High Plains Cowboy Church of Hockley County Constitution

EXPLANATION OF INVOLVEMENT IN TEAMS

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Day Workers | Hired On |
| Able to participate on any team and give opinions on any decisions at the team meeting. | Able to form part of the consensus team members and take full voting advantage.   1. They have a personal commitment of faith in Jesus Christ. 2. They have been baptized by immersion as a statement of salvation. 3. They give verbal testimony of their conversion, baptism and walk with Christ to the pastor or designated servant member. |

Functionality of Cowboy Church

Pastor or Trail Hand attends each team meeting to give input but not a part of the consensus group

Church Body **Pastor**

Split in to **Teams**

(Please see following page for list of Teams) Trail Hands

Team Leader

Picked by Pastor

1 year term but multiple terms are available

Communication

Team Leader Job Description

1. Communication with all consensus members monthly
2. Make written agenda
3. Report progress of team at Leadership Meetings
4. Report concerns from church body back to the team for future decisions

at

**Leadership Meetings**

**Elders**

Elders are voted upon by the active church body and must meet Biblical requirements. Responsible to handle church discipline

High Plains Cowboy Church Teams

Building Family

Active Time, Communication, Common Purpose,

Value Differences, Appreciation

SOUR DOUGH TEAM – Finances (Two sections: Audit and Check Signers)

What: Maintain and communicate about the finances

Why: Accountability to avoiding debt

Don’t: Build rumors about what other people are doing

LINE RIDERS – Cleaning and Maintenance (Two sections: Indoor and Outdoor)

What: Clean and repair equipment and property

Why: So stuff works and we aren’t behind

Don’t: Pout because someone didn’t do something

CHUCKWAGON – Food (Three sections: Funerals, Concessions, Dinners)

What: Get food ready and clean it up

Why: Hearts are open when stomachs are full

Don’t: Poison us with food or contempt

PONY EXPRESS – Media

What: Communicate with people in the church and out of church

Why: Without communication, people make wrong impressions

Don’t: Hold back information that everyone deserves

REMUDA – Welcome and hospitality

What: Make people feel welcome

Why: Left out people leave

Don’t: Judge others and tell them what to think

STAMPEDE – Music

What: Provide music for events

Why: Good music changes the heart in ways spoken words can’t

Don’t: Forget this church reaches an agricultural loving crowd

TRAIL HANDS – Servant Leaders (Voted or appointed)

What: Spiritually lead their family and then the church

Why: God gave us leadership to protect us

Don’t: Control the sacred rights of another person to make their own decisions

LITTLE DOGGIES – Children

What: Provide spiritual leadership and events for elementary ages

Why: Jesus said “Feed my lambs” twice

Don’t: Overpower parents who are the first authority of children

COWPOKES – Teens and Youth

What: Provide spiritual leadership and events for teens and young adults. Giving life foundations.

Why: Avoiding life time mistakes makes life easier

Don’t: Overpower parents or youth in making their own decisions

ARENA – Evangelistic events on campus

What: Use the arena to get people to come

Why: This is a cowboy church. Our emphasis is using cowboy activities to draw people so they might what to know Jesus.

Don’t: Judge others as not being “cowboy” enough

WIDE LOOP HULAHAND – Community Outreach

What: Provide spiritual outreach to our community outside of church events

Why: Jesus told us to “GO” to them

Don’t: Control the sacred rights of another person to make their own decisions

MAVERICKS – Evangelism

What: Handing out evangelistic flyers and events off church grounds that promote the message of Christ kingdom

Why: Jesus told us to “GO” to them

Don’t: Control the sacred rights of another person to make their own decisions

GOOD RIDE COWBOY – Funerals

What: Comfort families who have lost someone important

Why: To ease pain

Don’t: Add more stress with more hurt

**Faith Statement**

*We believe in the Trinity of the Godhead, virgin birth of Christ, deity of Christ, Physical resurrection of Christ, pre-tribulational return of Christ, verbal inspiration and protection of the Scripture, lost condition of mankind, redemption through the shed blood of Christ, salvation by personal faith, victorious life through the indwelling Lord, new creation of the believers, eternal punishment of the wicked and eternal reward for those washed in the blood.*

**Mission Statement**

*Our desire is that people of the Western Culture*

*Will come to know Jesus Christ as*

*their personal Savior,*

*Grow in Christ from being partnered*

*together with Him,*

*That their lives will reflect Christ and*

*That they would gather lost souls while seeking to serve Him.*

Know – Grow - Gather

High Plains Cowboy Church Constitution

PREAMBLE:

Under the leadership of Jesus Christ, we accept this constitution to declare our faith, the freedom of our church and the rights and responsibilities of our members.

ARTICLE I. NAME:

We are High Plains Cowboy Church in Hockley County and incorporated under the State of Texas.

ARTICLE II. OUR PURPOSE:

We are to reach the lost and unchurched people in the western culture with the gospel of Jesus Christ and create a “family” environment where they become mature followers, who behave like Him.

We hold these values:

Simplicity – We keep all things as simple as possible.

Non-Judgmental approach – We accept people just as they are, as Christ does.

Cultural relevance/Western Heritage – All activities will be geared to reach people in the western culture and those who love it.

Practice of Biblical Christianity - The leadership of the church will live above reproach as Christ would.

Elimination of barriers to the cowboy culture – We avoid activities that would cause members of the western culture to avoid church and therefore the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Empowerment with accountability – We desire that all members would participate in church activities and learn their giftedness through action, rather than classroom lessons. During this they will be accountable for their behavior through the relationships that they build with friends.

ARTICLE III. DOCTRINE

The Scripture –

ARTICLE IV. GOVERNMENT AND RELATIONSHIP:

Jesus Christ is the head of the church and His glory is our goal both as individuals and as a group. Our church servants must recognize and honor Him with their life activities. Jesus talks to us through the Bible. He also speaks to his followers but only in ways that are consistent with the already written Word. Jesus calls servants to be responsible for physical property and shepherding of its members. The governing of this church is by the body of believers who are members. Members must meet the requirements and ask to be a part of the group. Any teams made within the church must also promote the purpose of the church. These teams are accountable to the whole church body. This church is not under the control of any other religious group. However, it works with the Baptist General Convention of Texas, American Fellowship of Cowboy Churches and other entities of like faith in sharing the Gospel. We are not required to continue with these groups if they one day disagree with our purpose.

ARTICLE V. BIBLICAL SERVICES

SECTION I. BAPTISM

The church is a group of baptized believers (by immersion), who understand that baptism is a symbol of salvation, not it’s means. Acceptance of Christ into their lives by grace alone must happen as they control where to place their faith by personal choice.

SECTION II. THE LORD’S SUPPER

The pastor will determine when to hold the Lord’s Supper. This is a time when juice and bread are used symbolically to remember the death of Jesus Christ and remind us of His return. This is open to anyone who claims to be a follower of Christ.

ARTICLE VI. CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

This Constitution can be changed by ¾ vote of the active members present at a church conference intentionally called for that purpose. Amendments can be made by written petition signed by 25% of the active members. Amendments must be announced and in written form for the church to look at, at least two weeks prior to the church conference.

High Plains Cowboy Church By-Laws

ARTICLE I. MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. BECOMING A MEMBER

Anyone can become a member if

1. They have a personal commitment of faith in Jesus Christ.
2. They have been baptized my immersion as a statement of salvation.
3. They give verbal testimony of their conversion, baptism and walk with Christ to the pastor or designated servant member.

SECTION II. REMOVAL OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership is removed by any of the following

1. Death
2. Personal desire to remove it
3. Being removed

If ones life brings dishonor to Christ or disrupts the unity of church family, the church servants and pastor will attempt to talk the issue over using the guidelines of Matthew 18:15-17. If the situation doesn’t get better, one might be removed by consensus vote. This vote will be documented by written account and signed by each servant voter. Any member of the church body can have access to that written account.

SECTION III. RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

An active voting member must be 18 years old and gets one vote. This is not available if one’s membership is removed. One must attend church regularly. One can vote on the calling of a new pastor or other ministry staff, the annual budget, indebtedness for land purchase or building improvements, the removal of church assets, the merger or dismissal of the church and any other matter brought to the church by the servants.

ARTICLE II. SERVANTS

SECTION I. PASTOR

1. Call

If a pastor is terminated, a church conference is called and a search team is selected. Three to eight active members will be on this team. They will review candidates until they come to consensus about the best one. The servants will then be told about the candidate and a time and date will be set for the candidate to visit and speak to the church family. Members will have a week to think about the candidate and a church conference will be called. After full discussion, a secret ballot vote will be taken. Three-fourths (3/4) vote of the active, regularly attending members is required to ask candidate to stay. If the position is not filled, the search team continues on again, until the position is filled.

1. Duties

The pastor is the spiritual servant of the church. As Jesus leads him, he will preach and teach the Bible, lead the worship service, run the Biblical services, be the moderator of church conferences, provide leadership for church staff, run the church family, work the church structure, provide vision for the group and follow the Constitution and By-laws of the church.

1. Removal of the Pastor

The pastor can resign, die or be removed. A removal vote can come if the servants have worked through Matthew 18 to resolve any issues while maintaining a written account. A vote of 2/3 of the active, regularly attending members is required for removal. At least 51% of the active, regular attending members must be present at a church conference for the vote to be taken. A disinterested third party moderator will be called in to run this church conference. **(An active resident member is one who lives in and around the Hockley County area and has attended the church regular worship service at least 6 times in the 180 days preceding the circulation of the petition and is currently on the membership roll.)**

SECTION II. PAID MINISTRY STAFF

1. Selection

If you need additional paid staff, a search team will be created from 3-8 active, regularly attending members. They will review candidates until they reach consensus and report to the pastor and servants.

1. Duties

Additional staff will have a detailed written instructions outlined with the pastor and servants.

1. Removal

The additional staff can resign, die or be removed only with a proper 2 week notification of the meeting for removal ; the pastor and a 2/3 vote of members at the meeting are required for removal of staff.

SECTION III. LAY PASTORS (TRAIL HANDS)

1. Purpose

Lay Pastors are:

Extension of the Pastor – They help him carry out ministry. They are appointed and replaced by the pastor at his discretion

Resource People – Lay Pastors are connected with each ministry team. They don’t run or lead the team, but communicate back to the Pastor about the events and challenges of the team.

Pastor Assistants – Lay Pastors can help the Pastor with announcements, prayer request, Biblical services, and assisting with baptisms. They might be asked to bring devotions, preach, pray or lead Bible studies as the Pastors choses. Lay Pastors help the Pastor with visitation, meeting the needs of people in the church body and monitoring the needs of people.

1. Selection

Lay Pastors are appointed as needed by the Pastor. Without a Pastor, the Elders may appoint Lay Pastors.

1. Qualifications of Lay Pastors

Lay Pastors must be active resident members in good standing. They need to be growing in the Lord and active with Jesus. Their home life must be stable and respected by other people in the western culture and community. Their lives should not dishonor Christ.

1. Term of Office

Lay Pastors serve for one year, but may serve for multiple terms if the Pastor, Elders and Lay Pastor are in agreement.

1. Removal

Lay Pastors can be removed early by death, resignation or dismissal by the Pastor or Elders.

SECTION IV. ELDERS

1. Purpose

Elders serve as spiritual leadership and accountability to the church according to scripture. They are friends, support and accountability to the Pastor and help with solving problems in the church. Elders should provide a wall of protection for the pastor and solve church problems with the Pastor. The Elder should shoulder the responsibility of taking action on and dealing with said situations. If possible, there are three elected Elders plus the Pastor, who is the lead Elder.

Spiritual Leadership

Elders should show they are mature followers of Christ by loving the church family, caring about outreach and evangelism of the church and willing to give of themselves to help those in need.

Limited Involvement

Elders are not an oversight body for the finances, personnel or pastor unless the membership determines that unbiblical, immoral or unethical behavior has occurred.

Dual Roles

Elders cannot have dual leadership roles in the church. Elders wives may not hold a leadership position in the church.

Meetings

Elders never meet without the head Elder (Pastor) being present. The Pastor must be notified 1 week before an Elder meeting if called by an Elder other than the Pastor. **ALL ELDER MEETINGS WILL BE OPEN AND TRANSPARENT TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH UNLESS THERE ARE LEGAL RAMIFICATIONS POSSIBLE.**

B Qualifications

Gods word gives us specific qualifications in 1 Timothy 3:1-12 for **MEN** (specifically males who were born males… A BULL IS A BULL AND A HEIFER IS A HEIFER PERIOD…. ENOUGH SAID!!) who are called to serve as Elders in our church. This is not a “position” but rather a servant hood. “If ya ain’t willing to “muck the stalls” then your not qualified to be an elder”.

C. Selection and Term of Office

Thereafter on or about January 1st of each year during the annual church business meeting, new elders may be elected. The Pastor and existing Elders will review any one nominated by the membership and confirm that they meet the above said statements about the Elder position. All active resident members of the church that are present at the business meeting will be asked to mark the names of the Elder candidates they believe God would want to have lead our church. The candidates with the most votes will serve as Elders until the next election unless they are removed.

1. All Elders will serve a one-year term. If they choose to run again they are welcome to do so. One-year terms year will keep corrupt power from happening and will keep the voice of the membership heard. Elders who are leading properly should have no problem being reelected however, we encourage the opportunity for all who desire such a servant-hood to have the opportunity to be an Elder.

D. Removal

Any active resident member of the church may bring a written scriptural reason for removal of an Elder. Elders other than the Pastor may be removed from office by their own decision or by 2/3 vote of the regular attending members at a properly notified meeting for such reason. Removal shall be based upon being spiritually unqualified, the inability to serve or as a result of the process laid out in Matthew 18:15-17 or failure to fulfill their commitments as an Elder.

E Vacancies

When a vacancy occurs, the existing Elders shall select an interim to fill the vacancy until the next election.

ARTICLE III. SUPPORT STAFF

The Pastor and Personnel Team will employ and terminate other employees as necessary.

ARTICLE IV. TEAMS

SECTION I. GENERAL MINISTRTY TEAMS

Purpose and Function ( This is not a Gossip group!!)

A. Teams in the cowboy church are designed to be the place where people learn to serve the Lord while growing closer to him through working along side other Christians. (Teams should be somewhat like a traditional church’s bible studies). Ministry teams shall be organized to carry out the unique ministries needed by the church.

B. Structure

Ministry teams have team representatives and team members (please see team ministry chart for clear understanding). There will be no less than 4 no more than 10 team representatives and as many team members as needed to carry out the mission the team. If you’re a team representative you sure as shooting better make the meetings and help reach CONCSENSUS on decisions. The Pastor or Lay Pastors will attend each team meeting for support but not to make decisions unless called on by the team as a whole when a consensus cannot be reached. Teams will function by consensus, not majority vote. Teams that have their own budget line must make a reasonable budget request to the Audit Team for the Annual budget **(The Audit Team nor any one else has the power to decline the budget)** Adjustments to a TEAM budget may be voted on in an “Audible Fashion” (football lingo), ON THE FLY YOU MIGHT SAY on any given Sunday when presented by that Teams Leader. The teams are responsible for staying in their budget and will give an account of all their activities at the monthly leadership team meeting. The teams make their own decisions about how they spend their money as long as it is in line with that teams **ministry purpose**. All major decisions that could affect church direction or church sponsored activities should be brought before the leadership team before being implemented.

C. Qualifications

Team representatives must be members of the church and willing to put serving on the team at a high level. **If you can’t hold your tongue, can’t get along with others and, you love to gossip then you probably don’t qualify!**

D. Formation of Teams

General Ministry teams may be formed by the Pastor and/or Elders, by the Leadership Team, or by any Lay Pastor, ministry team leader, or church member WITH THE PASTORS APPROVAL.

E Selection and Term of Office

Members of general ministry teams may be appointed by the Pastor and/or Elders, or be enlisted by a Lay Pastor or ministry team leader. Team leaders and members will serve 1-year terms, but may serve multiple terms by mutual consent of the team members, Pastor and or Lay Pastor.

F. Removal

If you’re causing chicken fights all the time and gossiping then you’re going to get fired! Every effort (except for hangin’) should be made to resolve the firing issue. In other words if you’ve got a bur in your saddle we’ll try to help get it out. However, if you’re just an ornery cuss you’ll be removed by the Pastor and or Elders or by consensus decision of the other team representatives.

DEFINITION OF CONSENSUS:

agreement, harmony, concurrence, accord, unity, unanimity, solidarity

(kind of like when gathering season comes with your neighbors and a slick comes in to the pen and everyone is ok at the end of the day with whose trailer it goes in!)

SECTION II. STANDING MINISTRY TEAMS

1. PURPOSE AND FUNCTION

Standing ministry teams shall provide oversight of the church’s regular business affairs and assist in finding and providing the tangible resources necessary to effectively carry out the church’s ministries.

1. Structure

Standing ministry teams shall be composed of six members serving two (2) terms with two (2) members rotating off each year. A staff member or Lay Pastor will be assigned to each team to offer assistance and serve as a liaison between the team and the senior Pastor and Elders. Each year, the Pastor shall designate one member of the team, Lay Pastor or staff member to be team leader and will be responsible for ensuring that the team functions properly. Teams will function by consensus, not majority vote. This means that teams must arrive at decisions that can be supported by each member of the team. If consensus cannot be reached, the matter shall either be tabled or placed before the Pastor and Elders for a final decision.

1. Qualifications

Qualifications for standing ministry team members will be the same as those of general ministry team representatives. (Article IV. Section I)

1. Standing teams
2. Personnel Team

The Personnel Team will have 6 members and will be responsible to ensure that the church has adequate support staff to effectively carry out its ministries. They will fill staff vacancies as needed or as directed by the church, conduct periodic staff evaluations, make salary recommendations, and mediate church/staff disputes.

1. Facility Team

The Facility Team will be made up of 6 members. This team is responsible to ensure that the church has adequate facilities to effectively carry out its ministries. They will oversee the care, maintenance, and use of all facilities and grounds except the arena. They will not oversee paid staff. Any concerns that the facility team may have with paid staffers are to be taken to the Personnel Team and the Personnel Team will interact directly with paid staff. The Facility Team will also assist the Pastor and Elders with long range planning which will ensure that the church has adequate facilities to meet future needs.

1. Audit Team

The Audit Team is made up of no less that 3 and no more than 7 members. They meet once a month to audit the financial records. They only verify and report. They have no decision-making authority about how money is spent. It is the Audit Team’s responsibility to get budget requests from all of the various ministry teams and church administrators and put together an annual budget to be presented to the church for a vote. When putting together the budget the team will take into account projected church income based on history and realistic growth potential, church mission statement, church needs and priorities. A proposed budget will be presented at the monthly leadership team meeting for discussion before being put to a vote. The budget will then be put up for a vote at a called business meeting where it will be voted on by the congregation. The budget can only be adopted by a 2/3 majority vote of the congregation. The Audit Team may be enlisted by the Pastor and Elders to come up with some policies related to finances. These policies can only be adopted by a 2/3 majority vote of the congregation.

1. Arena Team

The Arena Team shall be responsible for the oversight, care, maintenance, and use of the arena. They will work with the Leadership Team as will as other ministry teams to develop strategies and plan events that will utilize the arena to effectively reach the cowboy/western culture for Christ and provide the hub for family life in the church. It may be determined that the arena team needs a separate checking account to handle incoming and outgoing funds. Any financial accounts are subject to the Audit Team and finance secretary and all financial activity is subject to the policies and procedures set forth by this church for the handling of finances.

SECTION III. LEADERSHIP TEAM

1. Purpose and Function

The Leadership Team will serve to provide a forum in which the various ministry teams can brainstorm, coordinate activities and events, share resources, and generally work together to enhance the overall effectiveness of the church’s ministries. It will be responsible for setting the church calendar and holding all ministry teams accountable to the church’s mission statement, values and constitution.

1. Structure

The Leadership Team will consist of the team leaders from each ministry team, the Pastor, the Elders, the Lay Pastor, and staff. In addition, it meetings will generally be open to the input and participation of the entire church members, however, the Leadership Team may meet in closed meetings but this cannot take the place of monthly Leadership Team meetings which is open to the congregation. Leadership Team meetings shall be moderated by the senior Pastor or a person whom the senior Pastor will designate.

1. Meetings

The Leadership Team will meet as often as necessary to reflectively plan and coordinate the activities and events of the church. At a minimum the Leadership Team will meet once every 2 months.

ARTICLE V. CORPORATE OFFICERS

SECTION I. PRESIDENT

The senior Pastor shall serve as the president and overall administrator of the corporation. He will serve as moderator at church conferences and be responsible for ensuring that the daily business affairs of the church are appropriately and effectively executed.

SECTION II. TRUSTEES

1. Purpose and Function

Trustees shall sign the title to the church property, the legal documents involving the sale, mortgage, purchase, or rental of property, all notes and loans instruments, and such other legal documents as may require execution on behalf of the church. There shall be 3 trustees.

1. Selection and Term of Office

Three trustees will be nominated by the Elders and voted on by the church. The trustees will serve indefinitely and maybe removed or replaced by consensus of the Elders.

1. Authority

The trustees will have no decision-making authority; they will only execute the will of the church in legal matters.

SECTION III. CLERK/SECRETARY

1. Purpose and function

The Church Clerk shall serve as secretary of the corporation. The responsibilities of the clerk will be the minutes of all church conferences and insure that a proper file of all members is maintained.

1. Selection and Terms of Office

The Pastor and Elders may appoint a volunteer. A paid staff position can be filled by the Personnel Team The Church Secretary shall serve as Church Clerk.

SECTION IV. VACANCIES

In the event a vacancy occurs in any corporate office (other than the President), the Elders shall appoint a successor to fill the unexpired term.

ARTICLE IV. CHURCH BUSINESS

SECTION I. FINA CES

A. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the church will be on a calendar year basis beginning on January 1st on December 31st of each year.

B. Accounting Procedures

A system of accounting that will adequately provide for the handling of all funds shall be the responsibility of the Audit Team.

C. Budget

The Audit Team, in consultation with the Pastor and ministry team leaders, shall prepare and submit a budget for congregational approval prior to the beginning of each fiscal year.

D. Checking, Drafts, Etc.

All checks, drafts or orders for the payment of money, notes or other evidences of indebtedness issues in the name of the church shall be signed by at least two (2) people who have been designated by the Audit Team for that purpose. The Pastor and or the Pastor’s spouse, and Elder and or an Elder’s spouse, or other relation of conflict of interest may not serve as check signers.

E. Deposits

All funds of the church shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the church in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as determined by the Audit Team.

SECTION II. CHURCH CONFERENCES

A. Annual Church Conference

There shall be one (1) annual church conference called in January of each year to vote on the annual budget, Elders, and other major decisions.

B. Special Church Conferences

Any church conference other than the Annual Church Conference must be called for a special purpose. Church conferences may be called by the Elders or by written petition of 25% of the active resident members presented to the Elders, unless it is a conference to be called to vote on termination of the Pastor; in this case refer to Article II, Section I, C. **An active resident member is one who lives in and around the Hockley County area and has attended the church regular worship service at least 6 times in the 180 days preceding the circulation of the petition and is currently on the membership roll.**

C. Notices

Notice of the time and places of all church conferences shall be given no later than the Sunday prior to such meetings by publication in the church newspaper or worship bulletin, or by public announcement at a regular Sunday morning worship service.

D. Places of Church Conferences

All church conferences shall be held on the premises of the church

E. Quorum

The active resident church members present at any duly called church conference shall constitute a quorum

F. Proxies

Voting by proxy at any church conference shall not be allowed or recognized.

**G. Will of the Church**

**All Ministry Teams, offices, and organizations of the church shall carry out the will of the church on any given matter, duly expressed by its vote.**

H. Rules of Procedure

The order of proceeding at church confines shall be determined by the rules of practice contained in Robert’s Pules of Order, Revised.

I. Conduct of Church Business

All business of the church shall be conducted in a manner that honors Christ and respects other. The church shall strive to seek the will of God by prayerful deliberation and common consensus.

SECTION III. CONTRACTS

The trustee’s shall execute and deliver any contract or instrument in the name of the church, which may be authorized by the church to be so executed and delivered. In this connection, the church body as a whole shall be the ultimate authority for all actions taken by the church and no other person, organization or corporation officer shall have any authority to contract or otherwise bid the church without express authority from the church body.

SECTION V. PROHIBITION AGAINST SHARING IN CORPORATE EARNINGS

No members, officers, or person connected with the corporation, or any other private individual shall receive at any time any of the net earnings of pecuniary profit from the operations of the corporation, provided that this shall not prevent the payment to any such person of reasonable compensation for service rendered to or for corporation in effecting any of its purposes as shall be fixed by the church; and no such person or persons shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the corporate assets upon the dissolution of the corporation. All members of the church shall be deemed to have expressly consented and agreed that upon such dissolution or winding up of the affairs of the corporation, whether voluntary or involuntary, the assets of the corporation, after all debts have been satisfied, then remaining in the hands of the officers of the church shall be distributed, transferred, conveyed, delivered, and paid over, in such amount as the church may determine or as may be determined by a court of competent jurisdiction upon application of the church, exclusively to charitable, religious, educational organizations which would then qualify under the provisions of Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code and its regulations as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended.

SECTION VI. EXEMPT ACTICITES

Notwithstanding any other provision of these by-laws, no member, officer, or representative of the corporation shall take any action or carry on any activity by or on behalf of the corporation not permitted to be taken or carried on by any organization exempt under Section 501 (c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code and its regulations as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended or by any organization contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)2 of such code and regulations as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended.

ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS

These By-laws may be amended by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the active resident members present at a church conference called for that purpose. Amendments may be proposed by the Elders or by written petition of 25% of the active resident membership presented to the Elders. Proposed amendments for church consideration shall be announced at the regular worship service and made available in written form to the congregation two (2) weeks prior to the church conference in which they will be voted on. Amendments will be numbered, dated and attached to the organization instrument.

**An active resident member is one who lives in and around the Hockley County area and has attended the church regular worship service at least 6 times in the 180 days preceding the circulation of the petition and is currently on the membership roll.**