



BYLAWS

of

Harris Prairie
Church of Christ
of St. Joseph County, Inc.

14719 State Road 23
Granger, IN 46530

February 2010



harris prairie

church of christ

BYLAWS

ARTICLE 1 – Statement of Faith	3
Section 1. The Trinity.....	3
Section 2. The Scriptures.....	3
Section 3. Salvation.....	3
Section 4. The Christian Life.....	4
Section 5. The Church.....	4
Section 6. Eschatology.....	4
ARTICLE 2 – Name and Location	5
ARTICLE 3 – Purpose	5
ARTICLE 4 – Church Membership	5
Section 1. Members.....	5
Section 2. Eligibility.....	5
Section 3. Membership Application.....	6
Section 4. Requirements and Roles of Active Members.....	6
Section 5. Privileges of Membership.....	6
Section 6. Termination of Membership.....	7
Section 7. Dispute Resolution.....	7
ARTICLE 5 – Church Governance	8
Section 1. The Board of Elders.....	8
Section 2. Corporate Officer.....	14
Section 3. Senior Minister.....	15
Section 4. The Professional Staff.....	16
Section 5. Ministry Leaders.....	16
ARTICLE 6 – Ordination	17
ARTICLE 7 – Congregational Meeting	17
ARTICLE 8 – Legal Aspects of the Church	18

ARTICLE I

Statement of Faith

Section 1: The Trinity

It is the testimony of both Testaments and of the Christian Church that God is both One and Triune. The Biblical revelation testifies that there is only one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and that these persons are of the same, unified nature.

A. God the Father.

God the Father is the Creator and sustainer of all things, who created the universe out of his love in order that it might respond to him. He created man in his own image for fellowship, and calls man back to himself through Christ after the rebellion and fall of man.

B. The Son.

Jesus Christ is eternally God. He has been together with the Father and the Holy Spirit from the beginning and through him all things were made. For man's redemption, he left heaven and became incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary.

C. The Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is God, the Lord and giver of life, who was active in the Old Testament and given to the Church in fullness at Pentecost. He empowers believers for service and witness, cleanses man from the old nature, and conforms us to the image of Christ. He is our encourager, comforter, and guide.

Section 2: The Scriptures

We affirm that the Bible containing the Old and New Testaments is the only inspired Word of God, and that its authority is ultimate, final, and eternal. It cannot be added to, subtracted from, or superseded in any regard. The Bible is the source of all doctrine, instruction, correction and reproof. It contains all that is necessary for guidance in godliness and practical Christian conduct.

Section 3: Salvation

The heart of Christian faith is found in the saving act of God toward humans in Jesus Christ. The Word of God declares clearly that salvation is a free gift of God, based on the merits of the death and resurrection of his Son, and is appropriated by faith. Salvation is conveyed by personal repentance, belief in the Lord Jesus, and personal acceptance of him into one's life as Lord and Savior through the renewing act of baptism. We believe that a normal conversion in the New Testament includes faith in Christ, repentance of sin, confession of Jesus as Lord and Savior and baptism, by immersion, into him -- we would ask any believer who has not been baptized by immersion to submit to that New Testament form before becoming a member of Harris Prairie Church of Christ. The new life in Christ includes the privileges of adoption and inheritance in the Kingdom of God's beloved Son. Repentance is an act of free will in response to God's personal love for

humans. Our salvation is predestined only in the sense that God, through his omniscience, foreknew those who would choose him. It is secure in the eternal unchanging commitment of God, who does not lie and is forever the same. Salvation should produce an active lifestyle of loving obedience and service to Jesus Christ our Savior.

Section 4: The Christian Life

We believe that the Scriptures portray the life of the Christ follower in this world to be one of balance between what is imputed to us as Christians and what is imparted to us according to our faith and maturity. The shortcomings of the individual and of the Church result from the ever progressing growth of the believer. The Christian life is filled with trials, tests, and warfare against a spiritual enemy. For those abiding in Christ until their death or his return, the promises of eternal blessing in the presence of God are assured. To remain faithful through all circumstances of life requires dependence upon the Holy Spirit and a willingness to die to oneself.

Section 5: The Church

The goal of the Church is to make disciples of all nations and to present the believers as complete in Christ. The Church is governed by Jesus Christ as the active head of his church. He speaks through the Elders of the church as well as through other spiritual leaders. Church policy is a balance between congregation and Eldership authority, emphasizing the authority of the church leadership. It is essential to the life of the Church that scriptural patterns of discipline be practiced and that oversight for Church discipline, individual and corporate, be exercised by the leadership of the Church.

The Word of God enjoins on the Church two perpetual ordinances of the Lord Jesus Christ. Baptism is the outward sign of what God is doing in the individual's life, and is a commitment that the person will follow Jesus. Baptism allows believers to identify and participate with Jesus and is performed in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Lord's Supper is a celebration of the death and resurrection of the Lord and is done in remembrance of Him until He comes again. It is a sign of our participation in Him. Both institutions are restricted to those who are believers in Jesus as the Christ of God.

Section 6: Eschatology

We affirm the bodily, personal, second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, the bodily resurrection, and the final judgment. The final judgment will determine the eternal status of both the believers and the unbelievers, determined by their relationship to Jesus Christ. We affirm with the Bible the final state of the New Heavens and New Earth.

ARTICLE 2

Name and Location

The name of this Church shall be the Harris Prairie Church of Christ of St. Joseph County, Inc. 14719 State Road 23, Granger, Indiana 46530. The Elder Board may establish other offices and meeting places as they deem necessary for the accomplishment of the stated purpose of Harris Prairie Church of Christ.

ARTICLE 3

Purpose

The purpose of this Church shall be:

1. As revealed in the New Testament, to win people to faith in Jesus Christ; to commit them actively to his Church; to help them grow in grace and knowledge of Christ; to do his will.
2. To do all other things consistent with the provisions of the Indiana Not-For-Profit Corporation Act of 1971, as added by Acts 1971, P.L. 364, Section 1. P. 1499; which shall in no way interfere with the spiritual organization of the local church as given in the New Testament. This congregation shall continue as a local, self-governing New Testament Church and shall not be made, nor become subject to, an ecclesiastical organization or any outside Board whatsoever.

ARTICLE 4

Church Membership

Section 1: Members

The Corporation shall have only nonvoting members except in those matters that these bylaws specifically state that members are to vote or in such matters that the Elder Board deems necessary to take a vote. The members shall be prohibited from participating in the governance of the Corporation or voting in any way except as what is prescribed by these bylaws. Membership in this church shall not vest in any member any proprietary rights in the Corporation, but shall only entitle the member to vote at a meeting of the members on those matters that the Elder Board chooses to submit to the church membership for affirmation. In such cases, voting privileges are limited to members who are in good standing, who are not under any disciplinary action, and who have passed their sixteenth (16) birthday. Membership shall not be assignable inter vivos by any member nor shall membership vest to any personal representative, heir, or devisee.

Section 2: Eligibility

Active membership in the Harris Prairie Church of Christ (HPCC) shall be open to all persons who confess Christ as their Lord and Savior and who have been baptized by

immersion. Any person, regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, spiritual background or economic status, may become a member of Harris Prairie Church of Christ who is in alignment with its purpose and membership requirements. HPCC shall be made up of individuals, hereafter called members, who meet the following requirements:

1. They publicly confess that they have accepted Jesus Christ as both savior and Lord of their lives.
2. They agree that the Harris Prairie Church of Christ is the local body through which they will serve and worship God.
3. They have either previously been or are willing to accept believer's baptism. Believer's baptism is the immersion in water of any person who has believed in Jesus Christ as their savior, who has confessed said belief publicly, and who has indicated a commitment to follow Jesus Christ as Lord.

Section 3: Membership Application

Admission to membership in the Harris Prairie Church of Christ shall be initiated by the person desiring membership. A Minister or Elder shall then meet with the applicant. Upon meeting the requirements set in Article 4, section 4, they shall be affirmed as a member in good standing.

Section 4: Requirements and Roles of Active Members

1. A personal commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in their life.
2. A baptized believer by immersion.
3. Substantial agreement with the Statement of Faith of Harris Prairie Church of Christ.
4. Submission to the decisions, vision, and direction established by the Elders of Harris Prairie Church of Christ. The member must be committed to working out problems or disagreements through communication and love. The member shall accept the decisions of the Board of Elders when the disagreement deals with questions that are not sin or violations of the law.
5. Completion of the New Membership Class in good standing.
6. When possible, the member shall be financially supportive of the church and its ministries.
7. Spiritually supportive of the vision and ministries of Harris Prairie Church of Christ.
8. Execution of a membership agreement and a yearly reaffirmation of the membership agreement.

Section 5: Privileges of Membership

The member has the privilege of being associated with this work of God and the

ministries of the Corporation. Members also have a right to express themselves when they are asked to vote or affirm the following:

- The Affirmation vote of a New Senior Minister
(See Article 5, Section 3. Number 6).
- Expressing Biblical Objections concerning an Elder or a nominated Elder
(See Article 5. Section 1. Number 7).
- Proposed amendments to and voting on changes to the Bylaws
(See Article 8. number 8).
- Voting on the sale or purchase of any property in excess of \$50,000
(See Article 5. Section 1. Number 15).
- Any membership vote that is called for by the Board of Elders
(See Article 4. Section 1).

Section 6: Termination of Membership

Membership may be terminated by:

1. Death
2. Inactivity in the Church's life, as defined by the Board of Elders
3. Transfer, upon request by the church with which the member desires to associate

OR

4. Disciplinary action, as set forth below:
 - a. Should any member of the Church be found flagrantly negligent in living the Christian life, the Church reserves the right to administer, through the Elder Board, Scriptural forms of discipline as outlined in Matthew 18:15-17 and 1 Corinthians 5:9-13.
 - b. Should faithful efforts by the Board of Elders render no promise of reform or manifest no spirit of repentance on the part of the member in question, membership may be terminated upon a three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) vote of the Board of Elders.
 - c. The reason for the termination shall be stated in a letter to the terminated member, sent by certified mail, return receipt requested.
 - d. The Elder Board may restore a person to membership terminated under Article 4, Section 6, 4.b. after it has received what it determines to be satisfactory evidence of the person's repentance and reformation.
5. Failure to reaffirm one's yearly reaffirmation commitment to Harris Prairie Church of Christ will automatically make the member inactive.

Section 7: Dispute Resolution

In any dispute arising between church members, elders, or staff pertaining to any matter of spiritual teaching or practices, church finances, or title to property purchased with church contributions, the dispute shall be resolved by the Elders of the Church. A decision shall be reached after prayerful consideration, in a spirit of humility, with each

elder regarding one another before himself and striving to preserve the Unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:1-3)

In any dispute between members relating to congregational activities, all parties involved will cooperate in good faith to resolve the dispute. The first appeal to resolve a dispute will be with the parties involved and the ministry leader, staff member or LifeLink leader who is involved with the parties. If the parties cannot resolve the dispute by these means, the second appeal will be to the Elders or its appointed committee. The parties understand that these methods shall be the sole remedy for any controversy, claim, or dispute arising between members relating to the congregation's activities, and they expressly waive their rights to file a lawsuit in any civil court against one another for such controversies, claims or disputes, except to enforce an arbitration decision or a criminal act.

ARTICLE 5

Church Governance

Section 1: The Board of Elders

1. Authority.

Elders are the spiritual leaders, overseers, and shepherds of the Congregation, and shall be examples of Godly living.

2. Accountability.

An Elder is accountable to Jesus Christ, his fellow Elder brothers, and the membership.

3. Responsibility.

The Board of Elders shall:

- a. Oversee the doctrine and spiritual welfare of the Congregation;
- b. Oversee all aspects of the Church and its ministries; and
- c. Seek and implement God's will for the Church.

4. Governance.

The Elder Board shall:

- a. Select a Chairman and such other officers as it determines are necessary to fulfill its responsibilities;
- b. Establish procedures for adopting and maintaining a record of resolutions and policies;
- c. Establish standing and ad hoc teams to help manage, direct, and coordinate the Church's ministries; and
- d. Designate individuals to serve as ministry leaders to help the Elder Board serve the body of Christ, as described in Acts 6:1-7.

5. Qualifications.

Men selected as elders shall:

- a. Meet the criteria set forth in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and 5:17-22, Titus 1:6-9, and 1 Peter 5:1-4; and
- b. Shall have been a member of the Church for at least two (2) years.

6. Composition.

The Elder Board shall be composed of at least three (3) elders, one of whom shall be the Senior Minister. With the understanding that the dual role of Minister/Elder is consistent with Scripture, the Senior Minister shall serve as an Elder of the Church. In this capacity he may also be compensated. The Senior Minister shall be a Minister/Elder. In addition to sharing in the spiritual oversight responsibilities entrusted to elders, the Minister/Elder will perform the duties for which he was called and is subject to the same governing relationship to the Elders as covered in Article 5, Section 3. The number of Elders shall be determined by the Board of Elders in a manner which best represents the Church's size and needs.

7. Appointment of Elders.

Any member of the church may submit a gifted man's name to the Chairman of the Elders or the Senior Minister during the month of January. Before submitting the name, the person should talk to the potential candidate to determine if he is interested in pursuing the position and if he believes he is called by God to serve. Upon receiving the nomination, the Chairman of the Elders shall give the nominee the Elder Candidate Questionnaire to complete. Upon completion of the questionnaire, the Elders will have a period of time to evaluate the nominee. During this time the Eldership will examine the nominee's qualifications, interview the nominee and possibly the nominee's family members, and have a season of prayer about the nominee. After the evaluation period has concluded, the Elder Board is to vote on the nominee. The selection of an Elder is a weighty matter and the Board of Elders shall strive to come to consensus and unity on the nominee. The Elder nominee must receive a 75% vote of the Elder Board to continue in the process. After receiving the approval of the Elder Board, the nominee shall be presented to the congregation by the Elder Board. The name of the nominee will remain before the congregation for a period of two weeks during which time any church member may present a signed letter stating why the nominee is scripturally unqualified and should not serve as an Elder. If a Biblical objection is proven to be true, the elder candidate will be disqualified from serving as an elder. The Board of Elders will be the final arbitrators of any biblical objections. After the 14 day waiting period, the Elders shall have a final vote on the nominee. If the nominee receives again 75% vote of the Elder Board, he may begin to serve as an Elder. The Elder Board may ask for nominations other times during the year, if they deem it necessary. The nomination process for Elders does not apply to the Senior Minister.

8. Term of Office.

An Elder's term of office is three (3) years. After the three years, the Elder can serve another three year term by receiving a 75% approval of the Elder Board and

having his name placed before the church again, provide there are no biblical objections. There is no limit to the number of three (3) year terms the Elder can serve. The Elder's term of office does not apply to the Senior Minister.

9. Elder Leave of Absence.

From time to time it may be necessary for an Elder to lay down his responsibilities for a period of time. This action would not involve removal from the Board of Elders but a "Leave of Absence" for a determined amount of time.

Voluntary Leave of Absence:

This is for health reasons or for temporary circumstances determined by the Board of Elders that prevent him from fulfilling his Elder responsibilities for a period of time.

Voluntary Leave of Absence shall be:

1. By request of the Elder,
2. For a determined period of time requested by the Elder,
3. Submitted to the Elder Board,
4. Activated by notification to the Elder Board in writing.

Involuntary Leave of Absence:

This is for reasons or circumstances which need attention, in an Elder's family, personal life, or spiritual life. Such situations left unattended would impair the Elder's ability to fulfill his oversight duties effectively and could lead to disqualification of his Elder role if not properly and promptly addressed. The motive of this Leave of Absence is protective for the Elder and his family so that they can respond to the situation free from continuing Elder responsibilities and public scrutiny.

Involuntary Leave of Absence shall be:

- a. Initiated because of situations which involve: illegal, immoral, or repeated un- Christ-like behavior by the spouse or children of the Elder which has public implications; marriage or family trauma related to the Elder that recurs over a period of time; other matters which might be out of the Elder's direct control but affect his reputation or character such as financial problems, business problems, etc.
- b. For a minimum of 90 days with review of all matters at the end of 90 days to determine progress and an appropriate time to resume Elder duties.
- c. With a return recommended by the Chairman of the Elders or Senior Minister to the Board of Elders with a determined time for responsibilities to be resumed.

10. Removal of an Elder.

An Elder will be asked to resign when he has been involved in a sinful pattern of

behavior that undermines the integrity of the Eldership, the Church, or God himself; or when he repeatedly shows a spirit of division and is continually “at odds” with the other members of the Eldership and the rest of the leadership team (elders and staff); or when the health of the Elder keeps him from functioning as an Elder. The structure for asking an Elder to resign is as follows:

- a. The Elder in question must be approached by one or more of the leadership team with the charge in question.
- b. The Elder will be given an opportunity to explain himself or repent.
- c. If the matter is not resolved, it is taken before the entire Eldership.
- d. The Eldership will try and resolve the matter.
- e. If the matter is not resolved, the Elder Board will vote on whether the Elder may continue.
- f. It takes a 75% majority vote of the Elder Board to remove the Elder. The Elder under consideration does not have a vote nor is he to be present in the room when the final vote is cast.

11. Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Elders shall be held the Second Tuesday of February at 6:00 p.m. in the registered office of the Corporation, unless the Chairman of the Elders notifies the Elders otherwise. The annual meeting of the Board of Elders may be held as described in this paragraph without notice other than these Bylaws. At this meeting, the Senior Minister is to call for the election of the Corporate officers and for the final approval of the operating budget.

12. Quorum

Eighty percent (80%) of active Elders in office shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board of Elders. The Elders present at a duly called or held meeting at which a quorum is present may continue to transact business even if enough Elders leave the meeting so that less than a quorum remains. However, no action may be approved without the vote of at least a majority of the number of Elders required to constitute a quorum. If a quorum is present at no time during a meeting, a majority of the Elders present may adjourn and reconvene the meeting one time without further notice.

13. Responsibilities and Authority

The Elders are servants of the Church who lead by giving spiritual guidance to the flock and working closely with Staff Ministers and Ministry Leaders to exercise the responsibilities God has entrusted to them as referenced in these and other scriptures:

- A. Direct the affairs of The Church – 1 Timothy 5:17,18
 - B. Shepherd the Flock - 1 Peter 5:2
 - C. Guard the Truth - Titus 1:9
- To carry out these responsibilities the Elders shall:
Provide general oversight of the Ministerial Staff in all areas; work closely with the Staff Ministers in the selection and development of Church leaders; provide oversight to the Ministry Leaders in the developing and nurturing of all Areas of Ministry; oversee the serving of the Lord’s supper; oversee the

visitation of the sick and disabled; show concern for the morally delinquent and spiritually indifferent; lead in the development of plans and policies which will enable the Church to fulfill its mission; be a source of encouragement by personal example; and perform such other duties as may be required to advance the Kingdom.

- The Elders have the primary responsibility for guiding the Church: therefore, anything which may substantially affect the spiritual well-being of the Church must ultimately come under their final decision. They shall, however, first follow all of the normal channels of communication and decision making as outlined herein and in the Operating Policies and Guidelines.

14. Powers of Board of Elders

In addition to the powers and authorities expressly conferred by these bylaws upon them, the Board of Elders may exercise all such powers of the Corporation and do all such lawful acts and things as are not directed or required to be exercised or done by the members of the Corporation by statute, the Articles of Incorporation, or these bylaws. The Board of Elders shall totally replace the Board of Trustees as mentioned in the Articles of Incorporation.

15. Duties of Elders

- Elders shall discharge their duties, including any duties as committee members, in good faith, with ordinary care, and in a manner they reasonably believe to be in the best interest of the Corporation. Ordinary care is care that ordinarily prudent persons in similar positions would exercise under similar circumstances. In the discharge of any duty imposed or power conferred on Elders, they may in good faith rely on information, opinions, reports, or statements, including financial statements and other financial data, concerning the Corporation or another person that were prepared or presented by a variety of persons, including officers and employees of the Corporation, professional advisors or experts such as accountants or legal. An Elder is not acting in good faith if the Elder has knowledge concerning a matter in question that renders the action unwarranted.
- Elders are not deemed to have the duties of trustees of a trust with respect to the Corporation or with respect to any property held or administered by the Corporation, including property that may be subject to restrictions imposed by the donor or transferor of the property.
- The ministry of the office of Elder shall include, but not be limited to, the following: ability and authority to discharge all ecclesiastical and sacerdotal functions pertaining to Harris Prairie Church of Christ. Included in such functions are: baptizing, officiating in marriage ceremonies, conducting funerals, administration of the Lord's Supper, counseling, preaching and teaching, and conducting the church services and ministries. They shall also supervise, nurture and cover in prayer the members of Harris Prairie Church of Christ.

- The Board of Elders is responsible for fiscal and policy oversight of Harris Prairie Church of Christ. It shall approve a detailed annual budget by two thirds (2/3) vote of all of the Elders before the start of the applicable year. Elders must approve by two thirds (2/3) vote any expenditure greater than \$5000 except normal operating, budgeted expenditures such as utilities. Any non-budgeted expenditure of \$2500 to \$5000 must be approved by at least one non-staff Elder and reported to the Board of Elders at the next meeting. Moneys collected by the church shall be under the oversight of Elders and can be paid as the Elder Board decides. The Elder Board will not be bound by any prescribed gift or offering unless bound by state or federal law.
- The Board of Elders shall have total authority in the selection of a new Senior Minister should that position be vacant for any reason. They can, at their discretion, appoint a Minister Selection Committee to help in the process of selecting candidates for Senior Minister. Should the Elders appoint an interim Senior Minister, the interim Senior Minister cannot be a candidate for the vacant Senior Minister position unless the Elders agree otherwise with a two thirds (2/3) vote. Upon the unanimous vote of the Board of Elders, the Senior Minister candidate shall be taken before the congregation for a vote. He must receive a 2/3 majority of the congregation to be affirmed as Senior Minister.
- Duty to Avoid Improper Distributions. The Board of Elders must neither permit nor authorize a distribution that is unlawful or that makes the Corporation insolvent. During any liquidation of the Corporation, the Board of Elders must neither permit nor authorize a distribution to another Section 501 (c) (3) entity until the entire Corporation's known debts and obligations are discharged.
- Delegation of Duties. The Board of Elders may select professional advisors and reasonably delegate duties to them regarding the management of Harris Prairie Church of Christ real property and financial assets such as authority to buy and sell stocks, bonds, and other securities in accordance with broad instructions given by the Board of Elders. The Board of Elders shall approve all purchases, encumbrances, and transfers of real property in excess of \$5000. Any buying or selling of property in excess of \$50,000 shall go to the congregation for a majority vote. The Elder Board may reasonably rely upon the advice of professional advisors regarding all such transactions, and individual Elders shall have no liability for actions taken or omitted upon the advice of such professional advisors so long as they act in good faith and so long as they use reasonable care in selecting such advisors. The Board of Elders may remove or replace a professional advisor for any reason.
- Actions of Board of Elders. The Board of Elders shall try to act by consensus. However, the vote of a majority of Elders present and voting at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be sufficient to constitute the act of the Board of Elders unless the act of a greater number is required by law or the Bylaws. An elder who is present at a meeting and abstains from a vote is considered to be present and voting for the purpose of determining the decision of the Board of Elders. For the purpose of determining the decision of the Board of Elders, an elder who is represented by proxy in a vote is considered present.

Section 2: Corporate Officer

1. The officers of the Corporation shall be a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The Corporation may also have, at the discretion of the Board of Elders, other officers as may be appointed in accordance with the provisions of Section 1 of this article.
2. A Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary shall be elected by the Elders as the leadership of the Board of Elders at least annually and none shall be a Minister/Elder. The Senior Minister/Elder or the Chairman of the Board of Elders shall prepare an agenda and conduct regularly scheduled Elders' meetings. The Chairman, or the Vice Chairman in his absence, shall be responsible for leading in or chairing meetings that deal with:
 - A. Personnel matters, including calling, compensation and dismissal of the Senior Minister.
 - B. Spiritual oversight and shepherding of the Church.
3. Any officer may be removed upon disqualification and removal as an Elder per Article 5, Section 1 of these bylaws. Any officer may resign at any time without prejudice to the rights, if any, of the Corporation under any contract to which the officer is a party, by giving written notice to the Board of Elders, or to the Chairman, or to the Secretary of the Corporation. Any such resignation shall take effect at the date of the receipt of such notice or at any later time specified therein; and, unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.
4. The Chairman. The Chairman of the Elders shall be the Chairman of the Board of the Corporation and shall be subject to the control of the Board of Elders, have general supervision, direction, and control of the activities and officers of the Corporation. He shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Elders, which are to be conducted according to the scriptural principles such as set forth in Philippians 2:2-8.
5. Vice Chairman. In the absence or disability of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman shall perform all the duties of the Chairman, and when so acting shall have all the powers of, and be subject to all the restrictions upon, the Chairman. He shall be a member of the Board of Elders. The Vice-Chairman shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as from time to time may be prescribed for him by the Board of Elders or the bylaws.
6. The Secretary. The Secretary shall keep, or cause to be kept, a book of minutes at the principal office or such other place as the Board of Elders may order, of all meetings of the members, the Board and its committees, with the time and place of holding, whether regular or special, and if special, how authorized, the notice thereof given, the names of those present at the meetings, the Board and committees' meetings, and the proceedings thereof. The Secretary shall keep, or

cause to be kept, at the principal office in the State of Indiana the original and a copy of the Corporation's Articles and bylaws, as amended to date. He shall be a member of the Board of Elders.

7. The Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be appointed by the Elder's Board yearly and reports directly to the Elder's Board. The Treasurer shall ensure the stewardship of the physical and financial resources of the Corporation, "taking precaution that no one should discredit us in our administration...for we have regard for what is honorable, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men" (2 Corinthians 8:20-21). The Treasurer shall keep and maintain, or cause to be kept and maintained, adequate and correct accounts of the properties and business transactions of the Corporation. The books of account shall at all reasonable times be open to inspection by any Elder. The Treasurer shall deposit, or cause to be deposited, all monies and other valuables in the name and to the credit of the Corporation with such depositories as may be designated by the Board of Elders. The Treasurer shall disburse, or cause to be disbursed, the funds of the Corporation as may be ordered by the Board of Elders, shall render, or cause to be rendered, to the Chairman and the Elders, whenever they request it, an account of all the transactions and of the financial condition of the Corporation, and shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Elders. He or she shall make, or cause to be made, the financial reports to the Elder Board and at the annual meeting of members.

Section 3: Senior Minister

1. The Senior Minister shall be a member of the Elder Board, and shall enjoy the same authority and responsibility conferred by these bylaws on other members of the Board of Elders. The Senior Minister should have the same qualifications as an Elder and be academically and experientially qualified for the position.
2. The Senior Minister shall serve under the authority of, and at the pleasure of the Board of Elders, and shall regularly report to the Board of Elders.
3. In addition, the Senior Minister will serve as the primary teacher in weekend services, visionary leader for the congregation, and overseer of the paid church staff. The Senior Minister shall perform his duties as outlined in his job description.
4. The Senior Minister shall provide for the hiring and supervision of all Church staff, including the hiring of those members of the professional staff that the Elder Board may delegate to the Senior Minister. The Senior Minister or other member of the ministerial staff appointed by the Senior Minister shall be ex-officio members of all organized groups, areas of ministries, and departments.
5. The Board of Elders, at their discretion, can appoint a Search Committee for recommending a prospective Senior Minister to the Board of Elders, including conditions of the call. At least one Elder shall serve on this committee.

6. The Board of Elders shall consider the recommendations of the Search Committee and, if approved, shall recommend the prospective Senior Minister to the membership for approval. The Senior Minister may be considered to have received an official call from the Church when the Board of Elders have approved his coming and the results of the duly announced membership meeting show at least a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of members present and voting.

The term of the Senior Minister shall be for an indefinite period, and may be terminated by resignation of the Minister upon sixty (60) days written notice.

7. In the event the Elders feel it is to the spiritual advantage of the Church to have a different Senior Minister, a request for resignation by three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Elders, excluding the Senior Minister himself, shall be sufficient to terminate a Senior Minister. The Senior Minister shall not be present for this vote.

Section 4: The Professional Staff

The Senior Minister shall be responsible for providing weekly administrative oversight and direction for the paid staff. It is the responsibility of the Senior Minister to hire and dismiss all paid staff under the advisement of the Board of Elders. The qualifications and duties of other ministers and staff members shall be defined by the Senior Minister, under advisement by the Board of Elders. Staff Ministers may have other key responsibilities assigned to them by the Elders and in such capacities shall have the same decision making authority as covered in the sections for Elders and Ministry Leaders.

Section 5: Ministry Leaders

Ministry Leaders shall demonstrate a deep and wholehearted commitment to Jesus Christ involving a genuine desire to study God's word and learn its meaning, to live a complete Christian life which glorifies God, to set an example by regular attendance in functions of the Church, and to lead in a specific area of ministry. Qualities which enhance the commitment to service include a love of God's people, spiritual giftedness, a measure of administrative leadership, and a sense of teamwork.

In addition to the above qualifications, a man or woman must be an active member of the Church, in good standing, for at least one (1) year.

Ministry Leaders shall be servants of the Church under the direction of the Elders and Staff Ministers. Ministry Leaders shall provide direct leadership over all ministry teams; lead in developing and implementing the plans and policies of the Church; perform other functions as they are commissioned by the Senior Minister and/or the Board of Elders; be a source of encouragement by personal example; appoint other team leaders for specific programs as needed; and perform such other duties as may be required to advance the Kingdom.

Within their areas of responsibility, these leaders have the authority to initiate and

promote programs or projects, enlist people to participate in the programs and projects, and commit to expenditures budgeted to fund the programs and projects. The general plan for such programs or projects, however, must first be approved by the responsible governing body as outlined in the bylaws or Operating Policies and Guidelines. In matters not covered by a specifically approved program or project, the leaders have authority to perform these actions within the limits of their office as directed by the Board of Elders.

The Elders and Staff Ministers shall select and approve individuals who are qualified and interested in holding this position and may remove that Ministry Leader when they deem his or her service is no longer needed.

ARTICLE 6

Ordination

The Board of Elders shall have the right to ordain or license ministers under guidelines established by the Board of Elders. The Elders may empower the staff to review candidates for licensing to determine if the candidates meet the qualifications for licensing. Individuals to be licensed or ordained, once reviewed, will be recommended to the Board of Elders. The license or ordination of a minister may be revoked at will by the Board of Elders for cause.

ARTICLE 7

Congregational Meeting

An annual business meeting of the members will be held each year on the fourth Sunday of February to deliver financial reports, including a report of the prior year's activities and a budget for the following year's activities, and to update the members on any business matters that the Elders decide. During the month of February, the Senior Minister shall give a State of the Church address. During this time he shall discuss both the past and future of the church. Special meetings of the congregation may be called by a majority vote of the Board of Elders. Such special meetings shall be announced in writing and from the pulpit on the two consecutive Sundays preceding the special meeting. Included in the announcements will be the agenda items to be addressed at the special meeting.

ARTICLE 8

Legal Aspects of the Church

1. Name - Harris Prairie Church of Christ, Inc., is a not-for-profit corporation under the Indiana Not-For-Profit Corporation Act of 1971.
2. Office and Resident Agent - The Corporation's office shall be the same address as the location of the Church's main office. The Chairman of the Elders or designee shall be the Resident Agent of the corporation. As such, he shall be responsible for the timely filing of the required annual report with the Indiana Secretary of State.
3. Keeping of Records - All financial, membership, and business records shall be maintained at the Church's main office.
4. Fiscal Year - The fiscal year shall normally be the same as the calendar year but may be changed, for proper cause, by action of the Board of Elders, without membership approval.
5. Corporate Actions - As the Legal Agent, the Board of Elders is responsible as a group only, not individually, for any and all corporate actions of Harris Prairie Church of Christ, Inc.
6. Indemnification of Board of Elders and Officers - In consideration for serving as Elders, Officers and Employees, Harris Prairie Church of Christ, Inc., shall indemnify Elders, Officers and Employees against liabilities for any legal action brought against them concerning actions performed within the scope of their Church duties and offices. However, Elders, Officers, and Employees will not be indemnified for actions outside of the scope of their authorized duties nor for gross negligence, libel, defamation or any criminal act.
7. Interpretation - The Elder Board is the final arbiter and interpreter of these bylaws.
8. Amendment - These bylaws may be amended from time to time by an affirmative vote of the membership.
 - a. Proposed amendments shall be submitted to the Elder Board for recommendation to the membership.
 - b. After review of the proposed bylaw amendment, the Elder Board can recommend to the membership the proposed amendment by a majority approval of the Elder Board.
 - c. The proposed amendment shall then be submitted to the membership for approval or disapproval at either an annual or special meeting of the membership.
 - Notice of the meeting shall include the written text of the proposed amendment.
 - The proposed amendment shall become effective upon its approval by a majority of the membership present and voting at the meeting.