

Constitution and By-Laws of Coastal Community Church

ARTICLE I **NAME AND PRINCIPAL OFFICE**

The name of the church is COASTAL COMMUNITY CHURCH. This church will be further referred to in the bylaws as the “Church.” The Church maintains its principal office at 101 Village Avenue, Yorktown, VA 23593.

ARTICLE II **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Church is to glorify God by fulfilling the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:36-40) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).

SECTION I: EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS

To share the good news of Jesus Christ with as many people as possible in our community and throughout the world (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 2 Peter 3:9).

SECTION II: EDUCATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

To help members develop toward full Christian maturity and train them for effective ministry. To promote spiritual growth and discipleship through Bible teaching (Ephesians 4:11-13; Matthew 18:20; 1 Timothy 2:2).

SECTION III: WORSHIP

To participate in public worship services together and to maintain personal daily devotions (John 4:24).

SECTION IV: MINISTRY AND SERVICE

To serve unselfishly, in Jesus’ name, meeting the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of those in our Church, community and in the world (1 Peter 4:10-11; Matthew 25:34-40; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Galatians 5:13).

SECTION V: FELLOWSHIP

To encourage, support and pray for each other as members of the family of God. To share our lives together (1 John 1:7; Acts 2:44-47; Hebrews 10:23-25; Romans 15:5-7; John 13:34-35).

ARTICLE III **STATEMENT OF FAITH**

In matters of doctrine and belief, the Church strives for three things: in essential matters, unity; in nonessentials, liberty; in all things, love.

ESSENTIALS WE BELIEVE

SECTION I: ABOUT THE BIBLE

The Bible is God's inerrant Word, infallible as originally given by God through human authors under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit, and is absolutely true and trustworthy. It is our only standard of faith and practice. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Matthew 5:18; Psalm 119)

SECTION II: ABOUT GOD

There is one true and living God. God is the Creator and Sustainer of all things. He is infinite, eternal, unchangeable, and is revealed to us as the Godhead existent in three co-equal, co-eternal, and co-substantial persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 1:3-6, 13-14, 4:6; Matthew 28:19; Genesis 1:1, 26, 27; Genesis 3:22; Philippians 2:5-6; John 1:1, 3, 14, 18; Isaiah 9:6)

1. THE FATHER – The first person of the Trinity who orders and disposes of all things according to His own purpose and grace, and who continually upholds, directs, and governs all creatures and events for His own glory. Fatherhood denotes spiritual relationship; first, within the Trinity; second, within mankind, creatively in relation to all men, but spiritually only in relation to those who have been saved by His grace from their sin and come to Him through Jesus Christ. (James 1:17)
2. THE SON – Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah of the Old Testament, born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on the cross, rose from the dead to provide justification for every believer, ascended to the right hand of God where He presently intercedes for all believers, and will again, in the fullness of the Father's time, return in visible, triumphant, personal form to overthrow sin, judge the world, and establish His Kingdom on earth. (John 1:14)
3. THE SPIRIT – The Holy Spirit is sent from God to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, cleanse, and secure from sin. He lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer a spiritual gift(s) when they are saved. As Christians we seek to live under His control daily. (John 14:16, 17; 16:8,13)

SECTION III: ABOUT MAN, SIN, AND SATAN

Man's condition is one of sin and separation from God. Man was created in innocence directly and immediately by God, in His spiritual image, for the purpose of fellowship with God and glory for God. Man was tempted by Satan and sinned, and because of this all men have been born in sin since that time. All are marred by a nature of rebellion and disobedience toward God which the Bible calls sin. Sin separates us from God, others, and all good things, and ultimately causes eternity in hell. All persons need to be saved from their sin. (Genesis 1:26; 2:17; Romans 6:23)

SECTION IV: ABOUT SALVATION

God has acted in Jesus Christ to deliver us from sin. Jesus Christ is the only Savior from sin. He provided forgiveness and atonement for our sins by shedding His blood on the cross, and rose again to provide life and justification. Apart from Christ, there is no salvation. All men are under

condemnation through personal sin, and deliverance from condemnation comes only by the righteousness of Christ and not human merit. This righteousness is credited to the believer by grace through faith. The Holy Spirit regenerates or gives new life to one who commits his life to Jesus, and he is kept by God's power forever, never to be lost. (Acts 4:12; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 3:16-19; 5:24; 6:47; 10:28-30; 1 John 3:2-3)

SECTION V: ABOUT THE CHURCH

Jesus established the church to continue His mission and ministry on earth. A New Testament church is a voluntary association of baptized believers in Christ who have covenanted together to follow the teachings of the New Testament in doctrine, worship, and practice. We believe that the church is a self-governed organization served by the Elder Team. (Colossians 1:18; Matthew 28:19-20; Hebrews 13:7, 17; Ephesians 4:7-12)

SECTION VI: ABOUT LAST THINGS

Jesus Christ will return and God's plan for eternity will be carried out. We believe in the imminent and bodily return of Jesus Christ to the earth. The dead will be raised and Christ will judge all men according to their works. Unbelievers will be cast into eternal punishment and outer darkness prepared for the devil and his angels who preceded them, and the saved will enter into the eternal state of glory with God and will in their resurrected and glorified bodies spend eternity. (Matthew 16:27; Luke 17:21-37; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 2 Peter 3:7-14; Revelation 20, 21, 22)

SECTION VII: DEATH AND RESURRECTION

Everyone will face judgment before God; some to eternal life, others to eternal condemnation. Death involves no loss of consciousness but the soul of the redeemed passes immediately into the presence of Christ and there is separation of soul and body until the first resurrection when the spirit, soul, and resurrected body will be reunited in glorified form in heaven forever. All men will be bodily resurrected, the saved to everlasting life, but the lost into eternal condemnation. (Revelation 6:9-11; 20:6; 13-15; Philippians 1:23; 1 Corinthians 15; 2 Corinthians 5:8)

SECTION VIII: ABOUT THE DEVIL OR SATAN

The devil was once holy and lived in the presence of God with heavenly honors. Through his pride and ambition to be as the Almighty he fell and was cast down with the host of angels that followed after him. Satan is now active in the world to lead others astray. Satan will face ultimate defeat and eternal condemnation from God. (Isaiah 14:12-15; Luke 10:18; Revelation 12:8,9)

ARTICLE IV
ORDINANCES

SECTION I: GENERAL

This church recognizes two ordinances: Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

SECTION II: BAPTISM

This church shall receive for baptism any person who has received Jesus Christ as Savior by personal faith and who indicates a commitment to follow Christ as Lord. Baptism shall be by immersion in water. The Elder Team, or whomever they authorize, shall administer baptism. Baptismal services shall be scheduled at the discretion of the Elder Team.

SECTION III: THE LORD’S SUPPER

This Church shall observe the Lord’s Supper in keeping with the commands of the Bible at such times as the Elder Team deem appropriate. The Elder Team, or whomever they authorize, shall administer the Supper. All who know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior will be invited to participate.

ARTICLE V
MEMBERSHIP

SECTION I: GENERAL

The New Testament presents a picture of definable groups of people who, once committed to the Lord, identified themselves with and committed themselves to a particular local body (Acts 2:42-46; Romans 16:1; 1 Corinthians 1:2, 2 Corinthians 8:1; Philippians 1:1; Acts 11:26).

Membership is open to any person who has personally accepted Christ as Savior and Lord, who has received believer’s baptism, and who desires to be committed to Coastal Community Church as a local body of believers. Membership is not a prerequisite for involvement in every ministry, but is required for ministry leadership, involvement in certain ministries as determined by the Elder Team, and participation in congregational decision making.

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

SECTION II: QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

1. A personal commitment of faith in Jesus Christ for salvation.
2. Believer’s baptism as a testimony of salvation. When this baptism is performed by the Church, it is to be by immersion.
3. Completion of the Church’s membership class, and an interview with the membership team.
4. A commitment to abide by the membership commitment, which will be reaffirmed annually.

SECTION III: RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERSHIP

The responsibilities of membership are described in the membership covenant, which includes the following four statements:

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; 1 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 (1 Thessalonians 1:2; Luke 14:23; 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 (1 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 tithing (Hebrews 10:25; Philippians 1:27; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Leviticus 27:30).

SECTION IV: VOTING RIGHTS OF MEMBERSHIP

Every Member shall have the right to vote on the following matters: the annual budget of the Church, the disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of the Church, the merger or dissolution of the Church, the acquisition of real property and related indebtedness, incurring indebtedness for facilities development, amendments to the Bylaws of the Church, and the calling or removing of the Senior Pastor. Each member 18 years and older is entitled to one vote. Voting by proxy is prohibited.

SECTION V: TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Members shall be removed from the Church roll for the following reasons:

1. Death.
2. Notification that the member has joined another church.
3. Failure to renew annual membership commitment.
4. By personal request of the member
5. Dismissal by the Elder Team according to the following conditions:
 - a. The member's life and conduct are not in accordance with the membership covenant in such a way that the member hinders the ministry influence of the Church in the community.
 - b. Procedures for the dismissal of a member shall be according to Matthew 18:15-17.

SECTION VI. RESTORATION OF MEMBERS

Members dismissed by the Elder Team shall be restored by the Elder Team according to the spirit of 2 Corinthians 2:7-8, when their life-styles are judged to be in accordance with the membership covenant.

SECTION VII. NON-LIABILITY OF MEMBERS

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

ARTICLE VI MEETINGS

SECTION I: GENERAL

The Church shall hold regular meetings for worship, teaching, training, outreach and fellowship. Meetings shall be held at the principle office of the church or at such other place or places within or outside Virginia as may be designated from time to time by the Elder Team.

SECTION II: BUSINESS MEETINGS

There will be an annual business meeting held during the 4th Quarter of each year at such time as determined by the Elder Team. The purpose of this meeting shall be to adopt an annual budget. Subject to Section III of this Article and Section IV of Article IV, any other proper business may be conducted at this meeting.

Unless otherwise presented, all votes are to be taken without discussion. All decisions will be by simple majority vote unless otherwise presented. Voting by proxy will not be permitted.

SECTION III: SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETINGS

Special meetings may be called at any time by the Elder Team for any purpose by giving notice to the members in accordance with Section IV of this Article and Section V of Article IV.

SECTION IV: NOTICE REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS – Whenever members are required or permitted to take any action at a meeting, notice shall be given to members no less than two (2) 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:
 - a. Distribution of written material to the congregation in attendance at a Weekend or Mid-Week service;
 - b. Announcement of the meeting in the Church program, bulletin, or newsletter;
 - c. Oral announcement to the Congregation at a Weekend or Mid-Week service;
 - d. Delivery to each member identified on the membership roll.
2. NOTICE OF CERTAIN AGENDA ITEMS – Approval by the members of any of the following proposals, other than by unanimous approval by those members entitled to vote, is valid only if the notice or waiver of notice specifies the general nature of the proposal.
 - a. Calling or removing the Senior Pastor
 - b. Adopting, amending or repealing Bylaws;
 - c. Disposing of all or substantially all of the Church's assets;
 - d. Adopting or amending a merger agreement; or
 - e. Approving the acquisition of real property and related indebtedness.

SECTION V: QUORUM

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

ARTICLE VII CHURCH LEADERS

SECTION I: GENERAL

The leadership structure of Coastal Community Church is based upon the nature of the church as revealed in Scripture, as well as the necessary legal requirements for a recognized religious organization. The leadership structure of the Church is intentionally designed to accommodate simplicity, growth, unity, and biblical teaching. The visionary leadership and direction of the church is placed in the hands of the Elder Team.

SECTION II: PASTORS

1. ON THE PASTORAL ROLE – Jesus often described the church as a “flock” (Matthew 25:22; 26:31; Luke 12:32; John 10:1-30; Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2-3). Because the church is a flock, it is cared for and led by shepherds (John 21:16-17).

Christ alone is the head of the church (Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:22-23). Yet for the purpose of order, and in accordance with the teaching of the Bible, certain individuals have been charged with leadership according to their spiritual giftedness (Ephesians 4:11-13). Three different terms are used in the New Testament to refer to the same church leader(s): “poimen” (pastor), “presbuteros” (elder), and “episcopos” (bishop). 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 setting. The primary shepherd is Jesus, and then by extension the under-shepherds, or pastors (1 Peter 5:1-2; Acts 20:17, 28; Titus 1:5-7; 1 Timothy 5:17). Therefore, the Senior Pastor and Associate Pastors are to be liberated and equipped to devote themselves to the teaching of the Word of God and the leadership of the church.

2. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PASTORAL OFFICE – The requirements for this office are found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:7-9. The Senior Pastor will be licensed and ordained, and once called to office, shall become a member of the church.
3. ON PASTORAL LEADERSHIP – Understanding that the Bible calls for Pastors to lead the church, most decisions and responsibilities regarding the life and direction of the church are left to their spiritual oversight. Pastors are called and directed by the Bible to lead the church in vision and direction (Acts 11:30; 14:23; Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 5:17). The pastors are the administrators of the church, equipping and overseeing the ministries of the church (Exodus 18:17-18; John 21:16-17; Acts 20:17, 28; Ephesians 4:11-12; Titus 1:5-7, 1 Peter 5:1-2). In response to the Biblical patterns of leadership, members are taught in Scripture to lovingly support their leaders and to submit to their leadership (Hebrews 13:17; 1 Corinthians 16:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13). The shepherding of this Church is led by the Senior Pastor, assisted by Elders, ministry directors, ministry leaders, and small group leaders.
4. THE PASTOR(S) – The Senior Pastor has ultimate responsibility for the oversight of the church body and the shepherding of its members (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 5:17; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Acts 20:28-32). The Senior Pastor is to actively set goals for the congregation according to the will of God, obtain goal ownership from the people, and see that each church member is properly motivated and equipped to do his or her part in accomplishing

the mission of the church. The Senior Pastor is responsible for providing spiritual instruction and administrative leadership to the Associate Pastors, members, staff, and ministries of the church. The calling, supervision and dismissal of pastoral staff, ministry directors, and other employees are under the direction of the Senior Pastor, assisted by the Elder Team.

The Senior Pastor shall continue to serve as Pastor until the relationship is ended by resignation or terminated 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 role of Pastor, the Elder Team shall initiate procedures leading to the adoption by the church of a process to elect a new Pastor.

SECTION III: ELDERS

1. ON THE ROLE OF ELDERS – The New Testament Church had a plurality of Elders in each local church setting (Titus 1:5). Therefore the Elder Team is to assist the Senior Pastor in shepherding and spiritual oversight to the church.
2. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE OFFICE OF ELDER – The requirements for the office are found in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:7-9.
3. APPOINTMENT OF ELDERS – Elders will be appointed by the current Elder Team as they recognize God raising up men to lead as Elders. These men will be presented to the church for confirmation and ordination. Individuals nominated as Elders for the first time shall serve a season of testing, to be determined by the Elder Team on an individual basis, before official recognition as Elder. Elders may serve as long as they feel called to do so, and as long as they are affirmed in their service by the Elder Team.
4. THE ELDERS – Will assist the Pastoral Team in the functions laid out in Article VII, Section II, Number 4.
5. THE ELDER TEAM— Will consist of the Senior Pastor and Elders confirmed and ordained by the Church. Nominated Elders, in their season of testing, may attend the Elder Team meetings, and will perform the duties assigned by the Elder Team.

SECTION IV: MINISTRY DIRECTORS AND LEADERS

Ministry leaders in our church are equated with deacons in the New Testament. They are given the freedom and authority to lead in their area of ministry under the supervision and leadership of the pastors, and are appointed by the pastors and Ministry Directors on the basis of need and giftedness (1 Timothy 3:8-12). There can be no limit to the number of ministry leaders, as this is dependent solely upon the Holy Spirit's disbursement of spiritual gifts in the Church. Certain Ministry Leaders will be naturally elevated to the status of Ministry Directors, as well as to paid staff, overseeing a large portion of a particular area of ministry. These Directors may or may not be ordained pastors, but should fulfill the Biblical requirements for ministerial leadership. Ministry Directors are to be appointed by the Elder Team. They shall serve in this role until the relationship is ended by resignation, by the Elder Team, or by the expiration of a pre-determined time of service.

SECTION V: SMALL GROUP LEADERS

A small group leader is a minister to a small group under the direction and accountability of the Elder Team. The qualifications of a small group leader are the same as that of any other ministry leader. Small group leaders are extensions of the pastoral ministry of the church, and serve as under-shepherds of the church through their small group.

SECTION VI: OTHER STAFF MEMBERS

Other staff members shall be hired as needed in accordance with the above-stated areas of responsibility, the annual budget, as well as the personnel and financial policies of the church. Such staff members shall be responsible to their immediate supervisors or designated staff persons.

SECTION VII: OFFICERS

Officers include President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be designated by the Elder Team.

1. President – The President shall preside at all business meetings of the Church.
2. Secretary – The Secretary shall be responsible for preparing accurate and complete minutes of all business meetings of the church.
3. Treasurer – It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive, preserve, and pay out, upon proper internal procedure and control as determined by the Elder Team. The Treasurer’s report and records shall be audited annually by an Audit Team.

SECTION VIII: AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE LEGAL DOCUMENTS

Official documents of the Church may be executed by the Senior Pastor in the capacity of the President of the Church.

ARTICLE VIII
CHURCH PROGRAMS AND ORGANIZATIONS

All organizations and programs of the Church shall be subject to the control of the Church and its leadership and the directors of those organizations shall report to the appropriate Church leadership.

ARTICLE IX
CHURCH COMMITTEES, GROUPS AND MINISTRY TEAMS

All committees, ministry teams, and groups of the Church shall be subject to the control of the Church and its leadership and the directors/leaders of these groups shall report to the appropriate Church leadership. Special Committees may be created for the Church when needed, and for a designated period of time as determined by the Elder Team.

ARTICLE X
REAL PROPERTY

SECTION I: TITLE

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

SECTION II: PURCHASING REAL PROPERTY

Real property shall be purchased in the name of the Church by the act of the Directors detailed in Article V and VII of these By-Laws.

SECTION III: DISPOSITION OF REAL PROPERTY

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 as detailed in Article VI of this document.

**ARTICLE XI
AFFILIATIONS**

The church shall have full power and authority to associate itself with and participate in organizations in keeping with the character and purpose of the Church as set forth in the Bylaws. The Church is autonomous and maintains the right to govern its own affairs, independent of any denominational control.

**ARTICLE XII
AMENDMENTS**

All requests for amendments to these Bylaws must be in writing and shall be submitted to the Elder Team for study and consideration. The Elder Team shall issue a timely response to the proposed amendment, alteration or revision to these Bylaws. The Elder Team shall determine whether to propose such amendments to the Church for adoption. If proposed to the Church by the Elder Team, amendments to the Bylaws require the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present at a business meeting of the Church as detailed in Article VI of this document.

**ARTICLE XIII
FINANCES**

SECTION I: ANNUAL BUDGET

The Church shall have an annual budget, approved by vote of the Church, to serve as the normative guide for the financial operation of the church.

SECTION II: DEVELOPMENT OF ANNUAL BUDGET

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

1. All individuals involved in ministry leadership submit their expected financial needs to their Ministry Director for the coming fiscal year.
2. The Elder Team, Ministry Directors, and other pastoral staff then submit their budget needs, including salaries for support staff, according to their areas of responsibilities.
3. The Elders submit the salaries for the Senior Pastor, Associate Pastor(s), and other personnel to the Treasurer.
4. A proposed budget is compiled from these submissions by the Elder Team or Treasurer.

5. The proposed budget prepared by the Treasurer is reproduced and made available to all other interested persons at least two weeks before the annual business meeting.
6. Questions are answered by the Elder Team and the Treasurer on an informal basis.
7. The budget is submitted to the Church at the annual business meeting for vote without discussion.

SECTION III: BUDGET MANAGEMENT

The budget is to be managed by Treasurer, the various Ministry Directors, and staff persons according to their area of responsibility. Minor modifications within the budget can be made by the Treasurer, Ministry Directors, or other staff with budget responsibilities if extenuating circumstances in the life of the church mandate such a change. For example, if a budgeted item is not needed, or if expenses in a particular area are less than expected, the Treasurer and/or Ministry Directors can reallocate those resources as needed. The budget should, however, be the normative guide for the financial operation of the church.

SECTION IV: ANNUAL AUDIT

An annual audit of the church's financial matters will be performed by an Audit Team, and made available to Church. The Audit Team will consist of individuals appointed by the Elder Team.

SECTION V: OPERATING BANK ACCOUNTS

The church will maintain checking accounts and other accounts at banks or other financial institutions as approved by the Elder Team. Bank resolutions granting authority for specific persons to sign checks or orders must be designated by the Elder Team.

SECTION VI: FISCAL YEAR

The Church fiscal year shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31.

SECTION VII: RECORDS AND REPORTS

The Church shall maintain the following records and reports:

1. Adequate and current books and records of accounts (financial records);
2. Written minutes of the church business meetings.
3. A record of the members of the Church, setting forth the member's names and addresses.
4. Contribution statements for contributors.

ARTICLE XIV TO BE A TAX EXEMPT ORGANIZATION

The term for which the church has been organized is perpetual and it shall operate as a tax-exempt organization under the United States Internal Revenue Code. In the event of dissolution of the Church, the assets thereof shall be liquidated and distributed by first paying all creditors, and all remaining assets shall then be distributed to another Christian organization or organizations which have like faith, belief, and purposes as ours and which qualify as a tax exempt organization.

AMENDMENT I
Passed JULY 2015

As our church grows, we find it necessary to:

- Be more precise with the content of the Constitution and By-Laws.
- Make adjustments to the infrastructure of the organization.

This amendment is the first step in making these updates.

AMENDMENT
ARTICLE I
CORPORATION AND OFFICES

SECTION I: NAME

The name of the corporation is COASTAL COMMUNITY CHURCH. This corporation will be further referred to in the bylaws as the “Church.”

SECTION II: GOVERNANCE

The Church is sovereign under the lordship of Jesus Christ and the Church retains the exclusive right of self-government in all phases of spiritual and temporal life. We realize that while an organization is necessary, God’s method is to empower His people by the Holy Spirit in the service of the Lord Jesus Christ. We acknowledge, therefore, our complete dependence upon God. These By Laws have been developed in order that the men and women serving the Church may function more effectively and within the boundaries of God’s Word as interpreted by the leaders and founders of this organization.

SECTION III: OFFICES

Principal Office

The Church maintains its principal office at 101 Village Avenue, Yorktown, VA 23693.

Other Offices

The Church may have offices at such place or places where the Church is qualified to do business, within or without of the State of Virginia as the Elder Board may from time to time appoint or as the business of the Church may require or make desirable.

AMENDMENT
ARTICLE III
STATEMENT OF FAITH

SECTION IX: FAMILY

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, adoption or legal custody.

Adam and Eve were made to complement each other in a one-flesh union that establishes the *only* normative pattern of sexual relations for men and women, such that marriage ultimately serves as a type of the union between Christ and his church. In God’s wise purposes, men and women are not simply interchangeable, but rather they complement each other in mutually enriching ways. God

ordains that they assume distinctive roles, which reflect the loving relationship between Christ and the church, the husband exercising headship in a way that displays the caring, sacrificial love of Christ, and the wife submitting to her husband in a way that models the love of the church for her Lord. In the ministry of the church, both men and women are encouraged to serve Christ and to be developed to their full potential in the manifold ministries of the people of God. The distinctive leadership role of eldership and ordained pastor within the church given to qualified men is grounded in creation, fall, and redemption and must not be sidelined by appeals to cultural developments.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

Marriage: Marriage between one man and one woman is the only legitimate and accepted sexual relationship. Marriage provides for intimate companionship, pure sexual expression, procreation, and reflects the relationship of Christ and the church. A husband is commanded to love his wife as Christ loved the church. A wife is commanded to submit to her husband as the church submits to Christ. The marriage ceremony at Coastal Community Church is a form of worship service as all elements of our lives should be worship to God. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between one man and one woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, transgender, bestiality, incest, polygamy, pedophilia, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's good gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. Such sinful pattern if not repented will be a barrier to membership and leadership in a body of believers at Coastal Community Church.

(Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; Ephesians 5:22-33 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8,14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7; Genesis 2:24; Genesis 19:5, 13; Genesis 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4.)

**AMENDMENT
ARTICLE V
MEMBERSHIP**

SECTION II: QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Voting Members

1. A personal commitment of faith in Jesus Christ for salvation.
2. Believer's baptism, as a testimony of salvation. Believer's Baptism is defined in Article IV, Section II. While Believer's Baptism by immersion is not a required method of baptism, it is the only method executed by this Church. If a person is physically unable to be immersed, the Elder Board will determine an alternate course of action.
3. Completion of the Church's membership class, and an interview with the membership team.

4. Signature on the by-laws indicating that it has been read and fully understood. This is only required upon the first signing of the Membership Commitment.
5. Agreement, by signature, to abide by the Membership Commitment, which will be reaffirmed and re-signed annually.
6. Eighteen years of age or older.
7. Those who are here on a temporary basis (college/military) and do not want to give up membership in their home churches, are permitted to participate at Coastal as a Voting member if they meet all of the qualifications. It is not necessary to dissolve membership elsewhere.

Student Members

It is our desire to see our students develop as authentic followers of Jesus Christ. Based on this, those between 3rd grade and 12th grade can be student members by meeting the same qualifications as a voting member in addition to the following:

1. The student will meet with his/her respective pastor/director and his/her parents to sign the membership commitment.
2. If the student's parents or guardians do not attend Coastal Community Church, they must have a signed permission form in order to become a member.
3. In regard to church discipline, we believe in God-given parental authority, and we will look to the parent to exercise discipline. The Church will be available to offer support and counseling to the parents and/or students at the parents' request.

Upon turning 18 years of age, a student can become a voting member by meeting with a member of the Elder Board.

SECTION V: TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Members shall be removed from the Church roll for the following reasons:

1. Death.
2. Failure to renew annual membership commitment by December 31 of each year. (There will be a 30-day grace period for follow up.)
3. Notification that the member has joined another church requiring termination of membership at this church. This church does not deny dual membership in churches more than 50 miles away.
4. By personal request of the member.
 - a. The request to rescind membership must be in writing. Checking the box on the Membership Commitment to not renew membership in any given year will be accepted as written request.
 - b. Upon rescinding membership, this person indicates that he/she no longer consents to the church's doctrine, and he/she will no longer be subject to church discipline. A member cannot rescind his/her membership in the midst of a church discipline issue and remain at the church. If membership is rescinded in the midst of a church discipline issue, the person will be required to physically leave the church body. (See #5)
5. Dismissal by the Elder Team according to the following conditions:
 - a. The member's life and conduct are not in accordance with the membership commitment in such a way that the member hinders the ministry influence of the Church in the community.
 - b. Procedures for the dismissal of a member shall be according to Matthew 18:15-17.
 - i. When the offense is brought to the attention of the leadership of the Church, it will be

- recommended that the victim approach the offender one-on-one or with a ministry leader.
- ii. If this encounter does not bring about a change, or if this encounter is refused, the offender will be brought before the elders.
 - iii. If the offender is repentant and desires restitution, he/she will be put on probation and the elders will put together a restoration plan to be followed. At the end of the probationary period, the offender will meet with the Elder Board for determination of restoration to membership.
 - iv. If the offender is not repentant, he/she will be dismissed from membership and removed from the property. He/she will abstain from coming back to the property.

AMENDMENT
ARTICLE XIII
FINANCES

Our church structure now provides budget preparation and maintenance through our Financial Department under the oversight of the Treasurer and Elders.

AMENDMENT
ARTICLE VII
CHURCH LEADERS AND PAID STAFF

SECTION VI: PAID STAFF

- a. Staff members shall be hired as needed in accordance with areas of need and available budget. Each position and requirements for that position will be detailed in the Employee Handbook of the Church. Changes and additions to the Employee Handbook, with exception to the Executive Team, can be made at the discretion of the Executive Team. Changes and additions relating to the Executive Team can be made at the discretion of the Elder Team.
- b. Staff will be immediately dismissed for any of the following:
 - Extra-marital relations
 - Embezzlement
 - Adopting a lifestyle choice in disagreement with our Statement of Faith
- c. Staff employment will be determined by the Elder Team when discipline is required for circumstances not outlined in “b”.

AMENDMENT II
Passed December 2019

AMENDMENT
ARTICLE V
MEMBERSHIP

SECTION IV: VOTING RIGHTS OF MEMBERSHIP

Every Member shall have the right to vote on the following matters: the annual budget of the Church, the disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of the Church, the merger or dissolution of the Church, the acquisition of real property and related indebtedness, incurring indebtedness for facilities development, amendments to the Bylaws of the Church, and the calling or removing of the Senior Pastor. Each member 18 years and older is entitled to one vote. Absentee voting will be allowed. All absentee votes must be received no later than 24 hours prior to the public meeting.