

Bylaws of First His Kingdom Family Church

Amended 9-1-15 (adding Article II, sections 2 and 3)

Article I. Name

The church shall be named: **First His Kingdom Family Church**

Article II. Statement of Faith

The Scriptures - The Bible is the inspired Word of God, the product of holy men of old who spoke and wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. The New Covenant, as recorded in the New Testament, we accept as our infallible guide in matters pertaining to conduct and doctrine (2 Tim. 3:16; 1 Thess. 2:13)

The Godhead - Our God is one, but manifested in three persons - The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, being co-equal (Phil. 2:6).

God the Father is greater than all; the Sender of the Word (logos) and the Begetter (John 14:28).

The Son is the Word flesh-covered, the One Begotten, and has existed with the Father from the beginning (John 1:1; John 1:18).

The Holy Spirit proceeds forth from both the Father and the Son and is eternal (John 15:26).

Man, His fall and Redemption - Man is a created being, made in the likeness and image of God, but through Adam's transgression and fall, sin came into the world. "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one." Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was manifested to undo the work of the devil and gave His life and shed His blood to redeem and restore man back to God (Rom. 5:14; Rom. 3:10).

Salvation is the gift of God to man, separate from works and the law, and is made operative by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, producing works acceptable to God (Eph. 2:8).

Eternal Life and the New Birth - Man's first step toward salvation is godly sorrow that worketh repentance. The New Birth is necessary to all men, and when experienced, produces eternal life (2 Cor. 7:10; 1 John 5:12).

Water Baptism - Baptism in water is by immersion, is a direct commandment of our Lord, and is for believers only. The ordinance is a symbol of the Christian's identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection (Matt. 28:19; Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12; Acts 8:36-39).

The following recommendation regarding the water baptismal formula is adopted; to wit: "On the confession of your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and by His authority, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Amen."

Baptism in the Holy Ghost - The Baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire is a gift from God as promised by the Lord Jesus Christ to all believers in this dispensation and is received subsequent to the New Birth. This experience is accompanied by the initial evidence of speaking in other tongues as the Holy Spirit Himself gives utterance (Matt. 3:11; John 14:16,17; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:38,39; Acts 19:1-7; Acts 2:4).

Sanctification - The Bible teaches that without holiness no man can see the Lord. We believe in the Doctrine of Sanctification as a definite, yet progressive work of grace, commencing at the time of regeneration and continuing until the consummation of salvation at Christ's return (Heb. 12:14; 1 Thess. 5:23; 2 Peter 3:18; 2 Cor. 3:18; Phil. 3:12-14; 1 Cor. 1:30).

Divine Healing - Healing is for the physical ills of the human body and is wrought by the power of God through the prayer of faith, and by the laying on of hands. It is provided for in the atonement of Christ, and is the privilege of every member of the Church today (Mark 16:18; James 5:14,15; 1 Peter 2:24; Matt. 8:17; Isa. 53:4,5).

Resurrection of the Just and the Return of Our Lord - The angels said to Jesus' disciples, "...this same Jesus... shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." His coming is imminent. When He comes, "...the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air..." (Acts 1:11; 1 Thess. 4:16,17).

Following the Tribulation, He shall return to earth as King of kings, and Lord of lords, and together with His saints, who shall be kings and priests, He shall reign a thousand years (Rev. 20:6).

Hell and Eternal Retribution - the one who physically dies in his sins without accepting Christ is hopelessly and eternally lost in the Lake of Fire and therefore, has no further opportunity of hearing the Gospel or repenting. The Lake of Fire is literal. The terms "eternal" and "everlasting," used in describing the duration of the punishment of the damned in the Lake of Fire, carry the same thought and meaning of endless existence as used in denoting the duration of joy and ecstasy of saints in the Presence of God (Heb. 9:27; Rev. 19:20).

Article II, Section 2. Statement on Marriage, Gender and Sexuality

We believe that God wonderfully made and immutably creates each person a male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen 1:26-27). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person. We believe that the term marriage has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in single, exclusive union, as delineated in scripture (Gen 2:18-25). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Cor. 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4). We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pedophilia, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor. 6:9-10).

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of First His Kingdom Family Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the First His Kingdom Family Church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by First His Kingdom Family Church in any capacity or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and sexuality (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess. 5:22)

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor. 6:9-11). We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with scripture nor the doctrines of First His Kingdom Family Church.

Article II, Section 3. Statement on Marriage Policy

God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between a man, a woman and Himself. Therefore, First His Kingdom Family Church will only recognize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman. Furthermore, the pastors and staff of First His Kingdom Family Church shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman. The facilities and property of First His Kingdom Family Church shall only host weddings between one biological man and one biological woman.

Article III. Membership

1. Qualifications

- He/she shall have made a Confession of faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior and **Lord**, and provided evidence of repentance (change of lifestyle).
- He/she shall demonstrate their belief in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; in the accuracy and (Holy Spirit) inspiration of the Holy Scriptures as originally given; in the eternal salvation of all who believe and accept Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord; and in the eternal punishment of all who reject him as their Savior and Lord.
- Each applicant/member should strive daily to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. (II Peter 2:18)
- The Church is represented in Scriptures as a body having many members (I Cor. 12:12-31). As a member and servant of their Lord Jesus Christ's body, each member should perform some service/function, particularly suited to him/her.

Article IV - Ordinances

See Constitution of The Church.

Article V -Government

1. The legal voting age is 18 in the State of Texas. Thus only those members age 18 and over will be permitted to vote on matters involving transfer of real estate, financial borrowings, or legal matters.
2. Robert's Rules of Order shall be the accepted standards of parliamentary procedures. It shall be the Vice-Chairperson/president's responsibility at any congregational meeting.
3. Quorum for church business meetings shall consist of one-third (1/3) of the voting members of the church.
4. Annual Congregational/Business Meeting.

a. The Annual Business meeting of the church executive board for the purpose of electing elders, officers and members of the Executive Board and receiving reports of all departments shall be held on the _1st day of May.

b. The elected officers of the church are:

- Church Secretary
- Treasurer
- Trustee
- Deacon
- Elders

Article VI - The Church's Executive Board

1. The Executive Board shall consist of (but not limited to): the senior pastor, a treasurer, an elder, a trustee, The Executive Members shall consist of church members who reflect the qualities of the Scriptural standards of church leadership. See 1 Tim. 3:8-12, Acts 6:1-7.
2. A quorum consists of a majority of the members of the Executive Board.
3. **Appointments and approvals**
 - a. The Executive Board shall appoint the various church standing committees as listed in these Bylaws at the first regular meeting following the Annual Business meeting. Any Standing Committees may be eliminated by unanimous vote of the Executive Board for the fiscal year.
 - b. It shall annually review all paid employees with respect to their employment and salary immediately prior to budget consideration.
 - c. It shall fill or approve any vacancies that may occur in the various church organizations/departments and committees between Annual Meetings.
4. **Finances:** It shall approve any appeals for funds from the church and by any church organizations/departments - committees.
5. **Secular Government Interface** - It shall be responsible for all interfaces to local, state, and federal government interfaces, reports, and records required.

Article VII - Officers

1. Qualifications

a. Each officer and elected office holder shall have made a public confession of Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

b. They shall give whole hearted agreement to the Church Constitution and Bylaws along with the Statement of Faith.

- c. They shall have been members of this church for at least six (6) months prior to election. (This qualification may be waived, by the Executive Board, in the consideration of an individual who is a credentialed or experienced Christian worker.)
 - d. They shall set a good example of godliness and love and shall refrain from deeds of the flesh and habits (Gal. 5:19-21) which are injurious both to their testimony for their Lord and this church.
2. The length of term will be two years for each office.
 3. No Officer/Board member may be elected to more than two (2) successive terms of office on the Executive Board.

Article VIII - Pastor

1. All pastors, whether designated as Senior Pastor, Assistant Pastor, Associate Pastor, Youth Pastor, Adult Ministries Pastor, etc., shall be called and appointed in the same manner as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws.
2. **Call**
Each candidate shall be sent prior to candidating (including a sermon at a regular service) a copy of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Church. The church's Elder Board shall ask the membership of the church (after the sermon) for an expression of their opinion regarding the candidate. After interviewing the candidate, the Elder Board shall state their decision to the Executive Board for a approval vote. The Secretary shall convey to the candidate the decision of the Executive Board.
3. **Salary**
The Pastor's salary shall be determined by the church's Executive Board and reviewed every (12) months.
4. **Termination**
When the Pastor considers that his/her ministry to the church should be terminated, his/her letter of resignation shall be submitted to the church's Executive Board.
When the Executive Board considers that the Pastor should terminate his/her ministry to the church, it shall be submitted to the membership for a vote. If the membership voted by a 2/3 majority and with a 2/3 quorum of active members, the Executive Board will require the resignation of the Pastor.

Article IX - Duties of Church officers

1. **Senior Pastor** - The senior pastor shall act as president of the corporation and have oversight of the church. He/she shall also be

chairman of the Executive Board except as he/she may choose to proceed according to the provision in Article V. He shall preside at all regular or special meetings of the church congregation. He is member ex-officio of all church boards/committees and organizations. When the congregation has no pastor the Head elder or vice chairman of the Executive Board (designated by vote of the Executive Board) shall have oversight of the church.

2. **Secretary.**

The secretary shall keep the minutes of congregational meetings and Executive Board meetings (posting such), and conduct the correspondence of the church as directed by the Executive Board.

3. **Treasurer.**

The treasurer shall receive all monies of the church except monies given in free will offerings toward the pastor's support. He shall pay all bills on the order of the Executive Board, keeping proper records of all transactions and filing canceled vouchers/checks and receipts for payments made. The Executive Board shall determine where funds of the church shall be kept. No offerings shall be solicited from the congregation except upon approval of the Executive Board.

Article X - Committees and Organizations

1. **Elders.**

The elders shall serve with the senior pastor in oversight of the spiritual ministry of the church. They shall constitute the Committee on Membership and Calling of Pastor(s). They shall be the Committee on Discipline, and the Committee on Worship.

2. **Trustees.**

They shall be custodians of all properties, both real and personal. Their work shall be under the direction of the Head Trustee and the Executive Board.

Article XI - Property and Records

See Constitution.

Article XIII - Elections

The officers shall be elected by secret ballot at the annual meeting. prospective officers may make presentations and/or be questioned by the membership, prior to the election.

Article XIV - Amendments

1. The constitution may be amended only by a two thirds (2/3) vote at a special meeting of the church executive board. The Bylaws may be

added to or amended by a simple majority at a special meeting where a quorum of one half (1/2 of active members attending).