

Bylaws of Palmetto Shores Church

Original version adopted by the membership on April 29th, 2007.

Revised by the membership on December 18th, 2022.

Article I **Introduction**

Section I: Constitution

Since Palmetto Shores Church (PSC) is a Christian church, founded upon the cornerstone of Jesus Christ Himself, it is our desire that this local expression of the body of Christ will seek to honor Jesus and obey Jesus in all its organization and dealings. Everything herein contained for the governance of PSC seeks to uphold, to the best of our ability and with God's help, principles in accordance with the Holy Word of God. These rules of order, in that they reflect the Word of God and the wisdom of God, will govern our life together for the sake of our common spiritual vitality, our united missional fidelity, and our collective worship of the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Section II: Purpose

PSC exists to glorify God. This church, as all Christian churches, exists because of the gospel of Jesus Christ. In view of our helplessness, guilt, and corruption, the Eternal Son of God entered this world as a human being. Jesus Christ lived a perfect life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead victoriously. Jesus is the head of the church, and it is from His grace and through His life that PSC has been called into reality. We owe all allegiance and gratitude to Jesus, and we find all of our communion and commission together in Him. In the light of our great calling as the people of God and the body of Christ, we commit ourselves to: gathering to worship on the Lord's Day; growing in knowledge, service, and fruit through the ordinary means of grace; engaging in loving fellowship with one another; proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ through preaching and personal evangelism; participation in mission work locally and cross-culturally; rightly administering the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper; praying faithfully for our church, our community, and our world; give sacrificially to gospel ministry; and to order ourselves under the Lordship of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Section III: Confession

PSC joins as a local expression of Christ's body because of God's call according to His Holy Spirit and because of a common confession of faith (1 Timothy 6:12-13; Hebrews 10:23). This common confession (Appendix A; Appendix B) is an articulation of what we believe the Bible teaches. These standards will guide our worship and practice since they express a summary of the Holy Scriptures, "the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints." (Jude 3) This confession grounds our desire for unity and fellowship together and rules our experience of that fellowship in Jesus Christ.

Article II **Membership**

Section I: General Statement

The New Testament presents a picture of definable groups of people who, once committed to Jesus Christ, identified themselves with and committed themselves to a particular local body (Acts 2:42-46; Acts 11:26; Romans 16:1; I Corinthians 1:2; II Corinthians 8:1). Membership is open to any person who has personally accepted Jesus as Savior and Lord, who has received baptism as a believer, and who has been called by God to commit to Palmetto Shores Church as a local body of believers. Membership is not a prerequisite for involvement, but is required for ministry leadership and involvement in certain ministries as determined by the Elders. Membership is required for participation in congregational decision making. Membership in Palmetto Shores Church shall consist of all persons who have met the qualifications for membership.

Section II: Qualifications

The Elders, in conjunction with the congregation, shall be responsible for determining each person's qualification for membership. In making determinations they may rely on a person's profession of faith, or such other evidence, as seems appropriate. The qualifications for membership are:

1. A personal commitment to Jesus Christ for life, salvation, and worship.
2. Believer's baptism (see: Appendix A) as a testimony of faith in Christ.
3. Completion of the Church's membership class and follow-up conversation.
4. A commitment to sign and abide by the Membership Statement.
5. A recommendation by the Elders and a majority vote of the members.

Children or grandchildren of church members will be nourished and loved dearly in the name of Jesus. They will be welcomed as part of the family and celebrated as the blessing that they are. If a child is baptized as a believer before the "Age of Majority" according to South Carolina law, that child, being under the supervision of an adult, will not bear the responsibility of a qualified member. PSC entrusts the discipline and gradual introduction to responsibility in the body of Christ to the child's guardian. When a child who has been baptized and is under the guardianship of an adult member of PSC reaches the "Age of Majority," they will qualify fully for church membership and be entitled to the responsibilities as outlined in Section III & IV, and accountable to the discipline of membership as outlined in Sections V & VI. If a child has been baptized and is under the guardianship of a member of the church they will be considered a provisional member until they reach the "Age of Majority."

Section III: Responsibilities & Privileges

Under Christ this congregation is governed by its members. Therefore, it is the privilege and responsibility of members to attend members' meetings and vote on the election of officers, on the annual budget, and on such other matters as may be submitted to a vote. The regular responsibilities of membership are described in the Membership Statement which includes the following four commitments:

1. I will protect the unity of my church by acting in love toward other members, by refusing to gossip and by following the leaders (Romans 15:5, 19; I Peter 1:22; Ephesians 4:29; Hebrews 13:17).
2. I will share the responsibility of my church by praying for its growth, inviting the un-churched to attend and by warmly welcoming those who attend (I Thessalonians 1:2; Luke 4:23; Romans 15:7).
3. I will serve the ministry of my church by discovering my gifts and talents, being equipped to serve by my pastors and by developing a servant's heart (I Peter 4:10; Ephesians 4:11-12; Philippians 2:3-4, 7).
4. I will support the testimony of my church by attending faithfully, living a godly life and by giving regularly (Hebrews 10:35; Philippians 1:27; I Corinthians 16:2).

Section IV: Voting

Every member shall have the right to vote on the following matters: the annual budget of the Church, the acceptance of new members into the church, the termination of individual membership from the church, the election of the Trustees, the acquisition of real property and related indebtedness, incurring indebtedness

for facilities development, the disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of the church, the merger or dissolution of the Church, amendments to the Articles of Incorporation, Statement of Faith, Constitution or Bylaws of the Church, the calling or removing of Elders (including the Senior or Associate Pastors) or Servant Leaders (Deacons/Deaconesses), and any other such matters upon which they have been duly noted. Each member is entitled to one vote. Voting by proxy is prohibited. All votes will be decided by a majority of the quorum unless otherwise stated in these bylaws. All voting will be guided by a spirit of mutual trust, openness, and loving consideration which is appropriate within the body of Christ. Any decision or election which has been voted upon accordingly, shall take effect immediately preceding the vote, unless another date has been specifically designated.

Section V: Discipline

Any member consistently neglectful of his or her duties or guilty of conduct by which the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be dishonored, and so opposing the welfare of the church and/or rendering doubtful a profession of faith, shall be subject to the admonition of the Elders and the discipline of the church, according to the instructions of our Lord in Matthew 18: 15–17 and the example of Scripture. Church discipline, then, should ordinarily be contemplated after individual private admonition has failed.

Church discipline can include admonition by the Elders or congregation, deposition from office, and excommunication (see Matthew 18: 15–17; 1 Timothy 5: 19–20; 1 Corinthians 5: 4–5).

The purpose of such discipline should be for the repentance, reconciliation, and spiritual growth of the individual disciplined (see Proverbs 15: 5; 29: 15; I Corinthians 4: 14; Ephesians 6: 4; I Timothy 3: 4–5; Hebrews 12: 1–11; Psalm 119: 115; 141: 5; Proverbs 17: 10; 25: 12; 27: 5; Ecclesiastes 7: 5; Matthew 7: 26–27; 18: 15–17; Luke 17: 3; Acts 2: 40; I Corinthians 5: 5; Galatians 6: 1–5; II Thessalonians 3: 6, 14–15; I Timothy 1: 20; Titus 1:13–14; James 1: 22);

For the instruction in righteousness and good of other Christians, as an example to them (see Proverbs 13: 20; Romans 15: 14; I Corinthians 5: 11; 15: 33; Colossians 3: 16; I Thessalonians 5: 14 [note this is written to the whole church, not just to leaders]; I Timothy 5: 20; Titus 1: 11; Hebrews 10: 24–25);

For the purity of the church as a whole (see I Corinthians 5: 6–7; II Corinthians 13: 10; Ephesians 5: 27; II John 10; Jude 24; Revelation 21: 2);

For the good of our corporate witness to non-Christians (see Proverbs 28: 7; Matthew 5: 13–16; John 13: 35; Acts 5: 1–14; Ephesians 5: 11; I Timothy 3: 7; II Peter 2: 2; I John 3: 10); and

Supremely for the glory of God by reflecting His holy character (see Deuteronomy 5: 11; I Kings 11: 2; II Chronicles 19: 2; Ezra 6: 21; Nehemiah 9: 2; Isaiah 52: 11; Ezekiel 36: 20; Matthew 5: 16; John 15: 8; 18: 17, 25; Romans 2: 24; 15: 5-6; II Corinthians 6: 14-7: 1; Ephesians 1:4; 5: 27; I Peter 2: 12).

Section VI: Termination & Restoration

Individuals shall be removed from church membership for the following reasons:

1. Death.
2. Transfer of membership to another church.
3. By personal request of that member.
4. As an act of church discipline (in accordance with Article II, Section V), ordinarily at the recommendation of the Elders, upon the vote of at least two-thirds of the members present at any members' meeting.

Members dismissed by the church shall be restored by the church according to the spirit of II Corinthians 2:7-8 upon evidence of repentance. All church discipline has the goal of restoration for the glory of God in view. A member will be restored when, through repentance, they are back in step with the Qualifications for membership (outlined in Article II, Section II). Such restoration will result in highest praise to God and fullest joy in the church.

Section VII: Non-liability

A member of PSC shall not, solely because of such participation, be personally liable for the debts, obligations, or liabilities of the Church.

Article III **Meetings**

Section I: Regular Gatherings

The Church shall hold regular meetings for worship, teaching, training, outreach and fellowship. Worship services shall be held each Lord's Day, and may be held throughout the week as the church determines. The gathering of the church is a joyous refreshment to be celebrated weekly under the word of God as an outpost of the Kingdom of Christ.

Section II: Members' Meetings

There will be a minimum of 1 members' meeting(s) per fiscal year as determined by the Elders. The purpose of these meetings shall be to encourage and inform the membership, to adopt an annual budget, to elect the Trustees, and to vote on any other important matters at hand. All business meetings will be guided by Christian charity and a spirit of mutual trust, openness, and loving consideration which is appropriate within the body of Christ.

Section III: Notice & Quorum

Whenever members are required or permitted to take any action at a meeting, notice shall be given to members not less than two 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:

1. Distribution of written material to the congregation in attendance at a weekend service.
2. Announcement of the meeting in a church program, bulletin or newsletter.
3. Oral announcement to the congregation at a weekend service.
4. Delivery by United States mail to each church member.
5. An email sent to those in the membership database with email on file.

Approval by the members of any of the following proposals, is valid only if the notice specifies the general nature of the proposal:

1. Calling or removing an Elder (including the Senior or Associate Pastors).
2. Amending the Articles of Incorporation, Statement of Faith, Constitution, or Bylaws.
3. Disposing of all or substantially all of the Church's assets.
4. Adopting or amending a merger agreement.
5. Approving the acquisition of real property or related indebtedness.

Those members present and voting at a meeting duly noticed and called shall constitute a quorum of the membership.

Article IV **Leadership**

Section I: General Statement

According to our statement of faith (Appendix A; Article XIV), “The Lord Jesus is the head of the Church, which is composed of all His true disciples, and in Him is invested supremely all power for its government. According to His commandment, Christians are to associate themselves into particular societies or churches; and to each of these churches He has given needful authority for administering that order, discipline and worship which He has appointed. The regular officers of a Church are Pastors and Servant Leaders.” So, while Jesus Christ is the sole Head of the church, by His grand design, He has both modeled and ordained two particular leadership offices in the church. Jesus is the model Pastor (Elder) since He is the Good Shepherd (John 10:14) and Jesus is the model Servant Leader (Deacon) since He is the Servant of the Lord (Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Mark 10:45). The church may recognize other officers as is deemed reasonable and prudent, however, the church will not function properly without these two offices ordained by the Lord Jesus.

So, in addition to Pastors and Servant Leaders, our church recognizes the Pastors Council, Church Staff, Treasurer, Secretary, and President as reasonable and prudent positions. The leadership structure of PSC is based upon the nature of the church as revealed in Scripture, as well as the necessary legal requirements for a recognized religious organization. All officers and leaders must be members of this church prior to assuming their responsibilities.

Section II: Elders

Three different terms are used in the New testament to refer to the same church leader(s): pastor, elder, and overseer. These terms are used interchangeably and reflect the different functions of the same office. The New Testament church had a plurality of pastors in each local church (I Peter 5:1-2; acts 20:17-18, 28; Titus 1:5-7; I Timothy 5:17). The personal qualifications for this office are found in I Timothy 3:1-7 & Titus 1:7-9. At any point in time, the Elders shall be comprised of not less than three men who satisfy the qualifications for the office of Elder. This group of not less than three men may consist of paid or unpaid pastors—including the Senior Pastor, all Associate Pastors, and any non-staff Pastors who have been installed by a vote of the membership as Elders.

Elders shall be nominated by the Elders to be voted on by the membership at a regular or special Members’ meeting. The membership of PSC, before being asked to express its judgment, must receive assurance from the Elders that, having interviewed the man concerned, they are in no doubt as to his wholehearted assent

to the Statement of Faith and Membership Statement. For the installment of an Elder, the church requires a two-thirds vote of all those eligible voters attending a members' meeting.

All nominated Elders will initially be voted on by the membership to become an Elder Candidate. Elder Candidacy will last approximately one year. The Elder Candidacy period will exist to give the Elders, the membership, and the Elder Candidate the opportunity to assess the chemistry and commitment level of the Elder Candidate. During this period the Elder Candidate will perform the duties of an Elder in conjunction with and under the supervision of the current Elders. After one year the current Elders will give a recommendation to the membership as to the chemistry and commitment level of the Elder Candidate at which time the membership will vote to officially install the Elder. Any Pastor who is hired by the church, and thus becomes an Elder (while he still must be affirmatively voted on according to the terms of Section 3 & Section 4 of this article), will not be an Elder Candidate but will immediately assume the office of Elder.

Subject to the will of the congregation, the Elders shall oversee the ministry and resources of the church. In keeping with the principles set forth in Acts 6: 1-6 and I Peter 5: 1-4, the Elders shall devote their time to prayer, the ministry of the Word (by teaching and encouraging sound doctrine), and shepherding God's flock. The church shall recognize men gifted and willing to serve in this calling, in accordance with the constitutional provisions on elections. These men shall be received as gifts of Christ to His church and set apart as Elders.

An Elder's term of office may be terminated by resignation or by dismissal. Any two members with reason to believe that an Elder should be dismissed should express such concern to the Elders and, if need be, to the congregation. Any such action shall be done in accordance with the instructions of our Lord in Matthew 18: 15-17 and I Timothy 5: 17-21. Any of the Elders may be dismissed by a two-thirds vote of the members at any members' meeting of the church.

The Elders shall take particular responsibility to remain in prayer for the congregation, examine and instruct prospective members, examine and recommend all prospective candidates for offices and positions, oversee the work of the deacons and appointed church agents and committees, conduct worship services, administer the ordinances of baptism and communion, equip the membership for the work of the ministry, encourage sound doctrine and practice, admonish and correct error, oversee the process of church discipline, coordinate and promote the ministries of the church, and mobilize the church for world missions. Further, the Elders should seek to ensure that all who minister the Word to the congregation, including outside speakers, affirm our fundamental gospel

convictions and do not teach our church anything contrary to the Statement of Faith.

Each year the Elders, after consultation with the deacons/deaconesses, the Pastors Council, and the church staff, shall present to the church an itemized budget. This budget shall be presented for a vote at an annual members' meeting. No money shall be solicited by or on behalf of the church or any of its ministries without the approval of the Elders.

Section III: The Senior Pastor

The Senior Pastor shall be an Elder. He shall perform the duties of an Elder described in Section II, above, and shall be recognized by the church as particularly gifted and called to the full-time ministry of preaching and teaching. He shall be responsible for the church's public services, including preaching and the administration of the ordinances of baptism and communion; and performing such other duties as usually pertain to that office (especially those outlined in an agreed upon job description). The Senior Pastor shall continue to serve as Pastor until the relationship is ended by resignation or termination by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of those present and voting at a special business meeting of the church called for such purpose.

Upon the occurrence of a vacancy in the position of Pastor, the Elders shall initiate the process leading to the calling of a new Senior Pastor. In the absence or incapacity of the Senior Pastor the Elders shall assume responsibility for his duties, any of which can be delegated. In the calling of any man to the position of Senior Pastor, the same basic process of calling an Elder must be followed. In addition, however, the church must be given adequate opportunity to assess the preaching gifts of any potential candidate and, before being asked to express its judgment, must receive assurance from the Elders that, having interviewed the man concerned, they are in no doubt as to his wholehearted assent to the Statement of Faith and Membership Statement.

Section IV: Associate Pastors

The church may call additional pastors whose relationship to the Senior Pastor is that of Associate. An Associate Pastor shall be an Elder. He shall perform the duties of an Elder described in Section II, above, and shall be recognized by the church as particularly gifted and called to the full-time ministry of preaching and teaching. He shall assist the Senior Pastor in the performance of his regular duties and shall perform any other duties as usually pertain to the office of pastor (especially those outlined in an agreed upon job description). An Associate Pastor shall continue to serve as Pastor until the relationship is ended by resignation or termination by the

affirmative vote of two-thirds of those present and voting at a special business meeting of the church called for such purpose. In the absence or incapacity of the senior pastor for defined periods of time (such as sabbatical, illness, etc.), the associate pastor(s) shall assume the responsibility for his duties under the oversight of the Elders.

In the calling of any man to the position of Associate Pastor, the same basic process of calling an Elder must be followed. In addition, however, the church must be given adequate opportunity to assess the preaching and/or teaching gifts of any potential candidate and, before being asked to express its judgment, must receive assurance from the Elders that, having interviewed the man concerned, they are in no doubt as to his wholehearted assent to the Statement of Faith and Membership Statement.

Section V: Servant Leaders (Deacons / Deaconesses)

The office of Deacon is described in I Timothy 3: 8–13. The church shall recognize men and women who are giving of themselves in service to the church, and who possess particular gifts of service. In keeping with the principles set forth in Acts 6:1-6, these members shall be received as gifts of Christ to His church and set apart as Deacons and Deaconesses.

Deacons/Deaconesses shall be nominated by the Elders to be voted on by the membership at a regular or special Members' meeting. All nominated Deacons/Deaconesses will initially be voted on by the membership to become a Servant Leader Candidate. Servant Leader Candidacy will last approximately six months. The Servant Leader Candidacy period will exist to give the Elders, the membership, and the Servant Leader Candidate the opportunity to assess the chemistry and commitment level of the Servant Leader Candidate. During this period the Servant Leader Candidate will perform the specific tasks designated to them by the Elders. After six months the Elders will give a recommendation to the membership as to the chemistry and commitment level of the Servant Leader Candidate at which time the membership will vote to officially install the Servant Leader.

Deacons and Deaconesses shall care for the temporal needs of members, attend to the accommodations for public worship, and encourage and support those able to help others and those with gifts of administration. The Elders, with assistance from the Deacons and Deaconesses shall receive, hold, and disburse a fund for benevolence, reporting on its use to the Elders at their request, and reporting to the church its total receipts and total disbursements only. The Deacons and Deaconesses, with the agreement of the Elders, may establish unpaid

administrative positions or committees of members to assist them in fulfilling their responsibilities in the church.

Deacons/Deaconesses, at PSC, will be called Servant Leaders in accordance with modern vernacular, since that is the definition of the word deacon. There are no specific, on-going roles specified in the Bible for Servant Leaders; they shall serve as needed. There will be no limit to the number of Servant Leaders, as this is dependent solely upon the Holy Spirit's disbursement of spiritual gifts in the church and the needs within the body.

Section VI: Pastor's Council

The Pastor's Council will consist of all of the Elders, select Servant Leaders, select Staff members, and select Trustees. The Elders will determine which select Servant Leaders, Staff, and Trustees make up the Pastor's Council. All members of the Pastor's Council will be nominated to serve as Trustees alongside other non-Pastor's Council nominees. The Pastor's Council will have the following responsibilities:

1. Coordinate the life and ministry of the church, plan for future events, and implement the strategy of the church in light of its purpose, mission, values and vision.
2. Provide supervision and make recommendations for the calling and dismissal of Elders, Staff, Servant Leaders, and Trustees.
3. Arrange and develop the church's annual budget, to be submitted by the Elders to the Church membership for approval.
4. To remain aware of, and to hold the Elders and Staff accountable for, the management of the church's annual budget.

Section VII: Staff

Church Staff members may be hired as needed in accordance with the annual budget, as well as the Policy, Procedure, and Personnel Manual of the church. Staff members may be Pastors, Directors, Administrators, Assistants, or any other such position which is deemed reasonable and prudent for employment unto the accomplishing of the mission of PSC. Such staff members shall be responsible to their immediate supervisors and under the supervision of the Pastor's Council. All employees of the church will receive an agreed upon job description which will outline their particular scope of work and which will serve as a standard of evaluation. Staff members are not required to be called or dismissed by a vote of the membership unless stated otherwise in these Bylaws. All employees of the

church must be members of this church prior to assuming their responsibilities (with rare exceptions such as contract workers, bookkeepers, etc.).

Section VIII: Other Officers

The other officers recognized by PSC are Treasurer, Secretary, and President. These three offices will function as follows:

1. Treasurer- It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive, preserve and pay out, upon proper internal procedure and control according to adopted financial policies, all money or things of value paid or given to the Church—keeping at all times an itemized report of the receipts and disbursements. The Treasurer’s report and record shall be audited annually.
2. Secretary- The Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining an accurate roll of the church membership with date of admission, dismissal and other pertinent information. The Secretary shall be responsible for preparing accurate and complete minutes of all business meetings of the church. The Secretary also keeps individual contribution records and reports to each member his/her record. The Secretary may appoint one or more assistants to help in the performance of these duties.
3. President- The Elders shall elect one of their number to serve as the president of the corporation. The President will also serve as Chairmen of Elders’ meetings when necessary and as Moderator of Members’ meetings.

Section IX: Trustees

The Trustees will consist of the Pastor’s Council, the Treasurer, the Secretary, and any other members nominated and elected by the church membership. Trustees are nominated to the church membership annually by the Elders. They are elected by the members at the annual membership meeting and may only be removed from completing their one-year term by resignation or a vote of the members. The Trustees shall have the following powers and duties:

1. Provide financial counsel to the Elders.
2. Assist the Pastor’s Council in the interview, selection, and employment of Staff.
3. Serve the church as official representatives of PSC in terms of business contracts and other legal matters. Trustees, under the direction of the Pastor’s Council or, if required, congregational approval, may borrow money and incur indebtedness 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 evidences of debt and securities.

4. Conduct other duties and activities as requested by the Elders.

While Trustees represent the Church for matters requiring approval of the Church membership, day-to-day official documents of the Church may be executed by the Elders, the Staff, the Secretary, or the Treasurer within the boundaries of the Church budget and in accordance with the Policy, Procedures, and Personnel Manual of the church.

Article V **Real Property**

Section I: Title

Title to all real property of the Church shall be in the name of the church.

Section II: Purchase & Disposition

Real property may be purchased in the name of and behalf of the church by act of the Trustees after the proposal to do so has been presented and approved by the Elders and by the Church membership. Real property of the church may be sold, mortgaged, conveyed, transferred or otherwise disbursed with the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present at a business meeting.

Article VI **Finances**

Section I: Fiscal Year

The Church fiscal year shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31. The Church shall have an annual budget to serve as the normative guide for the financial operation of the Church.

Section II: Budget

The annual church budget shall be established through the following process:

1. The Elders in conjunction with the Pastor's Council & Treasurer will review the previous year to assess the financial situation of the church and to create reasonable projections.

2. The Elders in conjunction with the Pastor's Council & Treasurer will arrange and develop the church's annual budget in accordance with the vision, mission, and values of PSC.
3. Each year the Elders, after consultation with the deacons/deaconesses, the Pastors Council, and the church Staff, shall present to the church an itemized budget.
4. This budget shall be presented for a vote at an annual members' meeting without discussion.

Minor modifications within the budget can be made by the Elders if circumstances in the life of the church mandate such a change. The budget should, however, be the normative guide for the financial operation of the church.

Section III: Annual Review

An annual review of the church's financial matters will be performed and made available to Church Membership. Any member of the church is entitled to an accurate representation of the finances of the church at any time upon request.

Article VII **Records & Manuals**

The church shall maintain the following records & reports:

1. Adequate and current books and records of accounts (financial records).
2. Written minutes of the proceedings of its Members and Pastor's Council meetings.
3. A roll of the membership of the Church, setting forth the member's names and addresses.
4. Contribution statements for contributors.
5. A Policy, Procedures, and Personnel Manual.

Article VIII **Amendments**

All requests for amendments to the Articles of Incorporation, Statement of Faith, Constitution or Bylaws of the Church must be in writing and shall be submitted to the Elders for study and consideration. The Elders shall issue a timely response to

the proposed amendment, alteration or revision to these Bylaws. The Elders, in conjunction with the Pastor's Council, shall determine whether to propose such amendments to the church for adoption. If proposed to the church by the Elders, amendments require the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present at a business meeting of the church.

Appendix A
Statement of Faith*
"What We Believe"

I. The Scriptures-

"The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are the only sufficient, certain and authoritative rule of all saving knowledge, faith and obedience."

Matthew 5:17-18; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2; Revelation 22:18-19; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Psalm 19:7-11; 1 Peter 1:22-2:3

II. God-

"There is but one God, the Maker, Preserver and Ruler of all things, having in and of Himself, all perfections, and being infinite in them all; and to Him all creatures owe the highest love, reverence and obedience."

Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Genesis 1:1-3; Exodus 34:5-8; Isaiah 40:18-28; John 4:21-24

III. The Trinity-

"God is revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit each with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence or being."

Genesis 1:26-27; Matthew 28:16-20; Matthew 3:13-17; Romans 8:9-11; Ephesians 1:3-13

IV. Providence-

"God from eternity, decrees or permits all things that come to pass, and perpetually upholds, directs and governs all creatures and all events; yet so as not in any ways to be the author or approver of sin nor to destroy the free will and responsibility of intelligent creatures."

Romans 8:28-30; Proverbs 16:9, 33; Psalm 139; Genesis 50:15-21

V. Election-

“Election is God’s eternal choice of some persons unto everlasting life—not because of foreseen merit in them, but of His mere mercy in Christ—in consequence of which choice they are called, justified and glorified.”

1 John 6:61-65; Ephesians 1:3-6; Romans 9:6-24; Acts 13:44-48; Romans 8:28-30

VI. The Fall of Man-

“God originally created Man in His own image, and free from sin; but, through the temptation of Satan, he transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original holiness and righteousness; whereby his posterity inherit a nature corrupt and wholly opposed to God and His law, are under condemnation, and as soon as they are capable of moral action, become actual transgressors.”

Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 3:1-15; Romans 5:12-19; Psalm 51; Romans 1:18-25; Mark 7:14-23

VII. The Mediator-

“Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, is the divinely appointed mediator between God and man. Having taken upon Himself human nature, yet without sin, He perfectly fulfilled the law; suffered and died upon the cross for the salvation of sinners. He was buried, and rose again the third day, and ascended to His Father, at whose right hand He ever lives to make intercession for His people. He is the only Mediator, the Prophet, Priest and King of the Church, and Sovereign of the Universe.”

John 1:1-18; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Hebrews 2:17-18; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Deuteronomy 8:15-19; Isaiah 53; 2 Samuel 7:8-17

VIII. Regeneration-

“Regeneration is a change of heart, wrought by the Holy Spirit, who quickens the dead in trespasses and sins enlightening their minds spiritually and savingly to understand the Word of God, and renewing their whole nature, so that they love and practice holiness. It is a work of God’s free and special grace alone.”

Deuteronomy 30:1-10; Ezekiel 36:24-32; 2 Corinthians 4:3-7; John 3:1-3; 1 John 2:29; Ephesians 2:1-10

IX. Repentance-

“Repentance is an evangelical grace, wherein a person being by the Holy Spirit, made sensible of the manifold evil of his sin, humbles himself for it, with godly sorrow, detestation of it, and self-abhorrence, with a purpose and endeavor to walk before God so as to please Him in all things.”

Romans 2:1-4; 2 Timothy 2:22-26; 2 Peter 3:8-18; 2 Corinthians 7:8-12; Isaiah 55:6-9

X. Faith-

“Saving faith is the belief, on God’s authority, of whatsoever is revealed in His Word concerning Christ; accepting and resting upon Him alone for justification and eternal life. It is wrought in the heart by the Holy Spirit, and is accompanied by all other saving graces, and leads to a life of holiness.”

Romans 10:8-17; John 3:16-18; Romans 4; John 20:30-31; Galatians 5

XI. Justification-

“Justification is God’s gracious and full acquittal of sinners, who believe in Christ, from all sin, through the satisfaction that Christ has made; not for anything wrought in them or done by them; but on account of the obedience and satisfaction of Christ, they receiving and resting on Him and His righteousness by faith.”

Psalms 32:1-5; Galatians 2:15-21; Luke 18:9-14; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 3:21-28

XII. Sanctification-

“Those who have been regenerated are also sanctified by God’s word and Spirit dwelling in them. This sanctification is progressive through the supply of Divine strength, which all saints seek to obtain, pressing after a heavenly life in cordial obedience to all of Christ’s commands.”

1 John 3:9; John 17:13-19; Galatians 3:1-5; Romans 6:15-23

XIII. Perseverance of the Saints-

“Those whom God has accepted in the Beloved, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere to the end; and though they may fall through neglect and temptation, into sin, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, bring reproach on the Church, and temporal judgments on themselves, yet they shall be renewed again unto repentance, and be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.”

Romans 8:35-39; Ephesians 1:13-14; John 6:35-40; 1 Corinthians 1:4-9; Ephesians 4:30; Romans 10:24-30

XIV. The Church-

“The Lord Jesus is the head of the Church, which is composed of all His true disciples, and in Him is invested supremely all power for its government. According to His commandment, Christians are to associate themselves into particular societies or churches; and to each of these churches He has given needful authority for administering that order, discipline and worship which He has appointed. The regular officers of a Church are Pastors and Servant Leaders.”

Colossians 1:13-18; Ephesians 4:1-16; Matthew 16:13-19; Acts 2:37-47; 1 Timothy 3:1-16

XV. Baptism-

“Baptism is an ordinance of the Lord Jesus, obligatory upon every believer, wherein he is immersed in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, as a sign of his fellowship with the death and resurrection of Christ, of remission of sins, and of giving himself up to God, to live and walk in newness of life. It is prerequisite to church membership, and to participation in the Lord’s Supper.”

Acts 16:25-34; Matthew 28:16-20; Romans 6:3-7; Matthew 3:11-17; Colossians 2:8-12; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

XVI. The Lord's Supper-

"The Lord's Supper is an ordinance of Jesus Christ, to be administered with the elements of bread and fruit of the vine, and to be observed by His churches till the end of the world. It is in no sense a sacrifice, but is designed to commemorate His death, to confirm the faith and other graces of Christians, and to be a bond, pledge and renewal of their communion with Him, and of their church fellowship."

Luke 22:14-20; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34; 1 Corinthians 10:14-17; Jude 8-13

XVII. The Lord's Day-

"The Lord's Day is a Christian institution for regular observance, and should be employed in exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private."

Matthew 28:1-10; Acts 20:7-12; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Revelation 1:10-16

XVIII. Liberty of Conscience-

"God alone is Lord of the conscience; and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men --those that are contrary to His word, or not contained in it. Government authorities are established by God, so it is good for us to obey the laws commanded by them as long as they do not contradict God's word."

Romans 2:12-16; Matthew 15:1-9; Romans 14:1-23; Acts 5:27-42; Romans 13:1-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-4

XIX. The Resurrection-

"The bodies of men after death return to dust, but their spirits return immediately to God—the righteous to rest with Him; the wicked, to be reserved under darkness to the judgment. At the last day, the bodies of all the dead, both the just and unjust, will be raised."

2 Corinthians 5:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:12-58; Daniel 12:1-3

XX. The Judgement-

“God hath appointed a day, wherein He will judge the world by Jesus Christ, when every one shall receive according to his deeds; the wicked shall go into everlasting punishment; the righteous, into everlasting life.”

Romans 2:1-11; Matthew 25:31-46; Psalm 7:6-17; Revelation 20:11-15; 2
Thessalonians 1:5-12

**These statements have been lightly amended from the Abstract of Principles (1858)*

Appendix B

Statement of Biblical Belief: "Regarding Marriage & Sexuality"

We believe and affirm that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: a single, exclusive conventional union between one man and one woman, sanctioned by God as delineated in Scripture.

We believe and affirm that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe and affirm that God has commanded no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe and affirm from the teaching of Scripture that any other form of sexual conduct, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexuality, gender reassignment, bestiality, incest, pedophilia, polygamy, or pornography is sinful and offensive to God and hence, can never be sanctioned by this church.

We believe and affirm that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Palmetto Shores Church as a Christian Church with Biblical values, it is imperative that all those employed by Palmetto Shores Church, or those who serve as leaders in any capacity, shall abide by and agree to this Statement of Biblical Belief regarding Marriage and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly by the grace of God.

We believe and affirm that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture or acceptable by those affiliated with Palmetto Shores Church.