

**BYLAWS
OF
CALVARY CHAPEL
OF SYRACUSE**

PREAMBLE

PURPOSE

The purpose of Calvary Chapel of Syracuse is to know Christ and to make Him known. Our purpose is fulfilled within the boundaries of our Faith, our Distinctives, and our Values. Our Statement of Faith connects us with other Christians in the Body of Christ. Our Statement of Distinctives connects us with other churches in fellowship with Calvary Chapel of Costa Mesa and Calvary Chapel of the Finger Lakes. Our Statement of Values connects us with each other as members of Calvary Chapel of Syracuse.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, equal in power and glory; and that this triune God created all, upholds all, and governs all.
2. We believe that the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, fully inspired without error in the original manuscripts, and the infallible rule of faith and practice.
3. We believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love; that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men; that He hears and answers prayer; and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.
4. We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit; we believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, teachings, substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and His personal, visible return to earth.
5. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment and to regenerate, sanctify and empower for ministry all who believe in Christ; we believe the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Jesus Christ and that He is an abiding Helper, Teacher and Guide; we believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit and in the exercise of all the Biblical gifts of the Spirit.
6. We believe that all men are sinners by nature and choice and, therefore, under condemnation; that God by the Holy Spirit regenerates those who repent of their sins and confess Jesus Christ as Lord; that Jesus Christ baptizes the seeking believer with the Holy Spirit and power for service, often subsequent to regeneration.

7. We believe in the universal Church, the living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members; we believe that the local church is a manifestation of the universal Church and that individual believers function within the local church to know Christ and to make Him known.
8. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ committed two ordinances to the Church: Baptism and Communion; Baptism is usually by immersion in water of those who profess making a personal commitment to Christ; Communion is celebrated on a routine basis and is open to all Christian believers regardless of denominational affiliation or tradition.
9. We believe in the personal, visible return of Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom; in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, eternal blessing of the righteous and endless suffering of the wicked.

STATEMENT OF DISTINCTIVES

Calvary Chapel of Syracuse is a non-denominational church that is in fellowship with Calvary Chapel of Costa Mesa and Calvary Chapel of the Finger Lakes. We are an independent body of believers with the following distinctives:

1. We hold to:
 - a. The inerrancy of Scripture.
 - b. The continuance today of the diversities of spiritual gifts as found in Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, and Ephesians 4.
 - c. The simplicity of church government, rather than a complex bureaucracy.
 - d. The dependence on the Holy Spirit to lead us rather than fleshly promotion.
 - e. The pre-millennial, pre-tribulational return of Christ for his waiting Church.
 - f. The systematic approach to the study of the Word of God that emphasizes application in our daily lives.
2. We reject:
 - a. The teaching of positive confession also known as the “faith” teaching.
 - b. The belief that Christians can be possessed by demons.
 - c. Dominion or kingdom theology.
 - d. A fatalistic Calvinistic view which allows no room for free will.
 - e. Prophecy that supersedes Biblical revelation.
 - f. Charismania – the over emphasis upon spiritual gifts, experiential signs and wonders, etc.

STATEMENT OF VALUES

The Vision of Calvary Chapel of Syracuse is *to know Christ and make Him known.*

We seek to accomplish this vision through holding to the historic doctrines of the Bible and through implementation of the following values in our ministries. These values connect what we believe with what we do.

God has communicated His truth through general revelation in creation and His special revelation in the Bible. More importantly, He has given the greatest expression of Himself in the Person of Christ. Our deepest desire is to know Christ and to grow in our relationship with Him. Subsequently, we will seek to reveal Christ through making him known to the world through thought, word, and deed. Therefore, Calvary Chapel is committed to the following values:

- Praising Jesus Christ
- Preaching the Word
- Praying for our world
- Practicing the Truth
- Proclaiming the Gospel

Praising Jesus Christ

We believe in a consistent emphasis on Christ as the center of all we do and say (John 14:6; Col 3:17). We strive for an undistracted, corporate worship of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, utilizing both traditional and contemporary methods. (1 Corinthians 14:33). Although we believe in the present existence of the charismatic gifts, we discourage individuals from practicing them during our corporate worship so as not to distract from worship and allow other worshippers to understand their praise and agree with their worship (1 Corinthians 14:16).

Preaching the Word

We believe in the systematic exposition of the Scriptures from both the New and Old Testaments so a large portion of our service is dedicated to preaching the Word (Isaiah 28:13; 2 Timothy 3:16, 4:2; and 2 Peter 1:21). In addition, to minimize distractions during our services, we provide age appropriate ministry so that children can be cared for or taught at their level of understanding (2 Timothy 3:15). We also encourage members of Calvary Chapel to participate in a systematic study of the Scriptures whether in private or small groups (2 Timothy 2:15, Psalm 1, and Psalm 119:9-11).

Praying for our World

We believe that God is a prayer hearing and prayer answering God (Psalm 65:2). We provide forums for members to pray together for one another, our church, and our world (James 5:16, Ephesians 6:18-19). In addition, we seek to make prayer a priority in the planning and practice of ministry (John 15:1-5, Acts 13:1-3).

Practicing the Truth

We believe that the greatest evidence of a person possessing a personal relationship with Christ is a life of obedience. We are convinced that God’s word activated and empowered by the Holy Spirit will accomplish His work in the lives of His people (Zechariah 4:6). We desire to express love for God and one another that is informed by the truth of Christ.

- We are committed to authentic relationships between believers and between members of Calvary Chapel with the leadership (Ephesians 4:25, 30-32; 1 Peter 5:1-5).
- We encourage honest, kind, and open communication in appropriate forums (Matthew 18:15-20, Galatians 6:1-2, and James 5).
- We encourage interpersonal relationships that help deepen and develop Christ-like character through discipleship (2 Timothy 2:2).
- We participate in opportunities to apply our teaching and discipleship to preserve marriages (Matthew 5:27-32, 1 Corinthians 7:10-16).
- We provide guidance and resources to help in the issues of marriage and parenting (Ephesians 5:22-6:4, 1 Peter 3:1-12).
- We are committed to continually evaluate all we do that we might foster excellence for Christ avoiding traditionalism and seeking to release the creative gifts of the believers here at Calvary Chapel.

Proclaiming the Gospel

We believe in an intentional approach to reaching the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ both locally and globally. We provide outreach locally by welcoming visitors to Calvary Chapel and providing a relaxed environment for spiritual conversations (James 2:1-4, Galatians 2:11-14). In addition, we believe in impacting our community with the love of Christ regardless of the response. We also believe in participating in traditional world missions by providing financial support to missionaries and mission organizations, and in participating in short and long term missions (Matthew 28:18-20).

ARTICLE I CHURCH NAME

The name of the corporation is Calvary Chapel of Syracuse (hereinafter “Church”).

ARTICLE II CHURCH OFFICE

The principal office for the transaction of the business of the Church is fixed and located at Calvary Chapel of Syracuse, 103 Grampian Road, Liverpool, New York 13090 (hereinafter “Church Office”). The Board of Directors (hereinafter “Board of Elders”) may at any time, or from time to time, change the location of the Church Office from one location to another in this county.

ARTICLE III CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Section 1. Headship of Christ.

The leadership of the Church shall focus on seeking and maintaining the Lordship of Jesus Christ over the Church. All those in authority within the Church shall continually seek the mind and will of the Lord Jesus Christ, through His Spirit and the Word of God, in all actions and decisions.

Section 2. Board of Elders.

a. Powers and Duties. The Board of Elders, headed by the Pastor, shall govern the Church.

1. Ministry:

- (a) The Board of Elders shall oversee and rule the ministry of the Church by precept and example under the leadership of the Pastor. They shall pray together regularly, seeking the mind of God. They shall meet regularly to review the progress of the execution of the day to day functions. They shall gather to pray and review this progress, informally, as frequently as needed for mutual counsel.
- (b) Subject to limitations of state law, the Certificate of Incorporation, and these Bylaws, all powers of the Church and all control over its affairs shall be exercised by or under the authority of the Board of Elders. Without limiting their general powers, the Board of Elders shall have the following powers:
 - (i) To appoint and remove all other officers, agents, and employees of the Church; prescribe such powers and duties for them as may not be inconsistent with state law, the Certificate of Incorporation or these Bylaws; ratify their compensation; and require from them faithful service.
 - (ii) To conduct, manage, direct and control the business and affairs of the Church; to make rules and regulations not inconsistent with state law, the Certificate of Incorporation, or these Bylaws.
 - (iii) To borrow money and incur indebtedness to promote the Purpose of the Church, and for that Purpose, to execute and deliver, in the name of the Church, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, deeds of trust, mortgages, pledges, or other evidence of debt and securities.

2. Qualifications:

- (a) In addition to the qualifications stated below, and without limiting the application of the whole counsel of God, an elder shall remain qualified to serve as an Elder, as outlined in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9, so long as he holds the office of elder.

- (b) An Elder shall be a man of high moral character, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, just, devout, self-controlled, not self-willed, and not covetous.
 - (c) An Elder shall be a man who rules his home well and whose children follow his example.
 - (d) An Elder shall be a man who handles himself uprightly among others; not given to drunkenness, not violent, but gentle, not quarrelsome, but hospitable, a lover of good, and of good reputation in the world.
 - (e) An Elder shall be a mature believer who is able to teach.
 - (f) An Elder shall hold to and affirm the Statement of Faith, Statement of Distinctives, and Statement of Values described in these Bylaws.
- b. Number of Elders. The Board of Elders shall consist of no less than three and no more than twelve Elders as determined by the Board of Elders to effectively oversee the Church. Elders shall be added in cohorts of three. The Pastor shall always be the leading member of the Board of Elders.
 - c. Election and Term of Office. New Elders shall be nominated by the Pastor and elected by a majority vote of the then current Board of Elders. Except for the Pastor, an Elder is elected for a three (3) year term. Each Elder may be elected to successive terms with a simple majority vote of the Board of Elders. The Pastor shall serve perpetually until he is unwilling or unable to serve, due to death, disability, resignation or removal from office.
 - d. Each member of the Board of Elders is also deemed to be a Class B member of the Church upon election to the Board of Elders.
 - e. Compensation. The Elders shall receive no compensation for their service as Elders. The Elders may also serve as Church officers for which they may be compensated. Every effort should be made to ensure that the Board of Elders is comprised of a majority of non-officers.

Section 3. Meetings of the Elders.

- a. Quorum. A simple majority of the Board of Elders shall be necessary to transact any business at any meeting of the Board of Elders. This simple majority must include the Pastor or his designee if the Pastor cannot be present at the meeting.
- b. Voting. Except as otherwise required by these Bylaws, every action taken by the Board of Elders shall be taken by simple majority vote. In the event of a deadlock, the Pastor may decide the issue by casting a second vote to end the deadlock, or he may abstain from casting a second vote so as to let the deadlock stand.
- c. Place and Time of Meetings. Regular meetings of the Board of Elders shall be held at the Church Office. Another location may be specified for any meeting if agreed upon by a simple majority of the Board of Elders and notice given when required.

- d. **Special Meetings.** Special meetings of the Board of Elders may be called at any time and for any purpose by the Pastor or by a majority of the Elders. Each Elder must receive reasonable notice prior to the commencement of a specially called meeting.
- e. **Removal.** Except for the Pastor, any other Elder may be removed from office by a majority vote of the Board of Elders, with or without good cause. The Pastor may only be removed from office for good cause by a majority vote of the Board of Elders, and with an additional two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all Church members then qualified to vote. Removal from the Board of Elders is also deemed to be removal from Class B membership in the Church.
- f. **Membership Approval.** Except for election or removal of a pastor or other elder, the Pastor shall select and the Board of Elders shall confirm by a majority vote, any issue to be presented to the general membership of the Church for a vote of approval.
- g. **Waiver of Irregularities.** Any meeting of the Board of Elders, however called, noticed or held, shall be deemed valid if, after the meeting, each Elder not present signs a written waiver of notice, a written consent to the meeting, a written approval of the minutes, or a written approval of the Resolution.
- h. **Affirmation by Consent.** Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Board of Elders may be taken without a meeting, if every member of the Board of Elders consents in writing to that action. Such action affirmed by written consent shall have the same force and effect as a unanimous vote of the Board of Elders occurring in a duly constituted meeting of the Board of Elders. Any such written consent shall be kept with the minutes of the Board of Elders.

ARTICLE IV CHURCH OFFICERS

Section 1. Primary Officers.

- a. **Officer Designations.** The designated primary officers of the Church are President (Pastor), Vice President (Associate Pastor), Secretary, and Treasurer. The Board of Elders may designate other primary officers as needed. Except for the Pastor, any person may hold more than one primary office. Officers other than the Pastor and the Associate Pastor need not be members of the Board of Elders. If no Associate Pastor exists, an Elder may perform the duties of an Associate Pastor as directed by the Pastor.
- b. **Officer Elections.** The Pastor shall nominate, and the Board of Elders shall elect by a majority vote, all Church officers for renewable one (1) year terms of office.
- c. **Officer Vacancies.** A vacancy in any office shall be filled by the nomination of the Pastor and a majority vote of the Board of Elders.

Section 2. Pastor.

a. **Duties and Powers.** Subject to general oversight by the Board of Elders, the Pastor shall always hold the office of President, and is vested with plenary supervision, direction, and control of all ecclesiastical and business activities of the Church. He is the leading member of the Board of Elders and shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Elders and of the Church membership. He shall have such other powers and duties as may be established from time to time by the Board of Elders.

1. Ministry:

- (a) The Pastor shall minister unto the Lord in regular personal worship and praise. He shall give himself to the ministry of the Word and prayer (Acts 6:4) and shall seek to walk uprightly before the Lord in his personal life. He shall seek the mind of God.
- (b) The Pastor shall be the teaching shepherd of the Church. He shall give considerable time to the study of the Word and shall teach the Scriptures to the flock by precept and example. He shall aim to feed the flock, equip the saints for ministry and guard the Church against attacks of the enemy.
- (c) The Pastor shall always be the leading member of the Board of Elders. He shall direct and control the daily business of the Church and its ministries. He shall supervise all Church officers and the general membership of the Church. The Pastor shall have general supervision of the entire Church and charge of all services, gatherings and meetings.

2. Qualifications.

- (a) In addition to the qualifications stated below, and without limiting the application of the whole counsel of God, the Pastor shall remain qualified to serve as Pastor, as outlined in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9, so long as he holds the office of Pastor.
- (b) The Pastor shall be a Spirit-gifted teacher of the Word, an ordained pastor of good reputation, with Biblically conservative theology, Christ-centered, Spirit-filled and willing to serve a non-denominational church without promoting denominational interests.
- (c) The Pastor shall hold to and affirm the Statement of Faith, Statement of Distinctives, and Statement of Values described in these Bylaws.

b. **Appointment.** In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Pastor, the entire Board of Elders shall constitute a nominating committee and shall elect a chairman. The new Pastor shall be called by nomination and election, subject to the following rules:

- 1. **Nomination.** The nominating committee shall seek, find and nominate a pastoral candidate by a majority vote of the committee. The committee shall

seek a potential pastoral candidate by first searching among the Associate Pastor and Assistant Pastors of the Church.

2. Abstention. A resigning or retiring Pastor may serve as a member of the nominating committee. The Pastor, and any other member of the nominating committee, shall abstain from voting when the pastoral candidate is a relative by blood, marriage or adoption. If a member of the nominating committee is a pastoral candidate, that member shall abstain from voting.
 3. Election. The new pastor shall be elected by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of approval of all Church members then qualified to vote. Chairman of the nominating committee shall preside over the election.
- c. Compensation. The initial compensation of the Pastor shall be set by the Board of Elders and shall be regularly increased. The Church shall provide the Pastor with adequate remuneration, including the following, when reasonably possible: an adequate salary, housing allowance, health insurance, expense allowance, pension, conference funds, vacation time, continued education and other special funds as needed for his ministry. The Church shall also defray the costs of sending the Pastor to out-of-town conferences, conventions or missionary trips attended for the Church, as approved by the Board of Elders at meetings held before or within ninety (90) days after the conferences, conventions or missionary trips.
 - d. Termination. The Pastor may not be terminated from office except for good cause. For purposes of these Bylaws, good cause shall mean a gross failure to remain qualified to hold the office of Pastor as outlined in Subsection a.2, above. A vote to terminate the Pastor may not be initiated during any regular meeting of the Board of Elders, or of the Church membership, but may only occur during specially called meetings for that specific purpose. The Board of Elders shall fairly negotiate reasonable terms and conditions of the termination with the Pastor being terminated.

Section 3. Associate Pastor and Assistant Pastors.

- a. Duties and Powers. Subject to the supervision of the Pastor, the Associate Pastor and each Assistant Pastor is charged with faithfully assisting the Pastor with his responsibilities in directing and controlling the ecclesiastical and business activities of the Church.
- b. Associate Pastor. At any time the Church may have one Associate Pastor who shall hold the office of Vice-President of the Church and shall be a member of the Board of Elders.
- c. Assistant Pastors. The Church may also have one or more Assistant Pastors, each of whom shall focus upon one or more particular areas of ministry, such as Children's Ministry or Executive Administration. Each Assistant Pastor need not be a member of the Board of Elders.

1. Ministry:

- (a) The Associate Pastor and each Assistant Pastor shall minister unto the Lord in regular worship and praise. Each pastor shall give himself to the ministry of the Word and Prayer (Acts 6:4) and shall seek to walk uprightly before the Lord in his personal life. Each pastor shall seek the mind of God.
- (b) The Associate Pastor and each Assistant Pastor shall give considerable time to the study of the Word, and as directed by the Pastor, shall teach the Scriptures to the flock by precept and example.
- (c) The Associate Pastor and each Assistant Pastor shall assist, as directed by the Pastor, in feeding the flock, equipping the saints for ministry and guarding the Church against attacks of the enemy.
- (d) The ministry of the Associate Pastor and each Assistant pastor shall be defined by the Pastor and may be changed by the Pastor, from time to time, as the needs of the Pastor or the Church require.

2. Qualifications:

- (a) In addition to the qualifications stated below, and without limiting the application of the whole counsel of God, the Associate Pastor and each Assistant Pastor shall remain qualified to serve as a pastor, as outlined in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9, so long as he holds the office of Associate Pastor or Assistant Pastor.
 - (b) The Associate Pastor and each Assistant Pastor shall be a Spirit-gifted teacher of the Word, an ordained pastor of good reputation, with Biblically conservative theology, Christ-centered, Spirit-filled and willing to serve a non-denominational church without promoting denominational interests.
 - (c) The Associate Pastor and each Assistant Pastor shall hold to and affirm the Statement of Faith, Statement of Distinctives, and Statement of Values described in these Bylaws.
- d. Appointment. The Pastor shall appoint and the Board of Elders shall confirm by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote any Associate Pastor or an Assistant Pastor who is to serve within the Church.
- e. Compensation. The compensation of the Associate Pastor and each Assistant Pastor shall be set by the Pastor and ratified by the Board of Elders. The Church shall provide each full-time Associate Pastor and each full-time Assistant Pastor with the following remuneration, when reasonably possible: an adequate salary, housing allowance, health insurance, expense allowance, pension, conference funds, vacation time, and other special funds as needed for his ministry. The Church may also defray the costs of sending a pastor to out-of-town conferences, conventions or missionary trips attended for the Church, as approved by the Pastor and ratified by the Board of Elders. For each part-time pastor, the Church shall provide for them as seems appropriate to Pastor and the Board of Elders.

- f. Termination. Upon recommendation by the Pastor to the Board of Elders, the Associate Pastor and each Assistant Pastor may be removed, with or without cause, by a majority vote of the Board of Elders.

Section 4. Absence of the Pastor

When necessary due to the permanent absence or disability of the Pastor, and in the following order of priority, the Associate Pastor, an Assistant Pastor, or an Elder, shall function as the interim pastor and shall perform, temporarily, all the duties of the Pastor. In so acting, the interim pastor shall have all the powers of the Pastor until the Board of Elders takes action on the vacancy. The Board of Elders shall name the interim pastor until such time as the vacancy can be filled.

Section 5. Secretary.

- a. The Secretary shall keep a full and complete record of all the proceedings of the Board of Elders and shall supervise the keeping of the records of the Church. This position may be included within the ministry of an Elder.
- b. The Secretary shall hold to and affirm the Statement of Faith, Statement of Distinctives, and Statement of Values described in these Bylaws.
- c. Termination. Upon recommendation by the Pastor to the Board of Elders, the Secretary may be removed, with or without cause, by a majority vote of the Board of Elders.

Section 6. Treasurer.

- a. Keep Funds. The Treasurer shall receive and safely keep all funds of the Church and shall deposit them in a bank. Those funds shall be paid out only on checks of the Church signed by the Pastor, Associate Pastor, Secretary, or Treasurer, or by such officers as may be designated by the Board of Elders.
- b. Keep Records. The Treasurer shall keep a confidential record for tax purposes of all donations made to the Church. Except for anonymous donations, any individual may receive an accounting of their own donations upon making a reasonable request to the Treasurer. The Treasurer or a designee shall issue an annual tax statement to each individual whose cumulative donations total more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) for the preceding calendar year, or who made a non-monetary donation where the value of the item donated exceeded said amount.
- d. The Treasurer shall hold to and affirm the Statement of Faith, Statement of Distinctives, and Statement of Values described in these Bylaws.
- e. Termination. Upon recommendation by the Pastor to the Board of Elders, the Treasurer may be removed, with or without cause, by a majority vote of the Board of Elders.

ARTICLE V
CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership Classifications

- a. Purpose. The purpose of this section is to objectively define the criteria for congregational membership in the Church. The purpose of this definition is to clearly state the lines of accountability within the congregation so as to further the vision of the Church.
- b. Classes. The Church shall be governed as a elder-led church with two classes of membership: “Class A” membership is for the members of the congregation and “Class B” membership is for members of the Board of Elders so as to be qualified voters at meetings of the corporate board under the Religious Corporations Law. Anyone who meets the membership requirements of the Church may request to be admitted to membership in the Church.
- c. Class A Qualifications. When approved by the Board of Elders, a person shall be admitted into Class A membership of the Church. The qualifications for Class A membership are as follows:
 1. They are competent persons who are at least 18 years of age.
 2. They hold to and affirm the Statement of Faith, Statement of Distinctives, and Statement of Values described in these Bylaws.
 3. They have regularly attended Church services for more than six months.
 4. They have been baptized as a result of their belief and confession that Jesus Christ is their Lord and Savior.
 5. They have attended one or more specified informational meetings to become a member.
- d. Class A Rights. Class A members shall have the right to approve the following actions of the Board of Elders:
 1. Removal of the Pastor, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.
 2. Selection of the Pastor, by a majority vote.
 3. Sale of any real property owned by the Church, by a majority vote.
 4. Incurring of indebtedness in excess of \$100,000, by a majority vote.
 5. Any other issue presented by the Board of Elders, by a majority vote.
- e. Class A Termination. Class A membership is a voluntary association between an individual and the Church. There are no promises of rights, benefits or privileges, expressed or implied, in Class A membership, except for those rights expressly stated in Subsection d, above. Confirmation of Class A membership is in no way binding upon the individual or upon the Church, and may be terminated as follows:

1. An individual may terminate their Class A membership by notifying the Pastor or any of the Elders.
 2. If an individual has not been attending Church services for an extended period of time, the Board of Elders may terminate them from Class A membership.
 3. The Board of Elders may terminate an individual from Class A membership by majority vote for individuals who violate the Scriptures or the policy of this Church. Termination will be the final step after seeking resolution in accordance with Matthew 18:15-17.
- f. **Class B Qualifications.** All persons who are Ruling Elders at the time of the establishment of the two class membership of the Church are deemed to be Class B members of the Church and members of the Board of Elders so as to be qualified voters at meetings of the corporate board under the Religious Corporations Law.
1. Each person elected to membership of the Board of Elders is deemed to be a Class B member of the Church. If a Class B member of the Church is removed or resigns from the Board of Elders, he is also deemed to have been removed or to have resigned from Class B membership.
 2. Class B members need not be Class A members of the Church.
 3. Class B members may also vote upon any issue upon which any Class A member is permitted to vote.
- g. **Membership List.** The Church shall maintain a list of all Church members. A member who continues to meet the qualifications listed in this Section, may vote at the annual membership meeting and any special membership meetings of the Church provided that, in the year prior to any membership meeting in which they desire to cast a vote, the member shall have attended Sunday morning services at the Church for more than half of all such Sundays, and shall have contributed to the financial support of the Church. The Pastor or other person presiding over the membership meeting is the sole and final arbiter over whether a person may vote in that meeting.

Section 2. Annual Membership Meeting.

The annual meeting of the members of the Church shall be held on the fourth Sunday of March each year at 7:00 p.m., in the Church Office, or at any other time or place determined by the Board of Elders. Notice need not be given if the annual meeting is held at the Church Office on the date and time stated above.

Section 3. Special Meetings.

Special meetings of the members of the Church for any purpose or purposes may be called at any time by the Pastor or by a majority vote of the Board of Elders. Notice of the time and place of a special meeting of the members of the Church shall be given verbally during at least two regular Sunday services prior to the meeting date, or may be

given in any manner reasonably calculated to give actual notice of the special meeting to the members of the Church.

ARTICLE VI CHURCH ORDINATION

Section 1. Nature and Purpose.

- a. Nature of Ordination. A candidate for ordination recognizes that only our Sovereign, Holy God can truly call and ordain His children for service in the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The calling of a minister is not the result of a title; rather the title is a result of His calling. This calling is from the true and living God. It is man's privilege and specifically the privilege of the overseers of the true church of Jesus Christ to ratify God's ordination when such is obviously placed upon a man's life.
- b. Purpose of Article. The purpose of this Article is to provide for the ordination of ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ by and through this Church.

Section 2. Qualifications and Procedure.

- a. The qualifications for ordination by this Church are as follows:
 1. A candidate for ordination shall be a "born again" believer in Jesus Christ as described by our Lord in the third chapter of the Gospel of John.
 2. A candidate for ordination shall satisfy all of the qualifications of an Elder as described in these Bylaws.
 3. A candidate for ordination shall have completed four (4) years of Bible study or the equivalent as designated by the Board of Elders.
 4. A candidate for ordination shall have evidenced the obvious calling of God upon his life to the satisfaction of the Board of Elders.
- b. The procedure for ordination by this Church shall be as follows:
 1. Each candidate fulfilling the qualifications for ordination, and upon their presentation to the Board of Elders, shall receive prayerful consideration for ordination into the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ by this Church.
 2. The Board of Elders may waive one or more of the qualifications for ordination when, in the unanimous opinion of the Board and under the strong conviction of the Holy Spirit, such an exception is according to the Will of God and consistent with the Word of God.
 3. Upon two-thirds (2/3) approval of the Board of Elders, the candidate shall be ordained as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, with the right to perform ministerial functions in accordance with the laws of the land and the ordinances of the Word of God, and with all prerogatives of such a calling and office.
 4. All candidates, successful or otherwise, shall be notified of the decision of the Board of Elders in writing within one (1) week of the final Board action.

Section 3. Certificate of Ordination.

The following text shall be inscribed on a suitable Certificate of Ordination issued to each successful ordination candidate:

CERTIFICATE OF ORDINATION

This is to certify that Pastor _____ was duly ordained by Calvary Chapel of Syracuse as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He has completed all studies and has met all of the qualifications necessary for recognition of such office; further, by rite of ordination this date, he is duly ordained to perform all ministerial functions without limit as accorded by the laws of the land and in compliance with the ordinances of God's Holy Church as set forth in the Holy Bible. We now pray for God's divine Blessing and the power of the Holy Spirit upon him. Amen.

Given this _____ day of _____, 20_____

Calvary Chapel of Syracuse, New York

Pastor

Secretary

With headquarters in Liverpool, New York.

**ARTICLE VII
CHURCH LICENSING**

Section 1. Nature and Purpose.

- a. Nature of Licensing. In order to evaluate the ministry of potential ordination candidates, this Church has a licensing process. This process allows a candidate's ministry to be evaluated by the Board of Elders to help avoid the problem with laying hands "suddenly" on an individual (1 Timothy 5:22). A candidate for licensing should first serve as a staff member of the Church or fulfill a specific ministry leadership role within the Church. Normally, an individual hired as an Associate or Assistant Pastor will be licensed and enrolled in the ordination process.
- b. Purpose of Article. The purpose of this Article is to provide for the licensing of ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ within this Church.

Section 2. Qualifications and Procedure.

- a. The qualifications for licensing by this Church are as follows:
 - 1. A candidate for licensing shall be a "born again" believer in Jesus Christ as described by our Lord in the third chapter of the Gospel of John.

2. A candidate for licensing shall hold to and affirm the Statement of Faith, Statement of Distinctives, and Statement of Values described in these Bylaws.
 3. A candidate for licensing shall have completed four (4) years of Bible study or the equivalent as designated by the Board of Elders.
- b. The procedure for licensing by this Church shall be as follows:
1. Each candidate fulfilling the qualifications for licensing, and upon their presentation to the Board of Elders, shall receive prayerful consideration for licensing within the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ by this Church.
 2. The Board of Elders may waive one or more of the qualifications for licensing when, in the unanimous opinion of the Board and under the strong conviction of the Holy Spirit, such an exception is according to the Will of God and consistent with the Word of God.
 3. Upon two-thirds (2/3) approval of the Board of Elders, the candidate shall be licensed as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, with the right to perform ministerial functions in accordance with the laws of the land and the ordinances of the Word of God, and with all prerogatives of such a calling and office.
 4. All candidates, successful or otherwise, shall be notified of the decision of the Board of Elders in writing within one (1) week of the final Board action.

Section 4. Certificate of Licensing.

The following text shall be inscribed on a suitable Certificate of Licensing issued to each successful ordination candidate:

CERTIFICATE OF LICENSING

This is to certify that Pastor _____ was duly licensed by Calvary Chapel of Syracuse as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He has completed all studies and has met all of the qualifications necessary for recognition of such office. By rite of licensing, he is duly licensed to perform all ministerial functions for two years from this date as accorded by the laws of the land and in compliance with the ordinances of God's Holy Church as set forth in the Holy Bible. We now pray for God's divine blessing and the power of the Holy Spirit upon him. Amen.

Given this _____ day of _____, 20_____

Calvary Chapel of Syracuse, New York

Pastor

Secretary

With headquarters in Liverpool, New York.

**ARTICLE VIII
CHURCH AUXILIARIES**

Any organization, group or club whose membership is primarily for a Church activity, shall be considered an auxiliary of this Church and shall be subject to these Bylaws. An auxiliary organization shall exist only in cooperation with the Pastor and Board of Elders.

**ARTICLE IX
AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS**

These Bylaws may be amended or replaced with new Bylaws if approved or adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board of Elders.

**ARTICLE X
ANNUAL ACCOUNTING PERIOD**

The annual accounting period for this Church shall begin on the first day of January, and shall end on the last day of December.

**ARTICLE XI
MISCELLANEOUS**

Section 1. Execution of Documents.

The Pastor may enter into any contract or execute any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Church. The Board of Elders may authorize by majority vote any other officer or agent to enter into any contract or execute any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Church and such authority may be general or confined to a specific instance. No other person shall have any power or authority enter into any contract or execute any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Church.

Section 2. Inspection of Bylaws.

The Church shall keep in the Church Office the original or a copy of the Certificate of Incorporation and these Bylaws, as amended to date, certified by the Secretary, which shall be open to inspection by members of the Church at all reasonable times during normal business hours.

Section 3. Construction and Definitions.

Unless the Word of God, or the context, requires otherwise, the general provisions, rules of construction, and definitions contained in the New York State General Non-Profit Corporation law shall govern the interpretation of these Bylaws.

REVISION HISTORY

Date	Author	Version	Description of Activity / Sections Affected
	Stephens	1.0	Original version
Dec 2007	Stephens	1.1	Tweaked Removal procedures for Pastor, Asst. Pastor, and Elders. Incorporated the Vision and Values.
30 Dec 2007	Jordan Gray	1.2	Various tweaking and reformatting
30 Dec 2007	Stephens	1.3	Incorporate previous changes into Jordan's version and include portions from the Membership Criteria document.
31 Jan 2008	Stephens	1.4	Remove exclusive membership clause Clarify pastoral removal by congregation Remove bylaw approval rights
14 Feb 2008	Stephens	1.5	Merge separate Membership Criteria document into this document.
20 Feb 2008	Stephens	1.6	Clarify term of pastors and who needs to be a member of the board of elders per PG
15 Mar 2008	Stephens	1.7	Make accommodations for Assistant Pastor(s)
4 Apr 2008	Jordan Gray	1.8	Minor Revisions to Board of Elders and to Assistant Pastors; major revisions to Church Membership
13 April 2008	Stephens	1.9	Accept final changes from Gray and Lang; congregational vote required for Pastor selection and other minor editorial changes.