
CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS of Beacon Church of Long Island

Adopted October 2, 2005

ARTICLE 1—Name and Principal Office

The name of the Corporation is BEACON CHURCH OF LONG ISLAND (called BEACON CHURCH). This Corporation will be further referred to in the Bylaws as the “Church”. The Church maintains its principal office in Nassau County, New York. The Ministry Leadership Team of the Church has the authority to change the principal office from one location to another.

ARTICLE 2—Purpose

The chief purpose of humanity is to glorify God by enjoying Him forever. Therefore, the Church is committed to glorifying God by fulfilling the Great Commandments (Matthew 22:36-40) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). This Church seeks to benefit the people of Nassau County and beyond by providing opportunities for spiritual, physical, intellectual, social and cultural development. Specifically, to:

WORSHIP: To establish, participate in, and oversee places of worship (Titus 1:5, Psalms 107:3, Acts 2:42-47, Hebrews 10:25, John 4:24).

FELLOWSHIP: To encourage, support and pray for each other as members of the family of God (I John 1:7, Acts 2:44-47, Hebrews 10:23-25, Romans 15:5,7, John 13:34-35).

DISCIPLESHIP: To help people become fully-devoted followers of Jesus Christ and train them for effective ministry (Ephesians 4:11-13, Matthew 18:20, II Timothy 2:2).

MINISTRY/SERVICE: To serve unselfishly, in Jesus’ name meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those in our Church, community and in the world (1 Peter 4:10-11, Matthew 25:34-40, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Galatians 5:13).

OUTREACH: To share the good news of Jesus Christ with as many people as possible in our community and throughout the world (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, 2 Peter 3:9).

ARTICLE 3—Statement of Faith

We affirm the Bible as the inspired Word of God and the only basis for our beliefs. We accept the Apostle's Creed (circa 100 AD), Nicene Creed (circa 300 AD), Athanasian Creed (circa 500 AD), and have high affinity to the Belgic Confession (1561), the Westminster Confession of Faith (1646) as our affirmation of basic Christian beliefs. The Ministry Leadership Team maintains a contemporary restatement of these ancient truths.

ARTICLE 4—Affiliation

This Church is autonomous and maintains the right to govern its own affairs. Recognizing, however, the benefits of cooperation with other churches we voluntarily affiliate with various organizations for the purpose of accomplishing our mission.

ARTICLE 5—Covenant Membership

5.1 General

The Church shall have one class of membership. Covenant Membership in this Church shall consist of all persons who have met the qualifications of membership and are listed on the membership roll. Candidates for membership shall be presented for consideration to the Pastors.

5.2 Qualifications for Covenant Membership

Covenant Membership in this Church consists of all persons who meet the qualifications for formal membership and are listed on the Covenant Membership role. Qualifications include:

1. A personal commitment of faith in Jesus Christ for salvation.
2. A renewable commitment to abide by the Membership Covenant.
3. Completion of other reasonable requirements that may be prescribed from time to time such as Membership Classes, Personal Interviews, Membership Applications and other paperwork.

Nothing in these Bylaws shall be construed as limiting the right of the Church to refer to persons associated with it as “members”. No such reference, however, shall constitute any such person a Covenant Member.

5.3 Voting Rights of Membership

Each member 17 years and older is entitled to one vote. Voting by proxy is prohibited.

Each Covenant Member shall have the right to vote on the following matters:

1. the disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of the Church
2. the merger or dissolution of the Church
3. amendments to the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, or Bylaws of the Church
4. the calling or removing of a Lead Pastor

5.4 Termination of Membership

Covenant Members shall be removed from the Church roll for any of the following reasons:

1. Death
2. Relocation outside of the immediate ministry area of the Church
3. Transfer of membership to another church
4. By personal request of the member
5. Failure to renew the Membership Covenant
6. Dismissal by the Pastors when the member’s life and conduct is not in accordance with the Membership Covenant in such a way that the member hinders the ministry influence of the Church in the community

“Pastors” shall mean the Lead Pastor and the pastors of the Executive Team, such team being determined and appointed by the Lead Pastor in his discretion from time to time. The Pastors can designate and empower a team to assist in the membership process as it sees fit.

5.5 Restoration of Members

Members dismissed by the Pastors shall be restored by the Pastors according to the spirit of 2 Corinthians 2:7-8, when their life-styles are judged to be in accordance with the Membership Covenant.

ARTICLE 6—Membership Meetings

6.1 Place: Meetings of the members shall be held at a building on the Church property or at such other place or places within or outside New York as may be designated from time to time by the Ministry Leadership Team.

6.2 General Meetings: A general meeting of the members shall be held in June of each year at such time as determined by the Ministry Leadership Team. This general meeting shall be the annual membership meeting. The purpose of this meeting shall be to provide updates, reports, and conduct various church business.

6.3 Special Meetings: Special meetings may be called at any time by the Ministry Leadership Team or the Lead Pastor for any purpose by giving notice to the members in accordance with Section IV of this Article.

6.4 Notice Requirements for Membership Meetings

1. General Requirements. Whenever Covenant Members are required or permitted to take any action at a meeting, notice shall be given to members no less than two (2) weeks prior to a meeting. Notification of membership meetings shall be given in any of the following manners which shall be deemed to be a reasonable method of calling a membership meeting:
 - a. Distribution of written material to the congregation in attendance at a regular weekend service;
 - b. Announcement of the meeting in the Church newsletter, either electronic or printed;
 - c. Oral announcement to the congregation at a weekend service; or
 - d. Delivery by United States mail to each member identified on the membership roll.
2. Notice of Certain Agenda Items. Action by the members on any of the following proposals, other than by unanimous approval by those members present and entitled to vote, is valid only if the notice or waiver of notice specifies the general nature of the proposal:
 - a. Calling or removing the Lead Pastor;
 - b. Amending the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, or Bylaws
 - c. Disposing of all or substantially all of the Church's assets;
 - d. Approving the election to wind up and dissolve the Church

6.5 Quorum: Those members present and voting at a meeting duly noticed and called shall constitute a quorum of the membership for the transaction of business.

ARTICLE 7—Trustees

Three (3), six (6), or nine (9) of the Ministry Leadership Team members shall be the Trustees of the Corporation as may be required for New York State Law. A simple majority vote of the Ministry Leadership Team will decide which of their members will function in that role.

ARTICLE 8—Ministry Leadership Team

8.01 Number and Term of Members: The members of the Ministry Leadership Team shall consist of the Lead Pastor and such number of additional members as may, from time to time, be nominated and elected in accordance with Section 8.03 of this Article, provided the number designated as Trustees shall be three (3), six (6), or nine (9).

The Lead Pastor shall serve as the Chairman of the Ministry Leadership Team and serves without term and shall be present and preside at all Ministry Leadership Team meetings. Each Ministry Leadership Team Member, other than the Lead Pastor, shall hold office for a period of one year or until his successor is elected, appointed, or designated herein, and may serve successive terms. The Lead Pastor shall be a full voting member of the Ministry Leadership Team.

8.02 Powers: The Ministry Leadership Team shall be considered the board of directors of the Church. The Ministry Leadership Team shall have all of the rights, powers, and responsibilities of a board of directors, subject to any limitations under these Bylaws. All corporate powers shall be exercised by or under the authority of the Ministry Leadership Team. The Ministry Leadership Team shall have final authority for affairs pertaining to property and other temporal matters as required by civil law for nonprofit corporations. In particular, the Ministry Leadership Team shall be responsible for the acquisition and disposition of Church property, which includes the management of its financial resources. The Ministry Leadership Team shall have the power to buy, sell, mortgage, pledge or encumber any church property and incur related indebtedness.

The Ministry Leadership Team will be responsible to select and remove all officers and employees of the Church except for the Lead Pastor and prescribe any powers and duties for them that are consistent with law with the Articles of Incorporation and these Bylaws.

The Lead Pastor shall: a) be the president of the corporation; b) be the chairman of all the business meetings of the church and Ministry Leadership Team; c) be an ex officio member of all committees and departments; d) provide for all services of the Church.

Other members of the Ministry Leadership Team shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Lead Pastor in all matters pertaining to the Church in its spiritual life and all other Church activities. They are for counsel and mutual assistance to the Lead Pastor in the administration of the business and work of the assembly.

Some of the Members of the Ministry Leadership Team may be designated, by the Lead Pastor, as Elders in the biblical and traditional sense of that word but not all members of the Ministry Leadership Team need be Elders. Not all Elders of the Church need serve on the Ministry Leadership Team.

8.03 Nomination, Election, and Vacancies:

The Covenant Members of the Church elect the Lead Pastor. To replace the position of Lead Pastor, the Ministry Leadership Team, acting in the capacity of a Search Committee or designating an actual Search Committee, shall present a qualified candidate to the Church with out delay. Election shall be by secret ballot. A two thirds majority of all votes cast shall be required to constitute an election.

Ministry Leadership Team members shall be nominated by the Lead Pastor. The persons nominated by the Lead Pastor shall be presented to the Ministry Leadership Team for election. Members shall be natural persons, but need not be residents of New York. A Nomination Advisory Team may be appointed by the Lead Pastor to assist in finding suitable nominees.

The Lead Pastor shall nominate persons whom he deems qualified to serve on the Ministry Leadership Team to fill any vacancy occurring on the Ministry Leadership Team, and any position to be filled due to an increase in the number of Members serving. A vacancy is filled by the affirmative vote of the majority of the remaining Ministry Leadership Team Members, even if it is less than a quorum of the Ministry Leadership Team Members. A person so elected to fill a vacancy shall be elected for the unexpired term of his predecessor in the office.

If there are no remaining Ministry Leadership Team Members the remaining pastors and officers of the Church shall function as the Ministry Leadership Team (with the next ranking Pastor and then Officer functioning as the Chair) until such time as they can duly call a Membership Meeting and elect a Lead Pastor. If there are no Pastors or other Officers remaining then a Congregational Meeting of the Covenant members, duly called, shall elect from among their number, three (3), six (6), or nine (9) members to function as the Ministry Leadership Team who will in turn elect a chair and assume all rights and responsibilities laid out in these Bylaws, the Articles of Incorporation, and applicable laws of New York State.

8.04 Meetings: Regular or Special meetings of the Ministry Leadership Team may be held either within or outside the State of New York, but shall be held at the Church's regular office in New York if the notice thereof does not specify the location of the meeting. A regular or special meeting may be held at any place consented to in writing by all of the Ministry Leadership Team Members, either before or after the meeting. If such consents are given, they shall be filed with the minutes of the meeting. Any meeting, regular or special, may be held by conference telephone or similar communication equipment, as long as all Ministry Leadership Team Members participating in the meeting can hear one another. All Ministry Leadership Team Members shall be deemed to be present in person at a meeting conducted in accordance with the foregoing sentence.

- A. Regular Meetings: Regular meetings of the Ministry Leadership Team may be held without notice if the time and place of such meetings are fixed by a resolution of the Ministry Leadership Team.
- B. Special Meetings: A special meeting of the Ministry Leadership Team may be called by the Lead Pastor or by majority of the Ministry Leadership Team Members.
- C. Notice of Special Meetings:
 - 1) Manner of Giving. Notice of the time and place of special meetings shall be given to each Ministry Leadership Team Member by one of the following methods: (a) by personal delivery of written notice; (b) by first class mail, postage paid; (c) by telephone communication, either directly to the Ministry Leadership Team Member or to a person at the Ministry Leadership Team Member's office or home who the person giving the notice has reason to believe will promptly communicate the notice to the Ministry Leadership Team Member, or (d) by telecopier to the Ministry Leadership Team Member's office or home.
 - 2) Time Requirements. Notice sent by first class mail shall be deposited in the United States mail at least four (4) days before the time set for the meeting. Notices given by personal delivery, telephone, or telecopier shall be delivered, telephoned, or faxed to the Ministry Leadership Team Member or given at least twenty-four (24) hours before the time set for the meeting.
 - 3) Notice Contents. The notice shall state the time and place for the meeting. However, the notice does not need to specify the place of the meeting if the special meeting is to be held at the Church's principal office. Unless otherwise expressly stated herein, the notice does not need to specify the purpose or the business to be transacted at the special meeting.
 - 4) Waiver. Attendance of a Ministry Leadership Team Member at a meeting shall constitute waiver of notice of such meeting, except where the Ministry Leadership Team Member attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting that the meeting is not properly called.

8.05 Action Without Meeting: Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Ministry Leadership Team may be taken without a meeting, if all of the Ministry Leadership Team Members, individually, or collectively, consent in writing to the action. Such action by written consent or consents shall be filed with the minutes of the proceeding of the Ministry Leadership Team Members.

8.06 Quorum: A majority of the number of Ministry Leadership Team Members then in office shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Ministry Leadership Team. The Ministry Leadership Team Members present at a duly called or held meeting at which a quorum is present may continue to transact business even if enough Ministry Leadership Team Members leave the meeting so that less than a quorum remains. However, no action may be approved without the vote of at least a majority of the number of Ministry Leadership Team Members required to constitute a quorum. If a quorum is present at no time during a meeting, a majority of the Ministry Leadership Team Members present may adjourn and reconvene the meeting one time without further notice. Ministry Leadership Team Members present by proxy may not be counted toward a quorum.

8.07 Duties of Ministry Leadership Team Members: Members shall discharge their duties, in good faith, with ordinary care, and in a manner they reasonably believe to be in the best interest of the Church. Ministry Leadership Team Members may in good faith rely on information, opinions, reports, or statements, including financial statements and other financial data, concerning the Church or another person that were prepared or presented by a variety of persons, including officers and employees of the Church professional advisors or experts such as accountants or legal counsel. A Ministry Leadership Team Member is not relying in good faith if the Ministry Leadership Team Member has knowledge concerning a matter in question that renders reliance unwarranted.

8.08 Delegation of Duties: The Ministry Leadership Team is entitled to select advisors and delegate duties and responsibilities to them, such as the full power and authority to purchase or otherwise acquire stocks, bonds, securities, and other investments on behalf of the Church; and to sell, transfer, or otherwise dispose of the Church's assets and properties at a time and for a consideration that the

advisor deems appropriate. Ministry Leadership Team Members have no liability for actions taken or omitted by the advisor if the Ministry Leadership Team acts in good faith and with ordinary care in selecting the advisor. The Ministry Leadership Team may remove or replace the advisor, with or without cause.

8.9 Interested Members: Contracts or transactions between Ministry Leadership Team Members, officers, or members of the Church who have a financial interest in the matter are not void or voidable solely for that reason. Nor are they void or voidable solely because the Member, officer, or Church member is present at or participates in the meeting that authorizes the contract or transaction, or solely because the interested party's votes are counted for the purpose. However, the material facts must be disclosed to or known by the Ministry Leadership Team or other group authorizing the transaction, and approval from disinterested parties must be obtained.

8.10 Actions of Ministry Leadership Team: The Ministry Leadership Team shall try to act by consensus. However, the vote of a majority of the Members present and voting at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be sufficient to constitute the act of the Ministry Leadership Team unless the act of a greater number is required by law or the bylaws. A Member who is present at a meeting and abstains from a vote is considered to be present and voting for the purpose of determining the decision of the Ministry Leadership Team.

8.11 No Compensation: Ministry Leadership Team Members, including the Lead Pastor, shall not receive salaries or compensation for their services to the Ministry Leadership Team. The Ministry Leadership Team may adopt a resolution providing for payment to Members for expenses of attendance, if any, at a meeting of the Ministry Leadership Team. A Ministry Leadership Team Member may serve the Church in any other capacity and receive reasonable compensation for those services.

8.12 Removal and Resignation of Ministry Leadership Team Members: The Ministry Leadership Team may vote to remove a Ministry Leadership Team Member, other than the Lead Pastor, at any time, with or without cause. A meeting to consider the removal of a Ministry Leadership Team Member may be called and noticed following the procedures provided in these Bylaws. A Ministry Leadership Team Member may be removed by a majority vote of the Ministry Leadership Team Members.

8.13 Discipline and Removal of the Lead Pastor: The Ministry Leadership Team shall function as an Advisory Council to the Lead Pastor for the purpose of instruction, protection, and correction. All Ministry Team Members make themselves available to listen to complaints/accusations against the Lead Pastor. It is each individual team member's responsibility to make all serious complaints/accusations known to the Ministry Leadership Team, including the Lead Pastor, and to determine if the Lead Pastor is guilty or innocent.

If the Lead Pastor is determined to be guilty, by at least two-thirds of the Ministry Leadership Team, excluding the Lead Pastor, then disciplinary action must be decided upon and executed. This disciplinary action can include anything deemed necessary and restorative by the Ministry Leadership Team including calling for the removal of the Lead Pastor at a duly called meeting of the Covenant Members.

If the Lead Pastor is not determined to be guilty, then appropriate actions must be taken to protect the reputation of the Lead Pastor and the Church.

8.14 Deadlock: In the case where the Ministry Leadership Team shall, by reason of deadlock (whether because an even number of Members is seated on the Team, or because certain Members are absent even though a quorum is present, or because of abstention, or for any other reason) be unable to reach a conclusive vote on any issue before the Team, then, in such instance, the President-Lead

Pastor shall cast a ballot which shall be known as a “majority ballot”, so that an official act or decision may be taken by the Team. The majority ballot shall be cast in addition to the regular Member’s vote cast by the President-Lead Pastor.”

ARTICLE 9—Records and Reports

The Church shall maintain the following records and reports:

1. Adequate and correct books and records of accounts (financial records); and
2. Written minutes of the proceedings of its members and Ministry Leadership Team; and
3. A record of the members of the Church, setting forth the members’ names and addresses; and
4. Contribution statements for contributors.

All such records shall be kept at the Church’s principal office.

ARTICLE 10—Ordaining, Licensing, and Commissioning

It is the intent of the Church to License and Ordain men and women who give evidence of being called by God to the work of ministry. Candidates for licensing or ordination will be examined by the Ministry Leadership Team for a vote. The Ministry Leadership Team reserves the right to assemble an ordination council of like faith Christian leaders to assist in the examination of prospective candidates.

ARTICLE 11—Amendments to the Bylaws

These Bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed, and new Bylaws may be adopted by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any special or regular membership meeting at which a quorum is present.