

**AMENDED AND  
RESTATED BYLAWS  
of  
FIRST BILINGUAL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
a California nonprofit religious corporation

**ARTICLE I**

**Name**

- 1.01 The name of this corporation is the FIRST BILINGUAL BAPTIST CHURCH. Hereinafter in these Bylaws, this corporation shall be referred to as "FBBC."

**ARTICLE II**

**Principal Office**

- 2.01 The principal office of FBBC is located at 9133 Mines Avenue in Pico Rivera, California. The Active Members of FBBC shall have full power and authority to change the principal office from one location to another.

**ARTICLE III**

**Purpose**

FBBC is to maintain a mission statement and vision statement and these statements are to be regularly promoted to the members. FBBC is to maintain a balanced focus in the following areas:

- 3.01 **EVANGELISM/MISSIONS** – "To share the good news of Jesus Christ with as many people as possible in our community and throughout the world." This is to include the active support of local, national and international missions efforts both short- and long-term as well as active involvement in planting new churches on its own and/or in cooperation with others of a like faith. (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, 2 Peter 3:9)
- 3.02 **EDUCATION** – "To help members develop toward full Christian maturity and train them for effective ministries. To promote personal spiritual growth and discipleship through Bible teaching." (Ephesians 4:11-13, Matthew 18:20, 1 Timothy 2:2)
- 3.03 **WORSHIP** – "To participate in public worship services together and to maintain personal daily devotion to God's Kingdom and purposes." (John 4:24)
- 3.04 **MINISTRY/SERVICE** - "To serve unselfishly, in Jesus' name, meeting the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of those in our membership, community and in the world." (I Peter 4:10 - 11, Matthew 25:34-40, I Thessalonians 5:11, Galatians 5:13)

- 3.05 FELLOWSHIP – “To encourage, support and pray for each other as members of the family of God. To share our lives together for the cause of the gospel of Jesus Christ.” (I John 1:7, Acts 2:44-47, Hebrews 10:23-25, Romans 15:5, 7, John 13:34-35)

**ARTICLE IV**  
**Statement of Faith**

- 4.01 FBBC affirms the sixty-six books of the Holy Bible as the inspired Word of God and the basis of our beliefs.

- 4.02 FBBC subscribes to the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention as a general statement of our faith.

4.03 **Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality**

- A. We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen 1:26-27). Rejection of one’s biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.
- B. We believe that the term “marriage” has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Gen 2:18-25). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4). We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.
- C. We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10).
- D. We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of FBBC as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the FBBC members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by FBBC in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess 5:22).
- E. We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11).
- F. We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of FBBC.

G. Because God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between a man, a woman, and Himself, FBBC will only recognize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman. Further, the pastors/elders and staff of FBBC shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman. Finally, the facilities and property of FBBC shall only host weddings between one man and one woman.

- 4.04 **Statement on the Sanctity of Human Life.** We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life (Ps 139).
- 4.05 The membership of this church shall be composed of individuals who are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, and have been baptized, and affirm the tenets of the Church Bylaws, and who offer evidence, by their confession and their conduct, that they are living in accord with their affirmations and the Bylaws, and are actively pursuing and continuing in a vital fellowship with the Lord, Jesus Christ. The Elder Council of First Bilingual Baptist Church shall have final authority in all matters of church governance, as set forth and described in the Bylaws.
- 4.06 The ordinances of the FBBC are believers' baptism and the Lord's Supper.
- 4.07 **Statement on Final Authority for Matters of Belief and Conduct.** The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of FBBC's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, the Elder Council is FBBC's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

#### **ARTICLE V Polity and Relationships**

- 5.01 Except as otherwise set forth in these Bylaws, the activities and affairs of FBBC shall be conducted by its Active Members, and all corporate powers shall be exercised by the members for Corporations Code Purposes. (See 6.03C for definition of members for Corporation Code Purposes)
- 5.02 FBBC is autonomous and maintains the right to govern its own affairs, independent of any denominational control. Recognizing, however, the benefits and obligations of cooperation with other churches in world missions, FBBC voluntarily affiliates with the Southern Baptist Convention in its national, state and local expressions.

- 5.03 This is a sovereign Baptist church under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. As such, the membership reserves unto itself the exclusive right of self-government in all phases of its spiritual and temporal life.

**ARTICLE VI**  
**Membership in FBBC**

- 6.01 Membership in FBBC shall consist of all persons who have met the prerequisites for membership (see section 4.05 and 6.02) and are listed on the membership role.

- 6.02 Prerequisites to membership:

- A. A personal commitment and public confession of faith in Jesus Christ for salvation.
- B. Baptism by immersion as a testimony of salvation.
- C. Completion of its membership class.
- D. A commitment to abide by the membership covenant (See Appendix A).
- E. Public affirmation before the membership of compliance with the prerequisites of membership.

- 6.03 Classes of membership: There shall be three classes of members: Active Members, Inactive Members, and Members for Corporations Code Purposes.

- A. Active members shall meet all of the following provisions:

- (1) They shall have fulfilled the requirements for membership as stated in these Bylaws.
- (2) They shall not have been declared in regular or special business meeting to be “out of fellowship” with the FBBC.
- (3) They shall not have had their membership terminated according to Section 6.06 of these Bylaws.
- (4) They shall have attended at least twelve (12) regular worship services of FBBC during the previous six (6) month period, not counting any period before the individual was properly recognized as a member of FBBC. Exceptions due to illness or other unavoidable absence shall require the approval of the Elder Council upon application by the member.

- B. Inactive Members shall be subject to the following:

- (1) They are defined as those members who fail to satisfy any of the requirements for Active Members.

- (2) They may not vote so long as they shall remain inactive.
- (3) They shall be automatically restored to active membership when the requirement(s) for active membership is(are) fully satisfied.

C. Members for Corporations Code Purposes shall be subject to the following:

- (1) They shall be those Active Members who have been members for at least ninety (90) days, and who are at least eighteen (18) years of age.
- (2) They shall have the sole right to vote on matters brought before it during an exceptional business meeting, according to Section 7.02C of these Bylaws.
- (3) Active Membership is not forfeited by the fact that the member is also a Member for Corporations Code Purposes.

6.04 Discipline:

- A. The threefold purpose of church discipline is (1) to glorify God by maintaining purity in the local church (1 Cor 5:6), (2) to edify believers by deterring sin and promoting purity (1 Tim 5:20), and (3) to promote the spiritual welfare of the offending believer by calling him or her to return to a biblical standard of doctrine and conduct (Gal 6:1).
- B. The Lord Jesus Christ has entrusted the local church with the authority and responsibility to discipline members for flagrant sin, serious doctrinal error, or consistent unwillingness to repent, with the goal of the restoration of the offender. This discipline is entrusted to the church, under the leadership of the elders, and is to follow the biblical pattern as set forth in Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5; 2 Corinthians 2:7-8; Galatians 6:1; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; Titus 3:10-11; and 2 John 7-11.
- C. The practice of FBBC shall be to emphasize to its members that every reasonable measure will be taken to assist any troubled member. The Elder Council and counselors designated by the Elder Council are available for counsel and guidance. The attitude of members toward one another shall be guided by a concern for redemption rather than punishment. In all matters of disciplinary action, adherence to the Bible shall be the rule. (Mat. 18:15-17, 1 Cor. 5, 2 Th 3:14, 1 Tim. 5:20, Rom. 16:17, Gal. 5:10, 1 Tim. 1:19, Tit. 1:13, 2 Cor. 2:6, Gal. 6:1, Jude 22, Rom. 15:1, Tit. 3:10, 2 Jn 10, 2 Th. 3:6, 2 Cor. 13:10, 1 Th. 5:14, 2 Th. 3:15, 1 Tim. 5:1, 2 Tim. 4:2, Tit. 2:15, 2 Cor. 13:1)
- D. Any member of this church who practices or affirms a doctrine or conduct that, in the judgment of the Elders, is opposed to the teaching of the Word of God, or is threatening to the testimony of this church, or is divisive to the body, shall be subject to church discipline.

- E. Discipline will follow the said biblical pattern, and is an effort to bring the individual to repentance and protect the church from unrepentant sin. Discipline may involve exclusion from participation in ministry and communion, as well as dismissal from the fellowship of this church. An individual may be disciplined by the Elder Council short of dismissal from the fellowship, as they deem appropriate for the specific circumstance (for example, an individual may remain in certain circumstances a member of this church but be denied the privilege of serving in a particular ministry).
- F. Should a situation arise, regarding a member, that meets the criteria in Matthew 18:15-17, FBBC shall, after complying with all four steps in this passage, declare the member to be “out of fellowship” with FBBC, and remove the member from membership.
- G. In situations involving unrepentant and gross sexual misconduct such as in 1 Corinthians 5, the Church shall expel the member removing him/her from membership.
- H. The church shall restore to membership any person previously excluded upon request of the excluded person, giving evidence of his/her repentance. He or she shall further seek the forgiveness of, and reconciliation with, FBBC.
- I. The Elder Council, as is required by Scripture, may report to the congregation the names of those who are in danger of losing membership due to discipline, or who have lost membership by reason of church discipline, and the reason for that discipline, as described in Matthew 18:15-20.
- J. The members of this church further knowingly and voluntarily agree that a member cannot voluntarily withdraw or resign his or her membership in the midst of the discipline process, and may only voluntarily withdraw or resign his or her membership if they are not the subject of a discipline proceeding at the time or only after a disciplinary process, of which they are the subject, has been concluded as determined by the Elder Council.

6.05 Membership Responsibility:

- A. In living out their life within the FBBC community, members are to abide by the Membership Covenant (see Appendix A).
- B. Members will abide by the Statement on Mediation (see Appendix B).

6.06 Termination of membership: Membership shall be terminated in any of the following ways:

- A. The member is deceased.
- B. Active membership in another church of like faith and order.

- C. Exclusion by action of FBBC, according to the provisions of Section 6.04 of these Bylaws.
- D. Upon becoming affiliated with a church of a conflicting faith.
- E. Abandonment – leaving FBBC for two (2) years or longer without requesting in writing to maintain membership.
- F. Requesting in writing that their membership be removed, provided the individual is not currently in the discipline process (see 6.04.J for details).

6.07 Membership qualification for selected positions:

- A. Only Active Members shall qualify for any position within FBBC including, but not limited to: elder, deacon, clerk, director of a FBBC program organization, teacher, treasurer, trustee and/or a committee member.
- B. Employed ministerial leaders shall qualify as Active Members of FBBC promptly following their appointment to their respective positions.
- C. Should the individual filling any of the aforementioned positions become an inactive member or, has his membership terminated, he shall automatically forfeit that position.

**ARTICLE VII**  
**FBBC Meetings**

7.01 Meetings shall be held at the principal office of FBBC or at such other place or places within or outside California as may be designated from time to time by the Elder Council.

7.02 The following meetings shall be classified as business meetings:

- A. General Business Meeting. A general meeting of the members shall be held annually at such time as determined by the Elder Council. This general meeting shall be the annual membership meeting. The purpose of this meeting shall be to adopt an annual budget and receive reports. Subject to Section 7.02(B) of this Article, any other proper business may be conducted at this meeting. The quorum shall consist of the Active Members who attend the business meeting. Each active member, 15 years old and older, is entitled to one vote. Voting by proxy is prohibited.
- B. Special Business Meeting. Special business meetings may be held at any time to consider special matters of significant or urgent nature, subject to the following provisions:

- (1) A special business meeting may be called by any one of the following: the Elder Council; the board of trustees; fifteen (15%) percent or more of the Active Members.
  - (2) Notice of all special business meetings shall be given in such a way that the general nature of the business to be transacted is clearly described, in English and Spanish, along with a statement of the time, date, and place of the meeting (if not at the principal office of the FBBC). Notice of the special business meeting may be given by any of the following methods, and such notice shall start at least two weeks prior to the meeting:
    - a. Distribution of written matter (as stated above) to the membership in attendance at two regular Sunday worship services; and/or,
    - b. Mailing of written matter (as stated above) to those Active Members for whom it has in its records a current mailing address; and/or,
    - c. Oral announcement of the matter to the membership at two consecutive regular Sunday worship services.
  - (3) The quorum shall consist of the active members who attend the Special business meeting.
  - (4) Each active member, 15 years old and older, is entitled to one vote. Voting by proxy is prohibited.
- C. Exceptional Business Meeting. Exceptional business meetings may be held as necessary to deal with matters related to the California Nonprofit Corporations Code. Such exceptional business meetings shall be subject to the following provisions:
- (1) Such meetings shall be limited to:
    - a. The election or removal of trustees.
    - b. The disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of FBBC.
    - c. The merger or dissolution of FBBC.
    - d. The amendment of the Articles of Incorporation or the Bylaws of FBBC.
  - (2) An exceptional business meeting may be called at any time by any one of the following: the Elder Council; the board of trustees; fifteen (15%) percent or more of the Members for Corporations Code Purposes.
  - (3) The majority of the Members for Corporations Code Purposes shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at an exceptional business meeting.

- (4) The Members for Corporations Code Purposes shall have the sole right to vote on matters considered during an exceptional business meeting.
  - (5) The notice and time shall be as specified as in 7:02(B) (2)
  - (6) Only Members for Corporation Code Purposes shall be entitled to vote and each such member shall be entitled to one vote. Voting by proxy is prohibited.
- D. Routine, non-controversial business may be transacted at any worship service as necessary with the approval of the Elder Council. Such business is further defined as excluding business which involves a transaction of real property; or which involves doctrine or denominational affiliation. A quorum shall consist of the Active Members who are present in the worship service.
- 7.03 The following general provisions shall apply to all business meetings of FBBC:
- A. Where Scripture is clear regarding any matter brought forth in a business meeting, every effort shall be made to comply with Scripture, and compliance shall not require a vote, but only the method of such compliance shall be voted on.
  - B. Parliamentary procedure shall be governed by whatever means is necessary for clear and orderly communication to those members who are present.
  - C. Each member who is qualified to vote is entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote.
  - D. Cumulative voting shall not be authorized for the election of the trustees or for any other purpose.
  - E. Members entitled to vote shall not vote or act by proxy.
  - F. Absentee ballots shall be permitted only by the prior approval of the members acting in regular or special business meeting.
  - G. The Elder Council shall select a FBBC member to act as the moderator at the business meeting.
  - H. All business meetings shall be opened with prayer.

**ARTICLE VIII**  
**Trustees**

- 8.01 The Board of Trustees shall consist of not less than three (3) members. Each trustee shall be a Member for Corporations Code Purposes.
- 8.02 Each trustee shall be elected for a term of one (1) year, or until a successor is elected.

- 8.03 Members for Corporations Code Purposes may elect a trustee or trustees at any time to fill any vacancy on the Board of Trustees. Should FBBC fail to act within ninety (90) days of the creation of the vacancy, such vacancy may be filled by a majority of the trustees then in office, whether or not less than a quorum, or by the sole remaining trustee.
- 8.04 Trustees shall serve at the pleasure of FBBC, and may be removed prior to the conclusion of the term of office at the discretion of FBBC acting in a properly called exceptional business meeting.
- 8.05 The trustees are hereby designated as the directors of the corporation as that term is defined and used in the California Nonprofit Corporations Code, provided, however, that the activities and affairs of FBBC shall be conducted and its powers shall be exercised as allocated in these Bylaws, and the designation herein of the trustees as directors shall not grant to them any power which is expressly or impliedly granted by these Bylaws, or by custom and usage, to the members of FBBC or to any other board, committee, group, position, person, or combination of persons.
- 8.06 The Elder Council shall recommend to the members of FBBC persons for election to the Board of Trustees. Any Member for Corporations Code Purposes may nominate other persons for election to the Board of Trustees. The nominees receiving the highest number of votes of the Members for Corporations Code Purposes shall be elected as trustees.
- 8.07 The trustee officers shall also be the officers of the corporation. The officers shall be a President, a Secretary, a Treasurer (Chief Financial Officer), and such other officers as the trustees or FBBC may deem necessary for their work. Any number of offices may be held by the same person except that neither the secretary nor the Treasurer may serve concurrently as the president. The Board of Trustees shall choose the president and the secretary from among their number, unless the members should designate the officers at the time of their election. The Treasurer shall be the Chief Financial Officer. The sole function of the Trustees shall be to sign such instruments and documents as are necessary or advisable in the name of, on the behalf of, and at the direction of FBBC.
- 8.08 The trustees shall take such actions and execute such documents as are necessary or advisable to accomplish the purpose of any matter which is authorized or approved by the Active Members (or the Members for Corporations Code Purposes, as the case may be) and which concerns any real, personal, or intangible property.

**ARTICLE IX**  
**Elders**

- 9.01 The terms Elder, Pastor, Bishop and Overseer as used in the New Testament are different names for the same office and are often used interchangeably and/or to describe different functions within the same office. (Titus 1:5, 7; Acts 20:17, 28; 1 Peter 5:1-2) In these Bylaws, the term Elder is used and shall be considered the same as Pastor, Bishop and Overseer.
- 9.02 All Elders are to meet and maintain the Biblical qualifications of 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. An elder shall practice and teach the biblical principles of stewardship, including the tithe.
- 9.03 When possible every two years, and on other occasions as deemed necessary, the Elder Council (see Article X) shall nominate men to become elders. All candidates to become elders, whether as lay elders or employed elders, shall be presented to the membership in a Special Business Meeting and affirmed by a minimum two-thirds of those present.
- 9.04 Elders are responsible for discerning the will of God for FBBC, overseeing its implementation and leading the members to fulfill it. The Elder Council shall take the lead role in this area.
- 9.05 Elders are to protect the body by providing pastoral leadership and guidance.
- 9.06 Elders are responsible for protecting the body in all respects including: (a) Protection from false teaching and doctrine (Acts 20); (b) Protection from sin and its consequences; elders are to play a central role in FBBC member discipline; (c) Protection of the body and its members in times of difficulty and trials through prayer (James 5:13-15), practical and other means.
- 9.07 Elders are to protect the work of the FBBC by ensuring that every effort is made to fulfill the Great Commission maintaining a Biblical balance between evangelism and discipleship.
- 9.08 Elders are to protect the body by being deeply involved in the ministry of the Word. While the primary duty of some elders may not be preaching from the pulpit, each elder is to play an active role in discerning what is to be communicated, and provide constructive feedback on the content of what is taught.
- 9.09 There shall at all times be a plurality of elders as modeled in the New Testament. (Acts 14:23, 15:2,4,6,22,24, 16:4, 20:17-18, 1, Tim. 4:14, 5:17, Titus 1:5, James 5:14 & 1 Peter 5:1).

**ARTICLE X**  
**The Elder Council**

- 10.01 The Elder Council shall maintain a majority of lay elders over employed elders (see ARTICLE IX) and shall be composed of members so that it can effectively relate and communicate to the membership. Approximately once every two years all current elders shall meet to determine which lay elders and employed elders will serve on the Elders Council. All Elders not currently serving on the elder council are to continue to serve the church in keeping with, and in affirmation of, their qualifications and calling as elders.
- 10.02 The Elder Council shall delegate the organizational and administrative details of all church activity to church members according to their gifting and/or experience. These church members (individuals, Deacons, committees, etc.) shall manage these things under the Elders Council's authority and oversight (Acts 6:1-6).
- 10.03 The Elder Council shall approve the employment of both full- and part-time staff as necessary to fulfill the ministry and administrative needs of the church. Such employees shall be of distinctly Christian character and lifestyle, as defined by the Bible. Willful violation or transgression of this principle will subject the employee to disciplinary action up to and including suspension, removal from membership and termination of employment.
- 10.04 In the Council's deliberations each elder is to have an equal voice.
- 10.05 Each employed elder shall serve as such until the relationship is terminated by his resignation, by a majority of the Elder Council, or by the request of a majority of the FBBC Active Members in a business meeting.
- 10.06 The Elder Council shall appoint and convene a core group of active members as often as needed for prayer and to discuss any aspect of the church. The group's actions shall be purely advisory, enhancing communication and unity within the congregation. The core group may consist of elders, ministerial staff, ministry leaders and deacons.

**ARTICLE XI**  
**FBBC Ministry Leaders**

Ministry leaders include all members serving in an official capacity, whether paid or unpaid, who make an equipping contribution to the life of the membership (Eph. 4:11-12). An individual's area(s) of service and responsibility shall align with his/her God-given gift(s), anointing, experience, education, skills and talents. In all cases, ministry shall be based on an individual's gifting and anointing, not elected position or title.

**ARTICLE XII**  
**Deacons**

- 12.01 All prospective candidates to become recognized as deacons, whether male or female, must be Active Members of FBBC and must possess the requisite qualifications outlined in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.
- 12.02 In accordance with the meaning of the word and the practice of the New Testament, deacons are to be servants of the membership. Their work shall include but not be limited to the following:
- A. Assist the elders in the celebration of the Lord's Supper;
  - B. Assist the elders in the preparations for baptisms; and,
  - C. Assist ministry leaders in carrying out the specific ministry assigned to them.
- 12.03 The appointment of each deacon, along with the description of his/her duties and length of service, will be done by the Elder Council in cooperation with any ministry leaders related to that deacon position. At any time, a church member may volunteer or make a recommendation for another church member to serve as a deacon. The elders are responsible for approving volunteers and recommendations.
- 12.04 Before any deacon is approved, he/she will be presented to the congregation for two consecutive Sundays. During that time, members of FBBC may contact the elders should they feel the person is biblically unqualified. If no valid objection is brought to the elders, the person will be appointed by the Elder Council on the Sunday following the two-week nomination period.

**ARTICLE XIII**  
**Records and Reports**

- 13.01 The following records and reports shall be maintained.
- A. Adequate and correct books and records of accounts (financial records).
  - B. Written minutes of the proceedings of its business meetings, Elder Council's meetings, and trustees' meetings.
  - C. A record of the membership, setting forth the members' names and addresses.
  - D. Contribution statements for contributors.
- 13.02 All such records shall be kept at the principal office.

**ARTICLE XIV**  
**Financial Accountability**

- 14.01 The Elder Council shall select a finance committee which shall include the Treasurer who will serve as the chairperson of the Committee.
- 14.02 The finance committee shall oversee the receipt, preservation, and disbursement of all money or things of value given to FBBC, keeping at all times an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements. In general, expenditures shall be authorized in the budget as adopted by the membership at the annual business meeting (7.02A), or by other specific action of the membership, and shall conform to such system of authorization as FBBC may employ, whether by voucher or otherwise. The budget from both an expenditure and income perspective is a guide to be followed but variations as necessary are permitted.
- 14.03 The finance committee shall render to the membership at the annual business meeting a report of the receipts and disbursements for the preceding year.
- 14.04 The finance committee, with the consent of the Elder Council, may delegate some of the financial responsibilities to a financial secretary, under the supervision of the finance committee.

**ARTICLE XV**  
**FBBC Ministries**

- 15.01 FBBC shall maintain those worship services, programs, organizations, ministry and missionary endeavors it deems necessary to fulfill its purpose as stated in Article III, including but not limited to:
- A. Regular worship services, held publicly on Sunday and/or on a weekday evening of each week at the time designated by the FBBC.
  - B. The Lord's Supper celebrated at least quarterly on the dates and hour as may be determined by the Elder Council.

**ARTICLE XVI**  
**Dissolution**

- 16.01 If at any time FBBC shall be dissolved or should cease to function as a cooperating Southern Baptist church, the property and assets of FBBC, both real and personal, shall be distributed to the Los Angeles Southern Baptist Association or its successor.
- 16.02 FBBC shall be determined to have ceased functioning as a cooperating Southern Baptist church when either of the following conditions prevails:

- A. Should a statement to that effect be adopted by the Los Angeles Southern Baptist Association, the California Southern Baptist Convention, or the Southern Baptist Convention, or their successors. Such a statement, to be valid, must include specific mention of the basis for its adoption.
  - B. Should FBBC be denied (on the basis of not being a cooperating Southern Baptist church) in an attempt to seat messengers at the annual meeting of the Los Angeles Southern Baptist Association, or the California Southern Baptist Convention, or the Southern Baptist Convention, or their successors.
- 16.03 Should FBBC be determined to have ceased functioning as a cooperating Southern Baptist church according to the provisions of Section 16.02, FBBC may appeal the decision to an ecclesiastical council.
- A. The council would probably, although not necessarily, be formed at the association level.
  - B. The composition and guidelines of the council shall be agreed upon mutually by FBBC and by the organization precipitating the original determination that FBBC is not a cooperating Southern Baptist church.
  - C. The decision of the council shall be binding.
  - D. Should either FBBC or the precipitating organization fail to cooperate in the council's establishment or proceedings, that party shall automatically concede its position and privileges in the matter.

**ARTICLE XVII**  
**Amendments**

- 17.01 Changes in these Bylaws shall be made at an exceptional business meeting, according to the provisions of Section 7.02C of these Bylaws.
- 17.02 Amendments to the Bylaws shall receive at least a two-thirds vote of the Members for Corporations Code Purposes who are present and voting in the exceptional business meeting, except that Article XVI shall require a three-fourths vote of the same.
- 17.03 Amendments to the Bylaws shall take effect immediately upon approval unless provided otherwise at the time of the vote on the amendment.
- 17.04 Section 16.02 of these Bylaws may not be amended or deleted in any way which will alter or diminish its effect.



**APPENDIX A**

**First Bilingual Baptist Church  
Membership Covenant**

As a member of the body of Christ, I, \_\_\_\_\_, believe...

1. **The 66 books of the Bible are God’s inspired, true, and authoritative word, sufficient for transforming believers into who God wants them to be.**  
*Psa 19:7-11; 2 Tim 3:15-17; Heb 4:12; 2 Pet 1:20-21; Jude 1:3*
2. **There is only one living and true God—the Creator and Owner of all things.**  
*Gen 1:1; Deut 6:4; Psa 24:1; Isa 45:5-7; John 17:3; 1 Cor 8:4-6; 1 Tim 2:5*
3. **God eternally exists in three distinct Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**  
*Matt 28:17-20; John 10:30; Rom 8:9; 1 Cor 12:4-6; 2 Cor 13:14*
4. **God is perfectly holy and requires perfect obedience to His law.**  
*Matt 5:48; Rom 2:14-16; James 2:10; 1 Jn 1:5*
5. **All people have broken God’s law and have earned an eternal penalty.**  
*Psa 51:5; Jer 17:9; Rom 3:10-12, 23; 5:12; 6:23; 7:18; Eph 2:1-3; James 1:14-15*
6. **No person can possibly be saved by his/her own good works.**  
*Isa 64:4; Eph 2:8-9; Titus 3:5*
7. **Jesus Christ is truly and fully God, and truly and fully man.**  
*John 1:1-18; 5:19-29; 10:30; Php 2:5-11; Col 1:15-20; 2:9; Heb 1:1-12; 1 Jn 5:20*
8. **Jesus Christ, as the sinless sacrifice, showed God’s love by dying on the cross to pay the penalty of sin.**  
*John 3:16; Rom 5:8; 2 Cor 5:21; Col 1:21-22; 1 Pet 2:21-24*
9. **Jesus Christ rose physically from the dead, ascended into heaven, and will one day physically return.**  
*Luke 24:5-7; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; 1 Cor 15; Php 3:20-21; 1 Thes 4:16; Heb 9:28; 1 Jn 3:2; Rev 1:7*
10. **Salvation and eternal life are only possible through Jesus Christ. God calls all people to repentance from sin and faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Those who reject, refuse, or rebel against Jesus Christ will receive eternal judgment.**  
*Matt 8:10-12; 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; John 3:18, 35-36; 5:22-24; 14:6; Acts 4:12; Rom 3:21-26; 10:8-15; 1 Tim 2:5-6; 2 Thes 1:8-9*

Since God's grace has brought me to repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and upon being baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, I will, as a member of FBBC, rely on the power of the Holy Spirit as I commit myself to the following:

- **CORPORATE WORSHIP** — I will seek to faithfully assemble with the local body of believers. I will biblically test instruction from the Scriptures, stimulate others to love and good deeds, and exercise my spiritual gifts in faithful service. *Acts 1:14; 2:42; 17:11; 20:7; Rom 12:4-8; 1 Thes 5:20-21; Heb 3:13; 10:23-25; 1 Pet 4:10*
- **HOLINESS** — I will diligently exercise self-control so that my lifestyle demonstrates that I am a citizen of heaven. I will demonstrate Christian love and personal holiness as the word of God describes it. I will seek God's help to abstain from any drugs, food, drink, entertainment, or practices that would bring harm to the church body or endanger someone's faith, including my own. *Matt 18:6-9; Rom 14; 1 Cor 10; Eph 4:17-5:18; Titus 2; 1 Pet 2:9-12*
- **STEWARDSHIP** — I will be a good steward of God's blessings. I will consistently and cheerfully contribute time, talent, and resources, to the degree God provides, so that the ministry of spreading the gospel can continue in my local church and around the world. *Matt 25:14-30; Luke 12:42-46; 16:11; 2 Cor 8-9; Eph 5:15-16; 1 Tim 6:17-19*
- **EVANGELISM** — I will seek to teach biblical truth to my family and those in my community, as God gives me opportunity. My desire is to see them come to trust Jesus Christ and be saved. *Deut 6:1-9; Psa 78:4-7; Matt 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-48; Acts 1:8; Rom 10:14-17; 1 Pet 2:9-10; 3:14-16*
- **PRAYER** — I will pray regularly for the ministry here at church, for my brothers and sisters in Christ, for the leadership and direction of the church, and for the lost who need the Savior. *Matt 6:5-15; 9:37-38; Rom 15:30; 2 Cor 1:11; Eph 1:15-23; 3:14-21; 6:18-20; Php 1:3-5; Col 1:3-6; 4:3; 1 Thess 5:16-18, 25; 2 Thess 3:1; 1 Tim 2:1-6; 5:5; James 5:16*
- **MUTUAL CARE** — I will seek to watch over my brothers and sisters in brotherly love, to aid those in sickness or distress, to cultivate Christian sympathy and courtesy, to be slow to take offense, and to give and receive admonition and instruction, yet always with meekness and love. *Matt 18:15-20; 25:34-40; Gal 6:9-10; James 1:27; 1 Tim 5; Matt 18; 1 Jn 3:17-18*
- **UNITY** — I will do all I can to preserve unity in the congregation. This includes my commitment to ask for and grant forgiveness when necessary, to restrain from divisive speech, to honor and submit to the church's leadership as well as any decision made by vote of the congregation, and not to teach any doctrine or practice which is contrary to the church's statement of faith or its doctrinal distinctives. *Prov 16:28; 20:19; Matt 5:9; 18:21-35; 1 Cor 6:1-8; 2 Cor 2:7-10; 12:20; Eph 4:1-3, 30-32; Col 3:8-14; 1 Thes 5:12-15; 1 Tim 5:17; Heb 13:7, 17; 1 Pet 5:5*

## **Appendix B**

### **First Bilingual Baptist Church Statement on Mediation**

Members of the church agree to submit any legal dispute with the church for mediation before a mutually agreed-upon mediator, or if none can be agreed upon, one selected by Peacemaker Ministries. Lawsuits between believers, or threats of lawsuits between believers, are a matter of grave concern for the church, are contrary to biblical and church teaching, and mediation is an effort to resolve disputes in a biblical fashion. (1 Cor 6: 1-7.)

Mediation will be governed by the *Rules of Procedure for Christian Conciliation* of the Institute for Christian Conciliation (ICC Rules), unless modified as stipulated by the parties. (Visit: <http://www.peacemaker.net> to access the ICC Rules.) In particular, subject to the more detailed provisions of the ICC Rules, mediator(s) will attempt to assist us in reaching a voluntary settlement of any disputes through mediation.

The confidentiality of the mediation process will be protected and these matters will not be discussed with people who do not have a necessary interest in them. If settlement can be agreed upon, the conciliators may, at their discretion, issue an advisory opinion. Neither the opinion, nor any communications exchanged in the mediation process, will be admissible for any purpose in any subsequent legal proceeding.