

Constitution and By-Laws of Transformation Church

Revised April 25, 2022

PREAMBLE

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In order to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ, to establish a church upon the truth of Holy Scripture, and perpetuate our faith even to generations yet unborn, we, the Elders of Transformation Church, do declare and establish this Constitution and By-laws.

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this church shall be “Transformation Church” a not for profit corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Alabama.

ARTICLE 2: PURPOSES

Transformation Church exists for the glory of God. We are committed to the proclamation of the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. We exist to build the Kingdom of God through Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit in Troy, the surrounding regions, and to all nations through evangelism, discipleship, and church planting.

ARTICLE 3: DOCTRINE

Transformation Church is hereby established on the following articles of faith:

1. We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter, that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

II Tim. 3:16-17; II Tim. 3:15; Proverbs 30:5-6; Romans 2:12; Phil. 3:16; I John 4:1

2. We believe that there is one, and only one living and true God, an infinite intelligent Spirit, whose name is JEHOVAH, the Maker and supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

John 4:24; Ps. 83:18; Heb.3:4; Rom. 1:20; Jer.10:10; Ex.15:11; Ps.147:5; Isa.6:3; I Pet.1:15-16; Rev.4:6-8; Mark12:30; Rev.4:11; Matt.10:37; Jer.2:12-13; Matt.28:19; John 15:26; I Cor.12:4-6; I John 5:7; John10:30; John 5:17; John 14:23; John 17:5&10; Acts 5:3-4; I Cor.2:10-11; Phil. 2:5-6; Eph. 2:18; II Cor.13:14; Rev. 1:4-5

3. We believe that man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but choice; being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.

Gen.1:27; Gen.1:31; Ecc.7:29; Acts 17:26-29; Gen.2:16-17; Gen.3:6-24; Rom. 5:12; Rom.5:15-19; Ps.51:5; Rom.8:7; Isa.53:6; Gen.6:12; Rom.3:9-18; Eph.2:1-3; Rom.1:18,32; Rom.2:1-16; Gal.3:10; Matt. 20:15; Ezek. 18:19-20; Rom.1:20; Rom.3:19; Gal. 3:22

4. We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the Mediatorial offices of the Son of God; who by the appointment of the Father freely took upon him our nature, yet without sin; honored the divine law by his personal obedience, and by his death made a full atonement for our sins; that having risen from the dead, he is now enthroned in heaven; and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, he is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all sufficient Savior.

Eph.2:3, Matt. 18:11, I John4:10, I Cor.3:5-7, Acts 15:11, John 3:16, John1:1-14, Heb. 4:14, Heb. 12-24, Phil. 2:9&14, II Cor. 5:21, Isa. 42:21, Phil. 2:8, Gal. 4:4-5, Rom. 3:21, Isa. 53:4-5, Matt. 20:28, Rom.4:25, Rom. 3:21-26, I John 2:3, I Cor. 15:1-3, Heb.9:13-15, Heb.1:8, Heb. 1:3, Col. 3:1-4, Heb. 7:25, Col. 2:18, Heb. 7:26, Ps. 89:19, Ps.34

5. We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in him is justification; that justification includes the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; by virtue of which faith his perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity

John 1:16, Eph.3:8, Acts 13:39, Isa. 53:11-12, Rom5:1-2, Rom. 5:9, Zech. 13:1, Matt. 9:6, Acts 10:43, Rom. 5:17, Titus 3:5-7, I Peter 3:7, I John 2:25, Rom. 5:21, Rom. 4:4-5, Rom. 6:23, Phil. 3:7-9, Rom. 5:19, Rom. 3:24-26, Rom.4:23-25, I John 2:12, Rom. 5:3, Rom. 5:11, I Cor. 1:30-31, Matt. 6:33, I Tim. 4:8

6. We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial penitent, and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation

Isa. 55:1, Rev. 22:17, Rom. 16:25-26, Mark 1:15, Rom. 1:15-17, John 5:40, Matt.23:37, Rom.9:32, Pro. 1:24, Acts 13:46, John 3:19, Matt. 11:20, Luke 10:27, II Thess. 1:8

7. We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life.

John 3:3, John 3:6-7, I Cor.3:14, Rev.14:3, Rev. 21:27, II Cor. 5:17, Ezek. 36:26, Deu. 30-6, Rom. 2:28-29, Rom.5:5, I John 4:7, John 3:8, John 1:13, James 1:16-18, I Cor. 1:30, Phil. 2:13, I Peter 1:22-25, I John 5:1, Eph. 4:20-24, Col. 3:9-11, Eph. 5:9, Rom. 8:90, Gal. 5:16-23, Eph. 3:14-21, Matt. 3:8-10, Matt.7:20, I John 5:4, 18

8. We believe that repentance and faith are sacred duties and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God; whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest and King, and relying on him alone as the only and all-sufficient Savior.

Mark 1:15, Acts 11:18, Eph. 2:8, I John 5:1, John 16:8, Acts 2:37-38, Acts 16:30-31 Luke 18:13, Luke 15:18-21, James 4:7-10, II Cor. 7:11, Tim. 10:12-13, Ps.51, Rom. 10:9-11, Acts 3:22-23, Heb. 4:14, Ps.2:6, Heb. 1:8, Heb. 7:25, II Tim. 1:12

9. We believe that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being

infinitely free, wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the gospel, that it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.

II Tim. 1:8-9; Eph. 1:3-14; I Peter 1:1-2; Rom. 11:5-6; John 15:16; I John 4:19; II Thess. 2:13-14; Acts 13:48; John 10:16; Matt. 20:16; Acts 15:14; Ex. 33:18-19; Matt. 20:15; Eph. 1:11; Rom. 9:23-24; Jer. 31:3; Rom.11:28-29; James 1:17-18; II Tim.1:9; Rom. 11:32-36; I Cor. 1:26-31; Rom.3:27; Rom. 4:16; Col.3:12; I Cor. 3:5-7; I Cor. 15:10; I Peter 5:10; Acts 1:24; I Thess. 2:13; I Peter 2:9; Luke 18:7; John 15:16; I Thess. 2:12; II Tim. 2:10; I Cor. 9:22; Rom. 8:28-30; John 6:37-40; I Thess 1:4-10; Isa. 42:16; Rom. 11:29; II Peter 1:10-11; Phil. 3:12; Heb. 6:11

10. We believe that sanctification is the process by which according to the will of God, we are made partakers of his holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means especially the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer.

I Thess. 4:3; I Thess. 5:23; II Cor. 7:1; II Cor. 13:10; Phil. 3:12-16; I John 2:29; Rom. 8:5; Eph. 1:4; Pro. 4:18; II Cor. 3:18; Heb. 6:1; II Peter 1:5-8; John 3:6; Phil. 1:9-11; Eph. 1:13-14; Phil. 2:12-13; Eph. 4:11-12; I Peter 2:2; II Peter 3:18; II Cor. 13:5; Luke 11:35; Luke 9:23; Matt. 26:41; Eph.6:18; Eph.4:30

11. We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end: that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special providence watches over their welfare, and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

John 8:31; I John 2:27-28; I John 3:9; I John 5:18; I John 2:19; John 13:18; Matt. 13:20- 21; John 6:66-69; Job 17:9; Rom. 8:28; Matt. 6:30-33; Jer. 32:40; Ps.121:3; Ps. 91:11-12; Phil. 1:6; Phil. 2:13; Jude 24:25; Heb.1:14; II Kings 6:16; Heb. 13:5; I John 4:4

12. We believe that the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government; that it is holy, just and good; and that the inability which the scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts arises entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

Rom. 3:31; Matt. 5:17; Luke 16:17; Rom. 3:20; Rom. 4:15; Rom. 7:12; Rom.7:7,14-22; Gal.3:21; Ps. 119; Rom.8:7-8; Josh. 24:19; Jer. 13:23; John 6:44; John 5:44; Rom. 8:2-4; Rom. 10:4; I Tim. 1:5; Heb. 8:10; Jude 20&21

13. We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by his laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by his word; that its only scriptural officers are bishops or pastors and deacons whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

I Cor. 1:1-3; Matt. 18:17; Acts 5:11; Acts 8:1; Acts 11:21-23; I Cor. 4:17; I Cor. 14:23; III John 9; I Tim. 3:5; Acts 2:41-42; II Cor. 8:5; Acts 2:47; I Cor. 5:12-13; I Cor. 11:2; II Thess. 3:6; Rom. 16:17-20; I Cor.11:23-24; Matt. 18:15-20; I Cor. 5:6; II Cor. 2:17; I Cor. 4:17; Matt. 28:20; John 14:15; John 15:12; I John 14:21; I Thess. 4:2; II John 6; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 4:7; I Cor. 14:12; Phil. 1:1; Acts 14:23; Acts 15:22; I Tim. 3; Titus 1

14. We believe that the Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, in to the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Ghost; to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior, with its effect, in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership.

Acts 8:36-39; Matt. 3:5-6; John 3:22-23; John 4:12; Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:12; Acts 16:32-34; Acts 18:8; Acts 10:47-48; Gal.3:26-28; Rom.6:4; Col. 2:12; I Peter 3:20-21; Acts 22:16; Acts 2:41-42; I Cor. 11:26; Matt. 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20; I Cor.11:28; I Cor. 5:1-8; I Cor. 10:3-32; I Cor. 11:17-32; John 6:26

15. We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day or Christian Sabbath; and it is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and sinful recreations, by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public; and by preparation for the rest that remaineth for the people of God.

Acts 20:7; Gen. 2:3; Col. 2:16-17; Mark 2:27; John 20:19; I Cor. 16:1-2; Ex. 20:8; Rev. 1:10; Ps. 118:15, 24; Isa. 58:13-14; Isa. 56:2-8; Heb. 10:24-25; Acts 11:26; Acts 13:44; Lev. 19:30; Luke 4:16; Acts 17:2-3; Ps. 26:8; Ps. 87:3; Heb. 4:3-11

16. We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society,; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed; except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth.

Rom. 13:1-7; Deu. 16:18; II Sam. 23:3; Ex. 18:23; Jer. 30:21; Matt. 22:21; Titus 3:1; I Peter 2:13; I Tim. 2:1-4; Acts 5:29; Matt.28; Dan. 3:15-18; Dan. 6:7-10; Acts 4:18-20; Matt. 23:10; Rom. 14:4; Rev. 19:16; Ps.72:11; Ps.2; Rom. 14:9-13

17. We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in his esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in his sight wicked, and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

Mal. 3:18; Pro. 12:26; Isa. 5:20; Gen. 18:23; Jer. 15:19; Acts 10:34-35; Rom. 6:16; Rom. 1:17; Rom. 7:6; I John 2:29; I John 3:7; Rom. 6:18,22; I Cor. 11:32; Pro. 11:31; I Peter 4:17-18; I John 5:19; Gal. 3:10; John 3:36; Isa. 57:21; Ps. 10:4; Isa. 55:6-7; Pro. 14:32; Luke 16:25; John 8:21-24; Pro. 10:24; Luke 12:4-5; Luke 9:23-26; Ecc. 3:17; Matt. 7:13-14

18. We believe that the end of the world is approaching; that at the Last Day Christ will descend from heaven, and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

I Peter 4:7; I Cor. 7:29-31; Heb. 1:10-12; Matt. 24:35; I John 2:17; Matt. 28:20; Matt. 13:39-40; II Peter 3:3-13; Acts 1:11; Rev. 1:7; Heb. 9:28; Acts 3:21; I Thess 4:13-18; I Thess. 5:1-11; Acts 24:15; I Cor. 15:12-58; Luke 14:14; Dan. 12:2 John 5:28-29; John 6:40; John 11:25-26; II Tim. 1:10; Acts 10:42; Matt. 13:49; Matt. 13:37-43; Matt. 24:30-31; Matt. 25:31-46; Rev. 22:11; I Cor. 6:9-10; Mark 9:43-48; II Peter 2:9; Jude7; Phil. 3:19; Rom. 6:23; II Cor. 5:10-11; John 4:36; II Cor. 4:18; Rom. 3:5-6; II Thess. 1:6-12; Heb. 6:1-2; I Cor. 4:5; Acts 17:31; Rom. 2:2-16; Rev.20:11-12; I John 2:28; I John 4:17; II Peter 3:11-12

19. We believe in one universal church that is the body of Christ. We believe that Christ is its head. We believe that all who are born again are its members. We believe the church's purpose is to offer: worship to God, fellowship, ministry & instruction to believers, and evangelism & service to the world. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Col. 1:17-20; 3:14-16, Matt. 28:19, 1 Cor. 12:12-26, 1 Peter 2:9-10

20. We believe in the ministry and presence of angels, the reality of Satan and demonic beings and the legitimacy and necessity for spiritual warfare over and for nations, cities, families and individuals.

Psalms 103:20, 1 Peter 5:8, Ephesians 6:12, Matthew 26:53

21. We believe in the sanctity of life, celibacy for singles, sexual purity for all and the sanctity of marriage. We believe marriage is between one man and one woman. Transformation Church will not marry homosexual couples regardless of what state and national laws may permit. The Elders of Transformation Church reserve the right to preclude themselves from officiating over any marriage they deem to be unbiblical or unwise.

Jeremiah 1:5, 1 Corinthians 7:1-16, 1 Corinthians 6:9

22. We believe that God hates divorce and that it is detrimental to society. We do believe that divorce may be permissible where marital infidelity or abandonment by an unbelieving spouse has occurred. A biblical divorce, however, should always be the last resort in cases such as these. Couples bound in a marriage covenant should always seek reconciliation first.

Malachi 2:16, Matthew 19:9, 1 Corinthians 7:15

23. We believe that the gender roles found in the Bible are purposeful and meaningful distinctions that, when applied in the home and church, promote the spiritual health of both men and women. Embracing the divinely ordained roles of men and women furthers the ministry of God's people and allows men and women to reach their God-given potential.

Gen. 1:26-27, Gen. 2:18, Eph. 5:21-33, 1 Tim. 2:11-3:7, Titus 2:2-6, 1 Tim. 2:12

24. We believe in God's continued calling on Israel, and we accept a calling to stand with, comfort and encourage the Jewish people throughout the world.

Rom. 1:16; Rom. 11:11 26

ARTICLE 4: CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership Requirements

Membership in Transformation Church is available to all who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. These believers must also have been baptized by immersion as Scripture commands.

2. Privileges of Membership

- a. Members of Transformation Church will experience the joy and comfort of having a body of like-minded believers covenanted to watch over them spiritually. Members of Transformation Church are committed to loving and serving fellow church members.
- b. Members of Transformation Church can expect the Elders, Deacons and other ministry staff to personally care for their spiritual well-being. The ministers of the church promise to pray for members, teach them in God's word, counsel them and care for them as brothers and sisters in Christ. The ministers of the church will be held accountable to God, Himself, for their leadership over the members.

Heb. 13:17

- c. Members of Transformation Church will be beholden to the blessed privilege of spiritual accountability and church discipline. Accountability and discipline are oft-maligned by the world, but, within the church, they are methods by which the body prevents its own members from falling in to and continuing in sinful behaviors that dishonor God. It should be a comfort to members to know that their fellows are committed to helping them live a holy life. More information on the church discipline process can be found in **Article 5** of this constitution.

Hebrews 3:12

- d. Members of Transformation Church will have voting privileges on certain matters deemed appropriate by the Elders that will be brought forth at members' meetings. The purpose of these votes is for affirmation of the Elders' decisions on such presented matters. These privileges are

limited to church members who are not under church disciplinary action and who are 18 years or older.

- e. Members of Transformation Church are eligible to be selected to the Board of Elders, the Deaconate or the Ministry Team as permitted by the qualifications of Scripture
- f. Members of Transformation Church will have access to pertinent church financial information such as: savings amounts, financial plans, monthly expenses, and to the progress of any financial goal(s) that the church is currently trying to achieve

3. Membership Process

- a. Requests for membership can be made to an Elder, Deacon or Life Group leader of Transformation Church. Once the request is made, the respective church leader will provide the hopeful member with a membership application in order to gather basic information from them. A membership application can also be completed on our website at transformationtroy.com. Prospective members will also be directed to or given a copy of Transformation Church's Membership Covenant and Constitution to review.
- b. Prospective members will then attend a regularly scheduled membership class where the history, doctrine and functions of Transformation Church will be explained in depth. This meeting will also go over the biblical and historical precedence for church membership and its necessity today.
- c. After this membership meeting prospective members will schedule an interview with one of our elders. During this interview the elder will ask the prospective member questions about their confession of belief in Christ, personal testimony, church history (if applicable), and other questions relating to their spiritual life. Prospective members will also be asked if they have any questions or disagreements with Transformation Church's Membership Covenant or Constitution. These questions or disagreements will be evaluated by the Board of Elders to determine whether the request for membership will be approved.
- d. After the review of a membership application or after meeting with the prospective member the Board of Elders may deny membership to the applicant for various reasons. The main reasons for denial would be, but are not limited to, the prospective member not confessing Christ as Lord and Savior, or having no evidence of godly fruit in their life. This decision made by the Board of Elders is final and cannot be appealed by any court.
- e. Prospective members that are accepted for membership shall present themselves, if possible, at a specially designated worship service in order to publicly affirm their commitment to membership and to be publicly received, acknowledged and celebrated as church members.

4. Membership Responsibilities

Members of Transformation Church should use their spiritual gifts for the uplifting of the entire body of the church. They will conduct themselves in a public manner that will bring honor to the name of Christ in the community. They will submit to the teaching and oversight of the Elders.

5. Termination of Membership

Membership in Transformation Church can be terminated under the following conditions:

- a. The church member passes away

- b. The church member resigns from Transformation Church and/or joins another church. Voluntary resignation can only be completed by members not currently facing church discipline
- c. The church member does not attend Transformation Church for a period of six months other than for missional activities, illness, or physical impairment
- d. The church member denies their profession of faith in Jesus Christ
- e. The church member is conducting themselves in a sinful manner and has been moved through the process of church discipline as outlined in **Article 5** without repenting.

Membership may be reviewed periodically by the Board of Elders. Those members liable for termination of membership under the above shall be identified. They shall be counseled with a view toward reconciliation with Transformation Church. Those refusing reconciliation shall be removed from the membership.

ARTICLE 5: CHURCH DISCIPLINE

Church discipline exists to glorify God by maintaining purity in the church, to prevent sin among believers, and to help bring the offending believer in to right relationship with God and the church by holding him/her accountable to a biblical standard of doctrine and conduct.

1 Cor. 5:6, 1 Tim. 5:20, Gal. 6:1

Church members and all other professing Christians who attend Transformation Church regularly who err in doctrine, or those that participate in conduct unbefitting of Scripture as determined by the Elders, shall be subject to church discipline, including dismissal. Before such a drastic step is taken the following should occur:

1. Another church member who has witnessed the aforementioned heresy or misconduct should seek to meet with the offender privately in order to gently rebuke and correct them as prescribed in Scripture.
2. If the offending individual does not repent of their sin then the warning member should approach them accompanied by one or two others. These individuals should be able to confirm that the sin still continues to take place and that the offender has been warned of this sin.
3. If the offender still refuses to repent of their sin then it shall be brought to the attention of the Elders. If the Elders determine, through a thorough and biblical investigation, that the offenders have been adequately warned, that there is evidence of the sin to confirm it, and that the offender has refused to repent, then the Elders shall bring the issue before the church at a regularly scheduled worship service. This is to be done in order for the whole church to call the offender to repentance.
4. If the offender refuses to repent before the church then they shall be publicly dismissed from the church at a regularly scheduled worship service. If the offender repents after they are dismissed and requests reinstatement before the Elders, then the Elders may, at their discretion, reinstate the offender to full rights of fellowship/membership

Matt. 18:15-18, 1 Tim. 5:19

Certain situations of offense may be more severe/dangerous to the church. In such circumstances the Elders, at their discretion, may proceed directly to the third or fourth step in the disciplinary process as described above. Situations that may warrant this action are as follows:

1. The sin of the offender and refusal of repentance has been public and openly offensive to the whole church
2. The offender has taught or distributed false doctrine not in accordance with the beliefs of the church, then chosen not to heed the rebuke of the Elders
3. The offender has been warned twice to stop factious and divisive conduct and has disregarded that warning.

1 Cor. 5:1-5, Rom. 16:17, Titus 3:10-11

Church members, and all other professing Christians who fellowship/attend regularly with this church, agree not to appeal to any courts due to dismissal from the church or because of statements made in public to the congregation during the third and fourth steps of the discipline mentioned above. Members who are currently under discipline cannot resign from this church. Resignation is possible only by church members who are in good standing and not currently under church discipline.

A church member, regular attender who is not a member, or other individual may be told that they are not allowed on church premises for a period of time as decided necessary for the safety and welfare of others on church premises. This action may, but doesn't need to, be in accord with current church discipline of this person and all of this process is at the discretion of the Elders.

The names of any members who have not attended a worship service or Life Group meeting for a period of six months or longer may be removed from membership. This process is separate from church discipline and is subject to the discretion of the Elders.

ARTICLE 6: GOVERNANCE

1. Authority

The governing authority of Transformation Church shall be vested in the Elders. All the Elders shall comprise the Board of Elders; all Elders of the Board of Elders shall be ministering Elders. Transformation Church shall be Elder-governed and Elder-led. The decisions and will of the Elders will be disseminated through their work and through the works of the Deacons and the Ministry Team.

2. Organization

Transformation Church is organized as follows: Board of Elders (including the lead pastor), Deacons and the Ministry Team (members that oversee various church ministries).

3. Duties and Responsibilities of the Elders

- a. The Elders shall oversee and engage in the pastoral ministries of Transformation Church.
- b. The Elders shall establish the mission and vision of Transformation Church and oversee their implementation.
- c. The Elders shall approve and affirm all major directional and/ or doctrinal policies of Transformation Church by a two-thirds majority of all active members of the Board of Elders.
- d. The Elders shall hold title to all Transformation Church properties "in trust" for the benefit of Transformation Church and carry out specific duties with regard to the property, as approved by a two-thirds majority vote of all the active members of the Board of Elders.

- e. The Elders may borrow money and incur indebtedness on behalf of Transformation Church, as approved by a two-thirds majority vote of all the active members of the Board of Elders.
- f. The Elders shall cause to be executed and delivered for Transformation Church's purposes and in Transformation Church's name any promissory notes and other evidences of debt and/ or security instruments. No Transformation Church funds shall be invested into a financial instrument where the principal will be at risk of loss.
- g. The Elders shall exercise all powers conferred by the State of Alabama and/or other applicable laws.
- h. The Elders must approve any official affiliation of Transformation Church with another church or organization by a two-thirds majority vote of all the active members of the Board of Elders at any duly called meeting.

4. Selection of Transformation Church Elders

- a. Any Elder may nominate new Elders for the Board of Elders. The Elders shall receive input from members of the congregation in such method as they deem appropriate, in connection with the nomination process.
- b. Individuals nominated for the Board of Elders shall be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Elders after determining the person's qualifications for becoming an Elder

1 Tim. 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9

- c. The Board of Elders shall present the new Elder(s) to the church members for comment following recommendation at a duly scheduled meeting. Any comments from the members shall be investigated and acted upon by the Board of Elders. Once chosen, Elders shall serve in the Board of Elders for an indefinite period of time.

5. Removal of Transformation Church Elders

Any Elder may be removed from office at any duly-called Elders meeting if he is physically or mentally incapable of performing his duties or if he is spiritually unqualified. This should only occur after a thorough investigation where real, corroborating evidence is found. If an Elder is removed in this fashion, and refuses to repent of his offenses, he shall be removed and publicly rebuked before the church at regularly-scheduled worship service.

1 Tim. 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, Matt. 18:15-18, 1 Tim. 5:19, 1 Tim 5:20

6. Meeting of Elders

Any Elder, upon attempted notification of all Elders, may call a duly constituted meeting of the Board of Elders at least three business days in advance of the meeting. Emergency meetings, which require crisis decision making, may be called without three business days' notice. Efforts must be made to notify all Elders of the emergency meeting and its agenda prior to the meeting. The Elders may approve actions without having a meeting by consenting upon the action via e-mail, fax or phone. These actions shall be documented and presented at the next Elders' meeting for archival purposes.

7. Duties and Responsibilities of the Deacons

- a. Deacons shall serve the Board of Elders in the administration of their priorities and decisions.

- b. Deacons are servants of the church who have no authority unless given herein. Their primary ministry is to care for the temporal needs of the church family and to assist the Elders and Ministry Team.
- c. Deacons shall promote the spiritual welfare of the church through their personal example by faithfully attending the services of the church, being involved in servant ministries, sharing their faith with others and giving of their time, energy, and resources in support of the church.

8. Selection of Transformation Church Deacons

- a. Any church member can nominate another member for Deaconship.
- b. Individuals nominated for Deaconship shall be approved by a majority vote of the Board of Elders after determining the person's qualifications for becoming a Deacon

1 Timothy 3:8-16

- c. The Elders shall present the new Deacon to the members for comment following recommendation at a members meeting. Any comments from the members shall be investigated and acted upon by the Elders. Once chosen, Deacons shall serve the Board of Elders for a time period determined by the Elders.

9. Removal of Transformation Church Deacons

Any Deacon may be removed from office for conduct contrary to the Word of God at any duly-called Elders meeting by a two-thirds majority vote of all the active members of the Board of Elders.

10. Duties and Responsibilities of the Ministry Team

- a. The Ministry Team shall initiate the vision of the Board of Elders for the ministries, projects, and activities of Transformation Church.
- b. The Ministry Team shall report to and be overseen by the Board of Elders
- c. Ministry Team members will prepare a proposed annual budget for their ministries. Submission of these budgets will occur at a time agreed upon by the Elders and Ministry Team member.
- d. Ministry Team members have the responsibility in partnership with the Board of Elders in matters relating to their respective ministries. These matters may include, but aren't limited to, the following: bringing in new volunteers to their ministries, training current and new volunteers, ensuring the physical and spiritual well-being of those involved in their ministries, managing changes to their ministry budgets throughout the year, and managing any additions and/or other changes to currently existing projects, programs, and activities of Transformation Church.
- e. The Ministry Team shall be responsible for maintaining mechanisms for proper legal, personnel, organizational, tax or fiscal compliance with all appropriate regulatory agencies, with established, internal Transformation Church policies and in a manner consistent with all other related and clearly delineated provisions existing in these church by-laws.

11. Selection of Ministry Team Members

Ministry Team members are selected from the membership of Transformation Church based on their

qualifications, spiritual gifts, and affinity for a certain type of ministry. Ministry Team members are installed by the Elders via a two-thirds vote of the Board of Elders. Ministry Team members shall serve Transformation Church for a time period determined by the Lead Pastor

12. ARTICLE 7: MISSIONARIES AND INSTITUTIONS

It is expected that full or partial support of missionaries will be undertaken in an expanding fashion as Transformation Church grows and as the Lords leads. The Board of Elders shall approve the missionaries and institutions to be considered for support. No missionary shall be supported unless the doctrinal statement of the missionary or institution shall be consistent with the doctrinal statement of Transformation Church.

13. ARTICLE 8: DISSOLUTION

In the event of the dissolution of Transformation Church, the residual assets shall be disbursed to one or more organizations which themselves are exempt as organizations described in Section 501(c)(3) and 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 as amended, or corresponding sections of any future law, or to the federal, state or local government for exclusive public purposes. Any and all such organizations shall be determined at duly called and held Elders meetings. Dissolution shall occur upon the recommendation of a three-fourths majority vote of all the active members of the Board of Elders and ratified by a majority of the membership at a congregational meeting called for that purpose.

14. ARTICLE 9: AMENDMENTS

This Constitution and By-Laws may be changed or altered by a two-thirds decision of all the active members of the Board of Elders at a duly-called meeting of the Board of Elders.