

**Constitution and Bylaws  
Thornysdale Family Church  
A Non-Profit Corporation in the State of Arizona  
(Revised October 2015)**

**Article I**

**Name**

This Church shall be known as Thornysdale Family Church, located in Tucson, Arizona.

**Article II**

**Purpose**

The purpose of this Church shall be to make and develop disciples of Jesus Christ (*Matthew 28:18-20*) through:

- 1) Magnification – we celebrate God's presence in worship
- 2) Membership – we incorporate God's family into our fellowship
- 3) Maturity – we educate God's people through discipleship
- 4) Ministry – we demonstrate God's love through service
- 5) Mission – we communicate God's love through evangelism

The Church is organized for exclusively religious purposes.

**Article III**

**Affiliations**

This Church is autonomous and maintains the right to govern its own affairs, independent of any denominational control. This Church is in fellowship with Conservative Baptist organizations, both local and national, and may continue to cooperate with such organizations as long as they are in agreement with the policies and **Statement of Faith** of this Church. The Church may also cooperate with and offer financial support to other organizations or individuals who are in agreement with the policies and **Statement of Faith** of this Church.

**Article IV**

**Statement of Faith**

**1. The Word of God**

We believe the Bible is God's written revelation to man. It is composed of sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament. It is verbally inspired in every word, and absolutely inerrant in the original documents. We affirm the infallibility, sufficiency, and authority of Scripture. We affirm its supreme infallibility in all matters of faith and conduct.

**2. The Trinity**

We believe That there is but one Living and true God, an infinite, all-knowing Spirit, perfect in all His attributes, one in essence, eternally existing in three Persons - the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - each co-equal and co-eternal with the same power and glory, having the same attributes and perfections.

**3. God the Father**

We believe in God, the Father, an infinite personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that he concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that he hears and answers prayers and that he saves from sin and death all that come to Him through Jesus Christ.

**4. Jesus Christ**

We believe that Jesus Christ is God's only begotten Son, and has precisely the same nature, attributes and perfection as God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. We believe that He is not only true God but also a true Man, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born from a virgin. We also believe in His sinless life, His substitutionary atonement, His bodily resurrection from the dead, His ascension into heaven His priestly intercession on behalf of his people, and His personal visible return from heaven.

## **5. The Holy Spirit**

We believe the Holy Spirit is a person and is fully God. As the supernatural and sovereign Agent in regeneration, the Holy Spirit baptizes all believers into the Body of Christ at the moment of salvation. The Holy Spirit also indwells, sanctifies, instructs, empowers them for service, and seals them unto the day of redemption.

## **6. Regeneration**

We believe that every person is a sinner by nature and by choice and is, therefore, under condemnation. We believe that those who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are regenerated by the Holy Spirit. We believe that the salvation of man, who is sinful and lost, is instantaneous and accomplished solely by the power of the Holy Spirit through the instrumentality of the Word of God when the repentant sinner - enabled by the Holy Spirit - responds in faith. This salvation is wholly of God by grace on the basis of the redeeming work of Jesus Christ, the merit of His shed blood, and not on the basis of human merit or works. All Christians are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever.

## **7. The Church**

We believe that all who put their faith in Jesus Christ are immediately placed by the Holy Spirit into one united spiritual Body, the church, of which Christ is the head. The purpose of the church is to glorify God by building its members up in the faith, by instruction of the word, by fellowship, by keeping the ordinances, and by advancing and communicating the gospel to the entire world. The formation of the church, the Body of Christ, began on the Day of Pentecost and will be completed at the coming of Christ for His own at the rapture. We believe in the local church consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on credible profession of faith and associated for worship, discipleship, ministry, fellowship, and evangelism.

## **8. Priesthood of the believer**

We believe in the priesthood of all believers; that Christ is our great high priest and through Him every born again person has direct access into God's presence without the need of a human priest. The believer, as guided by the Holy Spirit, has the right and responsibility to personally study and apply the Scriptures.

## **9. End times**

We believe in the bodily resurrection of both the saved and the unsaved; the saved unto the resurrection of life and the unsaved unto the resurrection of damnation.

## **10. Ordinances**

We believe the local church has been given two ordinances: baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that baptism is by immersion of believers, thus portraying the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. We believe that the Lord's Supper is the partaking of bread and the cup by the believer as a continuing memorial of the broken body and shed blood of Christ.

## **11. Marriage**

We believe that marriage is the sacred union of one man and one woman in an exclusive covenant commitment for their joint lifetime. Marriage was established by God at creation and is essentially rooted in the created order and is a representation of Jesus' relationship to the church. We believe that all sexual relations are to be exercised solely within such a marriage relationship.

### **Article V Marriage**

Christian wedding ceremonies on Church property are spiritual observances of worship of God who created marriage. As worship services, weddings on Church property shall be officiated by one or more ordained ministers of the gospel approved by the Elders.

The Church may decline to make its facilities or ministers available for any wedding if it is determined by the Elders that one or both of the parties are not biblically qualified to marry. The Church may also decline to participate in or recognize in any manner any marriage, so-called marriage, civil union, commitment ceremony or other activity which may, directly or indirectly affirm, approve or communicate behavior or beliefs which are contrary to the Statement of Faith. No officer or employee of the Church shall officiate at any marriage or similar ceremony unless such event or ceremony is consistent with this policy.

## **Article VI Church Membership**

### **Section 1: Membership**

Membership in Thornydale Family Church shall be open to all persons who confess Christ as their Lord and Savior, who have been baptized by immersion subsequent to their salvation, and have completed the following requirements for membership:

- (a) Attended a new member orientation
- (b) Read and agreed to abide by the Statement of Faith and the Bylaws
- (c) Been approved by a unanimous vote of the Board of Elders

Subsequent to approval by the Board of Elders, new members shall be presented to the church body at a regularly scheduled devotional meeting.

### **Section 2: Denial of Membership**

The Board of Elders has complete authority to deny a person membership if they determine that the applicant does not confess Jesus Christ as his or her Lord and Savior, or that there is a lack of evidence of a godly lifestyle. The decision made by the Board shall be final and there shall be no appeal to any court from that decision.

### **Section 3: Associate Members**

Missionaries who are members of another local church for the purpose of receiving financial support and others who temporarily reside in the Tucson area and are members of another local church, may apply to become Associate Members. The requirements for Associate Members are the same as those set forth in Section 1 above. Associate Members shall have all the rights and responsibilities of any other member.

### **Section 4: Responsibilities of Members**

Each member shall be privileged and expected to participate in and contribute to the ministry and life of the Church, consistent with God's leading and with the gifts, time, and material resources each has received from God.

### **Section 5: Church Discipline**

- (a) The threefold purpose of church discipline is to glorify God by maintaining purity in the local church (1 Corinthians 5:6), to edify believers by deterring sin (1 Timothy 5:20), and to promote the spiritual welfare of the offending believer by calling him or her to return to a biblical standard of doctrine and conduct (Galatians 6:1).
- (b) Members of this church and all other professing Christians who regularly attend or fellowship with this church who err in doctrine, or who engage in conduct that violates Scripture as determined by the Board of Elders, shall be subject to church discipline, including dismissal, according to Matthew 18:15-18. If the Board of Elders determines - after thorough investigation in accord with the procedures prescribed by pertinent Scripture, including Matthew 18:15-18 and 1 Timothy 5:19 - that there is corroborating evidence that the erring individual has sinned or is continuing to sin, that he or she has been appropriately confronted, and that he or she has refused to repent, then the Elders shall have the right to remove such person from the membership of the church by a unanimous vote. If the erring individual, after such dismissal, heeds the warning, demonstrates repentance, and requests reinstatement before the Board of Elders, then he or she shall be publicly restored to all the rights, duties, privileges, and responsibilities of fellowship and/or membership upon a unanimous vote of the Board of Elders.

- (c) The members of this church, and all other professing Christians who regularly attend or fellowship with this church, agree that there shall be no appeal to any court because of the dismissal or because of public statements to the congregation in the process of church discipline.

#### **Section 6: Termination of Membership**

Membership shall be terminated upon any of the following:

- (a) Death,
- (b) Voluntary resignation by any member,
- (c) Except as provided for in Section 3 above, becoming a member of another local church, or
- (d) Separate and apart from the process of church discipline, but subject to the discretion and approval of the Elders, the names of any members who have not attended worship services regularly may be removed from the membership roll by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Elders.

### **Article VII Elders**

#### **Section 1: Number and Term**

The Elders of the Church shall consist of the Senior Pastor and not less than two other men who satisfy the qualifications for the office of elder according to 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. Elders who are not part of the Pastoral Staff, as defined in Article VIII, Section 6, shall serve for a three year term. Elders who are part of the Pastoral Staff shall serve with no time limit until resignation or removal from the Pastoral Staff.

#### **Section 2: Qualifications of Elders**

All Elders who are not part of the Pastoral Staff shall be members of the Church for at least one (1) year prior to their election. An Elder shall be a man of exemplary Christian character whose life conforms to the qualifications for his office as set forth in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. He must be serving in ministry, shepherding, and overseeing. Being an Elder is a responsibility rather than a right. An Elder's primary role is not in exercising powers but in serving, ministering, teaching, and shepherding. Each Elder must have demonstrated his commitment, giftedness, and abilities in these areas and must throughout his ministry as an Elder continue to minister in these capacities.

#### **Section 3: Election of Elders**

Upon unanimous approval by the Board of Elders, candidates for the office of Elder may be presented to the Church for election at any regular or special meeting of the Church. An Elder shall be elected by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of a quorum of members present at a meeting of the membership.

#### **Section 4: Removal of Elders**

Any Elder may be removed from office at any regular or special meeting if he is found to be physically or mentally incapacitated or spiritually unqualified (according to Scripture, including 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9). His removal must be agreed upon by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Elders and subsequently by a majority vote of a quorum of members present at a meeting of the membership.

#### **Section 5: Powers**

- (a) General Powers. Subject to the provisions and limitations of Arizona law and any limitations in the Articles of Incorporation and these Bylaws, the activities, business, and affairs of the Church shall be conducted and all corporate powers shall be exercised by or under the direction of the Elders who are responsible for shepherding and having oversight of the church.
- (b) Specific Powers. Without prejudice to the general powers set forth above, and subject to same limitations, the Elders shall have the following powers in addition to the other powers enumerated by these Bylaws:
  - (1) Select and remove all officers, agents and employees of the Church except for the Senior Pastor; prescribe any powers and duties for them that are consistent with law, the Scripture, with the Articles of Incorporation and with these Bylaws.

- (2) To make such disbursements from the funds and properties of the Church as are required to fulfill the purposes of this Church as are more fully set out in the Articles of Incorporation, thereof and generally to conduct, manage, and control the activities and affairs of the Church and to make such rules and regulations consistent with the Scriptures, with law, with the Articles of Incorporation, or with these Bylaws, as they may deem best. The Elders shall not make any unbudgeted disbursement that is greater than an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total budgeted expenditures of the Church without the approval of the membership.
- (3) Adopt, make and use a corporate seal and alter the form of the seal.
- (4) Exercise all other powers conferred by Arizona Law or other applicable laws.

## **Article VIII Meetings of the Elders**

### **Section 1: Place of Meetings**

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary provided in these Bylaws, any meeting (whether regular or special) of the Board of Elders of the Church may be held at any place within or without the State of Arizona. Any meeting, regular or special, may be held by conference telephone or similar communication equipment, as long as all Elders participating in the meeting can hear one another. All such Elders shall be deemed to be present in person at such meeting.

### **Section 2: Regular Meetings**

Regular meetings of the Elders may be held without notice if the time and place of such meetings are fixed by resolution of the Elders.

### **Section 3: Special Meetings**

Special meetings of the Elders may be called for any purpose and at any time by the Senior Pastor or by a majority of the Board of Elders.

### **Section 4: Quorum**

Except as otherwise provided herein, a majority of the Elders currently serving shall constitute a quorum.

### **Section 5: Action Without Meeting**

Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Board may be taken without a meeting if all members of the Board shall individually or collectively consent in writing to a duly prepared resolution to such action. Such consent or consents shall have the same effect as a unanimous vote of the Board and shall be documented by attaching the signed resolution with the minutes of proceedings of the Board.

### **Section 6: Rights of Inspection**

Every Elder shall have the absolute right at any reasonable time to inspect and copy all books, records, and documents of every kind and to inspect the physical properties of the Church for a purpose reasonably related to such person's interest as an Elder.

### **Section 7: Decisions of the Board of Elders**

Decisions shall be reached after prayerful consideration by unanimous agreement in a spirit of humility, with each Elder regarding one another before himself. (Exceptions are specified elsewhere in these bylaws.

## **Article IX Church Staff/Officers**

### **Section 1: Officers**

The officers of the Church shall be a Senior Pastor, Pastoral Staff, Deacons, Clerk, and a Treasurer. The Elders, by majority vote, shall appoint a Moderator for each meeting of the church.

## **Section 2: Selection of Officers**

When there is a vacancy in the Senior Pastor office, the existing Elders will conduct a search for a Senior Pastor and upon unanimous approval present their recommendation to the church. The selection of a new Senior Pastor must be voted on by the members at a membership meeting. Voting by proxy is prohibited. A seventy-five percent (75%) approval by a quorum of the members present is necessary to select a new Senior Pastor. All other officers of the Church shall be chosen by the Elders, and each shall serve at the pleasure of the Elders, subject to the rights, if any, of an officer under any contract of employment.

## **Section 3: Term**

The Senior Pastor shall remain in office an indefinite period of time unless recommended for dismissal by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Elders and approved by a majority vote of a quorum of the members present at a special membership meeting as described in Section 4 below. The Senior Pastor must give one month's notice if he intends to resign. The time limit of the Senior Pastor's resignation is subject to a lesser time if both the Senior Pastor and the Elders by mutual agreement provide otherwise.

All other officers shall serve for a term to be determined by the Board of Elders.

## **Section 4: Removal of Officers**

The Senior Pastor may only be removed by a majority vote of a quorum of the members present at a special membership meeting called for this purpose. The following process must first be followed:

1. Two or more witnesses must present evidence to the other Elders of the church that there is Biblical cause to remove the Senior Pastor.
2. Should Biblical cause be determined, the other Elders of the church shall hold a meeting of the Elders for the purpose of calling a special meeting of the members to remove the Senior Pastor. The call for a special membership meeting for the purpose of removing the Senior Pastor must be by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all the Elders (excluding the Senior Pastor).

Subject to the rights, if any, of an officer under any contract of employment, all other officers may be removed by the Elders, at any regular or special meeting of the Elders by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all the Elders.

## **Section 5: Senior Pastor**

The Senior Pastor shall be the Elder who is primarily responsible for the preaching and teaching of God's Word. He shall, in concert with the other Elders, exercise oversight over the spiritual life of the church and administer the ordinances.

## **Section 6: Pastoral Staff**

The Pastoral Staff shall consist of persons who have been selected by the Elders to assist the Senior Pastor in the carrying out of his duties. The Pastoral Staff shall serve with and be subject to the Elders in the fulfillment of their responsibilities. Members of the Pastoral Staff may be elected as Elders in accordance with Article VI, provided that they meet all the qualifications, with the exception of the requirement to be a member of the church for at least one (1) year.

## **Section 7: Deacons/Deaconesses**

The Elders may appoint one or more Deacons/Deaconesses from time to time to assist the Elders in their ministry so that the Elders may devote their time and energies to the spiritual needs of the Church. The deacons/deaconesses shall care for the temporal needs of members, attend to the accommodations for public worship and provide assistance with the administration of the church facilities and resources. Deacons/deaconesses shall be men and women of exemplary Christian character whose life conforms to the qualifications set forth in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. Deacons/deaconesses shall serve at the pleasure of the Elders for a term to be determined by the Elders.

**Section 8: Clerk**

The Clerk shall keep record the minutes of all regular and special meetings of the church, and maintain an accurate record of membership. For purposes of compliance with the Laws of the State of Arizona, the Clerk shall also serve as the Secretary of the Church.

**Section 9: Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall maintain accurate records of all receipts and disbursements, and give an accurate report of the Church's financial status on a regular basis as requested by the Elders. The Treasurer shall not be a signer on any of the church accounts or otherwise be authorized to disburse or handle church funds.

**Article X  
Meetings**

**Section 1: Devotional Meetings**

Public worship services shall be held regularly on Sundays and at other times as determined by the Board of Elders

**Section 2: Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year of the Church shall begin each year on October 1 and terminate on September 30 of the following year. The Church shall continue to operate on the basis of the previous year's budget until the adoption of the new budget at the Annual Meeting.

**Section 3: Regular Meetings**

A regular Annual Meeting of the church members shall be held in October of each year. At such regular annual meeting, the members shall consider reports of the operations of the Church, approve the annual budget and transact such other business as the Elders determine shall be brought before the meeting.

**Section 4: Special Business Meetings**

Special meetings of the members may be called at any time by the Senior Pastor, or by a majority of the members of the Board of Elders.

**Section 5: Notice of Meetings**

Notice of regular meetings shall be given from the pulpit by the Pastor for two successive Sundays prior to the meeting. In addition thereto, notice shall be published in the regular church bulletin for two successive Sundays prior to such meeting. Notice of special meetings shall be given from the pulpit at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting and shall also be published in the regular church bulletin on the Sunday immediately preceding the meeting.

**Section 6: Quorum**

Fifteen percent (15%) of the current members eighteen (18) years of age or older shall constitute a quorum. Members, including Associate Members, eighteen (18) years of age or older, who are not under Church discipline shall be entitled to vote at any Regular or Special Business Meeting. Voting by proxy is not permitted. Except as otherwise provided herein, all matters shall be decided by a majority vote.

**Article XI  
Ordination, Licensing, and Commissioning**

**Section 1: Ordination**

Ordination refers to the unanimous recognition by the Board of Elders of a man's call to the ministry, preparation as a shepherd, and qualification to serve. Ordination shall be conferred for life, so long as the man continues to manifest the qualifications of the office.

**Section 2: Licensing**

A license to ministry may be issued by the Board of Elders and is given in recognition of a man's call to that ministry. Its aim is to allow a man to perform the ecclesiastical duties and functions of the church. Licenses will be evaluated and issued on a yearly basis.

### **Section 3: Commissioning**

When local-church certification is required for ministry where ordination would be unnecessary or inappropriate, a person is commissioned by the Board of Elders to minister. This authorization continues as long as the opportunity to minister remains in effect and as long as the person maintains the qualifications for ministry.

## **Article XII Church Records and Reports**

### **Section 1: Records**

The Church shall maintain adequate and correct accounts, books, and records of its business and properties.

### **Section 2: Inspection of Books and Records**

Every Elder shall have the absolute right at any reasonable time to inspect all books, records, documents of every kind, and the physical properties of the Church, and also of its subsidiary organizations, if any.

## **Article XIII Dissolution**

Upon dissolution of this Church, the Board of Elders shall cause the assets herein to be distributed to another Corporation with purposes and Statement of Faith consistent to those identified in Articles II and III of these Bylaws.

## **Article XIV Miscellaneous Provisions**

### **Section 1: Instruments in Writing**

All checks, drafts, demands for money and notes of the Church and all written contracts of the Church shall be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents, as the Board of Elders may from time to time by resolution designate.

### **Section 2: Assets**

The properties and assets of this non-profit organization are irrevocably dedicated to religious or charitable purposes. No part of the net earnings, properties or assets of this organization, no dissolution or otherwise, shall inure to the benefit of any private person or individual or any member of this organization. On liquidation or distribution of all properties, assets, and obligations shall be distributed and paid to an organization dedicated to charitable purposes, provided that the organization is dedicated to the exempt purposes as specified in the Internal Revenue Code Section 501 (c) , (3).

### **Section 3: Property Rights**

The church will have power to buy, own, and sell real property in its own name. Should condition arise when, for any reason, the church can't continue to exist, the church property and the assets will be distributed to exclusively religious or charitable organization whose purposes are within those specified in section 501 (c), (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

### **Section 4: Indemnification**

The Church shall indemnify any and all persons who may serve or who have served at any time as officers against any and all expenses, including amounts paid upon judgments, counsel fees, and amounts paid in settlement (before or after suit is commenced) actually and necessarily incurred by such person in connection with the defense or settlement of any claim, action, suit, or proceeding in which they, or any of them, are made parties, or a party, or which may be asserted against all of them or any of them, by reason of having been officers, except in relation to matters as to which any such officer or former officer shall be adjudged in any action, suit, or proceeding to be liable for his or her own negligence or misconduct in the performance of his or her duties. Such indemnification shall be in addition to any other rights to which those indemnified may be entitled under any law, bylaw, agreement, or otherwise.

**Article XV  
Amendments**

**Section 1: How to Amend**

This Constitution and these Bylaws may be amended and new and additional Bylaws may be made at any time by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of a quorum of members present and voting at any regular or special business meeting provided the notice of such changes shall have been published in a conspicuous place at least two weeks prior to the meeting, and announced publicly from the pulpit at least two Sundays prior to the meeting.

**Section 2: Previous Constitution and Bylaws**

This Constitution and Bylaws shall serve as a complete revocation and cancellation of all Constitutions and Bylaws of the Thornydale Family Church previously existing, it being the intention herewith to substitute this Constitution and Bylaws of Thornydale Family Church effective October 22, 2006.