



## BYLAWS

*Revised and accepted by the Members of SkyPointe Church on March 7th,  
2021*

### ARTICLE I – NAME AND LOCATION

The name of this Church is SkyPointe Church, located in Travelers Rest, South Carolina.

### ARTICLE II – PURPOSE, AFFILIATIONS, CONFESSION, BELIEFS, VISION, AND COMMITMENTS

#### SECTION 1: PURPOSE

SkyPointe Church exists for the worship and glory of God. This is accomplished through the set forth vision, commitments, and beliefs of SkyPointe Church.

#### SECTION 2: AFFILIATIONS

SkyPointe Church is a Church affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

#### SECTION 3: CONFESSION AND BELIEFS

As a Christian Church, SkyPointe affirms the Apostle's Creed. As a local body of believers, the beliefs of SkyPointe Church are outlined in the SkyPointe Confession of Faith which is adapted from the *New Hampshire Baptist Confession of 1853*, the *1689 Second London Baptist Confession of Faith*, and the *Baptist Faith and Message 2000*. In addition, the SkyPointe Confession of Faith affirms the doctrines of the Protestant Reformation of the 16<sup>th</sup> century described in the *Five Solas*.

Additionally, SkyPointe Church is governed by agreement with the *Danvers Statement on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood of 1988* and the *Nashville Statement of 2017*.

Because Elders are called to guard the doctrine of the Church and because the congregation has appointed the Elders as their spiritual oversight (Heb. 13:7, Titus 2:1), the Elders shall oversee the governing beliefs of SkyPointe Church. All governing confessions of faith and statements of belief must be approved by the Elders before they can be presented to the congregation for adoption. The Elders may also adopt statements of belief that are in accordance with the Church statement of faith as a matter of policy.

## **SECTION 4: VISION**

SkyPointe Church exists to worship and glorify God.

We accomplish this when we:

*Gather together to worship the risen Christ*

*Grow together in the likeness of Christ*

*Go together proclaiming the Gospel of Grace to the nations*

## **SECTION 5: COMMITMENTS**

Relationships at SkyPointe Church are rooted in our shared beliefs and commitments. Our Church Covenant is a summary of the biblical commitments we make to one another. As a local gathering of Christians known as SkyPointe Church, we make promises too God and one another for how we will love and care for one another. Through these commitments, our Church is a living, breathing display of God's character to the world.

### **ARTICLE III – CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

#### **SECTION 1: MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS**

The Membership of the Church shall consist of those persons who (1) profess their faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord (giving satisfactory proof of conversion to the Christian Faith, as set forth in the New Testament) and who (2) have professed their faith publicly in Confessional Baptism (Baptism upon confession of faith). Each Member must agree to submit to the teaching of Scripture as expressed in the SkyPointe Confession of Faith and other governing belief documents expressed in Article II, Section 3 above. Members must promise to keep the biblical commitments expressed in the SkyPointe Church Covenant.

#### **SECTION 2: ADMISSION OF MEMBERS**

Prior to seeking admission as a Member, a candidate shall provide one of the following according to the policies of this Church:

1. Confessional Baptism:
  - A. For persons making a public profession of faith.
  - B. For persons who have experienced salvation but have not experienced confessional baptism by immersion.
2. Letter: A letter of recommendation from another like-minded Evangelical Church.

3. Statement of Faith:

- A. For persons who have experienced salvation followed by confessional baptism by immersion by another Church of like doctrine.
- B. For restoration upon a statement of repentance and rededication of persons who have been removed from the fellowship of a like-minded Church for reasons of discipline.

Upon providing the foregoing, candidates shall complete a Membership interview with a representative of the Elders, agree to submit to the teaching of Scripture as expressed in the SkyPointe Confession of Faith and other governing belief documents including the Danvers Statement and the Nashville Statement, and be willing to sign the SkyPointe Church Covenant. If available, candidates must complete the SkyPointe Membership Class. The requirement of completion of the Membership class may be excused by the Elders upon discretion.

Upon completion of the foregoing, Candidates shall be presented to the Church at any Sunday morning service for a vote of affirmation from the Church Members present. Notice of meeting shall be given two weeks prior and include the names of Candidates.

Any concern regarding a candidate for Membership shall be referred to the Elders prior to the congregation's vote of affirmation. Any concerns that follow the approval of a candidate's Membership shall follow the process of Church discipline outlined in Article III, Section 6 below.

**SECTION 3. PURPOSE OF MEMBERSHIP**

The purpose of Church Membership within the context of SkyPointe Church is to:

- 1. Define who belongs to our local congregation (Philippians 2:2).
- 2. Know who should participate in the privileges and responsibilities of the Church (1 Timothy 5:16, James 5:14).
- 3. Provide adequate spiritual and physical care for every individual that belongs to this Church (Acts 6:1).
- 4. Exercise authority and oversight in discipline and restoration of those Members not maintaining a biblical standard of doctrine and conduct (I Corinthians 5:1-5).
- 5. Submit to the preaching of God's Word, prayer, the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and public worship of God (Acts 2:42, Matthew 28:19-20, Ephesians 5:19).
- 6. Not forsake the gathering of ourselves together (Hebrews 10:25).

**SECTION 4: RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS**

The responsibilities of Members are summarized in the Church Covenant and include regular attendance on the Lord's Day for all who are able.

## **SECTION 5: TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

Membership may be terminated in the following ways: (1) death of the Member; (2) joining another like-minded Church; (3) exclusion by action of this Church; (4) erasure upon request approved by the Elders; or (5) 6 consecutive months of inactivity.

## **SECTION 6: CHURCH DISCIPLINE**

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).

The Lord Jesus Christ has entrusted the local Church with the authority and responsibility to discipline Members for flagrant sin or serious doctrinal error with the goal of the restoration of the offender. This discipline is entrusted to the recognized Elders of SkyPointe Church 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. Any Member of this Church who practices or affirms a doctrine or conduct that in the judgment of the Elders (1) is opposed to the teaching of the Word of God; (2) is threatening to the testimony of this Church; or (3) is divisive to the body of Christ, shall be subject to Church discipline.

Discipline will follow the 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 specific ministries as the Elders deems necessary, including, but not limited to, the Lord's Supper, as well as dismissal from the fellowship of this Church.

The Elders, as is required by Scripture, may report to the congregation the names of those who have lost Membership by reason of Church discipline and the reason for that discipline as described in Matthew 18:15-20. The final step of the Church discipline process is a congregational affirmation to remove an unrepentant person from the fellowship of SkyPointe Church. The Elders, under extreme circumstances, may dismiss a Member from fellowship without congregational affirmation but must report necessary information to the Church body in accordance with Matthew 18:15-20. Dismissals are only to be done in love as a last resort and always in hopes that the unrepentant person might repent of their sin and be restored to fellowship once again.

The Members of this Church agree that a Member cannot withdraw or resign his or her Membership in the midst of the discipline process or in anticipation of the discipline process. A Member who is the subject of Church discipline may only withdraw or resign his or her Membership after the disciplinary process has been resolved. The conclusion of all disciplinary matters will be determined by the Elders.

## **SECTION 7: RESTORATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

If a Member, after dismissal, heeds the warning, demonstrates repentance, and requests reinstatement, then such request shall be made to the Elders (Gal 6:1). In the discretion of the Elders, he or she may be publicly restored to Membership with or without congregational affirmation.

## **SECTION 8: MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

### 1. Types of Meetings:

A. A regular annual meeting shall be held to affirm the Church's annual budget and to receive reports from the Elders regarding the Church.

B. Special meetings may be called by the Elders when necessary.

### 2. Notice of Meetings:

All regular meetings shall be publicly announced and in printed form at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting

Any special-called meetings shall be publicly announced and in printed form at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting unless extreme urgency renders such notice impractical.

### 3. Quorum for Meetings:

Thirty percent of the Members shall constitute a quorum for any meeting at which a vote is to be taken. If a quorum is not obtained or ceases to exist during a meeting, then the meeting shall immediately be adjourned and rescheduled.

## **SECTION 9: ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

1. Students and others temporarily residing in the Greenville area who otherwise meet the requirements of Membership in the Church may request associate Membership and be received as associate Members, provided they are Members in good standing of another like-minded, evangelical Church.

2. A candidate shall be received as an associate Member upon the recommendation of the Elders and the subsequent congregational affirmation in accordance with Article III, Section 2 of these Bylaws.

3. Associate Members shall retain Membership in one other like-minded, evangelical Church.

4. Associate Members shall be expected to comply with the Church Covenant in the same manner as regular Members; however, they shall not be eligible to stand for any office or to vote.

5. A person's associate Membership with the Church shall terminate immediately upon the ending of residence in the Greenville area or by voluntary resignation. The Church shall have authority to terminate an individual's associate Membership in accordance with Article III, Section 5 of these Bylaws.

## **SECTION 10: ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH**

Scripture teaches that there are two ordinances that the Church is to observe till Jesus' return:

1. Baptism (see Chapter 14 of the SkyPointe Confession of Faith); and
2. The Lord's Supper (see Chapter 14 of the SkyPointe Confession of Faith).

## **ARTICLE IV – CHURCH GOVERNMENT**

The biblical offices in the Church are Elders and Deacons under the authority of Jesus Christ the Head of the Church (1 Tim 3:1-13, Titus 1:6-9, Acts 6:1-7). Terms like Pastor, Bishop, and Overseer, are all used interchangeably throughout the New Testament in reference to the Office of Elder. The term Elder will encompass all pastoral staff.

### **SECTION 1: ELDERS**

Jesus Christ as Head of the Church mediates His rule over the Church by gifting Elders to shepherd, oversee, and lead the Church. These Elders are directly responsible to Jesus Christ for the governing of the Church according to His Word (Acts 20:28-30, 1 Thess. 5:12-14, 1 Peter 5:1-2).

#### **1. Composition**

The Elders shall be comprised of the Lead Pastor and men within the Church who meet the qualifications of biblical eldership and the qualifications specific to SkyPointe Church. The Elders shall consist of both staff and non-staff Elders. While the Lead Pastor is the only required position for the Church to maintain as pastoral staff, additional pastoral staff (men in the recognized office of pastor) shall be admitted to the Elders upon a vote of affirmation from the congregation. (*For example: Associate Pastor, Discipleship Pastor, Administrative Pastor, Family Pastor, etc.*).

#### **2. Qualifications**

In order to serve as an Elder at SkyPointe Church, a man must first meet the biblical qualifications for Elder found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 & Titus 1:6-9. A candidate for Elder must affirm the SkyPointe Confession of Faith which includes the *Apostles' Creed* and the doctrines recovered during the protestant reformation described in the *Five Solas*. He must also agree with the *Danvers Statement on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood of 1988* and the *Nashville Statement of 2017*.

#### **3. Responsibilities**

The Elders shall oversee the ministry of the Church. In keeping with the principles set forth in Acts

6:1-6 and 1 Peter 5:1-4, the pastors shall devote their time to prayer, the ministry of the Word (by teaching and encouraging sound doctrine), and shepherding God's flock.

The Elders shall take particular responsibility to examine and instruct prospective Members, conduct worship services, administer the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, equip the Membership for the work of the ministry, encourage sound doctrine and practice, admonish and correct error, oversee the process of Church discipline, coordinate and promote the ministries of the Church, and mobilize the Church for evangelism and missions.

The Lead Pastor shall have the responsibility of overseeing the work and ministry of the Elder Body.

#### 4. Expectations

Elders shall be expected to attend 90% of all Sunday morning worship gatherings and Elder Meetings in a given year. Exceptions must be approved by the Elders. All absences and information regarding absences must be reported to the Elders. Elders shall not be expected to be involved individually in every ministry of the Church; however, they will be expected to be prudent and diligent in their Church Membership (*Examples: Covenant Groups, Equipping Matters, etc.*).

#### 5. Appointment

The process by which Elders are selected is as follows:

A. The Elders shall set aside men that they determine have met the qualifications and gifting of the office of Elder. They shall be declared as being under consideration to the Elders. During this time, the candidate shall go through a rigorous examination that will include, but is not limited to: personal spiritual examination, doctrinal examination, and teaching examination.

B. The Elders shall vote to bring a candidate before the Church; the decision of the Elders to bring the candidate before the Church must be unanimous.

C. After notice to the Church that a candidate is being recommended, the congregation shall be given a minimum of four weeks to pray, ask questions, and consider the candidate's qualifications. At the appointed time, a vote shall be taken by paper ballot at the end of a Sunday morning worship service. For the candidate to be affirmed, a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote must be obtained. If a vote does not reach this threshold, the candidate will not assume the office of Elder. A candidate who fails to obtain a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote shall be ineligible for a period of one year before he can be considered again. If the candidate is affirmed, he shall begin his duty as Elder at the appointed time agreed upon by the candidate and Elders.

The number of Elders shall be as many as are qualified and needed to carry out the ministry of the Church in the discretion of the Elders but shall be no less than two Elders.

The term of office for an Elder shall continue as long as he is qualified, capable, and desirous of

fulfilling the duties of an Elder. If a rotation is established by policy, he shall continue as long as he is qualified, capable, and desirous of fulfilling the duties of an Elder within the timeframe of the rotation policy. When possible, the Church shall have a majority of non-staff Elders.

#### 6. Leadership among Elders

As demonstrated in the Scriptures, even among the leadership of the Church there is a leader. In as much as the Lead Pastor has the responsibility of the spiritual equipping and oversight of the entire congregation, of which each of the Elders are a part, he shall serve as the leader, moderator, and spokesman for the Elders to the Church. He shall prepare the agenda for the Elder meetings or designate someone to do so. He shall have but one vote in the Elders (Acts 15:13-21).

A chairman shall be selected among the Elders to serve alongside the Lead Pastor when it is necessary for a matter to be addressed to the congregation that should not come from the Lead Pastor.

#### 7. Decision-Making Authority

The members of SkyPointe Church have vested the day-to-day decision-making authority of the Church in the Elders who shepherd the Church. The ultimate authority of the Church rests in its membership. The objective of any decisions made shall be to please the Lord regarding the matter at hand (Acts 15:2- 6, Heb 13:7).

#### 8. Congregational Decisions

The Elders shall seek the formal affirmation of the congregation in the following matters. Votes on any matter listed below shall be by a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote and shall be by ballot:

- A. The selection of an Elder.
- B. The installation or removal of the Lead Pastor.
- C. The selection of a Deacon
- D. The Church's annual budget.
- E. Any expenditures or related indebtedness in excess of \$5000 which are outside the approved annual budget.
- F. Changes or amendments to the Bylaws.

#### 9. Specific Duties and Responsibilities

The Lead Pastor shall establish the roles and responsibilities of each Elder in writing as needed. The Lead Pastor may change these roles as the need arises. Any roles or changes in roles shall be given to each Elder in writing.

10. Under Authority

Elders shall be directly responsible to the Lead Pastor for the carrying out of their roles and responsibilities.

11. Removal of Elders

Any Elder (excluding the Lead Pastor, see Article IV, Section 2.A) may be removed from office if he becomes physically incapacitated, spiritually unqualified (practically or doctrinally), or his inability to serve is established by the remainder of the Elders. Any accusation or action against an Elder must be presented to the Elders in accordance with Scripture (1 Tim 5:19-20). The decision must be unanimous among the remaining Elders.

12. Speaking Engagements and Conferences

Elders shall be permitted to preach funerals, weddings, and other such engagements outside of the Church as an extension of his ministry and the ministry of SkyPointe Church. These events must be approved in advance by the Elders, and the use of vacation time shall not be required of any staff Elder.

Elders shall be permitted to attend conferences approved in advance by the Elders, and the use of vacation time shall not be required of any staff Elder.

**SECTION 2: PASTORAL STAFF AND SUPPORT STAFF**

The role of Lead Pastor is a required role that must always be filled or sought to be filled. As the Elders deem and the Church needs, more pastoral staff shall be added or removed as it benefits the Church.

1. Lead Pastor

The primary responsibility for preaching and teaching the Scriptures in public meetings of the Church shall be vested in a Lead Pastor, who shall be an Elder. He is responsible for leading in the spiritual equipping and oversight of the entire congregation. He is the spokesman for the Elders to the congregation and is directly responsible (a man under authority) to the Elders for the carrying out of his duties in the Church (Acts 20:28, Eph 4:11-12, 1 Pet 5:2-4).

A. The responsibilities of the Lead Pastor are as follows:

- (i). To pray (Acts 6:4).
- (ii). To prepare and to preach the Word (Acts 6:4, 2 Tim 4:13, 2 Tim 4:2, Titus 1:5).
- (iii). To protect the Church from false doctrine (1 Tim 4:16, Titus 1:9).
- iv. To see to the administration, oversight, and care of all Church staff and the Elders

(Acts 20:34).

v. To lead in the selection of all Church staff in accordance with the selection process established in these Bylaws.

vi. To ensure that the Church is operating within the parameters set forth in these Bylaws and the accepted Confessions, Covenant, and other documents.

#### B. Call and Termination of the Lead Pastor

i. Call: The Elders shall seek out a suitable Lead Pastor, and its recommendation shall constitute a nomination. Any Church Member may have the privilege of making recommendations to the Elders for consideration. The Elders shall bring to the consideration of the Church only one name at a time. A 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote by ballot is required to affirm a call. A pastor, thus affirmed, shall serve until the relationship is terminated as set forth below.

ii. Termination: The Lead Pastor's term of office may be terminated by resignation or dismissal. A formal recommendation for dismissal must come unanimously (excluding the Lead Pastor) from the Elders. Any two Members with reason to believe that a pastor should be dismissed should express such concerns to the Elders, and if need be, then, via the Elders to the congregation. Any such action shall be done in accordance with the instructions of our Lord in Matthew 18:15-17 and 1 Timothy 5:17-21.

The Lead Pastor may be dismissed by a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote of the Members at a specially called meeting for that purpose of which at least one week's notice has been given. If the Lead Pastor is terminated, then the Elders shall determine appropriate severance compensation for the Lead Pastor and his family within twenty-four hours of the vote if not previously decided.

#### C. Financial Support of the Lead Pastor

The Elders (excluding the Lead Pastor) shall initially establish and at minimum annually review the Lead Pastor's financial support and benefit package in coordination with the Finance Team. All decisions must be presented in writing to the Lead Pastor. It shall be the commitment of the Church to provide, within its means, generous financial support to the Lead Pastor who is "worthy of double honor" (1 Tim. 5:17).

#### D. Vacancy of the Lead Pastor Position

In the event that the Church is without a Lead Pastor, then the chairman of the Elders shall serve as chairman, moderator, and spokesman for the elders. They shall choose an interim administrator to be over all Church staff. They shall be responsible for teaching and preaching in the interim. They shall expeditiously start the Lead Pastor search process as established in these Bylaws.

### 2. Additional Pastoral Staff

As the need arises, the Elders may present a qualified man to serve as an Elder with a specific ministerial focus (*Example: Administration, Family Ministry, Worship Ministry, Discipleship Ministry, etc.*). This may be a full-time, part-time, or volunteer role. For all additional Pastoral Staff, the process for appointing and removing Elders shall be followed as outlined in these Bylaws. In addition, for the affirmation of all full-time pastoral staff, the Church shall follow the same procedures set forth in these Bylaws for the call of the Lead Pastor in accordance with Article IV, Section 2, Number 1(A).

### 3. Ministerial Support Staff

As the need arises, the Elders may retain (full-time, part-time, or volunteer) qualified individuals to serve as ministry support staff to aid the pastoral staff in the day to day workings of the Church (*Example: Secretary, finance secretary, youth minister/director, children's minister/director*). The Elders shall have full authority to call and remove individuals from these roles; no congregational affirmation is required. All decisions must be unanimous within the Elders. If there is a conflict of interest for any Elder, the Elders shall have the ability to allow or disallow said Elder to be a part of all discussions and may recuse said Elder from the final vote. An individual who wishes to resign from his or her role shall give as much notice as possible to the Elders with a minimum of two weeks.

### 4. Under Authority

All pastoral staff shall be directly responsible to the Lead Pastor, and ultimately the Elders, for the carrying out his or her role and responsibilities. Ministry support staff shall follow a chain of command and report directly to the pastoral staff Member overseeing said specified area of ministry.

### 5. Financial Support for Pastoral Staff and Support Staff

The Elders shall initially establish and at minimum annually review the financial support for and benefit package for staff Members in coordination with the Finance Team. All decisions must be presented in writing to the individual staff Member.

### 6. Responsibilities of Pastoral Staff and Support Staff

The Lead Pastor shall establish the duties and responsibilities of each pastoral and support staff Member in writing as needed. The Lead Pastor may change these duties as the need arises. Any duties or changes in duties shall be given to each staff Member in writing. The Elders may have input on duties and responsibilities at any time.

## **SECTION 3: DEACONS**

The New Testament scripture teaches that Deacons were set apart by the Church as servants to minister to the physical needs of the Body of Christ. This ministry allowed the Elders to devote themselves to prayer and to the ministry of the Word (Acts 6:1-7). The office of Deacon is one of a servant to the Body of Christ. Any other concept does injustice to the New Testament record found in Acts 6 and 1 Timothy 3. It is not a position or office to give a person in order to honor them. This is not an office of authority within the Church, therefore both men and woman may be considered for the role of Deacon.

Deacons shall be recommended by the Elders and affirmed by the congregation to assist the Elders in the practical ministry of service to the Church as needed (Acts 6:1-6). While these Bylaws mandate a minimum number of Elders, it is not required that the Church have Deacons at all times. Deacons are a biblical role, and should be utilized as the Elders see fit.

1. Purpose: Deacons shall be used to carry out specific ministries under the authority and direction of the Elders in an effort to aid the Elders (*Example: Facilities, Baptism, Lord's Supper, etc.*). A Deacon shall
  - A. Work and serve alongside the Elders and staff to support, encourage, and uphold his or her ministry (Acts 6:3);
  - B. Exemplify spiritual leadership in the fellowship of the Church and in his or her family, personal, and business relationships (1 Tim 3:8-16); and
  - C. Be a person of prayer and a student of the Word of God (1 Tim 2:8, 2 Tim 2:14-15).
2. Qualifications
  - A. Active Church Membership: A person must be an active Member of this Church for one year prior to the time of election to the Deacon Body unless the Elders approves a shorter time (1 Tim 3:10). Great care shall be taken to ensure a complete understanding of the role of deacon (διάκονος) — a humble servant to the body of Christ for the glory of Christ.
  - B. Biblical Qualifications: A Deacon must possess the qualifications described in scripture. Scripture seems to indicate this role was filled by both men and women, (Rom. 16:1, 1 Tim. 3:11, Philippians 4:1-3). Deacons shall meet the biblical qualifications found in Acts 6:1-7 and 1 Tim 3:8-13.
3. Deacon Selection Process

When the Elders determines that there is a need for additional Deacons, it shall select Church Members qualified for service. The Elders shall prayerfully consider each individual and once a unanimous decision is reached by the Elders, they shall announce the candidate(s) to the congregation. The congregation shall have a minimum of four weeks to consult and interact with those individuals in view of installing them as Deacons. At the appointed time, a vote shall be taken by paper ballot at the end of a Sunday morning worship service. For the candidate to be affirmed, a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote must be obtained. A candidate who fails to obtain a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote shall be ineligible for a period of one year before he can be considered again. If the candidate is affirmed, he shall begin his duty as Deacon at the appointed time agreed upon by the candidate and Elders.

Upon the affirmation of the candidate(s), the Elders shall immediately pray for and lay hands on the affirmed candidate(s) setting them apart for the work of service to the Church. The role of Deacon shall not be a formally recognized ordination.

#### 4. Deacon Chairperson

The Deacon Body shall have one recognized officer. This shall be the Deacon Chairperson. The Chairman shall be appointed by the Elders to assist them in oversight of all Deacon ministries.

#### 5. Deacon Meetings

The deacon body shall meet as needed for the carrying out of its ministry in the Church. The deacon chairperson or the Elders may call a meeting of the Deacons. As necessary, an Elder should be in attendance for called meetings.

#### 6. Term of Office

The term of a Deacon shall be 3 years, and the term may continue past the 3 year term as the Elders and the individual Deacon see fit.

#### 7. Removal of Deacons

Any Deacon may be removed from office by the Elders if he or she becomes physically incapacitated, spiritually unqualified (practically or doctrinally), or their inability to serve is established by the Elders of the Church.

A Deacon may be reassigned if the ministry he or she carries out is dissolved for any reason. If the Deacon does not wish to carry out the duties of a reassignment, he or she may resign his or her position in good standing but will be ineligible to serve again as Deacon for one year.

### **SECTION 4: TEAMS**

To promote efficient handling of Church matters, the Elders may appoint various teams from within its Members, the staff, the Deacons, and from the Church at large. These teams shall perform tasks solely in accordance with the responsibilities and with the powers specifically delegated by the Elders. When possible, a team shall be directly led by an Elder or by an appointed Deacon. All teams shall be under the oversight of and responsible to the Elders. The function of a team includes but is not limited to:

1. Bringing considered recommendations to the Elders concerning Church matters.
2. Providing a wider base of counsel to the Elders regarding Church matters.
3. Assisting in leading the congregation in ministry.

All Elders serve as ex-officio Members of all teams and may attend meetings at their discretion. All teams shall exist for the period specified by the Elders.

## **SECTION 5: THE FINANCE TEAM**

To promote the efficient and studied handling of the financial matters of the Church, the Elders shall appoint a team for the purpose of making recommendations to the Elders regarding the finances of the Church. This group shall be known as the Finance Team. They shall aid in the compilation of the annual Church budget and any other financial matters that the Elders delegate to their care. The Elders shall determine the number and tenure of members of the Finance Team (1 Pet. 5:2, 2 Cor. 8:18-20). When possible a Deacon shall be appointed to carry out the organizational leadership of the Finance Team. While all Elders shall be ex-officio Members of the Finance Team, one Elder who is not the Lead Pastor shall be appointed to directly oversee the Finance Team.

## **SECTION 6: TRUSTEES**

The Elders shall serve as the trustees of SkyPointe Church for the purpose of signing legal documents involving the sale, mortgage, purchase, or rental of property, or other legal document where the signatures of trustees are required. They shall have power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer property on behalf of SkyPointe Church with approval given by the congregation as needed. Elders may designate specific trustee signers for specific purposes as needed.

### **ARTICLE V – CHURCH POLICIES AND PROCEDURE MANUAL**

The Church shall develop and maintain a Church Policies and Procedures Manual to include Church policies and procedures and organization charts depicting lines of responsibility in the administration of the Church. The manual shall be made available for use by any Member of the Church. The Elders or the Deacon body as delegated by the Elders shall maintain the manual.

The Elders, or a special team established by the Elders for this purpose, shall review the manual at least annually with authority to recommend changes for the Elders to consider.

Policies or procedures may be added, revised, or deleted by the Elders. If deemed necessary and/or advisable by the Elders, revisions will be approved by the congregation.

### **ARTICLE VI – CONGREGATIONAL AFFIRMATION**

#### **1. Purpose**

The purpose of an affirmation from the congregation is to provide accountability, wisdom, and decision-making as outlined in these Bylaws. Unless otherwise specified herein, affirmations may be cast by ballot, voice vote, or show of hands. Any matter which requires a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote shall be by paper ballot.

#### **2. Eligible Members**

A Church Member in good standing is eligible to cast a vote in formal affirmations when he or she is present.

### **3. Ballots**

The Elders shall approve all paper ballots prior to a vote by the congregation.

#### **ARTICLE VII – DISSOLUTION OF THE CHURCH**

Upon a recommendation from the Elders to the Church Membership, the Church Membership shall decide by ballot vote whether or not to dissolve the Church. A 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote is required for the dissolution of the Church provided a quorum is present. Upon the dissolution of the Church, the Elders shall recommend to the Church Membership another Church or ministry of like faith to whom the Church assets should be distributed. The Church Membership shall approve the recommended distribution of assets by a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote prior to the assets being distributed.

#### **ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS**

Members may make recommendations to the Elders for amendments to the Bylaws. All amendments must be approved by the Elders before being presented to the congregation for consideration. Each proposed amendment must be presented in writing no less than two weeks before the congregational vote. Amendments to the Bylaws shall be by a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> ballot vote provided a quorum is present.

#### **ARTICLE IX – CHURCH COVENANT**

Having been led by the Spirit of God to accept Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, and on the profession of our faith in Him, having been baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we do now prayerfully and seriously make this covenant with God and with one another.

We determine, therefore, by the grace of God and in the power of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; strive for the advancement of this Church in knowledge, holiness, and strength; to uphold its doctrine, ordinances, and discipline according to the teachings of the New Testament; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expense of the Church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations; to dedicate our energies to the service of Christ's Kingdom; to seek to lead others into its fellowship to the end that His Kingdom may be promoted.

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, nor neglect to pray for ourselves and others.

By God's help we further agree to cultivate personal and family devotions; to endeavor to lead our children to a personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ, to instruct them in the Scriptures and the spirit of this covenant, and to seek the salvation of our family and acquaintances.

To give no man cause to speak evil against us, we will seek to be just in our dealings, to be faithful to our commitments, to set the proper example in our attitude and conduct, and to avoid conversation harmful to others and inappropriate anger. Realizing that the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, we will avoid things that are harmful to the body, exercising self-discipline and cultivating purity in our lives.

We pledge to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

Moreover, when we move from this place we will as soon as possible, unite with some other church, where we can carry out the principles of God's Word and the spirit of this covenant.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.