

BYLAW HANDBOOK AMENDMENT

AMENDMENT | This Church [name of church may be inserted as an alternative] acknowledges that it has operated as an affiliated church with the Association of Vineyard Churches (also known as Vineyard USA, VUSA) and will strive to maintain the unity of faith by seeking to establish bonds of fellowship and cooperation. This Church acknowledges the VineyardUSA National Leadership Handbook (Handbook) and the procedures and policies contained therein as the authority providing guidance and instruction on matters defining the relationship between Vineyard USA, Vineyard pastors, and Vineyard churches. Where this Church's bylaws and the Handbook require reconciliation, the spirit and intent of the Handbook shall establish the standards expected of this Church as a member of Vineyard USA.

Regarding matters that currently define the relationship between Vineyard USA, Vineyard pastors, and Vineyard churches:

- **LOCAL CHURCH GOVERNANCE** - Vineyard USA affirms the right of this Church to govern its affairs in a spirit of unity and with the awareness of its interdependence on and connection to Vineyard USA and the Body of Christ.
- **TRADEMARK LICENSE** - The commitments as previously agreed to in the Trademark License shall remain in effect until and/or unless explicitly revised and ratified as required by the Handbook. These commitments include:
 - **CONDUCT:** Conduct consistent with Vineyard USA's "core values," "statement of faith," and any other formal or informal theological or ecclesiastical position taken by Vineyard USA,
 - **LOGO AGREEMENT:** Having authorization to use the logo of the national association in the provision of those services and wherever the name "Vineyard" is used or displayed provided this Church complies with the terms and conditions set out in the Trade Name and Trademark License Agreement.
 - **REQUIRED INSURANCE COVERAGE:** Submitting a certificate of general liability insurance coverage upon request by Vineyard USA. In any circumstance when this Church is not covered by a general liability insurance policy, it will provide Vineyard USA with documentation indicating why it has been denied coverage.
 - **3% CONTRIBUTION:** This Church shall contribute 3% of its general fund to Vineyard USA (VUSA) annually.
- **PROPERTY** - All property, both real and personal, owned by this Church now and in the future, is and shall be solely and exclusively owned by this Church and, consistent with respective state law, shall not be subject to any trust interest or any other claim of ownership by Vineyard USA or any other ecclesiastical jurisdiction to which this Church may now or in the future be subject.
- **STATEMENT OF FAITH** - The Handbook delegates authority to the Leadership Council to ratify changes to the Statement of Faith (SOF). The current SOF remains in effect until and/or unless explicitly revised and ratified by the Council.
- **POSITION PAPERS** - Positions Papers previously published by Vineyard USA continue to provide guidance and instruction until and/or unless explicitly revised.

NOT REQUIRED AS PART OF THE AMENDMENT BUT MAY BE ADDED AS DESIRED

RATIFICATION PROCESS & RESPONSIBILITIES - This Church understands that the Handbook is intended to be a sufficient accompaniment to the Vineyard USA Bylaws, and which purposed in Section 20 of the Bylaws, shall govern the matters described therein, may be updated from time to time. Changes to the Leadership Handbook shall be approved by the Board of Trustees and presented in a timely manner to the Leadership Council for ratification. This Church understands that the Handbook delegates authority to the Leadership Council to ratify changes to the Vineyard USA National Leadership Handbook. This Church further understands that the Leadership Council consists of all Regional Leaders, all Association Leaders, and all Area Leaders.

RATIFICATION SCHEDULE - Vineyard USA intends to ratify Handbook policies and procedures every two (2) years at the annual Leadership Council Meeting. In March 2024, the Leadership Council ratified version 2.0 of the Handbook. Vineyard USA is working to ratify version 3.0 in Spring of 2026 and version 4.0 in Spring of 2028. 2026 proposed amendments will be communicated to all active Senior Pastors on or before September 1, 2025. Current amendments to the Handbook being considered for 2026 include:

- The process of Selecting a National Director
- The process of Planting (Starting) a Vineyard church or campus/site
- The process of Adopting into Vineyard USA
- The process of Closing a Vineyard church
- The process of Disassociating from Vineyard USA
- The process of Discipline and Restoration of ordained Vineyard pastors
- The process for Transferring of Ordination Credential