1-13)*
6. If I am in a season where I am unable to fulfill these requirements or plan to leave Journey Evangelical Church, I will **communicate** with leadership of my situation so that they can pray and care for me accordingly. *(Eph 4.15-16, 25; 1 Cor 12.26; Phil 1.27)*

Printed Name

Signature

Date

Address / Telephone /Email

Reviewed & Approved by Elder/Representative

Date