

BYLAWS OF SAWGRASS COMMUNITY CHURCH

BROWARD COUNTY FLORIDA

ARTICLE I: ORGANIZATION

Section 1. Name:

The name of the corporation shall be Sawgrass Community Church of God, Inc. of Broward County, Florida. This name shall be shortened to "Sawgrass Community Church" for community identification purposes. The initials SCC will be used throughout these bylaws.

Section 2. Definitions:

A. Whenever the word "church" is used in these bylaws or their amendments it shall signify the non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Florida known as SCC.

B. The phrase "a vote of the church" or any similar phrase shall mean a vote of the active members comprising the church who are qualified to vote at any legally convened meeting at which a quorum is present.

C. Whenever the words "Leadership Team" are used in these bylaws or their amendments they shall signify the Board of Directors of the non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Florida.

D. Whenever a 2/3 vote of the Leadership Team is required, it assumes a prayerful quest for unanimity and a reasonable time period to seek this. The Senior Pastor will determine the reasonable time frame which will not exceed three months. It also assumes a quorum of 50% of Leadership Team members.

Section 3. Standard of Faith and Practice:

The church recognizes the Word of God as the only divine standard of faith and practice, and as the highest authority in all matters of life and conduct to which it speaks. This presupposes illumination by the Holy Spirit without which the Word of God can become "law" that kills rather than producing "life abundant."

Section 4. Affiliation

This church will take a non-denominational posture so that it can be a catalyst for unity in the body of Christ and to better reach the unchurched. We want to be an inclusive body representing all of Christ's people

regardless of race, creed or sex. We also maintain accountability and fellowship with the General Assemblies of the Church of God meeting annually in Anderson, Indiana and in Lake Wales, Florida.

ARTICLE II. STATEMENT OF FAITH

The church has taken the position from the beginning that doctrinal creeds have the inherent danger of limiting the "whole counsel of God" which is found in Scripture. The entire Bible, then, is our rule of faith and practice as illumined by the Holy Spirit. Though doctrinal statements will be forthcoming from pastors and the Leadership Team, they will always be subject to the above qualification.

ARTICLE III: PURPOSE

Section 1: The vision of SCC is:

We seek to be a church where authentic worship creates relevant approaches to reach, restore and release people, helping them to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

Section 2: Business:

One purpose of the Leadership Team, as organized under these bylaws, is to guide and facilitate the business activities of this church in the acquiring and holding of real estate, the collecting and disbursing of money, the appointing and directing of boards and committees to conduct the activities of the church.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. General:

Membership in this church shall be open to born-again believers in our Lord Jesus Christ who have completed a Pastor's Class and have indicated their commitment to this body of believers. (Reference John 3:3 for born again definition.)

Section 2. Discipline of Members:

Should any member wilfully depart from scriptural standards and engage in conduct which conflicts with biblical principles for godly living and service, the procedure set forth in Matt. 18:15-16 shall be followed for the intent of full restoration or appropriate action to protect the integrity of the ministry of the church.

Section 3. Withdrawal of Membership:

Withdrawal of membership shall be decided upon by the Leadership Team for the following reasons:

A. A member is found guilty of conduct unbecoming a Christian and fails to respond appropriately to discipline as outlined in Section 2 of this article. The reasons for such action shall be stated in a pastoral letter to the person concerned.

B. A member indicates a lack of interest through non-participation in the ministry of the church for a period of one year and does not respond to a written inquiry.

C. A member voluntarily withdraws his membership by verbal or written notice to the church office.

Section 4. Right to Vote:

The right to vote at business meetings shall be reserved for active members who:

A. Meet the qualifications contained in Section 1 of this article.

B. Have worshipped regularly (approximately 50% of the time) with this body of believers for the preceding six (6) months.

C. Have reached the age of sixteen (16) years or older.

D. Have completed the Pastor's Class.

Section 5. Voter Roster:

The Leadership Team shall maintain a roster of those members eligible to vote (the "voting membership") at business meetings. The roster shall be updated prior to each annual meeting and/or special meeting.

ARTICLE V. THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Section 1. Government:

The government of this church is vested in the Leadership Team. They shall represent the church body in administrative oversight and function. The Leadership Team shall "tend the flock of God that is in their charge, not by constraint but willingly, not for shameful gain but eagerly, not as domineering over those in their charge but as being examples to the flock."

(I Pet. 5:2-3).

Section 2. Leadership Team Organization and Ratification

The Leadership Team shall normally consist of at least three persons to a maximum of 20. Ministry needs, leadership gifts and spiritual maturity will determine the number. These persons shall be appointed by the Senior Pastor and ratified by 2/3 of the Leadership Team and by a 2/3 majority of the active members of the congregation. The congregational ratification will be by a secret ballot with opportunity to share any concerns about a prospective candidate. Final appointment will be made after a review of these ballots and affirmation by the Leadership Team. (The initial Leadership Team has come into existence before formal adoption of revised bylaws by appointment of the Senior Pastor. Future additions or deletions will be according to these bylaws.)

B. The Senior Pastor will be the chairperson or "point" person of the Leadership Team.

C. A Vice-Chairman shall be elected annually and shall act for the chairman when appropriate.

D. A Secretary shall be elected annually and shall also be Secretary of the Corporation.

Section 3. Selection of Leadership Team

A. Candidates for the Leadership Team may be recommended by the Senior Pastor, by the active members of the church, by the Leadership Team or by the interested candidate. Appointment to the ratification process will be made by the Senior Pastor.

B. The leadership Team shall then submit the names of the candidates to the church through public announcement at a regular service of the church on two Sundays prior to the meeting of the Leadership Team, and by a written notice publicly displayed for two weeks in the congregation prior to the ratification meeting. This is to encourage feedback from the congregation.

C. Each candidate must be ratified by a 2/3 vote of the active members present and voting at a legally convened meeting of the church.

Section 4. Qualifications:

A. A candidate for the Leadership Team shall be a voting member of the church who satisfies the criteria set forth in the New Testament. (i.e., I Tim 3:1-3 and Titus 1:5-11)

B. The candidate must be a good role model and have the respect of the body.

C. The candidate shall have a servant heart and gifting for enhancing the ministry of the church.

D. Interpretation of scripture in two areas of controversy:

1. Women in Leadership- Leadership Team members will not be restricted to men only. It is believed that many cultural factors affected the early church in its decisions about women's roles. Jesus broke down many of these cultural barriers as he surrounded himself with many women in ministry. However, he did not choose a woman as one to the twelve. God has also established some roles of authority in the church that have nothing to do with spiritual equality. He has said as God is the head of Christ, so the man is head of the woman.(I Cor. 11:3) This has to do with roles and authority not equality, as is obvious by the example of Jesus. In SCC the spiritual leader is a man, the Senior Pastor. Under this covering, women are released to serve in all levels of church ministry including the Leadership Team. Any woman teaching men does so under this cover.

2. Divorced persons in leadership roles-The requirement for leaders in the church is that they are a one-woman man or in our culture a one-man women. This mandate points out the importance of fidelity in marriage. Some have assumed this means no divorced persons can be in leadership. This is a contradiction to the whole concept of New Testament grace. " If any man be in Christ he is a new creature, old things are passed away, all things have become new." (II Cor 5:17) All divorce is sin (falls short of God's ideal) but not every divorce is sinful. God allows divorce for adultery and a person is not bound when an unbeliever leaves because of the faith of the believing partner. For those who have repented of weakness, and desire to see the institution of marriage maintained according to God's will, we assume cleansing is complete.

Section 5. Responsibilities of the Leadership Team

A. Attending to the spiritual and scriptural purity, peace and prosperity of the church. Sharing responsibility with the Senior Pastor to state and review the doctrinal position of the church on major issues.

B. Attending to the proposals. presented by the staff, for accomplishing the vision of the church and the purposes as stated in Article III of these bylaws: offering advice and counsel on them, and then supporting the

pastors and administrative staff and members of the church in implementing them.

C. Establishing general policies for the church in all areas of vision, strategy, organization, evaluation, finances and ministry.

D. Recommending a candidate for the position of Senior Pastor to the church. Article VI. gives directions for this process. A mutually agreeable service agreement would be established with the candidate.

E. To determine, in consultation with the Senior Pastor, the need for other pastors, and to ratify by a 2/3 vote those selected by the Senior Pastor.

F. To give counsel to the Senior Pastor in the hiring or dismissal of administrative staff and to give budget consideration to terms of employment and compensation.

G. Ratifying new Leadership Team members as needed, and presenting them for ratification by a 2/3 vote of the church.

H. Appointing servant leaders to areas of church ministry in line with their gifts and passion to serve.

I. Convening the annual meeting of the church, and special meetings of the church as needed.

J. Proposing the budget for the next fiscal year to the church for ratification. The budget proposal will be distributed to the church for feedback at least two weeks prior to final approval by the Leadership Team.

K. Authorizing expenditure of all monies belonging to the church, in accordance with the approved budget, and overseeing the business of the church. Any expenditure other than fixed expenses in excess of \$2500 requires Leadership Team approval prior to obligation. Any significant expenditure outside of the budget in excess of \$5,000 shall be reported to the church.

L. Instituting or revising bylaws- a bylaws change takes a 2/3 majority of members present and voting at the meeting of the Leadership Team. Bylaws changes must be presented at one meeting and enacted at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Leadership Team. All Leadership Team members shall be advised of a proposed bylaw change and 3/4 must be in attendance at the meeting to take action. Bylaws changes shall be posted in the congregation at least two weeks prior to voting to give opportunity for congregational feedback.

M. The Leadership Team are the Board of Directors of the church with respect to all legal matters. (See Article I, Sec. 2,C.)

N. The Leadership Team shall have an annual review of the Senior Pastor and ascertain that the Senior Pastor does this for all staff persons.

Section 6. Accusations Against a Leadership Team Member:

No accusation shall be brought against a member of the Leadership Team except on the testimony of at least two legal voting members of the church (I Tim. 5:19-21). Any accusation brought must first be submitted in writing to the Leadership Team for their consideration. A special meeting of the Leadership Team shall be called for the evaluation of the concern. The Leadership Team member whose status is being considered shall have the right to be present at the meeting, but shall not have voting rights at that meeting. The member shall be appraised in writing prior to the meeting, of the nature of the concerns and be afforded the opportunity to comment in person and in writing to the Leadership Team prior to the confirmation vote. If so desired, the member may be accompanied by another church member to witness the discussion. Within thirty (30) days from such meeting, the Leadership Team shall vote to confirm or reject the accusation. If upheld, appropriate discipline and/or restoration shall be implemented.

Section 7. Term of Appointment:

A Leadership Team member shall continue to serve on the Team until one of the following events occurs:

- A. Withdrawal from membership in the Church.
- B. Voluntary resignation.
- C. Removal by a majority vote of the Leadership Team.
- D. Failure to receive confirmation by an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the members present and voting at the annual meeting of the church.
- E. Taking a sabbatical as per agreement with the Leadership Team. A one year sabbatical will be required during each five years of service. Being reinstated will require the same process as for a new leadership team member.

ARTICLE VI. PASTORS

Section 1. Selection:

Selection of the Senior Pastor shall be as follows:

A. Any candidate for the position of Senior Pastor shall be an ordained pastor in good standing with a fellowship to which he is accountable. Preference is for a person recognized by the General Assembly of the Church of God by ordination.

B. He shall satisfy the qualifications for a Leadership Team member set forth in Article V. Section 4 except as to the membership requirement.

C. Recommendation for appointment shall be made to the church at a business meeting convened for that purpose. Such recommendation shall be made upon agreement of 2/3 of the Leadership Team. Appropriate introduction to the congregation through preaching and fellowship times will precede this vote.

D. The Leadership Team may appoint a Pulpit Committee to assist in evaluating the qualifications and call of each candidate, and in formulating recommendations.

E. A candidate shall be appointed to the position of Senior Pastor upon an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the active members present and voting at a legally convened meeting of the Church.

Section 2. Terms of Service:

The terms of service of the Senior Pastor shall be clearly set forth in a written agreement established by the Leadership Team. Any revisions to the written agreement shall be renegotiated by the Leadership Team and the appropriate staff person.

Section 3. Spiritual Leadership:

The Senior Pastor shall, with the counsel of the Leadership Team, be the Spiritual leader (point person) of the church.

Section 4. Responsibilities:

The responsibilities of the Senior Pastor shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

A. To take the lead in presenting to the Leadership Team proposals for the accomplishment of the vision of the church and the purposes as stated in Article III of these bylaws. Such proposals to be reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

- B. To take the lead in the implementation of the agreed proposals (in A of this section) through the pastors, administrative staff, and members of the church.
- C. To serve as chairperson of the Leadership Team.
- D. To be responsible, with counsel of the Leadership Team, to state and review the doctrinal position of the church on major issues.
- E. To be responsible for the overall direction of the services of worship.
- F. To coordinate the preaching and teaching ministries of the church.
- G. To disciple and equip leaders in the church.
- H. To lead the pastoral and administrative staff.
- I. To insure adequate pastoral care of the church members.
- J. To carry out other responsibilities as determined by service agreement. Flexibility is needed based on giftedness of pastor.

Section 5. Tenure.

The tenure of the Senior Pastor shall be indefinite. Appropriate processes for pastoral resignation or removal are contained in Article VI., Section 6 and 8.

Section 6. Dissolution:

The Senior Pastor may dissolve the relationship with the church upon at least ninety (90) days notice in writing to the Leadership Team. The 90 day period may, however, be altered by mutual consent of the Senior Pastor and the Leadership Team. The church shall be informed of any action taken.

Section 7. Accusation Against the Senior Pastor:

No accusation shall be brought against the Senior Pastor except on the testimony of two or three legal voting members of the church (I Tim. 5:19-21). The procedure to be followed is that stated with regard to an accusation against any Leadership Team member in Article V. Section 6. of these bylaws.

Section 8. Recommendation for Termination:

An appeal for the termination of appointment of the Senior Pastor may be made after compliance with Section 7 of this Article by:

A. An action brought by two or three or more active members to the Leadership Team for consideration. The Leadership Team will have sole responsibility to determine what action if any is to be taken.

B. A majority of the Leadership Team recommending termination. This request is then taken to the congregation where a majority vote is necessary for termination.

C. The leadership Team has the authority to remove a pastor from all ministry authority and responsibility pending a congregational meeting. A public two week notice with a clearly stated purpose of termination is required for the congregational meeting. If dismissed, final severance and compensation of the pastor will be done according to the service agreement.

Section 9. Other pastors are appointed by the Leadership Team. They are employed pursuant to the service agreement which covers all hiring and termination specifics.

the appointment of the Sr Pastor.

Article VII. MEETINGS.

Section 1. General:

The legally convened meetings of the Church shall be the annual meeting and special meetings.

A. The date of any such meeting shall be fixed by the Leadership Team, and all church members notified of the date and place of meeting at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting. Such notice shall be deemed given when a public announcement has been made at a regular service of the church on two Sundays prior to the meeting, and a written notice has been publicly displayed for two weeks prior to the meeting.

B. For business to be transacted at meetings of the church a quorum of thirty-three percent (33%) of the voting membership must be present.

C. Meetings shall be presided over by the Sr. Pastor or the Vice Chairman at the Pastor's discretion.

D. Voting shall be by written ballot except for procedural and courtesy voting, which shall be by voice vote, or show of hands.

Section 2. Annual Meeting:

A. The annual meeting of the church shall be held in the first month of the fiscal year, at a time and place to be set by the Leadership Team. The order of business shall be as follows:

Call to Order by the Pastor

Prayer

Establishing of quorum

Minutes of previous meeting

Reports of Senior Pastor and Leadership Team

Approval of budget for fiscal year

Ratification of new and existing Leadership Team.

Unfinished business

New business

Adjournment

In the event of any question in a business meeting regarding procedure that is not covered in these bylaws, Roberts Rules of Order shall be followed.

B. Members desiring to submit items of new business for consideration may submit a written request to the Leadership Team at least one month prior to the annual meeting. The introduction of additional business from the floor at the time of the meeting requires an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the members present and voting at a legally convened meeting of the church.

Section 3. Special Meetings:

A. Special Meeting may be called by:

A. A request may be brought to the Leadership Team by any active member or group of active members requesting a special meeting. The Leadership Team will make the determination as to whether this request will be honored or denied.

B. The majority of the Leadership Team calls for a special meeting describing the business to be conducted.

Notification of the meeting shall be in accordance with Section 1 of this article. Additionally, the business to be conducted at the meeting must be announced.

No business other than that stated in the notice of the meeting shall be transacted unless approved by 2/3 of the active voting members at the meeting.

Section 4. Actions requiring 2/3 vote:

A. Confirmation of new and existing Leadership Team (Article V, Section 3-C).

B. Appointment of Senior Pastor (Article VI, Section 1-E).

C. Introduction of additional business at meeting of church (Article VII, Section 3-A).

D. Approval of the budget (Article VIII, Section 2).

E. Property transactions (Article VIII, Section 3)

All other actions take effect upon an affirmative majority vote, except the termination of the Senior Pastor which is previously detailed in these bylaws.

Section 5. Absentee Balloting.

When an item of business is to be voted on by a simple ballot ("yes" or "no"), or when a resolution has been publicly posted (providing it is not significantly amended during the meeting), absentee ballots will be allowed.

Anyone having the right to vote on such a matter at a meeting which he or she cannot attend may cast a vote by personally submitting a signed ballot to a Leadership Team member at any time prior to the 'call to order' of the meeting.

For the purposes of these bylaws, any voting member of the church who submits a signed absentee ballot in accordance with the proposals of this Section shall be considered present and voting at a legally convened meeting of the church: for which the absentee ballot is allowed.

Article VIII. FISCAL MATTERS

Section 1. Fiscal Year:

The fiscal year of the church shall correspond to the calendar year.

Section 2. Budget Approval:

At the annual meeting the Leadership Team shall share with the church a proposed budget for the coming year. This shall be done after the budget has been posted for two weeks prior to the annual meeting for feedback from the body.

Section 3. Property Transactions:

The sale or purchase of real estate and/or any change in property deeding provisions shall require an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the members present and voting at a legally convened meeting of the Church.

ARTICLE IX: DISSOLUTION

In the case of dissolution the assets of the SCC Corporation will go to the Florida Kingdom Builders of the Church of God to be used in evangelism and church planting.

First Typing: October 16, 1989. Adopted on October 31 by directors John Boedeker, Judy Boedeker and Evalyn Dix unanimously. Adopted by Leadership Team in December 1993.
Revised 1-24-95.