

BYLAWS OF RIDGEVIEW CHURCH

These Bylaws (the “Bylaws”) govern the affairs of Ridgeview Church (the “Church”), a non-profit corporation organized under the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act (the “Act”).

ARTICLE I. OFFICES

- 1.1 The principal office of the Church in the State of Texas shall be located at 1362 E. FM 552, Rockwall, Texas. The Church may have other such offices, either within or without the County of Rockwall, State of Texas, as the Board of Elders may determine and as the affairs of the corporation may require from time to time.

ARTICLE II. REGISTERED OFFICE AND AGENT

- 2.1 The Church shall comply with the requirements of the Act and maintain a registered office and registered agent in Texas. The registered office may, but need not, be identical with the Church’s principal office in Texas. The Board of Elders may change the registered office and the registered agent as provided in the Act.

ARTICLE III. CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

- 3.1 The Elder Board—The ultimate authority of the Church rests in Jesus Christ and the written Word of God, the Bible. (Eph. 4:11-12). The leadership of the Church rests in a group of spiritually mature persons known as Elders. The Senior Pastor is the primary pastor-teacher of the Body of Christ and shall be considered a “first among equals” within the Elder Board (“Board”). There shall be a minimum of three Elders. (I Tim. 3:1-7; Acts 6:2-5; Titus 1:5-9; I Tim. 5:17; I Pet. 5:1-4).

- 3.1.1 Duties—Individual Elders shall serve on the Board and exercise spiritual leadership both inside and outside the church in accord with their spiritual gifts and the leading of the Holy Spirit. Elders are not to receive compensation of any kind from the Church in return for their service on the Elder Board.

Collectively, the Board shall be the primary spiritual board of the church, making and carrying out spiritual policies and decisions. The fulfillment of these duties shall be consistent with the

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Word of God, the Bylaws, the Mission Statement, Core Values, and Doctrinal Statement of the Church. The Board shall fulfill the Biblical responsibilities of overseers, pastors/shepherds, and teachers. They shall have responsibility for oversight of the total ministry of the church and shall provide primary leadership in the pastoral and teaching functions of the church. They are to lead by being examples and serving according to the will of God, never lording it over the members.

Specific responsibilities of the Board include, but are not limited to:

- They are to lead in the spiritual matters of the church through their spiritual gifts and by personal example. (I Tim. 3:2-5)
- They are to care for the needs of the Body of Christ as a shepherd cares for the flock. (I Pet. 5:1-4)
- They are to equip members of the Body of Christ to use their spiritual gifts in ministry. (Eph. 4:11-12)
- They are to preach and teach the Word of God. (I Tim. 5:17; Eph. 4:11)
- They are to counsel and discipline persons in accordance with the Word of God. (Matt. 18:15-17; I Cor. 5:1-13)
- They are responsible for the appointment of all persons necessary to carry out the functions and ministries of the church according to standards given in the Word of God for persons who minister. (I Tim. 3:8-13)
- They are to seek to make all decisions according to Biblical principles and Christ's purpose for the Church. (Phil. 1:27-28)
- They shall meet regularly, and shall be considered the corporate overseers of the church. (I Pet. 5:1-2)

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- They will be called upon to give an account to God for the way they have served as Elders.
(Heb. 13:17; I Pet. 5:4)
- Elders' duties and responsibilities include all authority in overseeing the affairs of the church.

The Board shall strive for unanimity in all decisions and shall not make decisions without affirmative agreement by a majority of the Board.

- 3.1.2 Qualifications-- The Elders are to be persons who are full of faith, sensitive to the Holy Spirit, and who have gifts necessary to lead, teach and serve. Elders should agree, without reservation, with the Doctrinal Statement of the Church. Their qualifications are given in I Tim. 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. Elders are responsible for the interpretation of these qualifications.
- 3.1.3 Selection—The initial Board shall be comprised of Matthew Geisinger--Senior Pastor, J.D. Smith, Eddie Bruce, and Clarence Samples. The appropriate number of Elders and the selection process for new Elders shall be determined by the Board.
- 3.1.4 Term of Service—The term of service shall be indefinite. However, each Elder will be evaluated by the other Elders every two years and shall require a confirming vote of a majority of the other elders to continue as an Elder. Elders will be allowed to take a sabbatical if the other elders so agree. Evaluations and other provisions related to the Senior Pastor are provided in Paragraph 3.3.
- 3.2 Deacons—Deacons may be appointed by the Elders to serve as the primary servants of the Church. Deacons shall have primary responsibility for the operational (as opposed to spiritual) aspects of the church but will at all times be accountable to the Elders in all matters.
- 3.2.1 Duties—Responsibilities of the Deacons include but are not limited to:
- Finance and Administration
 - Facilities
 - Audio/Visual

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- Greeting/Ushering/Visitors
- Other day-to-day operational issues as identified by the elders

3.2.2 Qualifications—The qualifications for a Deacon are given in I Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:3.

Interpretation of the qualifications shall be the responsibility of the Elders.

3.2.3 Selection—The number and selection process for Deacons shall be determined by the Elders.

3.2.4 Term of Service—The Elders shall have sole responsibility for appointing Deacons and, as such, are responsible for determining length of service and/or any dismissal procedures.

3.3 Church Staff—The hiring and dismissal, determination of salary, benefits or other compensation, and policies related to church staff, including all paid and unpaid positions, shall be the responsibility of the Elder Board. The Senior Pastor and any Associate Pastors who are also members of the Elder Board shall have input into but not ultimate responsibility for determining his own hiring and dismissal, determination of salary, benefits or other compensation, and other policies related to the position. These decisions are the responsibility of the remaining elders.

IV. THE BODY OF CHRIST

4.1 The Church shall keep, for convenience, a membership roll (the “Roll”). Membership and inclusion on the Roll does not confer any authority or responsibility in the administration and business of the Church with the following exception: Amendments to these bylaws. However, from time to time and at the discretion of the Elder Board, the Elders will ask for input and votes of affirmation by the members on significant issues and decisions. Examples of these issues include hiring of pastors, new building projects or other significant expenditures, and appointment of Elders or Deacons. Individuals shall be added to the Roll upon his/her request and upon meeting the requirements outlined below. Individuals who have been inactive (as defined by the Elders) for a period of more than six months will be removed from the Roll unless the Elders grant an exception.

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- 4.1.1 Qualifications—Members of Ridgeview shall be persons who have affirmed their commitment to this Body of Christ based upon their personal commitment to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and have been or are willing to be baptized by immersion subsequent to becoming a Christian.

These persons have also affirmed the Church’s Doctrinal Statement, Mission, and Core Values.

Members at Ridgeview invest their time and energy, develop and use the gifts the Holy Spirit has given them, give faithfully of their financial resources, and seek to live for the glory of Jesus Christ in accordance with the Word of God.

V. MEETINGS

- 5.1 The Board shall conduct meetings on a regular basis for the purpose of informing the Members about the affairs of the church. The Board is responsible for determining the frequency, agenda, and format of these meetings. The Board may, from time to time and at their discretion, call additional meetings should the need arise. Every effort shall be made to inform the Members in advance of these meetings.

VI. AMENDMENTS

- 6.1 Proposed amendments to these Bylaws shall be brought by the elders to the congregation for a vote of approval. Elders have sole responsibility and authority to propose changes to the Bylaws. Elders shall inform the members of any proposed changes to the bylaws at least two weeks in advance, stating the proposed changes and the date, time, and rules for voting on the amendment. Changes will be adopted as long as a two-third majority of *those members who submit a vote* is received in favor of the amendment.