

**BYLAWS
FOR THE GOVERNANCE OF
Forefront Christian Church
As of June 10, 2021**

PREAMBLE

These Bylaws are to provide direction to the Church and to fulfill necessary legal and business requirements.

ARTICLE ONE: NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1: For business and legal purposes, this congregation shall be Forefront Christian Church.

Section 2: The purpose of this Church is to provide a progressive, just & generous expression of the Christian faith. To embody the life of Jesus so that Christ's prayer of renewal "on earth as it is in heaven" may become a reality.

Section 3: The pattern of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ shall be the Church's rule and guide as to faith, doctrine, life, and all things pertaining to system and order, when its teaching is apparent. In other matters, the Church Officers shall have the freedom to decide the course of action in keeping with the spirit of the Scriptures and their understanding of God's will.

Section 4: In performing its mission, Forefront Christian Church shall operate as an independent church. The Church shall be autonomous and shall have no creed or articles of faith other than to be centered in the life, death & resurrection of Jesus Christ and to be rooted in our three values: worship re-imagined, uncommon kinship and radical equity.

In keeping with the practice of the New Testament, the ordinances of Christian baptism and the Lord's Supper shall be observed, the former by immersion of believers, and the latter approximately each Lord's day. This Church shall be legally and ecclesiastically independent of, and beyond the

control of any and all, real, actual, or advisory, religious denominations, by whatever names now or hereafter known, or mergers thereof, as well as denominational or interdenominational agencies.

ARTICLE TWO: CHURCH OFFICERS

Section 1: The Leadership Team members shall be the officers and voting members (See Section 5 below.) of Forefront Christian Church. The Leadership Team shall consist of a minimum of four members and a maximum of twelve members. As of January 2021, the staff of Forefront Christian Church is managed through a Triune Leadership Model, called the Executive Council, which is made up of the Teaching Pastor, Community Pastor (or Director), and a Producer. These three individuals share responsibility for overall management and decision-making at the church. The Executive Council and lay Leadership Team members collectively form the Leadership Team.

Section 2: The Leadership Team shall select and appoint other members of the congregation to serve on the Leadership Team based on nominations from the congregation. Persons selected to serve on the Leadership Team shall meet the Scriptural qualifications for leaders set forth in Titus 1:6-9¹ and 1 Timothy 3:1-7², and shall serve in their office in a manner consistent with 1 Peter 5:1-5³. The offices of the Leadership Team, Deacons, Staff shall not be restricted to anyone by virtue of their race, gender identity, class, ability, or sexual orientation.

Section 3: Leadership Team members must believe in the inspiration of the Holy Bible. They must believe in Jesus Christ.

Section 4: Leadership Team members will serve a three-year term, and may be appointed to serve a second three-year term. After serving two three-year terms, an individual will not be eligible to be appointed to the Leadership Team for at least one year. A Leadership Team member may be removed from office by consensus among the remaining members. Staff may be removed from their positions by consensus among the remaining members of the Leadership Team.

Section 5: In all matters, the Leadership Team shall govern by consensus. Consensus will be reached when a majority of the Leadership Team members are in favor of a decision and all of the members will support the decision.

Section 6: The Leadership Team is responsible for providing financial and legal oversight, staff care, and advice and accountability for strategic vision and direction for the Church. The Executive Council is responsible for day-to-day management of the church, vision-casting and strategy, implementing our vision and values, and serving as leaders when it comes to teaching and theology. The precise execution of these responsibilities is determined by the Leadership Team and Executive Council, and more details are included in the Church's organizational documents.

Section 7: The Leadership Team will appoint Trustees to execute, on behalf of the Church, all legal documents and discharge such duties as the Leadership Team and the laws of New York shall enjoin upon them. The Trustees will act only as directed by the Leadership Team.

ARTICLE THREE: AMENDMENTS

Section 1: These Bylaws for the Governance of Forefront Christian Church may be amended, revised, or rescinded, and new Bylaws may be adopted by consensus of the Leadership Team.

Section 2: The Articles of Incorporation of Forefront Christian Church may be altered, amended, restated or repealed by consensus of the Leadership Team.

ARTICLE FOUR: FISCAL YEAR

Section 1: The fiscal year of the church shall be the calendar year.

ARTICLE FIVE: IRS 501(C)(3) TAX EXEMPTION PROVISIONS

Section 1: No substantial part of the activities of this corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation [except as otherwise provided by Section 501(h) of the Internal Revenue Code], and this corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements), any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these by-laws, this corporation shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 2: No part of the net earnings of this corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its directors, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes of this corporation.

ARTICLE SIX: DISSOLUTION

Section 1: On the winding up and dissolution of this corporation, after paying or adequately providing for the debts and obligations of the corporation, the remaining corporate assets shall be distributed to another fund, foundation or organization organized and operated exclusively for the purposes specified in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE SEVEN: ORDINATION

Section 1: Ordination or Commission

The Leadership Team may ordain or commission into Christian ministry anyone qualified and accepted for ministry in accordance with the provisions of the relevant sections of 1 Timothy and Titus of the Holy Bible, and any additional policies for ordination as may be adopted by the Leadership Team.

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Forefront Christian Church

1. Titus 1:6-9 (NIV): 6 An elder must be blameless, faithful to his wife, a man whose children believe[a] and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. 7 Since an overseer manages God’s household, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. 8 Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. 9 He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.
2. 1 Timothy 3:1-7 (NIV): 3 Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. 2 Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full[a] respect. 5 (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God’s church?) 6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. 7 He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil’s trap.
3. 1 Peter 5:1-5 (NIV): 5 To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ’s sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: 2 Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; 3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. 5 In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.”