

Bylaws

Effective June 2024

AMENDED AND RESTATED BYLAWS OF FREEDOM CHURCH

A Florida Nonprofit Religious Corporation

Article I

Name and Principle Office

Freedom Church Vero Beach, Inc.

The name of the Corporation is Freedom Church Vero Beach, Inc., referred to as “the church” or “church.” The church maintains its principal office at 1505 20th Ave, Vero Beach Florida 32960 unless relocated due to exigent circumstances (storm damage, etc.). The mailing address is PO Box 368 Vero Beach, Florida 32961-0368

Article II

Purpose

1. Mission Statement: Our mission is to reach out with kindness, understanding, and a helping hand to anyone on the path to healing from the tough moments of life. We believe in creating a space where people are accepted just as they are and can find support and encouragement to grow and heal, no matter what they have experienced in the past with church or faith.
2. Vision Statement: We dream of a church that feels like home to those who thought church wasn't for them, a place where love, grace, and forgiveness are louder than judgment or doubt. This church home invites everyone to discover their spiritual journey at their own pace. We see a future where everyone can find peace, meaning, and connection - with themselves, each other, and God. Our hope is to build a community where healing happens together, one step at a time.
3. The objectives of Freedom Church are dedicated to relational evangelism, teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ and pursuing the Kingdom of God. The organization's primary purpose is to reach and disciple believers by and through CPR, Christ-like Positive Regard. CPR may employ as many methods and means as possible (including but not limited to conduct of public worship; conduct of mission activities; educational activities; creation, sale, and distribution of Christian media; conduct of Christian events; providing for benevolent needs of the local church and beyond; and other related activities), with the primary objective to maximize the number of people who may develop a personal, working relationship with God.

Five G's of our Church:

1. **Gospel: Sharing the Good News;** "We're all about spreading the good news of Jesus to everyone around us, making sure everyone in our community and beyond hears about the love and salvation He offers. We believe everyone should get the chance to experience this amazing grace. (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, 2 Peter 3:9)"
2. **Group: Growing Together;** "Our church is a family where we all support, pray for, and truly care about each other. We love hanging out, sharing our lives, and strengthening our bonds as God's kids. It's all about being there for one another, just like a big family reunion. (1 John 1:7, Acts 2:44-47, Hebrews 10:23-25, Romans 15:5,7, John 13:34-35)"
3. **Growth: Learning and Living the Faith;** "We're on a journey to grow closer to God and understand His word better every day. Through Bible studies and personal time with God, we aim to live out what we learn and become more like Jesus. It's about growing up in faith and helping each other do the same. (Ephesians 4:11-13, Matthew 18:20, 2 Timothy 2:2)"
4. **God Honoring: Worship in everything;** "Coming together to worship is a big deal for us. It's our special time to connect with God and each other, lifting our voices in praise. And it's not just about Sundays; it's about keeping that worshipful heart every day, in everything we do. (John 4:24)"
5. **Grace: Serving with Love;** "We're called to get our hands dirty and serve others with the same love Jesus showed us which is first and foremost displayed with Grace. It's about making a difference, one act of kindness at a time. (1 John 3:17-18)"

Article III

SECTION I Statements of Faith

We hold these eternal truths outlined in Scripture for our faith:

1. ABOUT GOD

We believe in one God who eternally exists in three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is infinite, which does not always make sense to our finite understanding. He is not limited by time or space. He is creator, eternal, all-knowing, ever-present, and all-powerful. His character is multi-dimensional, but no facet of His character diminishes another. In other words, His grace and wrath, mercy and justice, love and jealousy all work together for good.

2. ABOUT JESUS

We believe that Jesus is the eternal Son of God who became flesh to reveal God to humanity and to become the Savior of the lost world. He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, worked miracles, and gave us an example to follow. Fully God and fully

man, He died on a cross to pay the penalty for sin that separated us from God, and then rose from the dead to reconcile us to our Creator and to free us to have a new life in Him. Now, He sits at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us and will come again in glory to usher in His earthly reign.

3. ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that The Holy Spirit is given to every follower of Christ to guide, comfort, convict, and adopt us into the family of God. He helps us grow into Christlikeness by producing the fruit of the Spirit in our lives, and He gives us spiritual gifts to empower us to meet the needs of God's people and a hurting world.

4. ABOUT SALVATION

We were created in the image of God to have community with Him and represent Him on earth. However, through a willful act of disobedience, we were separated from Him. We believe that the blood of Jesus Christ, shed on the cross, provides the sole basis for the forgiveness of sin and gives us the opportunity to trade our sin for His righteousness through faith. Therefore, God freely offers salvation to those who place their faith in the death and resurrection of Christ as sufficient payment for their sin.

5. ABOUT THE BIBLE

Comprised of 66 books authored over thousands of years by dozens of authors, the Bible tells one seamless story: the story of a passionate God on a relentless pursuit to redeem His creation. We believe the entire Bible is the inspired Word of God and that men were moved by the Spirit of God to write every word of scripture. Therefore, we believe the Bible is trustworthy and reliable for telling us what to believe and how to live.

6. ABOUT HUMANITY

We believe that all people were created in the image of God to have fellowship with Him but became alienated in that relationship through sinful disobedience. As a result, people are incapable of regaining a right relationship with God through their own efforts. For this reason, Christ became man and dwelled among us, and was presented as the perfect human sacrifice to right our relationship with God.

7. ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

We believe all Christians should live for Christ and not for themselves. By obedience to the Word of God and daily yielding to the Spirit of God, every believer is conformed to the image of Christ as they grow in their faith. We trust the Holy Spirit does this work in each one, and that transformation is by His hand coupled with a willing spirit.

8. ABOUT THE CHURCH

We believe that the Church is the body of Christ, of which Jesus Christ is the head. The Church is not a building or an event, but rather the community of individuals who have

put their trust in Jesus Christ. The purpose of the Church is to glorify God by loving Him and by making Him known to the lost world.

9. ABOUT ETERNITY

We believe man was created to exist forever. He will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or in union with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally in union with God is eternal life, but to be eternally separated from Him is Hell. We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever.

Article IV

Affiliation

1. Freedom Church is not affiliated with any specific religious denomination or any other organization. We stand only on the gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. The CHURCH is autonomous and maintains the right to govern its own affairs, independent of any denominational control.

Article V

Church Membership

SECTION I Membership (a.k.a. "Partnership") Classifications

Membership in the CHURCH shall consist of all persons who have met the qualifications for membership and are listed on the membership roll.

1. General Partnership - Partnership at Freedom Church means sharing with us in vision, mission, and fellowship. A desire to participate in our activities and outreaches is all that is required.
2. Voting Partnership will be based upon the following covenant:
 - a. A voting partner must be accepted as a Freedom Partner by a resolution of the Elder Board.
 - b. A voting partner will share with us in vision, mission, and fellowship.
 - c. A voting partner must sign and commit to the Partnership Covenant of Freedom Church (Attachment A) by attending and completing CPR training, thereby learning to reflect the role of a Christian in the church and society.
3. A partner (voting or non-voting) may be removed from the fellowship of Freedom Church by the resolution of the Elder Board.

SECTION II Membership Qualifications

1. Non-Voting Membership
 - a. A desire to fellowship with attendees at Freedom Church.
2. Voting Membership
 - a. Acceptance of Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.
 - b. Attendance and completion of CPR protocol and training.
 - c. A commitment to support the church community in whatever manner you are gifted or able.

SECTION III Membership Responsibilities

1. Voting Partners of Freedom Church shall have the responsibility and the duty to:
 - a. Register, attend, and complete CPR training and CPU sessions when available.
 - b. Strive toward personal and corporate worship of God.
 - c. Strive to connect with other Freedom Partners in authentic community and discipleship, supporting one another in growing in Christ's grace and truth.
 - d. To participate in Freedom Church outreaches when possible.
 - e. To joyfully give of his/her time, talents and resources to further the cause of Freedom's mission to love God, to love people, and to make disciples.
2. Every Voting Member shall have the right to participate on the following matters:
 - a. the annual CHURCH Stewardship Plan Budget;
 - b. non budgeted expenditures that exceed \$5,000;
 - c. the disposition of all or substantially all of the CHURCH's assets;
 - d. the merger or dissolution of the CHURCH;
 - e. the acquisition or dissolution of real property;
 - f. the construction of major capital improvements and the incurring of debt for same; amendments to the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws;
 - g. the affirmation of individuals into Pastoral or Elder leadership,
 - h. the ordination and appointment of Elders;
 - i. and the calling or removing of the Lead Pastor.
3. Each voting member 18 years and older is entitled to participate in the process.
4. Proxy voting is prohibited.
5. Voting by absentee ballot and electronic mail or text is allowed at the discretion of the Elder Board.
 - a. When absentee voting is approved, voting shall be done by a signed affidavit for those who cannot attend a scheduled church vote.

SECTION IV: Termination of Membership

1. Members may be removed from partnership for the following reasons:
 - a. Death
 - b. Inactivity for a period of one year.
 - c. By personal request of the member or by becoming a member at another church.

- d. Dismissal by the Elders for destructive behavior including but not limited to:
 - i. becoming a hazard or danger to other members, ministry of the church or property,
 - ii. becoming disruptive and interfering with the congregational activities,
 - iii. displaying offensive behaviors that make others feel distress
 - iv. Continual violation of (or Failure to abide by) the Membership Agreement
2. If circumstances permit, procedures for the dismissal of a member shall be according to Matthew 18:15-17.

SECTION V: Restoration of Terminated Members

1. Restoration of membership is dependent on:
 - a. Acceptance as a Freedom Partner by a resolution of the Elder Board.
 - b. Understanding that a partner can be removed from the fellowship of Freedom Church by a resolution of the Elder Board.
 - c. Signing and committing to the Partnership Covenant of Freedom Church by attending and completing CPR training, thereby learning to reflect the role of a Christian in the church and society.
2. Members dismissed by the Elders shall be restored by the Elders according to the spirit of 2 Corinthians 2:7-8, when they are deemed to be in accordance with the Membership Agreement and/or they are deemed to no longer pose a hazard to the persons or ministry of the CHURCH.

SECTION VI: Temporary Removal of Persons/Members from Church Grounds

1. Any person, member or not, deemed to be a hazard to the persons or ministry of the CHURCH may be asked to leave by any member of the Pastor's Management Team or Elder, and if the individual refuses to leave, the offending person may be referred to law enforcement for trespassing.
2. When possible, consultation with the Lead Pastor and/or Elders shall be done prior to such an occurrence and any such actions shall be reviewed at the next Elders meeting.
3. This action does not constitute removal of membership, but the individual shall be barred from the property until the situation is reviewed and resolved by the Elders.

Article VII

Membership Meetings

SECTION I: Place

1. In-person meetings will be held in the church proper. The Elder Board allows for phone and email meeting connections when necessary to facilitate smooth operations.

SECTION II: General Meetings

1. General meetings will be called by the Elder Board as necessary.
2. A general meeting of the Voting Members shall be held sometime during the fourth quarter of each year as determined by the Elders.
 - a. This general meeting shall be the annual membership meeting. The primary purpose of this meeting shall be to affirm the annual Stewardship Plan. However, any other proper business may be conducted at this meeting.

SECTION III: Special Meetings

1. Special meetings may be called at any time by the Lead Pastor or by the unanimous action of the Elders for any purpose, by giving notice to the Voting Members through announcements at church.

SECTION IV: Quorum

1. No minimum number or percentage of Voting Members is required for a quorum, provided that notice of the vote was made available at the church.

SECTION V: Voting Eligibility and Process

1. Only voting members may vote in any matter affecting Freedom Church. See requirements in Article V, Sections I and II.
2. The participation of the Voting Members in CHURCH votes shall be in the manner known as Consensus Decision Making and described in Attachment B. Unless stated otherwise, Consensus is defined as 90% agreement.

Article VII

SECTION I Ministry Teams

1. The pastor may appoint such ministry teams as is needed to support the various financial and ministry needs of the church.

Article VIII

SECTION I Elder Board

1. Elders – The Lead Pastor serves as an Elder in the CHURCH. Additionally, candidates for Eldership may be recommended by the Elders for affirmation by

the CHURCH body at the annual meeting or at any duly called special meeting following an ordination into Eldership by the current Elder Team.

2. Elders shall meet the Biblical qualifications of the office, and the guidelines in Attachment A
3. The Elders are to serve at the discretion of the Pastor, to serve and support the pastor, and to represent the needs of the congregation.
4. The authorized number of Elders shall be such a number as may from time to time be authorized by resolution of the Elders, provided that such number shall not be less than three (3) nor more than fifteen (15).
5. The Elders shall include the Lead Pastor. Each layman who is an Elder will serve a 3-year term.
 - a. At the end of their term, it will be determined if the Elder wishes to continue, and if the remaining Elders believe that it is beneficial to the CHURCH and the Elder to serve another term without election.
 - b. The Elder may serve successive terms and shall hold office until a successor has been designated and qualified or until earlier resignation or removal.
6. Elder decisions should be made by a simple majority unless determined elsewhere within these bylaws to require a unanimous decision.
7. Termination
 - a. An Elder may resign by written notification to the Elders.
 - b. Elder(s) may be removed by a vote of no confidence by the congregation with a vote of a 75% approval at a Special meeting.
 - c. Elder(s) may be removed from office by a simple majority decision of the remaining Elders for any of the following reasons:
 - i. Physically incapacitated.
 - ii. Doing harm to the spiritual health, and unity of the CHURCH.
 - iii. No longer an active partner in church membership.
 - iv. Spiritually or morally unqualified or fails to fulfill their responsibilities or meet the qualifications outlined in this document.
 - v. Doctrinally unqualified - fails to agree with the doctrinal Statements of Faith outlined in Article III of this document.

SECTION II: Powers

1. ELDERS – Elders have authority to manage the church operations as the team designates, keeping the Pastor updated with any changes, inconsistencies, or needs. The Elder Board has authority over any other service teams in place to facilitate worship services and outreaches.
2. General Corporate Powers - Subject to the provisions and limitations of the Florida Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law and any limitations in the Articles of Incorporation and these Bylaws, the activities, business, and affairs of the

CHURCH shall be conducted, and all corporate powers shall be exercised by or under the direction of the Elders.

SECTION III Specific Powers

1. Elders - Without prejudice to the general powers set forth above, and subject to the same limitations, Elders shall have the power to:
 - a. Select and remove all officers, agents, and employees of the CHURCH except for the Lead Pastor; prescribe any powers and duties for them that are consistent with law, with the Articles of Incorporation, and with these Bylaws; and adopt, make, and use a corporate seal and alter the form of the seal; and,
 - b. Except as otherwise stated in these Bylaws, borrow money and incur debt on behalf of the CHURCH and cause to be executed and delivered for the CHURCH's purposes and in the CHURCH's name, promissory notes and other evidence of debt and securities; and;
 - c. Exercise all other powers conferred by the Florida Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law or other applicable laws.
2. Lead Pastor - The Lead Pastor has the ultimate authority for the spiritual matters of the CHURCH.
 - a. The Lead Pastor oversees the day-to-day spiritual disciplines such as the preaching schedule.
 - b. At the dismissal or death of the Lead Pastor, the preaching schedule and all spiritual matters will be determined by an associate pastor if one is currently on staff. If there is no associate pastor, the Elders will determine whether a supply pastor may be implemented or if it is necessary for CHURCH members to fill in temporarily as preacher/teacher. Elders may serve in this role.
 - i. In this role, a Supply Pastor is a Pastor who serves Sunday morning as preacher/teacher but does not have authority over the spiritual direction or needs of the CHURCH
 - c. The Lead Pastor has the authority to hire and fire staff members.
3. The general content and theme of a guest preacher, supply pastor, or member sharing a message may be reviewed and approved by the Lead Pastor and/or Elders.

Article IX

Meetings of the Elders

SECTION I: Place of Meetings

1. Regular or special meetings of the Elders may be held at any place that has been designated from time to time by resolution of the Elders. In the absence of such designation, meetings shall be held at the principal office of the CHURCH.
2. Any meeting may utilize conference telephone or similar communication equipment, as long as all participating Elders can hear one another.

SECTION II: Regular Meetings

1. Regular meetings of the Elders may be held without notice if the time and place of such meetings are previously fixed by resolution of the Elders.

SECTION III: Special Meetings

1. Special meetings of the Elders may be called for any purpose and at any time by the Lead Pastor or by the majority of the Elders.

SECTION IV: Quorum

1. Fifty (50) percent or greater Elder attendance at a meeting duly called and noticed shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
2. Every action taken or decision made by a majority of the Elders present at a meeting duly held at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Elders, subject to the provisions of the Florida Nonprofit Corporation Law.
3. A meeting at which a quorum is initially present may continue to transact business, notwithstanding the subsequent withdrawal of Elders from the meeting.
4. Attendance at Elder meetings may be via electronic means (phoning in, Zoom, etc.).

SECTION V: Action without Meeting

1. Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Elders may be taken without a meeting, if all of the Elders individually, or collectively, consent to the action either verbally or in writing. Such action by written or verbal consent shall have the same force and effect as if the vote took place at a regular or special meeting.

ARTICLE X

SECTION I: Church Officers

1. The CHURCH's officers shall be a Lead Pastor, an Executive Officer, and a Chief Financial Officer, whether serving as full time, part-time, or volunteer staff.
2. The Lead Pastor shall serve as the President of the CHURCH and shall act as the Moderator of the CHURCH.
3. The Executive Officer shall serve as the Vice President of the CHURCH and shall act as the Moderator in the absence of the Lead Pastor.

4. The Chief Financial Officer shall serve as both the Secretary and the Treasurer of the CHURCH and shall act as Moderator in the absence of both the Lead Pastor and the Executive Officer.
5. The Lead Pastor may not serve concurrently as the Chief Financial Officer.

SECTION II: Election of Officers

1. The Lead Pastor shall be called by a two-thirds vote of the Voting Members at a membership meeting. All other officers shall be chosen by the Elders.

SECTION III: Removal of Officers

1. The Lead Pastor may only be removed, with or without cause, after a unanimous vote of the remaining Elders and a 75% vote by the Voting Members or a 90% vote of the Voting members without a unanimous remaining Elder vote at any regular or special membership meeting.
2. Subject to the rights, if any, of an officer under any contract of employment, all other officers may be removed, with or without cause, by the Elders, at any regular or special meeting of the Elders.

SECTION IV: Vacancies in Offices

1. Vacancies created by resignation, removal, disqualification, or any other cause shall be filled only in the manner prescribed in these Bylaws for regular appointments to that office. To the greatest extent practical, such vacancies shall be filled as they occur.

SECTION V: Vacancy of Lead Pastor

If for any reason the Lead Pastor is unexpectedly removed from the CHURCH or unable to serve in their role:

1. If there is an Associate Pastor in place
 - a. They should be the primary and first candidate for consideration in the role.
 - b. There should be a discernment process for the CHURCH and the Elders to make an informed determination.
 - c. The Associate Pastor will be presented either with or without recommendation from the Elders, however;
 - i. if the Associate Pastor is presented without recommendation a 75% majority will be required for approval.
 - ii. With recommendation from the Elders a two-thirds majority will be considered approval.
 - d. Other candidates will only be considered after the Associate Pastor is rejected as a candidate or withdrawals.

- e. If the Associate Pastor does not wish to be considered for the position they will be retained and act as interim until a Lead Pastor is found.
 - f. The new Lead Pastor then will determine if the Associate Pastor should continue to serve in their role.
 - g. If the Associate Pastor is rejected, it is recommended that the Associate Pastor leave the position as quickly as is possible with immediate needs of the CHURCH being covered.
2. If there is no Associate Pastor in place;
 - a. the Elders will determine the preaching schedule to be covered by a Supply Pastor or CHURCH members.
 - b. The Elders will elect a search committee which may include members of the Elder board.
 - i. The search committee should be made up of spiritually discerning men and women who are members of good standing with the CHURCH.
 - ii. Their recommendation will be presented to the Elders with the same voting guidelines for if the Associate Pastor had been available.
3. If the Lead Pastor has a recommendation that is written in a sealed envelope or has been made known to an Elder, the recommendation should be considered with the same guidelines as an Associate Pastor.
 4. If the Lead Pastor determines that the season of ministry at the CHURCH is over due to being called elsewhere or retiring:
 - a. If the Lead Pastor has a recommendation of his/her successor, then it will be as if the recommendation was the Associate Pastor.
 - b. The Candidate will be presented to the Elder board and Congregation and go through the same voting process.
 - c. If there is no recommendation of the Lead Pastor for their successor then a search committee will be formed as discussed above. The Lead Pastor may be on the committee if they choose to be.

ARTICLE XI

Indemnification of Directors, Officers, Employees, and Other Agents

SECTION I: Definitions

1. Agent. "Agent" includes but is not limited to any person who is or was a Pastor, Elder, officer, trustee, employee, or other person who is or was authorized to act for the CHURCH through contract or apparent authority.

SECTION II: Insurance

1. The Elders shall adopt a resolution authorizing the purchase and maintenance of insurance on behalf of any agent of the CHURCH, against any liability asserted against or incurred by the agent in such capacity or arising out of the agent's status as such, whether or not the CHURCH would have the power to indemnify the agent under Corporations Code; provided however, that the CHURCH shall have no power to purchase and maintain such insurance to indemnify any agent of the CHURCH for violation of Corporations Code.

ARTICLE XII

SECTION I: Records and Reports

1. The CHURCH shall maintain the following records and reports:
 - a. Adequate and correct books and records of accounts (financial records); and;
 - b. Written minutes of the proceedings of its members and Elders; and;
 - c. A record of the Voting Members of the CHURCH, setting forth the members' names and addresses; and;
 - d. Giving statements for contributors.
2. All such records shall be maintained at the CHURCH's principal office.

ARTICLE XIII

SECTION I Amendment to the Bylaws

1. Amendments to the bylaws will be brought before the church voting membership for approval by two-thirds majority.
2. Subject to the provision of the Florida Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law, these Bylaws or any provision of them may be altered, amended, or repealed, and new Bylaws may be adopted by vote of two-thirds of the Active/Resident Members present at any special or regular membership meeting.

ARTICLE XIV

SECTION I Church Facility Usage

1. The church facility will be used for activities that edify God and are in line with the CHURCH's stated mission and purpose.
2. When the CHURCH property is requested to be used for a function that would be a spiritual stumbling block to the members of the CHURCH, as determined by the Elders, that request will be denied.

ARTICLE XV

SECTION I Assumption of Debt

1. The CHURCH may borrow money or otherwise incur debt for the purpose of capital improvement projects, regardless of size.
2. The CHURCH shall not borrow money or otherwise incur debt for the purchase of real property without a unanimous vote of the Elders and a 75% vote of the congregation.

CERTIFICATION OF SECRETARY

I, the undersigned, certify that I am the presently elected and acting Secretary of Freedom Church Vero Beach Inc., a Florida Nonprofit Religious Corporation, and that these Bylaws, consisting of thirteen (13) pages (not including attachments), are the Bylaws of the CHURCH as adopted by a vote of the Active/Resident Members of the CHURCH on

_____, 2024

Date

Donald M. Stewart, Jr.

Executed at Vero Beach, Florida this _____ day of June 2024 and effective the first day of July 2024.

ATTACHMENT A

Freedom Church Family Welcome - Creating a Community of Love and Support

As part of the Freedom Church family, we're committed to building a community where love, acceptance, and peace are at the core:

- By showing unconditional love to each other, just like Jesus shows us, creating a place where everyone feels valued and supported (John 13:34-35).
- By using our words to uplift and encourage, ensuring our conversations are always positive and constructive (Ephesians 4:29).
- By supporting our leaders with enthusiasm and respect, as they guide us in our spiritual journey together (Hebrews 13:17).

We find inspiration and guidance in Scripture, which reminds us:

- To pursue peace and build each other up in our shared faith (Romans 14:19 NIV).
- To consider others' needs alongside our own, following the example of Jesus (Philippians 2:4 NIV).
- To deeply love one another, knowing that love has the power to transform (1 Peter 4:8 NIV).

Our Shared Commitments

Joining this family means we're all in for:

- Keeping each other in our prayers, believing in the power of prayer to bring about growth and healing (1 Thessalonians 1:2).
- Welcoming everyone with open arms, reflecting Jesus' invitation to community and connection (Luke 14:23).
- Making everyone feel at home, because every visit is an opportunity to experience belonging and warmth (Romans 15:7).

In serving and growing together:

- We discover and use our unique gifts to serve one another, embracing our roles in this vibrant community (1 Peter 4:10).
- Recognizing Jesus as our pastor, we learn from our teachers, equipping ourselves to serve effectively and lovingly (Ephesians 4:11-12).
- We embody the spirit of service, honoring others' needs as well as our own (Philippians 2:3-7).

And in our daily lives:

- We commit to connecting regularly, fostering a spirit of encouragement and belonging within our community (Hebrews 10:25).

- We aim to live lives that reflect the teachings of Jesus, being beacons of hope and love to those around us (Philippians 1:27).
- We practice generosity, understanding that giving is an expression of our faith and trust in God's provision (1 Corinthians 16:2; Leviticus 27:30).

In joining the Freedom Church family, you're stepping into a journey with us—a journey of growth, healing, and community. Here, you're valued, your story matters, and together, we'll navigate the path of faith with open hearts and open doors. We recognize that we are all grace dependent. While we strive to act in CPR, we are aware this is a general direction, and growth isn't always linear. We are committing here to continue to strive to grow closer to His will for our lives. Welcome to a place where you belong, just as you are. Let's grow and thrive together.

Member Name: _____

Member Signature: _____

Date: _____

Attachment B

Consensus Decision Making

I. The Process

A. After prayer and consideration, a decision needs to be brought to the Elders.

B. The need is discussed and prayed through by the Elders.

C. AS THE LORD DIRECTS, the decision needs to be brought to the CHURCH assembly when the Elders are in unanimity. Discussion is conducted for clarification and the recommendation is committed to prayer. A time and date for reaching the decision is announced.

II. The Decision

A. The decision cards are distributed to voting members at a checkpoint so that the vote is anonymous and each member votes without further discussion.

B. The card gives three choices:

1. I have prayed through this decision, and I DO believe it is God's Will for us at this time.
2. I have prayed through this decision, but do not have any direction. I will, however, submit joyfully to the direction God has given others.
3. I have prayed through this decision, and I DO NOT believe it is God's Will for us at this time.

C. A member who has not been adequately informed or has not had opportunity to pray through this matter should not vote.

III. The Results

A. If the assembly is united by the percentages set forth in the bylaws.

B. If more than the remaining percentage set forth in the bylaws marked the third choice, the assembly will be immediately informed, "We do not have a consensus on this decision." The decision will not be put into effect and those impressed against the decision will be asked to contact the Elders and share what the Lord has shown them.

IV. Resolving Differences

A. If, after those in opposition share their views, and the Elders are in complete agreement that those sharing have a definite "no" answer from the Lord, the Elders will inform the church body and the matter will be delayed or dropped indefinitely.

B. If the Elders, after opposition is shared, are not totally in agreement that those sharing have a definite word from the Lord:

1. They will continue in prayer with those sharing.
2. If possible, they will give Scriptural evidence to those sharing.
3. They will make every effort to reach consensus with those sharing and an additional vote can be taken.
4. Should those sharing hold firmly to their views, the Elders will apprise the CHURCH of the situation and will recommend final action.