

# CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF *Jubilee Family Church*

A NONPROFIT CORPORATION

## PREAMBLE

*For the purpose of establishing and maintaining a place for worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father; to provide for Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith, where the Holy Spirit may be honored according to our distinctive testimony; to assume our share of responsibility and the privilege of propagating the Gospel of Jesus Christ by all available means, both at home and in foreign lands; we, the members and adherents of Jubilee Family Church, do hereby recognize ourselves as a sovereign body and adopt the following articles of church order and submit ourselves to be governed by them.*

## CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

### ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this church shall be Jubilee Family Church of the city of Batesville in the State of Arkansas.

### ARTICLE II. PREROGATIVES

Pursuant to its stated purpose, this church shall have the following inherent rights:

#### Section 1

The right to govern itself according to the standards of the New Testament Scriptures, "Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, ...till we come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:3,13).

#### Section 2

The right to purchase or acquire by gift, bequest, or otherwise, either directly or as trustee, and to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of any real estate or chattels as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purposes; all in accordance with its constitution and bylaws or as the same may be hereafter modified or amended.

### **Section 3**

The right to ordain ministers upon completion of the prescribed course of study, designated by the church elders.

### **Section 4**

The right to establish a Bible Training School or School of Theology for the preparation of men and women for the ministry of the Gospel.

### **Section 5**

The right to spread the Word of the Gospel through seminars, radio, television, publishing of literature, and other forms of mass media as may be determined appropriate by the elders of the church.

## **ARTICLE III. AFFILIATION**

**JUBILEE FAMILY CHURCH is an nondenominational fellowship.** While we hold ties to no particular church denomination, we are not anti-denominational. It is our belief that the Body of Christ cannot be contained within a single denominational structure. Therefore, we choose to fellowship with all those of like precious faith.

## **ARTICLE IV. TENETS OF FAITH AND DOCTRINE**

**This church accepts the Scriptures as the revealed Will of God, the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice, and for the purpose of maintaining general unity, adopts these Statements of Fundamental Truths and Doctrine.**

### **1. The Scriptures Inspired**

**The Bible is the inspired Word of God, a revelation from God to man, the infallible rule of faith and conduct, and is superior to conscience and reason, but not contrary to reason (II Timothy 3:15-17; I Peter 1:23-35; Hebrews 4:12).**

### **2. The One True Godhead**

**The triune Godhead is comprised of three separate and distinct personalities, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, who are eternally self-existent, self-revealed and function as one entity.**

Jesus Christ, who is God manifested in the flesh, is the second member of the Godhead, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

### 3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

**The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God.** The Scriptures declare:

- a. His virgin birth (Matt. 1:23; Luke 1:31,35)
- b. His sinless life (Heb. 7:26; I Peter 2:22)
- c. His miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38)
- d. His substitutionary work on the cross (I Cor. 15:3; II Cor. 5:21)
- e. His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matt. 28:6; Luke 24:39; I Cor. 15:4)
- f. His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9; 2:33; Phil 2:9-11; Heb. 1:3)

### 4. The Fall Of Man

Man was created good and upright; for God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." However, **man by voluntary transgression fell** and thereby incurred not only physical death, but spiritual death, which is separation from God (Gen. 1:26,27; 2:17; 3:6; Romans 5:12-19).

### 5. The Salvation of Man

**Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.** On the cross Jesus Christ became sin and sickness providing both salvation and divine healing for all mankind, (Psalm 103:3) being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. For by grace we are saved through faith. "The Word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation" (Romans 3:24; Ephesians 2:8; Romans 10:8-10).

**The Evidence of Salvation.** The inward evidence, to the believer of his salvation, is the direct witness of the Spirit (Romans 8:16). The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness. "And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us" (I John 3:23).

**Faith and Works.** Salvation is by faith in Jesus Christ and not by human works; however, our works will determine the rewards in eternity (Acts 16:3; Romans 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-7; Romans 14:12-20; and 2 Corinthians 5:10).

### 6. The Ordinances of the Church

**Baptism in Water.** The ordinance of baptism by a burial with Christ should be observed as commanded in the Scriptures by all who have really repented and in their hearts have truly believed on Christ as Savior and Lord. In so doing, they declare to the world that they have died with Jesus

and that they have also been raised with Him to walk in newness of life (Matthew 28:19; Acts 10:47,48; Romans 6:4).

**The Lord's Supper (Holy Communion)** "And when He had given thanks He broke it, and said, This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me. In the same way also the cup, after supper saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup" (I Corinthians 11:24, 25, 28).

## 7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of the believers in the early Christian Church. **This experience is accompanied by, but not limited to, the initial physical evidence of speaking in other tongues (glossolalia) as the Holy Spirit Himself gives utterance** (Matt. 3:11; John 14:16-17; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:38-39; Acts 19:1-7; Acts 2:4). With it, comes the enduement of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4,8; I Cor. 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9). With the baptism in the Holy Spirit come such experiences as an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), a deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Heb. 12:28), an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work (Acts 2:42), and a more active love for Christ, for His Word, and for the lost (Mark 16:20). We recognize the operation of the Gifts of the Spirit in the Believers' lives according to 1 Corinthians 12:4-11.

## 8. Sanctification

**Sanctification is a progressive act of separation from that which is evil and of dedication unto God** (Romans 12:1,2; I Thess. 5:23; Heb. 13:12). The Scriptures teach a life of holiness "without which no man shall see the Lord" (Heb. 12:14). By the power of the Holy Spirit we are able to obey the command: "Be ye holy for I am holy" (I Peter 1:15-16).

## 9. The Church

**The Church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God** through the Spirit with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission. Each believer born of the Spirit is an integral part of the general assembly and Church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven (Eph. 1:22,23; 2:22; Heb. 12:23).

## 10. The Ministry

**A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord** for a two-fold purpose: (1) The evangelization of the world and (2) The edifying of the body of Christ through the maturing and training of believers for ministry (Mark 16:15-20; Eph. 4:11-12).

## **11. Divine Healing**

Divine healing is an integral part of the Gospel. **Healing from sickness is provided for in the atonement and is the privilege of all believers** (Isa. 53:4,5; Matt. 8:16, 17; James 5:14-16).

## **12. The Blessed Hope**

**The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the Church** (I Thess. 4:16,17; Rom. 8:23; Titus 2:13; I Cor. 15:51, 52).

## **13. The Millennial Reign of Christ**

The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of **Christ with His saints to reign on the earth for one thousand years** (Zech. 14:5; Matt. 24:27,30; Rev. 1:7; Rev. 19:11-14; 20:1-6). This millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel (Ezek. 37:21-22; Zeph. 3:19-20; Rom. 11:26,27) and the establishment of universal peace (Isa. 11:6-9; Psa. 72:3-8; Micah 4:3,4).

## **14. The Final Judgment**

**There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works.** Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together with the Devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, will be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake of fire which is the second death (Matt. 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Rev. 19:20; 20:10-15; 21:8).

## **15. The New Heavens and the New Earth**

**We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness** (II Peter 3:13; Rev. 21:22).

# **ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP**

## **Section 1**

### **General Membership**

Membership in this church shall be open to all those who give evidence of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and who voluntarily subscribe to its tenets of faith and agree to be governed by the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws (and any amendments thereto). Said members shall constitute the congregation of Jubilee Family Church, Inc.

## **Section 2**

### **Active Membership**

Active membership shall be comprised of those who are regular attenders at the worship services at Jubilee Family Church and are consistent supporters of the church through tithes and offerings. No person shall be considered for offices or ministries within the church who is not an active member.

## **Section 3**

### **Inactive Membership**

Members who deliberately absent themselves from the services of this church for a period of six weeks or more, or who cease to contribute of their means to its support, or who may be out of harmony with its teachings or its ministries, or who shall come under charges of misconduct or who may have fallen under condemnation through sinful and unscriptural practices shall be considered as inactive members until they are restored to fellowship, their standing to be settled by the definite action of the church through the Pastor and Elders.

## **Section 4**

### **Transfer of Membership**

Members in good standing, who may wish to sever their relationship with the church, or may desire to be transferred to some other congregation, may request a letter of recommendation, which shall be granted on the approval of the Pastor and Elders.

## **ARTICLE VI. GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE CHURCH**

### **Section 1**

The government of this local body of believers shall be entrusted to the Pastor and Elders, as men recognized both Scripturally and spiritually qualified for oversight of this church as God's delegated authorities.

Their ministry of ultimate oversight may be extended by those from the membership recognized as exercising the spiritual ministry of Deacons, as seems necessary for the ongoing life of the church's effective ministry to each believer.

## Section 2

### The Pastor.

- a. The Pastor shall be a man recognized to fulfill the pastoral gift (Eph. 4:11-13). As patterned in the Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, there is plurality and unity, yet recognized "headship". Among the Elders, the Pastor is recognized as raised up by the Holy Spirit to be the "leader among leaders".
- b. The Pastor shall be appointed by the Elders of the church. The pastor's term of office shall be for an indefinite period.
- c. Because the Pastor is recognized as the Church's spiritual leader, he shall be a person of good report and high integrity, expected to live honorably to prevent discredit to the Church's ministry and witness. As a member of the church eldership the pastor submits to mutual submission and accountability to his fellow elders. Should the pastor fail morally or espouse doctrines contrary to the tenets of the faith of Jubilee Family Church, and is unwilling to submit to the Word of God and the counsel and discipline of the elders, he will be disciplined and/or dismissed by the plurality of elders and the congregation informed of the action. (Gal. 6:1; Matt. 18:15-17; 1 Tim. 5:19-20)
- d. The Pastor, by virtue of his office, shall be the chairman of the corporate board and a member, ex-officio, of all departments and committees.

## Section 3

### The Elders.

- a. The Council of Elders shall, with the Pastor, constitute the governing oversight of the Church. Elder's qualifications of spiritual life and ministry are found in 1 Tim. 3, Titus 1, and 1 Peter 5.
- b. An Elder is first called by the Holy Spirit (Acts 20:28), then recognized and approved by existing Elders (Acts 14:23; Tit. 1:5), then after prayerful consideration (1 Tim. 5:22), appointed and presented to the Church for ministry (1 Thess. 5:12,13; Heb. 13:17). The number of Elders is therefore determined by the Holy Spirit's choosing and the leadership's recognition of them. Therefore, there is no minimum or maximum number, but the Spirit will raise up a number adequate and consistent with the need for ministry and leadership to the Body. Those recognized as Elders to serve this body of believers will have expressed their place in this fellowship by membership.
- c. An Elder is then recognized as such indefinitely until he asks the Elders to relieve him of spiritual oversight in the congregation or forfeits his eldership by disqualifying himself spiritually or Scripturally. Any person so recognized in ministry should be sensitive to their own spiritual life and, if unable to effectively and harmoniously serve to the glory of God, ask the Elders to release

him from specific ministry (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:3) and then humbly receive counsel and strength from the Elders. If an Elder refuses to submit to the Word of God and the counsel and discipline of his fellow-elders, he will be disciplined by the plurality of Elders and the congregation will be informed of their action (Gal. 6:1; Matt. 18:15-17; 1 Tim. 5:19, 20).

d. The Elders shall assist the Pastor in discerning and confirming the mind of the Lord for the spiritual life of the church and its overall ministry. They shall serve in the Church's ministry to its members and in its ordinances. They shall, with the Pastor, administer all matters of church discipline. They shall provide counsel and confirmation to the Pastor in the appointing and removal of all staff ministers.

#### Section 4

### The Deacons

a. Deacons are men gifted to serve the Body of Believers, spiritually and Scripturally qualified (1 Tim. 3), and appointed by the Elders to carry out responsibilities delegated to them to more effectively serve the congregation's needs (Acts 6:1-7).

b. Deacons shall be individuals chosen from among the congregation who are recognized by the Elders as fulfilling the New Testament function of service and ministry among the people. When an individual's service among the congregation begins to give evidence of ministry, members may recommend him/her to the Elders for their prayerful consideration of the Holy Spirit's choosing for recognized ministry. While all members are commanded to "serve one another in love", some are chosen for specific service as Deacons. Deacons shall be appointed by the Elders, then presented to the congregation for ratification, confirmation and ordination.

c. A deacon is recognized as such until he/she asks the Elders to relieve him/her of recognized responsibility among the congregation, or fails to consistently exercise the calling (1 Peter 4:10-11), or is disqualified spiritually or Scripturally (Acts 6:3; 1 Tim. 3:8-15). Any person so recognized in ministry before the congregation should be sensitive to their own spiritual well-being and if unable to effectively serve to the glory of God, ask the Elders to release him/her from specific ministry and then humbly receive the Elder's counsel and strengthening.

d. If a deacon fails to submit to the Word of God and counsel and discipline of the Elders, he/she will have forfeited the recognition of ministry among this fellowship. The congregation shall be informed of such disciplinary action to maintain harmony in the body and the spiritual integrity of the leadership.

e. Deacons are understood to exercise authority as delegated by the Elders and are therefore accountable to the Elders for their function and service.

## Section 5

### The Board of Directors (Trustees)

- a. The legal business affairs of the church corporation shall be managed by the Corporate Board of Directors acting under the counsel and direction of the Pastor and Elders. The Board of Directors shall serve as the legal signatories of the Church.
- b. The number of trustees shall be a minimum of three. The Board of Directors shall be authorized to increase their number as need demands. This increase shall be enacted by unanimous consent of the trustees and ratification by a majority of the Elders.
- c. The Board of Directors (Trustees), other than the original Board of Directors, and except as provided in these By-Laws, shall be elected at the annual business meeting of the Board of Directors, held each January. Each trustee elected shall serve until the next succeeding annual meeting and until his successors shall have been elected and qualified.
- d. Any vacancy occurring in the Board of Directors may be filled by the affirming vote of the majority of the remaining trustees, the Pastor and Elders.

## ARTICLE VII. Meetings

### Section 1

Meeting for public worship and teaching shall be held on each Lord's Day and at other appropriate times as provided for by the Pastor.

### Section 2

There shall be an annual meeting of the active membership in January or February of each year. The time, place, and primary purpose shall be announced at least two weeks prior to the meeting, during the Lord's Day worship services and/or by mail.

### Section 3

Special meetings of the active membership may be called when necessary by proper notice, as above, by the Pastor.

### Section 4

All business meetings of the church shall be conducted by accepted rules of parliamentary procedure and in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship (Eph. 4:3; Eph. 4:29; I Cor. 14:33).

### Section 5

After proper notification of any business meeting as required above, the members present shall constitute a quorum.

## **ARTICLE VIII. Finances**

### **Section 1**

All funds for the maintenance of the church or its missions shall be provided by the voluntary contributions of the tithes and offerings of the members and friends of the church.

### **Section 2**

All funds from any source whatsoever, except as hereinafter provided, shall be allocated to the General Fund and thereafter disbursed in accordance with a church budget organized for that purpose.

### **Section 3**

Depending upon necessity, special fund-raising activities may be conducted by the Church, various committees, and youth organizations. All funds raised in this manner shall be independent of the church budget. Requests for such special fund-raising shall be submitted in writing to and approved by the Pastor and Elders.

### **Section 4**

The church is authorized to accept from time to time individual gifts for specific purposes which shall be independent of the church budget.

## **ARTICLE IX. Property**

### **Section 1**

All property, real or personal, shall be taken, held, sold and transferred in the corporate name of the church.

### **Section 2**

No real property shall be purchased nor shall real estate owned by the church be sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise encumbered without having been authorized by the elders and trustees of the church.

### **Section 3**

No personal property of the church shall be purchased, sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise encumbered unless the same shall be authorized by the Elders.

#### **Section 4**

Upon the dissolution of this corporation, the Elders and active membership shall, after making provision for the payment of all liabilities, dispose of all the assets of the corporation exclusively for the purpose of the corporation for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes, as shall at that time qualify as an exempt organization under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) as the Elders and the active membership shall determine.

### **ARTICLE X. CORPORATE SEAL**

#### **Section 1**

The corporate seal, if used, shall be in such form as may be prescribed by the Board of Trustees. The seal may be used by causing it or a facsimile thereof to be impressed or affixed or in any manner reproduced. To substitute the seal, the word, "ATTEST" over the signature of the secretary may be used.

### **ARTICLE XI. Amendments**

#### **Section 1**

This Constitution and any attendant Bylaws may only be amended or repealed at a meeting of the entire board of trustees and elders, said meeting to be duly called for that purpose. Any proposed amendment shall be published and presented to each member of the trustees and elders at least two weeks prior to such meeting.