

**First Baptist Church of Fair Oaks**  
**Bylaws**

Adopted: November 19, 2023

**ARTICLE I: NAME**

This body shall be known as the First Baptist Church of Fair Oaks (the Church).

**ARTICLE II: PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS**

The principal place of business is located at 4401 San Juan Avenue in Fair Oaks, CA 95628

**ARTICLE III: OBJECTIVE**

The purpose of the Church is to glorify God (1 Corinthians 10:31). We seek to do this by being a family of believers who, by faith and obedience to God's directions, build up the body of Christ through worship, discipleship and fellowship; while also obeying the command to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ through our evangelistic witness and ministry.

**ARTICLE IV: STATEMENT OF FAITH**

**SECTION 1:** The Church acknowledges that statements of faith are not to be regarded as complete, infallible, nor as official creeds carrying mandatory authority. We hold to the belief that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and is the only basis for our statement of faith. The Church accepts as guidance the *Baptist Faith and Message* Statement as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention.

**SECTION 2: STATEMENT OF BELIEF** – We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female, and that these two (2) distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. We believe that God created marriage to be exclusively the union of one man and one woman, and that intimate sexual activity is to occur exclusively within that union.

**SECTION 3: STATEMENT OF FINAL AUTHORITY** – The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of the Church's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our Senior Pastor and Chairman of Deacons (together) are the Church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application. (In the absence of a Senior Pastor or Interim Pastor, the Ministry Accountability Council (MAC) shall assign Senior Pastor responsibilities to Associate Pastoral Staff or other person(s) as determined by the MAC.)

**SECTION 4: STATEMENT OF THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE** – We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. (Psalm 139)

## **ARTICLE V: MEMBERSHIP**

The membership of the Church shall be composed of individuals who are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ and affirm the tenets of the Church Bylaws, and who offer evidence, by their confession and their conduct, that they are living in accord with their affirmations and these Bylaws, and are actively pursuing and continuing in a vital fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

**SECTION 1: MEMBERS** – The membership of the Church shall be composed of three (3) classes of members: Active Members, Inactive Members, and Members for Corporate Purposes. The payment of tithes, dues, fees, or other assessments shall not be a condition of membership in any class.

(a) Active Members shall meet the following provisions:

1. They shall have fulfilled the requirements for membership as stated in these Bylaws, and shall be duly presented for membership.
2. They shall not have been declared by the Church in a Regular or Special Business Meeting to be “out of fellowship with the Church.”
3. They shall not have had their membership terminated by the Church as defined under the section entitled TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP.
4. They shall have attended at least twelve (12) regular worship services of the Church during the previous twelve (12) month period, or shall have been actively involved in one or more of the standing or special committees or active ministries of the Church, excluding any period prior to the date on which the individual was properly elected to membership in the Church. Exceptions due to illness or other unavoidable absence shall be considered on a case by case basis by the Church.

(b) Inactive Members are defined as those members who fail to satisfy all of the provisions necessary to be defined as an Active Member.

1. Inactive Members may not vote on any matters before the Church so long as they shall remain inactive.
2. An Inactive Member shall automatically be restored to active membership upon satisfaction of all requirements for Active membership.

(c) Members for Corporate Purposes are defined as Active Members who:

1. Shall have been Active Members of the Church for at least one hundred twenty (120) consecutive days, and who are at least eighteen (18) years of age.
2. Have the sole right to vote on matters brought before the Church during a business meeting.

3. Following election to their respective positions, the Senior Pastor and other Pastoral Staff members, and their spouses, shall, upon their petition for membership in the Church, automatically qualify as Active Members of the Church, notwithstanding the attendance requirement defined under the section entitled MEMBERS.

A. Children residing in the household of the Senior Pastor and other Pastoral Staff members who were previously members of another Baptist church, shall, upon their petition, also be granted status as an Active Member of the Church.

**SECTION 2: NEW MEMBERS** – Any person who meets all of the conditions of this section may present themselves for membership.

(a) Professing faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

(b) Baptism by immersion on authority of the Church or another of like faith. Any person who publicly indicates a commitment to follow Jesus Christ as Lord may, after proper instruction, be baptized.

(c) Commitment to the Church Body and its objectives, beliefs and covenant, demonstrated by completing a new members orientation class and publicly entering into the Church covenant.

(d) Letter of Recommendation or Statement of Faith in Jesus Christ as Lord:

1. Members of other churches of like faith, who have fulfilled the conditions for membership as defined under the section entitled NEW MEMBERS, may transfer their membership to the Church. (Letter)

2. Any person fulfilling the conditions for membership as stated above, after consultation with the Senior Pastor or his designee, may present themselves for membership. (Statement)

**SECTION 3: VOTING RIGHTS OF MEMBERS** – Every Active Member of the Church who has been a member for at least one hundred twenty (120) consecutive days, and who is at least eighteen (18) years of age is entitled to vote at all elections and on all questions submitted to the Church in a business meeting. There shall not be voting by proxy or absentee ballot under any circumstances.

**SECTION 4: TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP** – Membership may be terminated by any of the following occurrences:

(a) Upon death.

(b) By Letter of Transfer to a Church of like faith.

(c) Upon the written personal request of a member to strike his/her name from the Church Membership Roll.

(d) Upon joining another church.

(e) As a result of discipline as defined under the section entitled DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS.

- (f) The Church may also, after due notice and process, terminate the membership of persons who for the space of one year do not attend and make no effort to provide any tangible support for the Church's ministry.
  - 1. This does not apply to shut-ins, or to members temporarily inactive because of illness, family problems, or military service.
  - 2. This process shall take place under the same conditions as defined under the section entitled DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS.

## **SECTION 5: DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS**

- (a) It shall be the basic purpose of the Church to emphasize to its members that all reasonable measures shall be taken in resolving conflict disrupting the unity of the Church. The Pastors and Deacons are available for counsel and guidance. The aim of church discipline is always redemption and restoration as understood by instructions in Galatians 6:1-5 and Matthew 18:15-17.
- (b) Unrepentant behavior that disrupts the unity of the Church Body through immoral or unchristian conduct may result in the member being stricken from church membership roll as described in 1 Corinthians 5.
- (c) Any person whose membership has been terminated may, upon request, be restored to membership after pastoral counsel and with the recommendation of the Deacon Leadership Council.

## **ARTICLE VI: GOVERNMENT AND RELATIONSHIPS**

**SECTION 1:** This is a sovereign and democratic Baptist Church under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The Members for Corporate Purposes reserves unto itself the exclusive right of self-government according to these Bylaws and the associated policy and procedure manual/documents in all phases of the spiritual and temporal life of the Church.

**SECTION 2:** The Government of the Church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation which are common among Baptist Churches. Insofar as is practical, the Church will cooperate with Sacramento Region Baptist Network (SRBN), the California Southern Baptist Convention (CSBC) and the Southern Baptist Convention.

**SECTION 3:** To preserve its status as an IRC §501 (c) (3) non-profit religious charity, the Church shall not participate or intervene itself in any political campaigns for or against any candidate for public office. Policy and procedures will be established for any permissible activities under §501 (c) (3).

- (a) The Church derives its IRC §501 (c) (3) non-profit status through its covenantal association in faith and fellowship with the CSBC. In the event that the CSBC shall relinquish or have its non-profit status revoked, the Church Treasurer or Trustees shall immediately apply to the Internal Revenue Service for separate recognition as an IRC §501 (c) (3) exempt organization as of the original date of the founding of this Corporation.

**SECTION 4:** The affiliation of the Church with any other, or the withdrawal from any of the above affiliations, shall require a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Members for Corporate Purposes present at a duly constituted meeting. Such a duly constituted meeting shall require that written notice be mailed to the Members for Corporate Purposes two (2) weeks prior to the meeting date and be publicly announced during each worship service at least two (2) Sundays prior to the meeting date.

## **ARTICLE VII: CHURCH EMPLOYEES AND MEMBER VOLUNTEERS**

All employees and member volunteer duties exists to promote the ministry and mission of the Church in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**SECTION 1:** Regular Church employees and member volunteers will be selected for duties related to ministering, teaching, or communicating beliefs. The scriptural offices of the Church are Pastors and Deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the Church, the office of Senior Pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture (1 Timothy 3:1-15).

**SECTION 2: SIGNED STATEMENT OF FAITH** – All employees and member volunteers are required to sign a statement affirming that they agree with the Church's statement of faith and are willing to comply with these statements in their conduct.

## **ARTICLE VIII: CHURCH OFFICERS**

**SECTION 1:** The Corporate Officers of the Church shall be a President, Secretary, and a Treasurer, and shall be Members for Corporate Purposes. No one person may hold more than one of these three (3) offices simultaneously, and no two (2) members of the same household may hold any of the three (3) offices simultaneously. The officers of the Church shall be as follows:

### **SECTION 2: SENIOR PASTOR**

- (a) The Senior Pastor shall serve as the President or Chief Executive Officer of this Corporation as he performs his duties. The Senior Pastor carries the God-given responsibility, authority, and accountability to lead the Church to function as a New Testament Church. The Senior Pastor shall lead the congregation, ministries, church staff, and other church leaders to fulfill the Church's purpose, beliefs, and functions as stated in the Bylaws, and serve as moderator of the Church.
- (b) The Senior Pastor shall serve until the relationship is terminated by his death, his resignation, or by the Church's request. In the event of resignation by the Pastor, two (2) week notice shall be given to the Church.
- (c) Involuntary termination of the Senior Pastor shall be subject to the following provisions:
  1. The Pastor may be terminated for reasons including moral issues, refusing to follow sound doctrine, exhibiting an attitude inconsistent with the mission of the Church, and gross misconduct.

2. The Deacon Leadership Council in consultation with the MAC will make every attempt to bring about restoration and resolution based upon the principles of Matthew 18:15-17 and Galatians 6:1-5.
3. If no resolution or restoration is possible, termination shall be determined at a Special Business Meeting for that purpose, with the Members for Corporate Purposes being notified in writing two (2) weeks prior to the meeting.
4. At said meeting, the Deacon Leadership Council and the MAC will jointly present in writing a recommendation concerning termination.
5. If the Senior Pastor's employment is terminated, a maximum of two (2) months salary and benefits will be continued. Upon termination of the Senior Pastor's relationship with the Church, a Pastor Search Committee shall be elected as defined under the section entitled PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE, to seek and recommend a suitable Senior Pastor to the Church in view of a call.

(d) Vacancy of the Office of Senior Pastor

1. In the absence of a Senior Pastor, an Interim Pastor may be employed as provided under the section entitled NOMINATING COMMITTEE. His responsibilities and authority shall be determined by the MAC.
2. In the absence of a Senior Pastor or Interim Pastor, the MAC shall assign Senior Pastor responsibilities to Associate Pastoral Staff or other person(s) as determined by the MAC.

**SECTION 3: CLERK**

The Church shall annually elect from its Members for Corporate Purposes, a clerk to keep a record of all official actions of the Church, and shall serve in the capacity of Secretary of the Church Corporation. The clerk is responsible for maintaining a register of the names of members, with the dates of admission, dismissal, or death, together with a record of baptism. The clerk shall issue letters of dismissal voted by the Church, preserve on file all communication and written official reports, and give legal notice of all meetings where such notice is necessary as indicated by these By-Laws. The clerk shall be responsible for preparing the Annual Church Profile. All Church records are Church property, and shall be kept on file in the Church office. The Church may delegate some of the clerical responsibility of the Church clerk. The Church clerk shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee and is eligible for re-election on an annual basis.

**SECTION 4: TREASURER**

The treasurer shall serve as the Chief Financial Officer of this Corporation. The Nominating Committee shall recommend, annually, a person for election as treasurer. The treasurer shall be a member of the MAC. The treasurer shall oversee the receiving, accounting, disbursing, and reporting of all monies and gifts of the Church in accordance with Church policy. The treasurer is eligible for re-election on an annual basis.

**SECTION 5: TRUSTEES**

There shall be three (3) trustees nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected annually by the Church. Each Trustee shall be a Member for Corporate Purposes as defined in these Bylaws. Trustees shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease or transfer any property without a specific vote of the Church authorizing each action. It shall be the function of the trustees to affix their signatures to legal documents involving the sale, mortgaging, purchase, or rental of property, or other legal documents where the signatures of trustees are

required. The trustees shall elect their own Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary from among themselves. No trustee may concurrently hold more than one of these three positions.

## **ARTICLE IX: COUNCILS AND COORDINATING GROUPS**

### **SECTION 1: THE MINISTRY ACCOUNTABILITY COUNCIL (MAC)**

- (a) The MAC shall serve as the Board of Directors of the Church. This council is composed of nine (9) people plus the Church treasurer. The Senior Pastor is an ex officio nonvoting member of the council and may not serve as chairperson.
- (b) MAC members serve a three (3) year term on a rotating basis with one-third (three (3) members) rotating off every year. Any MAC member serving two (2) consecutive three-year terms is not eligible for re-election within twelve months of leaving the Council.
- (c) The primary function of the MAC is to ensure the proper management of Church finances, personnel, property, and space according to existing Church policies; and to review and recommend changes in Church by-laws, as well as to approve policies and procedures.
- (d) The MAC is also responsible for developing and overseeing the implementation of the annual budget of the Church and for monitoring and evaluating the Senior Pastor's performance according to existing stated criteria as outlined in the *Ministry Accountability Council Policy Manual*.
- (e) All matters agreed to by the MAC, calling for action not already authorized, shall be referred to the Church for approval or disapproval. The MAC will meet on a regular basis or upon a special call of the chairperson or Senior Pastor.
- (f) The MAC will speak primarily through MAC stated policies. When the MAC does speak, it speaks as one voice through the Chairperson.
- (g) Nominations of members for the MAC will be selected from the Members for Corporate Purposes roll by Church Nominating Committee in consultation with the Pastoral staff and submitted to the Church for election. The MAC will select from its members a Chairperson and other officers as needed. The MAC will appoint subcommittees to carry out special, limited-time functions as needed.

### **SECTION 2: THE DEACON LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**

- (a) The Deacon Leadership Council is composed of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary (the officers), and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of each Deacon Team. Each of these leadership positions are selected from among the Deacon body. The primary function of the Council is the administration of the Deacon ministry with the intent of involving all Deacons in the work of the ministry as defined under the section entitled DEACONS. Its work includes developing and recommending policies and procedures for all areas assigned to it.

- (b) The members of the Deacon Leadership Council will be selected by the active Deacons of the Church. No officer of the Deacon Leadership Council may serve more than three (3) consecutive years in the same officer position. A Deacon is not eligible for re-election to the same office within 12 months of serving for three (3) consecutive years in the same officer position.
- (c) All matters agreed to by the Council, calling for action not already authorized, shall be referred to the Church for approval. This Council will meet on a regular basis or upon a special call of the Chairman or Senior Pastor.

### **SECTION 3: DEACONS**

The Deacons are servants of the Church responsible for serving with the Senior Pastor and staff in performing pastoral ministry tasks for members of the congregation.

## **ARTICLE X: COMMITTEES**

### **SECTION 1: NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

- (a) The Nominating Committee will coordinate the nomination of leadership positions for the MAC, Trustees, Treasurer, Church Clerk and Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee is the electing body for filling vacancies throughout the year.
- (b) The Nominating Committee will serve as the Deacon Nominating Committee in partnership with the Deacon Leadership Council officers.
- (c) The Nominating Committee shall consist of seven (7) Members for Corporate Purposes. The chair persons of the Deacons, the MAC and Trustees shall constitute three (3) members with the other three (3) “at large” members nominated by the Pastors and elected by the congregation at the annual meeting. The three (3) “at large” members will serve on a three (3) year rotating basis with one rotating off every year. The Senior Pastor, or his designee, or the Interim Pastor is the seventh (7th) member and will serve as the Chair of the Nominating Committee.
- (d) The Nominating Committee shall first approve persons considered for any such positions before they are approached for recruitment.
- (e) The Nominating Committee shall present for Church election all who accept the invitation to serve.
- (f) The Nominating Committee, in consultation with Pastoral Staff, shall secure pulpit supply speakers in the event of a Senior Pastor vacancy and shall recommend to the Church an Interim Pastor to serve during any vacancy in the Senior Pastor position.
  - 1. The Interim Pastor approved by the Church shall not be considered as a candidate for election to the Senior Pastor position.
  - 2. The Chairman of the Deacons will work with the MAC in determining a compensation package for the Interim Pastor.



- (g) The Nominating Committee shall request and receive recommendations from the congregation for the nine (9) positions on the Pastor Search Committee. Neither employees of the Church nor the spouses of such are eligible to serve on this committee.
- (h) Beginning with, but not limited to the recommendations received, the Nominating Committee shall compile and recommend to the Church a list of fifteen (15) nominees who represent a cross-section of the adult male and female Church membership. If fifteen (15) qualified nominees cannot be found, MAC will determine how to proceed.
  - 1. This list of nominees shall be presented to the Church in a Special Business Meeting at which the Pastor Search Committee is scheduled to be elected.
  - 2. Each Church member present and eligible shall vote by ballot, for as many as nine (9) persons.
  - 3. The nine (9) persons receiving the highest number of votes on the ballots shall be considered elected to fill the nine (9) positions and they shall comprise the Pastor Search Committee.

## **SECTION 2: PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE**

- (a) The Senior Pastor of the Church shall be called by a vote of the Church upon the recommendation of a duly-elected Pastor Search Committee. The purpose of the Pastor Search Committee is to prayerfully seek out and recommend a qualified candidate to the Church to serve as Senior Pastor. In the event the Church is without a Senior Pastor, or in the event a decision has been made so the Church is to be soon without a Senior Pastor, the Pastor Search Committee and the Church shall proceed as follows:
  - 1. The Pastor Search Committee shall elect its Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary from among its members.
  - 2. The Pastor Search Committee shall seek out suitable candidates for the Senior Pastor position, investigating and evaluating each man as to his character, doctrine, training, pastoral experience, and Scriptural qualifications.
    - A. The Pastor Search Committee shall work with the MAC with regards to anticipated expenses for their task, and in determining a compensation package, transitional expenses, and benefits for the new Senior Pastor.
    - B. The Pastor Search Committee will make regular reports to the Church.
  - 3. By at least a 3/4-majority vote of its members, the Pastor Search Committee shall determine a candidate to present to the Church.
    - A. A recommendation from the Pastor Search Committee will constitute a nomination.
    - B. Only one candidate at a time shall be brought before the Church for its consideration.
- (b) When the Pastor Search Committee is ready to make its recommendation of a prospective Senior Pastor, the Church shall be notified at each worship service at least two (2) Sundays prior to the recommendation.

1. The Pastor Search Committee shall plan events for a weekend that allow the prospective Senior Pastor and the Church to get acquainted.
  2. The prospective Pastor shall fill the pulpit on the designated Sunday of the Pastor Search Committee's recommendation.
  3. At the close of each Sunday morning service that day, the committee will make its recommendation, and then the Church will vote by ballot. Only votes of Members for Corporate Purposes who are present will be counted. The results of the voting will not be reported until all worship services have had the opportunity to vote.
- (c) If the prospective Senior Pastor receives at least three-fourths (3/4) of the votes cast, he shall be considered called. If he fails to receive a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote, the committee shall repeat the same procedure in arriving at subsequent recommendations until a Senior Pastor has been called by the Church.
- (d) The Pastor Search Committee shall not cease to function until the new Senior Pastor assumes his duties. Their purpose is to assist getting the new Senior Pastor on the field.

### **SECTION 3: OTHER COMMITTEES**

Other special committees, when necessary, may be created and authorized by the Church. The Church shall state the purpose of each special committee created and authorized by it, and shall set forth all other relevant provisions pertaining to said special committees.

## **ARTICLE XI: CHURCH MINISTRIES**

All ministries of the Church shall be overseen by the Senior Pastor and Staff. The Church will provide for funding of all programs, and receive an annual report from all ministry organizations.

## **ARTICLE XII: CHURCH MEETINGS**

### **SECTION 1: WORSHIP**

The Church shall meet regularly for worship of God. These meetings will be for the purpose of celebration, adoration, instruction, fellowship, and evangelism. These meetings will be open for the entire membership of the Church and all people and shall be conducted under the direction of the Senior Pastor.

- (a) The following meetings shall be classified as worship services of the Church:
1. Regular worship services shall be held publicly at the principal office on Sunday each week at the time(s) designated by the Church. Exceptions as to the day, place, or time may be made with prior notice to the Active Members.
    - A. At its discretion, the Pastoral Staff may increase the number of worship services conducted each week. Such additional worship services may be held on any day(s) of the week and at the hour(s) the Pastoral Staff deems appropriate.

2. The Lord's Supper shall be celebrated on the dates and at the hour(s) as may be determined by the Pastoral Staff in consultation with the Deacons.
3. Revivals and other special worship or prayer services, as designated by the Pastoral Staff.
4. Weddings.
5. Funerals and/or memorial services.

## **SECTION 2: ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

The Annual Business Meeting of the Church shall be held during the month of November. This meeting can be rescheduled when necessary for program purposes by the Senior Pastor or the MAC, provided the meeting is held no later than December 31 of the same year.

## **SECTION 3: SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING**

A Special Business Meeting may be held to consider timely matters of significant nature. An announcement during two (2) consecutive Sunday worship services, and printed in the weekly publication at least 14-days in advance of the meeting must be made, unless extreme urgency renders such notice impractical. A Special Business Meeting may be called by the Senior Pastor or the Chairman of Deacons or the Chairperson of the MAC.

## **SECTION 4: QUORUM**

The quorum consists of Members for Corporate Purposes who attend any business meeting provided it is either the annual meeting or one that has been properly called.

## **SECTION 5: MODERATOR FOR OFFICIAL CHURCH MEETINGS**

The moderator of the Church shall be the Senior Pastor. In the absence of the Senior Pastor, the following order will be followed in acting as moderator pro tem:

- (a) Interim Pastor
- (b) The MAC may assign a moderator from Associate Pastoral staff. If they so choose, the chairperson of the MAC may moderate.

## **SECTION 6: PARLIAMENTARY RULES**

"Robert's Rules of Order", latest revised edition, is the authority for parliamentary rules of procedure for all business meetings of the Church.

## **ARTICLE XIII: DISSOLUTION**

**SECTION 1:** If at any time the Church shall be dissolved or should cease to function as a cooperating Southern Baptist Church, the property and assets of the Church, both real and personal, shall be distributed to the SRBN or its successors. ARTICLE XIII, Sections 1 through 3 are held to be irrevocable for the purpose of

preserving the founders' intent for the Church, its ministries, and all of its assets and properties to remain in Southern Baptist life.

**SECTION 2:** A vote to dissolve as a church shall require a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote at a Special Business Meeting called for that purpose.

**SECTION 3:** The Church shall be determined to have ceased functioning as a cooperating Southern Baptist Church when a statement to that effect is adopted by the CSBC or the SRBN Executive Board.

- (a) Preceding the adoption of any such statement, the Church shall be requested in writing by the CSBC or the SRBN Executive Board to attend a hearing to discuss ministry related concerns. The purpose of such a hearing is to resolve the concerns to all parties' satisfaction. The Church agrees that when notified of the hearing about ministry related concerns that no properties or assets, (other than normal budgeted expenses) will be hypothecated, devised, liquidated, transferred, or encumbered in any way, until the conclusion of the process set forth in this Article.
- (b) The Church shall have a period of ninety (90) days to address concerns discussed in the hearing. At the end of ninety (90) days the Church shall meet again with the CSBC or the SRBN Executive Board to discuss progress towards concerns raised. If satisfactory progress has been made the matter shall be considered resolved. If insufficient progress has been made as determined by the CSBC or the SRBN Executive Board, a statement may be adopted to the effect that the Church has ceased to function as a cooperating Southern Baptist Church with the CSBC or the SRBN.
- (c) This statement would only be made in rare instances if, for example, the Church assets were in danger of being removed from Southern Baptist life by parties seeking to circumvent the Church's will as expressed herein or other conditions that end the Southern Baptist ministry life of the Church.
- (d) The CSBC or the SRBN Executive Board must notify the Church in writing if such a statement is proposed for adoption. A "ceasing to function as a cooperating Southern Baptist Church" statement will require a three-fourths (3/4) vote in favor of the motion by the CSBC or the SRBN Executive Board.

**SECTION 4:** Should the Church be determined to have ceased functioning as a cooperating Southern Baptist Church, the Church may appeal the decision to an ecclesiastical council if it believes that the CSBC or the SRBN Executive Board was in error or unaware of important facts that would alter the decision.

- (a) This appeal must be made in writing to the CSBC or the SRBN Executive Board within thirty (30) days of receiving written notice of ceasing to function as a cooperating Southern Baptist Church with the SRBN.
- (b) A hearing will be granted within sixty (60) days of receipt of the written request from the appealing Church.
- (c) The appeal will be heard by the ecclesiastical council, which consists of the SRBN Director of Missions, four (4) Senior Pastors within the association that are mutually agreed upon by both the Church and the SRBN Executive Board and a non-voting representative of the CSBC, if available.

The Church will be notified in writing within thirty (30) days of the appeal hearing as to the final decision of the council. It will require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the ecclesiastical council to uphold the CSBC or the SRBN Executive Board decision.

- (d) The decision of the ecclesiastical council is legally binding upon all parties. Neither the CSBC or the SRBN Executive Board nor the Church shall contest the decision of the ecclesiastical council in court.
- (e) Should either the Church, the CSBC, or the SRBN Executive Board fail to cooperate in the ecclesiastical council's establishment or proceedings, that party shall automatically concede its position and privileges in the matter.

#### **ARTICLE XIV: AMENDMENT**

These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of Members for Corporate Purposes who are present on any regular Business Meeting of the Church, or a Special Business Meeting called for that stated purpose, provided that copies of the proposed amendment shall have been distributed through Church publications or at a previous Business Meeting, and made available to all Members for Corporate Purposes.

#### **Definition of Abbreviations:**

**CSBC** – California Southern Baptist Convention

**FBCFO** – First Baptist Church of Fair Oaks

**MAC** – Ministry Accountability Council

**SBC** – Southern Baptist Convention

**SRBN** – Sacramento Region Baptist Network