

BYLAWS

d/b/a Christ Journey Church
Miami-Dade County, Florida



Below are the proposed changes to the bylaws, full bylaws can be viewed below the proposed changes.

- Request to connect in commitment with us in digital membership and discipleship. Digital membership is extended as an opportunity for service and leadership in our digital ministries. Voting privileges are reserved for in person use at church business meetings.
- A candidate for Church membership shall become a member with the privilege of voting upon completion of New Member Orientation followed by majority vote of the Church Board of Trustees in regular meetings. These votes will be presented for a vote of affirmation by the Church members in a regular business meeting.
- In the event the tenure of the Senior Pastor is terminated, notice of voluntary separation or retirement given, or the position otherwise becomes vacant, the Board of Trustees is tasked, after consultation with the Nominating Committee, to appoint a broad, balanced, and capable search committee to seek a suitable Senior Pastor. The search committee shall function as an ad hoc committee assigned to follow the pastor search scope and timeline established by the Board of Trustees and make recommendations to the Board. The Board of Trustees shall bring for consideration of the Church only one nominee at a time.

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BYLAWS

THE UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH OF CORAL GABLES, INC.

Miami-Dade County, Florida

PREAMBLE

Jesus Christ is the head of this Church, and the Word of God as revealed in the Holy Bible is the ultimate authority in matters of faith and practice. This Church has historically been affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention and generally accepts the statements of the “Baptist Faith and Message” as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963. As such, we affirm the autonomous nature of the local Church and its right to cooperate with other organizations. The two ordinances observed by the Church are Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. The government of this Church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. It is understood and assumed that the decisions of each Church member with respect to the government of the Church are reached through prayer and represent each Church member’s appreciation of the will of God with respect thereto. This Church is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but shall cooperate with Baptists and other Christian groups locally, statewide, nationally and internationally as benefits our Christ Journey Church purpose. **The purpose of this Church is to help people find and follow** Jesus Christ in furtherance of the Great Commission to make disciples among all peoples, to baptize them, and to teach them to obey Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Candidates For Membership. A prospective Church member may present himself/herself as a candidate for Church membership in any of the following ways:

- a. By an initial profession of faith in, and commitment to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, followed by baptism by immersion.
- b. By request for believer’s baptism, upon reaffirmation of faith in, and commitment to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, followed by baptism by immersion.
- c. By letter of transfer from another Baptist Church, upon reaffirmation of faith in, and commitment to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
- d. By statement of previous Baptist membership, upon reaffirmation of faith in, and commitment to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

- e. By statement of believer's baptism (baptism by immersion after profession of faith), upon reaffirmation of faith in, and commitment to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and agreement with beliefs about salvation and baptism as described in "The Baptist Faith and Message" of 1963.
- f. Request to connect in commitment with us in digital membership and discipleship. Digital membership is extended as an opportunity for service and leadership in our digital ministries. Voting privileges are reserved for in person use at church business meetings.

Section 2. New Member Orientation. Every candidate for Church membership will complete New Member's Orientation. During such orientation, every candidate shall be furnished a copy of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Church.

Section 3. Full Membership. A candidate for Church membership shall become a member with the privilege of voting upon completion of New Member Orientation followed by majority vote of the Church Board of Trustees in regular meetings. These votes will be presented for a vote of affirmation by the Church members in a regular business meeting.

Section 4. Termination of Membership. Church membership may be terminated in one of the following ways:

- a. By a letter of transfer upon request of another Baptist church.
- b. Upon a member's personal request, in writing.
- c. Upon confirmation of a member uniting with another church.
- d. Upon death of a member.
- e. Upon a member's whereabouts being unknown for a period of two years, by majority vote of the members present at a business meeting.
- f. By exclusion as an act of discipline. Before the Church can exclude a member, the procedure of reconciliation taught by Jesus in Matthew 18: 15-17 and by Paul in Galatians 6: 1-2 shall be followed. If reconciliation fails, a proposal of exclusion may be presented to the Deacons, who serve as the Committee on Discipline. The Deacons shall afford the parties involved an opportunity to meet with Deacon representatives to further attempt reconciliation. If such attempt is unsuccessful, the Deacons, in association with the Senior Pastor, shall determine whether a recommendation for exclusion should be made to the Church body. If such recommendation is made, the matter must be presented to the Church at any regular or special business meeting, after giving ten (10) days

written notice to the member proposed for exclusion. An affirmative vote of a majority of the members present and voting in said meeting shall be required to exclude any member. A member excluded from the fellowship of the Church shall be promptly furnished with a written explanation embodying the cause of the action.

Section 5. Restoration. Any request for restoration of Church membership shall be made to the Deacons by the excluded member. When the Deacons receive the excluded person's confession of error, evidence of repentance and reaffirmation of faith in and commitment to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, the Deacons may recommend to the Church in a business meeting that the excluded person be restored to membership. Thereafter, the excluded person shall be restored upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the Church members present at the business meeting in which the recommendation of the Deacons is received.

ARTICLE II – OFFICERS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers. The Church shall have such officers as are provided in the Articles of Incorporation and in these Bylaws.

Section 2. Senior Pastor. The Senior Pastor shall be the spiritual leader of the Church and shall meet the scriptural qualifications of a minister of the gospel as indicated in 1 Timothy 3: 1-7. His duties shall be to preach and teach the gospel of Jesus Christ, administer the ordinances of the New Testament and conduct the worship services of the Church. He shall be an ex-officio member of the Deacons and all standing and special or ad hoc committees of the Church. The Senior Pastor shall also be the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Church. The tenure of the Senior Pastor may be terminated by resignation or by the Church. If the termination is by the Church, it shall be upon the affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4's) of the Church members present and voting at a special business meeting called for this purpose of which at least ten (10) day's prior written notice shall be given to all Church members, provided, however, that no such final action shall be considered by the membership until after the matter has been referred to the Deacons for consideration, and the Deacons have brought their recommendation to the Church.

In the event the tenure of the Senior Pastor is terminated, notice of voluntary separation or retirement given, or the position otherwise becomes vacant, the Board of Trustees is tasked, after consultation with the Nominating Committee, to appoint a broad, balanced, and capable search committee to seek a suitable Senior Pastor. The search committee shall function as an ad hoc committee assigned to follow the pastor search scope and timeline established by the Board of Trustees and make recommendations to the Board. The Board of Trustees shall bring for consideration of the Church only one nominee at a time. A prospect for the Senior Pastor position must be presented to the Church in person and written notice of both the meeting and the presentation must be given to the Church at least one (1) week preceding each such event and

an oral announcement to the Church of the meeting must be made at the presentation. A new Senior Pastor may be elected by affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4's) of the Church members present and voting at a business meeting called for this purpose. The succession plan for the Senior Pastor position will be reviewed at least annually by the Board of Trustees.

Section 3. Deacons. Deacons must qualify in accordance with 1 Timothy 3: 8-13 and Acts 6:3 and are to be servants of the Church. The task of the Deacons is to serve with the Senior Pastor in the ministry of the Church and to minister as under-shepherd to the members. They shall be diligent to inform themselves as to the needs, both physical and spiritual, of the whole membership to the end that they make the Church serve effectively by cooperating with the Senior Pastor and the Christ Journey Staff in leading the Church to engage in fellowship of worship; witness, education and training ministry; and in the promotion of all the various interests of the Church. The Deacons will constitute the Committee on Discipline, and in the exercise of this office it shall be their duty to consider all cases of discipline and to bring all such cases as are required before the Church as provided in Article I, Section 4 of these Bylaws. The duty of the Deacons is to heal conflict and promote harmony. Whenever the Church needs to elect a deacon or deacons, the Nominating Committee shall solicit the recommendations from Church members. The Nominating Committee shall then submit to the Church in business session nominations of Church members who have completed the deacon orientation process and are active participants in and loyal to the Church ministries. After serving a term of three (3) years, a Deacon shall be eligible for re-election only after the lapse of at least one (1) year.

Section 4. Deacon Officers. The officers of the Deacons shall be a Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary with such officers to be elected and to have such responsibilities as follows:

a. The Chairman of the Deacons shall be the lay leader of the Church. He shall serve a one-year term and may be re-elected for such terms as can be completed within the length of time remaining in his normal three-year term as active Deacon. The Chairman shall organize and lead the Deacons in a commitment to excellence in the superior performance of their duties as servants and under-shepherds, and to that end may appoint Deacons who shall have supervisory functions within the Deacons as group leaders. Further, the Chairman shall exhort the entire membership of this Church to the joyful support of the Church program. He shall confer and consult regularly with the Senior Pastor. He shall perform all of the duties set forth in the Articles of Incorporation and such other duties as may be assigned by these Bylaws.

b. The Vice Chairman shall be elected for a one-year term, shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the Chairman, and shall perform all duties of the Chairman in the absence or disability of the Chairman.

c. The Secretary shall keep minutes of the Deacon's meetings when requested by the Chairman or by a majority of the Deacons present, ensure that proper and timely notice of meetings is furnished, and perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Chairman. He shall be elected for a one-year term.

d. The Deacons shall elect the Chairman, Vice Chairman and the Secretary by majority vote of those Deacons present and voting. Each Deacon shall exercise this franchise freely and forthrightly in prayer and submission to the Holy Spirit. There shall be a Deacon Nominating Committee composed of the current and immediate past Chairman and three (3) Deacons elected at a regular meeting, provided that written notice of such election shall be mailed to each Deacon not less than seven (7) days prior thereto. This committee shall recommend candidates for election to the office of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary of the Deacons. The election of such Deacon officers for the new Church year shall take place no later than the first Deacon meeting of that year.

Section 5. Christ Journey Staff. The Christ Journey Staff shall consist of those pastors called by the Church pursuant to the provisions of these Bylaws and all other licensed, non-licensed and non-pastoral staff members. Their specific areas of responsibilities shall be assigned by the Senior Pastor. This staff shall be charged with the leading of the ministries of the Church, the development of lay leaders, and the implementation of the programs aligned with the Church's Vision and Purpose in accordance with policies approved by the Church within the financial limitations prescribed in the Church budget. The Christ Journey Staff members shall coordinate and develop lay leader training to equip and empower the body of believers to serve with their God given talents.

Section 6. Clerk. The Clerk shall assure that minutes are kept of all business meetings of the Church; shall cause same to be signed, published and filed in the records of the Church; shall keep the roll of the Church and revise same from time to time; and attend to such matters as would ordinarily belong to this office. The Clerk shall be elected for a term of one year and may be re-elected without limitation.

Section 7. Parliamentarian. The Parliamentarian shall advise the Senior Pastor and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, when requested, on questions relating to procedures calculated to achieve an orderly and effective business meeting. Upon request the Parliamentarian shall render his opinion as to any Church, officer or committee action to assure adherence to the Articles of Incorporation and these Bylaws. The Parliamentarian may be elected for a term of one year and may be re-elected without limitation.

ARTICLE III – CONTRIBUTIONS

Section 1. Standard of Giving. It is the privilege of every Christian to contribute of his resources to the work of the Lord through His Church, remembering that the tithe was the minimal standard of Godly giving from earliest times (Genesis 28:22) and that each Church member should give of his resources as God has prospered him (1 Corinthians 16:2). The Church shall encourage all of its members to claim the promise of Malachi 3:10, being ever mindful that Christ honored the widow who gave her last two mites above all the rich who cast their abundance into the Temple treasury (Mark 12:41-44).

Section 2. Solicitation. No organization, person or entity shall be allowed to make an oral or written presentation to the Church or to any Church department or organization soliciting donations or contributions, unless approved in advance by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees or the Board of Trustees. Any request for such approval shall be in written form.

ARTICLE IV – FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE CHURCH

Section 1. Indebtedness. No obligation to pay any indebtedness shall be recognized unless such indebtedness shall have been authorized by an affirmative vote of the Board of Trustees or, within the scope of authority of the Executive Committee, by affirmative vote of the Executive Committee, unless contained in an approved budget.

Section 2. Expenditure of Money. No enterprise involving the expenditure of money, except for those provided in an approved budget or those within the scope of authority of the Executive Committee and approved by affirmative vote of the Executive Committee, shall be authorized by the Church until such enterprise has been considered by the Finance Committee and approved by the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE V – PUBLIC WORSHIP AND CHURCH MEETINGS

Section 1. Public Worship. As described in the Articles of Incorporation and in these Bylaws, the Church shall assemble for public worship as is desirable, expedient, beneficial or advisable. There shall be not less than one (1) Sunday morning worship service. In addition, the Church shall conduct as many biblically based groups as may be expedient, desirable or beneficial. The Church shall meet and conduct worship, prayer, teaching and training services as shall be expedient, desirable, beneficial and advisable.

Section 2. Church Meetings. The Church shall have the following meetings:

- a. Regular Church business meetings of the Church members shall be scheduled in February and August of each year, at which time all old business, pending business and new business shall be brought before the Church. The Senior Pastor shall

designate a time and day for such meetings. The Church members present shall constitute a quorum. Reports of the actions taken by the Board of Trustees, the Executive Committee, the Finance Committee, the Nominating Committee and any special or ad hoc committees since the prior Church meeting shall be provided to the Church members prior to such regular meeting. Any regular Church business meeting may be delayed or continued until any date or dates upon adequate notice to the Church members. Written notice of such meeting shall be provided to the Church members not less than ten (10) days prior to the scheduled meeting date.

- b. Special meetings of the Church members may be called by the Senior Pastor, by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, or by majority vote of the Board of Trustees. Written notice of a special meeting stating the purpose of the meeting shall be provided to the Church members prior to such meeting. If a special meeting is called for reasons that affect the relationship and/or rights of Church members, the Senior Pastor, the Deacons, or any committee member or any officer, or relates to a development or building program, the reason for the special meeting and nature of the matter to be addressed shall be provided to the Church members not less than ten (10) days prior to the scheduled meeting date. Other matters to be considered at a special meeting shall first be announced to the Church at all weekend services not less than two (2) days prior to said meeting.
- c. The Board of Trustees shall meet at least quarterly and may meet at such other times as it deems necessary or appropriate. The Executive Committee, Finance Committee and Nominating Committee shall meet at such times as are necessary to properly conduct Church business and as they deem necessary or appropriate.

Section 3. Procedure and Rules of Order. Roberts Rules of Order shall be followed in the conducting of all business and other meetings of the Church. The Chairman of the Board shall preside over meeting and shall be the moderator of the meetings unless otherwise provide in the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws. In cases of order, the Chairman, the Vice Chairman or the chairman of the applicable committee shall rule but may be overruled by majority vote of the applicable body, board or committee. No member shall speak more than once upon the same subject until every member wishing to speak shall have had the opportunity to speak. The members in a debate shall abstain from all unkind allusions and shall be stopped by the moderator as soon as they manifest any ill temper. Nothing contained in the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws shall be interpreted as precluding the election or appointment of a woman or women to any position or office, and the use of the male designation shall be interpreted to include the female.

ARTICLE VI – BIBLE STUDY

The Church shall provide opportunities appropriate for the spiritual development of its members, their families and guests of all ages in groups (See Acts 2:46-47). These groups shall be directed by the Christ Journey Staff assigned. The Senior Pastor and Christ Journey Staff shall oversee and administer the discipleship ministries of the Church, leading in the promotion of spiritual growth, leader's meetings, study courses and other functions that will promote the discipleship process and train workers for their tasks.

ARTICLE VII – ADDITIONAL MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

The Church may have such other ministries or organizations as may be necessary or appropriate for the carrying out of its purpose. Any such proposed ministry or organization shall first be approved by the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE VIII – ORDINANCES

Section 1. Baptism. A person who receives Jesus Christ as Savior by personal faith; who professes Him publicly; and who publicly professes a commitment to follow Him as Lord, shall be received for baptism. Baptism shall be by immersion in water. Baptism shall be administered by the Senior Pastor or whomever the Senior Pastor shall authorize. Baptism shall be administered as an act of worship.

Section 2. The Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of Christ's body, through partaking of the bread and of the fruit of the vine, commemorate the death of Jesus Christ and anticipate His second coming. The Lord's Supper shall be observed as often as deemed necessary and meaningful in the life of the Church. The Senior Pastor and Deacons shall be responsible for the administration of the Lord's Supper, except that other Church members or groups of Church members may be invited to administer the Lord's Supper when deemed to be meaningful.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

Proposed amendments to these Bylaws may be made by the Board of Trustees. All proposed amendments shall be provided, in writing, to the Church members at least ten (10) days

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prior to any meeting of the Church membership called to address such amendments, together with written notice of the time and place for such membership meeting. A majority of those Church members present and voting at such meeting shall be required to adopt the proposed amendment to the Bylaws.

Adopted _____, 2022.