

Four Corners Country Church Bylaws

PURPOSE

For the purpose of establishing and maintaining a place for the worship of the one true God; to provide for Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith, irrespective of social position or worldly possessions; for the propagation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, this church shall be governed by the following Bylaws:

ARTICLE I

NAME

As stated in the Articles of Incorporation, the name of the corporate church shall be Four Corners Country Church (hereafter "the Church").

ARTICLE II

PURPOSES AND POWERS

THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THIS CORPORATION IS FORMED ARE:

1. To establish a Biblical Christian Church useful to propagate and practice the full Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and for service to the community.
2. To associate and cooperate freely with other churches and with church organizations.
3. To do all other acts necessary for the administration of the affairs and attainment of the purposes of the corporation and to have and exercise all the powers now or hereafter conferred by the Laws of the State of Alabama, upon non-profit corporations.

ARTICLE III

FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year for the Church shall commence on January 1st and conclude on December 31st of each year.

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Church shall be eligible to all believers, proven by statement or baptism, who give evidence to their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and who voluntarily hold to the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith. When a person chooses to be a part of the Church and involve themselves they are automatically considered a member (Ephesians 4:16).

There shall be two classes of membership with the first being a non-voting member which is defined as a member who attends regularly, serves at and contribute to Four Corners Country Church.

To be a voting member one must be 18 years of age, have completed the new member course and attended for at least 90 days, making at least 6 services during that time.

TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Church may be terminated by vote of the Elders for unscriptural conduct, doctrinal departure from the tenets of the Christian faith, failure to cooperate with the Church's programs and ministry or any other good and sufficient cause. Any member under charges shall have the opportunity for a fair and impartial hearing before a meeting of the Board of Elders. Their decision shall be considered final.

ARTICLE V

OFFICERS

The officers of the Church shall consist of a Pastor (if one is appointed) and Elders selected from among the men of the church. The Elders shall handle the business of the church and therefore should be business minded. They should see into the spiritual side of all business as well. These should lay hold of the vision given them and see it is implemented.

PASTOR

Section 1. Term of Office: The Pastor shall be an Elder but without vote. He shall hold this office until his death, resignation or removal for cause. If no Pastor is appointed the Elders shall fulfill the duties thereof.

Section 2. Vacancy of Pastorate: The vacancy shall be filled by the appointment of a new pastor by the Elders. It is best to follow the examples set forth in scripture of the person called by God (1 Timothy 3:1-7).

Section 3. Duties of Pastor: The Pastor shall be considered the spiritual overseer of the church. He shall attend all business meetings of the church and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees, without vote or exercising authority over the meetings.

Section 4. Support of Pastor: The Pastor shall serve at the pleasure of the Elders and congregation. He may be compensated based upon a vote of the congregation.

ELDERS

There shall be an odd number of Elders, not less than three (3) and no more than nine (9). They are to be called upon to fill the pulpit, pray for the sick, visit newcomers, shut-ins, absentees, and hospital visitation. They shall also, along with the Pastor, seek God's direction for the church, and support the pastor in the vision given him by God, in the church's present and future ministry. Elders shall remain so until they are replaced by vote, resign or are deemed unfit. The Elders shall fill the office of Directors/Trustees and officers of the Corporation.

Requirements: An Elder must be a mature man of good Christian character, above reproach, well respected in the community and a member of the Church. (1 Timothy 3:1-7)

OTHER

The Elders may, with approval of the membership, appoint such other positions as needed. The wife of the Pastor may not hold any church office. Spouses of other office holders should not hold office, if at all possible.

VACANCY OF OFFICES

The Elders shall have the authority to declare any office vacant. Grounds for such action shall be:

1. Failure to cooperate with the church's programs and ministry.
2. Unscriptural conduct.
3. Doctrinal departure from the tenets of faith.
4. For any good and sufficient cause. Any incumbent under charges shall have opportunity for a fair and impartial hearing before a meeting of the Board of Elders. Their decision shall be considered final and the incumbent will have no further recourse.

ARTICLE VI

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Section 1. Meetings for Worship. Meetings for public worship shall be held on each Lord's Day and at such other times as approved by the body of the Church.

Section 2. Annual business meeting. There shall be an Annual Business Meeting of the Church on the 3rd Sunday of the year. This meeting shall be conducted at the regular meeting place of the Church. New

officers, elders and such other positions as may exist shall be elected with installation to follow the next Sunday service. All votes shall be decided by a simple majority. All reports shall be read at the Annual Business Meeting.

Section 3. Special business meetings. Special business meetings of the membership may be called by the Elders as deemed necessary.

Section 4. Notice of business meetings. The Elders shall announce such meetings by any means possible at least 14 days prior to such meeting.

Section 6. Order of Business. The order of business for the Annual Business Meeting of the Church shall be as follows:

1. Opening prayer.
2. Reading of previous minutes.
3. Report of the treasurer.
4. Report of committees.
5. Unfinished business.
6. Election of officers.
7. New business.
8. Closing prayer.
9. Adjournment.

This order of business may be altered or suspended at any meeting by a majority vote of the members present. The usual parliamentary rules as laid down in "Robert's Rules of Order" shall govern all debates when not in conflict with this Constitution.

Votes on any issue presented at any Church meeting may not be cast by proxy without prior written request approved by the Elders.

All activities on church property will incorporate worship; therefore all activities must be in obedience with all scripture.

ARTICLE VII

FINANCES

1. All funds needed for the maintenance of the church shall be provided by voluntary contributions, tithes and offerings. Every member shall decide before God what he or she can cheerfully give to the support of the Lord's work (Malachi 3:10, I Corinthians 16:1-2; Romans 12:8).
2. 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 at least two people who have been designated by the Elders for that purpose.
3. Deposits must be made by the Church within 2 business days in a local bank.
4. Bank account(s) shall be established exclusively for the Church.
5. Finance reports will be furnished to the membership.
6. Two signatures are to be used on all checks unless in an amount of \$250.00 or less.
7. Financial records, without exception, shall be kept in the church office.
8. The Elders shall oversee all financial activities.
9. The Pastor shall not be a signatory to any church accounts and shall have no access to same.
10. Elders shall receive and approve the annual financial report prior to the annual business meeting.

ARTICLE VIII

COMMITTEES

Any appointed committees shall be under the general supervision of the Elders. The pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all committees without vote or exercising authority over the meetings.

ARTICLE IX

SIGNING AUTHORITY

The Elders of the Church shall have power to carry out all of the purposes and powers set forth in Article II. The Elder's and the Secretary's (or Treasurer's) signature shall be sufficient certificate for negotiating any and all of the provided powers in said Article. To be clear the Elders must sign off on all such activities.

ARTICLE X

AMENDMENT AND STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

These Bylaws may be amended or changed by a 2/3 vote of the voting members present at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, provided due notice of such proposed change shall have been made.

Items not addressed in the Bylaws shall be addressed in Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

ARTICLE XI

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

I. Purpose

The purpose of this conflict-of-interest policy is to protect the Church's interest when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of one of its Elders or members, or might result in a possible excess benefit transaction. This policy is intended to supplement, but not replace, any applicable state and federal laws governing conflicts of interest. State and/or Federal laws will supersede these Bylaws.

II. Definitions

1. Interested Person

An Interested Person is any Elder, officer, or member who has a direct or indirect Financial Interest, as defined below.

2. Financial Interest

A person has a Financial Interest if the individual has, directly or indirectly, any actual or potential ownership, investment, or compensation arrangement with any entity that conducts transactions with the Church.

A Financial Interest is not necessarily a conflict of interest in all cases. Under Article III, Section 2 of IRS Form 1023, a person with a Financial Interest may have a conflict of interest only if the appropriate governing board or committee (the Elders) decides that a conflict of interest exists.

III. Procedures

1. Duty to disclose

In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, an Interested Person must disclose the existence of the Financial Interest and be given the opportunity to disclose all material facts to the Elders considering the proposed transaction or arrangement.

2. Determining whether a conflict of interest exists

The Elders shall review all disclosures regarding the Financial Interests of its members. After disclosure of the Financial Interest, the Interested Person shall leave the meeting while the Elders discuss and vote on whether a conflict of interest exists.

3. Procedures for addressing the conflict of interest

After exercising due diligence, the Elders shall determine whether the organization can obtain with reasonable effort a more advantageous transaction or arrangement from a person or entity that would not produce a conflict of interest. The Interested Person shall not be present in the room during the determination.

If an alternative transaction or arrangement is not possible, the Elders shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested Elders whether the transaction or arrangement is in the best interests of the Church, for its own benefit, and fair and reasonable. Based on these determinations, the Elders shall decide whether to enter into the transaction or arrangement.

4. Disciplinary action

If the Elders have reason to believe an individual has failed to disclose actual or potential conflicts of interest, it will inform the member and allow him/her to explain the alleged failure to disclose. If the Elders still have reason to believe a conflict of interest exists after the alleged conflict is explained, they will take corrective action as they determine appropriate.

ARTICLE XII

CONDUCT OF ORGANIZATION

Said organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious and educational purposes. No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributive 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 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 activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, 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.

ARTICLE XIII

DISSOLUTION

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.