

THE BYLAWS
OF THE TRUE JESUS CHURCH IN (NAME OF LOCATION)

CHAPTER 1 GENERAL DESCRIPTION

ARTICLE 1 OFFICIAL NAME

The official name of this organization shall be:

True Jesus Church in (name of location), hereinafter “True Jesus Church” or “Church”

ARTICLE 2 PRINCIPAL OFFICE

The principal office of this organization is located at:

(Address with street name)

ARTICLE 3 AFFILIATION

This organization is a member of the General Assembly of the True Jesus Church in the U.S.A. (also referred to as the GA)

ARTICLE 4 MEMBERSHIP

This organization shall consist of all the baptized church members residing in the (city and county name) and the surrounding areas.

ARTICLE 5 PRIMARY PURPOSES

The primary purposes of this organization are as follows:

- a. To preach the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and to keep the teachings of the Holy Bible.
- b. To establish churches in the United States of America.
- c. To achieve the unity of faith and the Spirit in the worship of the one true God in preparation of the Lord’s Second Coming.

ARTICLE 6 DEFINITION OF A CONGREGATION

To form a church at any given location there must be at least thirty (30) members.

ARTICLE 7 BASIC BELIEFS

The basic beliefs of this organization are as follows:

Section 1 One True God

The One True God, who was manifested in the flesh as Jesus Christ, died on the cross for the remission of sins, was raised on the third day and ascended to heaven. He is the one and only Savior of mankind, the Creator of heaven and earth, and the only True God.

Section 2 Holy Bible

The Holy Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, is inspired by God. It is the only scriptural truth, and the standard for Christian living.

Section 3 True Jesus Church

The True Jesus Church, established by Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit of the “latter rain” period, is the revived True Church of the apostolic time.

Section 4 Water Baptism

Water Baptism is the sacrament for the remission of sins and for regeneration. It must be administered in the name of the Lord Jesus by a baptist who has received water baptism and the Holy Spirit. The person receiving the baptism is fully immersed in living water with head bowing.

Section 5 Holy Spirit

Receiving the Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our inheritance of the Kingdom of Heaven, and is evidenced by speaking in tongues.

Section 6 Foot Washing

The sacrament of Foot Washing submits a believer to have a part with the Lord. The teachings underlying this sacrament are love, holiness, humility, forgiveness, and service. All believers who are baptized must have their feet washed once in the name of the Lord Jesus. Mutual foot washing may be practiced whenever is appropriate.

Section 7 Holy Communion

The sacrament of Holy Communion is to commemorate the death of the Lord. In this sacrament believers partake of the flesh and the blood of the Lord to be in communion with Him so that they may have eternal life and be raised on the Last Day. This sacrament should be observed as often as possible but only one unleavened bread and grape juice shall be used.

Section 8 Sabbath Day

The Sabbath Day, the seventh day of the week (Saturday), is a Holy Day, blessed and sanctified by God. It is to be observed under the Lord's grace for the commemoration of God's creation and salvation and with the hope of eternal rest in the life to come.

Section 9 Salvations

Salvation is given by God's grace through faith. Believers must rely on the Holy Spirit to pursue holiness, practice Biblical teachings, honor God, and love mankind.

Section 10 The Lord's Second Coming

The Lord Jesus' Second Coming will take place on the Last Day when He descends from heaven to judge the world. The righteous will receive eternal life while the wicked everlasting punishment.

ARTICLE 8 BIBLICAL TEACHING REGARDING MARRIAGE

The Church believes that marriage is instituted by God and shall be confined to a heterosexual relationship between one Man by birth (as husband) and one Woman by birth (as wife). A person is either of a male or a female sex. A person's sex is determined at birth and identified by his or her physical and/or anatomical characteristics at birth. A person's gender and/ or gender identity is equivalent to his or her sex. Any Non-heterosexual conduct, behavior and/ or lifestyle are expressly forbidden under biblical teaching.

Herein for the purposes of the Church's Bylaws:

"Man" is defined as a male person by birth; and "Woman" is defined as a female person by birth;

"Non-heterosexual" is defined as any form of sexual conduct, sexual relationship and/or sexual behavior between two men (commonly known as "gay"); two women (commonly known as "lesbian"), or with a transgender person.

ARTICLE 9 FINAL INTERPRETIVE AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE

The Bible, per Article 7, Section 2 of Chapter 1, is the only scriptural truth and the standard for Christian living. For purposes of the Church's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, the General Assembly of the True Jesus Church in the U.S.A. is the final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application in cases of dispute between members.

CHAPTER 2 THE COMPOSITION OF A LOCAL CHURCH AND A HOUSE OF PRAYER

ARTICLE 1 LOCAL CHURCH & HOUSE OF PRAYER

A local church or a house of prayer is made up of members of the True Jesus Church and a Church Council.

ARTICLE 2 A local church may be established when there are thirty (30) or more True Jesus Church members who gather together in a locality.

ARTICLE 3 A House of Prayer may be established when there are fifteen (15) or more True Jesus Church members gathering together in a locality.

ARTICLE 4 Each local church or house of prayer is a self-governing and self-supporting body, abiding by the resolutions of the National Church Conference, the bylaws of the GA and the bylaws of the Local Church.

ARTICLE 5 Unless otherwise specified, the terminology of local church shall hereafter include a house of prayer.

ARTICLE 6 **CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1 A member is a person who has received water baptism in the True Jesus Church in accordance with the Article of Basic Beliefs under Article 7, Section 4.

Section 2 Church membership is open to every person regardless of race, color, sex, or age.

Section 3 An adult member is one who has attained the age of eighteen or older.

ARTICLE 7 **DUTIES OF A CHURCH MEMBER**

All church members are expected to do the following:

- a. To observe the teachings of the Holy Bible, the GA bylaws, the Local Church bylaws, and the rules and regulations of the church.
- b. To respect and heed the advice of the church ministers and the Church Council.
- c. To attend church services regularly especially on Sabbath days.
- d. To give free-will offerings and tithes for the Lord's work.
- e. To witness for the Lord Jesus and participate in church activities.

ARTICLE 8 **RIGHTS OF A CHURCH MEMBER**

The rights of a member are:

- a. If eligible, to voice, vote, elect, be elected and to recall members of the local Church Council.
- b. To voice grievances to the Church Council against any church member who violates the teachings of the Holy Bible, the bylaws, and/or the rules and regulations of the True Jesus Church.

ARTICLE 9 **EXCOMMUNICATION**

A member may be excommunicated from the Church when found guilty of mortal sins.

"Mortal Sin" meriting excommunication includes any of the following states or acts:

- a. Participation in adulterous sexual intercourse
- b. Fornication between unmarried parties
- c. Remarriage where the prior marriage was not terminated due to adultery
- d. Any non-heterosexual conduct, behavior and/or lifestyle.
- e. Worship of idols or false gods
- f. Premeditated homicide
- g. Chronic and unrepentant criminal behavior
- h. Dishonor of one's father and mother without repentance and which results in the defamation of the church
- i. Accepting baptism in another church after baptism in the True Jesus Church
- j. Promoting division in the church or advocating a false doctrine which is different from the basic beliefs as stated in Chapter 1, Article 7 of this Bylaws.

The Church reserves the right to excommunicate any member committing any act including, but not limited to, that which is deemed contrary to the truth research findings of the General Assembly of the True Jesus Church in the U.S.A. pertaining to mortal sin.

ARTICLE 10 GENERAL MEETING

Section 1 The General Meeting of church members is a decision-making body whose resolutions shall be executed by the Church Council.

Section 2 Each local church should hold a General Meeting annually. Special General Meeting may be held when deemed necessary.

At least two weeks prior to the meeting, the Church Council shall announce to the congregation, the time and place of the meeting in one of the following manners or a combination thereof:

- (1) by verbal announcement to the congregation in three successive Sabbaths;
- (2) by posting notification on bulletin boards conspicuous to the congregation;
- (3) by mailing to the adult members' last known addresses a notification of the meeting.

Section 3 The required quorum at the outset of the meetings shall be at least one-half of the total active adult church membership. An adult member is considered "active" when he or she is currently registered with the local church or house of prayer and participates in church activities, including church services on a regular basis. When a question arises whether or not a member is considered active, the local Church Council shall make the final decision. Except for important decisions, which shall require a two-thirds vote, resolutions can be passed with a majority vote.

Section 4 Only adult members have voting rights.

ARTICLE 11 FUNCTIONS OF THE GENERAL MEETING

Section 1 To study, discuss, and resolve the proposals put forward by the Church Council and members.

Section 2 To elect Department Officers to the Church Council

Section 3 To select delegate(s) to the National Church Conference

Section 4 To decide and resolve matters pertaining to the local church affairs

ARTICLE 12 **CHURCH COUNCIL**

Section 1 Each local church shall organize Church Council consisting of the stationed full-time minister, lay ministers in residence, and department officers.

Section 2 Lay ministers in residence, by virtue of their sacred offices, are members of the Church Council.

Section 3 **Lay Ministers in Residence**

Lay ministers in residence are ordained ministers of the True Jesus Church, permanently residing in the United States and accepted by the local Church Council as their local church ministers.

Section 4 Members of an immediate family may not serve in the Church Council when they constitute one-half or more of the total number of Church Council members. Immediate family is defined as spouse, father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandparent, or stepparent.

ARTICLE 13 **FUNCTIONS OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL**

The Church Council is to execute the following duties:

- a. To perform the decisions and resolutions of the local church and the GA
- b. To manage and look after the properties and interests of the local church
- c. To convene General Meetings
- d. To deal with matters concerning the spiritual well-beings of church members
- e. To deal with any matters concerning the religious, general, and financial affairs of the local church

ARTICLE 14 **CHAIRMAN OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL**

Section 1 The Chairman of the Church Council should be chosen from among the elders, deacons, or Department Officers of the Religious Affairs Department, the Evangelical Department, or the Pastoral Department.

Section 2 **Duties of the Church Council Chairman**

- (a) To represent the local church
- (b) To coordinate the affairs of the local church

- (c) To convene and conduct meetings of the Church Council
- (d) To perform other duties that require the responsibility of the Chairman

ARTICLE 15 DEFINITION OF A FULL-TIME MINISTER

Section 1 A full-time minister of the GA is one who is qualified and accepted in accordance with the rules and regulations as determined by the GA Council.

Section 2 The living allowances of a full-time minister and his spouse and children shall be borne by the GA.

ARTICLE 16 DUTIES OF A STATIONED FULL-TIME MINISTER

The duties of a full-time minister shall consist of:

- a. Preaching the gospel
- b. Pastoring the church members, which includes but is not limited to, visiting members, counseling, praying for them and helping their spiritual growth.
- c. Administering the sacraments
- d. Fulfilling the duties as a local Church Council Member

ARTICLE 17 DUTIES OF ORDAINED CHURCH MINISTERS

Section 1 Elders and Deacons

Elders and deacons of a church are responsible for:

- (a) Church management
- (b) Looking after church members
- (c) Preaching the gospel
- (d) Administering the sacraments
- (e) Fulfilling the duties as a local Church Council Member

Section 2 Deaconesses

A deaconess is responsible for:

- (a) Church management
- (b) Looking after church members
- (c) Preaching the gospel
- (d) Administering the sacraments when an elder or a deacon is not present
- (e) Assisting elders and deacons in their duties.
- (f) Fulfilling the duties as a local Church Council Member

ARTICLE 18 QUALIFICATIONS OF CHURCH MINISTER

Section 1 Elders

- (a) An elder must be a male member having ministerial experience in the True Jesus Church for at least seven years.
- (b) An elder must meet the requirements as laid down in Acts 6:3; I Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9 and other essential scriptures.

- (c) An elder must be fifty-five years of age or older.

Section 2 Deacons or Deaconesses

- (a) A deacon or deaconess must be a member for at least three years and have a record of devotion to the Lord's work in the church.
- (b) A deacon or deaconess must be twenty-five years or older.
- (c) A deacon or deaconess must meet the requirements as laid down in Acts 6:3; I Timothy 3:8-13; and other essential scriptures.

ARTICLE 19

ORDINATIONS OF CHURCH MINISTERS

Section 1 Local Church's Recommendation

A member of the Church Council may recommend a member to be ordained as an elder, deacon, or deaconess, as the case may be, when there is a suitable candidate and when circumstances necessitate the ordination. The recommendation of the member must first be approved by a two-thirds vote in a Church Council meeting. After the initial approval, the name of the said member must then be submitted to the GA for endorsement.

Section 2 GA's Notice to the Congregation

- (a) When the GA endorses the recommendation, the GA will notify the said Church Council requiring the Church Council to post a **Notice to the Congregation**, provided by the GA, and to display at the church premises the said **Notice** on a publicly conspicuous place for a period of thirty (30) days. Such **Notice** shall also specify the method the objector to the recommendation of ordination shall follow, the name of the person in the GA with whom the objection shall be lodged, the address where the objection should be sent to, and the deadline by which the objection must be filed and received by the GA. The **Notice** shall also disclose the fact that the GA shall treat with confidentiality the name of the objector and the objector's complaint, howbeit, without prejudice to the GA to require the objector to appear before the GA Council or its appointee or appointees for questioning when circumstances call for. The **Notice** will also state that the GA may require, not without the objector's consent, the objector to explain the contents of the complaint vis-à-vis the candidate, thus giving the candidate a fair opportunity to respond to the charges.
- (b) Upon receipt of the **Notice to the Congregation**, the Church Council shall verbally announce to the congregation in three successive Sabbaths about the said **Notice**, explaining the purpose of such **Notice**, and the location where the said **Notice** is posted.
- (c) Meantime the Church Council must distribute a copy of the said **Notice** to all voting members requiring them to respond to the said **Notice** should there be any complaints and the response to the said **Notice** must be received on or before a specified date.
- (d) When no objections have been received, the church shall convene a General Meeting to vote by ballot on the recommendation of ordination. No discussions or voice of opinion should be allowed during voting.

- (e) The GA shall make arrangement with the local Church Council to ordain the candidate when there is no objection after the period of the notification and the local church congregation has approved the recommendation with a two-thirds vote. When the GA receives objections, the GA shall conduct investigation according to Chapter 2 Article 19 Section 2 (a). And the GA shall make a final decision based upon its findings and notify the Church Council accordingly.

Section 3 General Assembly's Recommendation

- (a) Annually, the GA may, at its discretion, recommend the ordination of a minister to a local church when the church has a need and a suitable candidate is available for ordination. Such recommendation must be pre-approved with a two-thirds vote of the full Council Members of the GA before it is presented to the Church Council for consideration.
- (b) The Church Council, after due consideration and acceptance of the recommendation with a two-thirds vote, shall inform the GA of its recommendation.
- (c) Upon receiving the accepted recommendation from the Church Council, the GA shall provide a **Notice to the Congregation** to the said church and proceed to act upon the provisions appropriately as demanded in Chapter 2 Article 19 Section 2 (a) and (b) of this Bylaws.

Section 4 Regional Coordination Council's Recommendations

- (a) Annually, a Regional Coordination Council will evaluate the necessity to add ordained ministers, such as, elders, deacons, or deaconesses to minister to the spiritual need of the local churches. When such a need has been established and a suitable candidate is available from the local church, the Regional Coordination Council shall recommend the candidate to that local Church Council for consideration.
- (b) Upon receipt of the recommendation from the Regional Coordination Council, the local Church Council, will give due considerations to the recommendation. If the Church Council rejects the recommendation, the Church Council will notify the Regional Coordination Council by letter giving reasons for its rejection. If the Church Council approves the nomination, the Church Council will forward the recommendation to the USGA for endorsement of the recommendation.
- (c) The USGA, after giving due considerations of the recommendation, shall notify the local Church Council by letter of its decision whether or not to endorse the candidate. If the GA endorses the recommendation, the GA shall notify the local Church Council and provide the Church Council with a **Notice to the Congregation** for implementation in accordance with Article 26, Section 2 (a) and (b) of this Bylaws.

Section 5 Ordinations

The approbation to ordain the candidate by the congregation shall remain in effect for a period of one year but shall become null and void when the ordination is not processed

within the one-year period. However, such candidacy may be revived but subject to the procedures of ordination again as prescribed in this Article.

ARTICLE 20 DEPARTMENTS OF CHURCH COUNCIL

A local Church Council may be organized in one of the following models:

Model 1: Three-Department Setting

(This model is recommended to Churches of less than fifty members)

- Religious Affairs Department
- General Affairs Department
- Financial Affairs Department

Model 2: Four-Department Setting

(This model is recommended to Churches of less than 120 members)

- Evangelical Department
- Pastoral Department
- General Affairs Department
- Financial Affairs Department

Model 3: Six-Department Setting

(This model is recommended to Churches of 120 members or more)

- Evangelical Department
- Pastoral Department
- Education and Training Department
- Information and Literature Department
- Administrative Department
- Financial Affairs Department

ARTICLE 21 FUNCTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENTS

Section 1 The Religious Affairs Department (Model 1) is responsible for evangelical and pastoral works, religious education, Bible studies, and all other religious matters which require the services of the Religious Affairs Department.

Section 2 The Evangelical Department (Models 2 & 3) is responsible for all matters concerning evangelism, whether in the church, through multimedia or other methods, and the provision and supervision of services which are evangelical in nature.

Section 3 The Pastoral Department (Models 2 & 3) is responsible of pastoral works, including pastoring the members, religious education (for Model 2 only), counseling, and all matters concerning pastoral in nature.

Section 4 The Education and Training Department ((Model 3) is responsible for educating the members in biblical knowledge; education materials, planning,

designing, and implementing of training programs in accordance with the needs of the members.

Section 5 **The Information and Literature Department (Model 3)** is responsible for the dissemination of information, distribution of religious literary materials, minutes recording, general correspondence, documents, membership records, and other matters which require the effort of the this Department.

Section 6 **The General Affairs Department (Models 1 & 2)** is responsible for minutes recording, general correspondence, safe custody of the church seal, properties, archives, documents, membership records, and other matters which require the effort of the General Affairs Department.

Section 7 **The Administrative Department (Model 3)** is responsible for procurement, property maintenance, safe custody of the church seal, and other matters which require the effort of the Administrative Department.

Section 8 **The Financial Affairs Department (All Models)**

- (1) Financial Affairs Department is responsible for receipts and disbursements, keeping of financial records, preparing budgets, monthly or quarterly financial reports, and financial statements.
- (2) All checks for disbursement must be signed by two council members, one of which from the Financial Affairs Department.

ARTICLE 22 **DEPARTMENT OFFICERS**

Section 1 **Elections**

Based on the local church's model setting, the congregation may choose a number of department officers from among qualified members during a General Meeting to serve in the Church Council.

Section 2 **Qualified Members**

- (a) Qualified members are eligible candidates for the election of Church Council as prescribed in Chapter 2 Article 23 Section 1 of this Bylaws.
- (b) Qualified members in this case exclude lay ministers in residence.

Section 3 **Department Coordinators**

The Church Council may select from the lay ministers in residence and the elected department officers as department coordinators.

ARTICLE 23 **QUALIFICATIONS OF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS**

Section 1 Department Officers must have attained the age of twenty-five and have been members of the True Jesus Church for at least three years and must be members of good repute, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom (Acts 6:3). Besides being a legal resident, the officer of the Council must also have continuously lived in the locality

under the local church jurisdiction for at least six months and have the intention to continuing his or her residency there.

- The **six months** period of legal residency is to be reckoned from the date of domicile in the locality to the date of the election.

Section 2 Resident Full-time Minister

The resident full-time Minister is exempted from holding an office in the Church Council; however, he is a de facto member of the council with voting rights.

ARTICLE 24 TERMS OF OFFICE OF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Unless it is for the best interest of the church, the term of a Department Officer may be two years, and a Department Officer may not serve more than three consecutive terms.

ARTICLE 25 VACANCIES OF OFFICES

Section 1 A vacancy created as a result of resignation, death, or expulsion may be filled by (1) a special election, or, (2) by the reserves of the last election results, if the congregation so decides in a General Meeting.

Section 2 Vacancies on Council

- (a) A **vacancy** of a council member may occur as a result of death, resignation, removal or the increase of the authorized number of council members.
- (b) **Filling vacancies** Vacancies on the Council may be filled by the existent Council Members, the reserves of the last election results, or by re-election.
- (c) **Terms of the Reserves**
 - i) The reserves shall serve as a Council Member till the end of the remaining term.
 - ii) When the period of the remaining term is more than one-half of the full term, it shall be counted as a full term toward the reserves' re-election terms.

ARTICLE 26 HONORARY OFFICES

All Church Council members are honorary. No remuneration, with the exception of incidental expenses, shall be paid to any of the members.

ARTICLE 27 AUDITORS

Section 1 During election in the General Meeting, two auditors, who are not immediate family members of the Financial Affairs Department officer(s), shall be elected to audit financial accounts. The auditors must have been members of the True Jesus Church for at least three years and must be members of good repute, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom (Acts 6:3).

Section 2 Terms of Office of an Auditor

The term of office of an auditor shall be the same as that of the other Department Officer.

ARTICLE 28 **FACILITY USE, FACILITY ACCESS, & PROGRAM PARTICIPATION**

Neither property nor facilities owned by the Church (or used with permission obtained by the Church) shall be used by any person or entity intending to use the facility for purposes that undermine the Church’s doctrine, belief, principles and mission.

With the exception of Church assigned workers, access to facilities that are designated for use by only one gender is exclusively limited to individuals who are persons of that gender.

With the exception of Church assigned workers, participation in any program or activity that is limited to individuals of one gender is exclusively limited to individuals who are persons of that gender.

The Church reserves the right to decide who shall be eligible to participate in any program or activity; and be granted access to facilities.

CHAPTER 3 **AMENDMENTS**

ARTICLE 1 The foregoing bylaws may be revised, amended, or repealed during the National Church Conference with the approval of two-thirds of the eligible voters.