



Valley Community Chapel

# Constitution & Bylaws

**\*\* Approved Copy \*\***

January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010

*"A Christ Centered Community"*

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# **CONSTITUTION**

## **ARTICLE I - NAME**

The name of this corporation shall be Valley Community Chapel of Yucca Valley, herein referred to as VCC.

## **ARTICLE II – PRINCIPAL OFFICE**

The principal office of VCC is 59025 Yucca Trail, Yucca Valley, CA 92284.

## **ARTICLE III – PURPOSE**

The specific purpose for which this corporation has been organized is to form a local church for religious services for the people in the community, and to fulfill our Mission Statement (Article IV).

## **ARTICLE IV – MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of VCC is to draw people to Jesus Christ, disciple them in God's Word, and deploy them to serve Christ. The result is that VCC is Christ-centered, inwardly strong and outwardly focused.

## **ARTICLE V - TENETS OF FAITH**

We believe the tenets listed below are the foundation of a Biblically centered ministry. No claim is made that this Article contains all the doctrines found in the Bible. These tenets are written with the best of our Biblical understanding and interpretation of the Holy Scriptures which are the foundation of VCC.

### **SECTION A - THE SCRIPTURES INSPIRED**

The Bible is God's inspired Word, without error in its original writing, the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men. The Word of God is a "living and powerful" resource that serves as the believer's final authority for Christian faith and living. In 2 Timothy 3:16-17 we see that the Scriptures were inspired or "breathed by God"—that is, the breath or Spirit of God infused the minds of the writers with His perfect will and truth. The end result of this inspiration is that the Bible reveals the truths which God wants His people to know and communicate to the world. (Hebrews 4:12; 1 Peter 1:23-25; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 46:11; Romans 10:15)

### **SECTION B - THE ONE TRUE GOD**

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing simultaneously in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 3:16-17; Genesis 1:26; 1 John 5:6-7; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 18:19; Mark 12:29; Isaiah 43:10; 11, Matthew 28:19; John 14:16-20; Acts 10:36-38)

## **SECTION C - THE FALL AND REDEMPTION OF MAN**

Man was created in the image of God to know Him and be like Him. For God said, “Let us make man in our image and after our likeness.” Through an act of man’s own free will; however, he fell from grace and became sinful in his entire nature and action. Man’s only hope of redemption is through the free gift of grace given by God through His son Jesus Christ. (Genesis 1:26-31; Genesis 3:17; Romans 5:12-21).

## **SECTION D - THE SALVATION OF MAN**

### **1. Conditions of Salvation**

Salvation is through faith in Jesus Christ alone, requires repentance of sin, is through the grace of God and is apart from any works. It is the privilege of all to be born of the Spirit (born again), and to be assured of their salvation from the very moment in which they trust Christ as their savior. (Mark 6:12; Luke 24:47; John 6:44-47; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Acts 17:30; 1 Corinthians 1:18; Romans 1:16-17; Romans 5:8; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:5,8; Titus 3:5)

### **2. Being Born Again**

To be *born again* means to have an inner spiritual renewal as a result of the power of God in a person’s life. The phrase *born again* comes from John 3:3, 7, where Jesus told Nicodemus, “Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Jesus meant that mankind is so sinful that they need to be recreated and renewed by God’s Spirit. (John 3:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Titus 3:5; John 6:63)

### **3. Evidences of Salvation**

Personal salvation is evidenced by a present trust in Christ (John 5:24), regeneration evidenced by the desire and pursuit to live a holy life, (1 John 3:6-10; Titus 3:5-7; Ephesians 2:10; Philippians 2:12-13) and the Spirit Himself who bears witness with a believer’s spirit that they are a child of God. (Romans 8:16)

### **4. Assurance of Salvation**

The assurance, which believers have as to their own personal salvation, is founded on the truth of the promises found in Scripture. “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.” John 5:24; also, (John 6:38-40; 47; 10:27-30; Romans 11:29). That the believer may have such a certainty appears from the testimony of Scripture (1 John 5:13), and from the fact that it has been attained (2 Tim. 1:12; 4:7, 8; 1 John 2:3; 4:16).

## **SECTION E - SANCTIFICATION PROCESS**

By the power of the Holy Spirit we strive to obey the command, “Be ye holy, for I am holy.” We believe that sanctification is the work of God’s grace by which the believer is separated from sin and becomes dedicated to the pursuit of God’s righteousness. Sanctification is both instantaneous through God and Christ and progressive through man’s obedience to the Holy Spirit and the Word. The result of sanctification is the purification from sin by both the Word of God, and the Holy Spirit. (1 Peter 1:15-16; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; John 17:17; Romans 8:34)

## **SECTION F - BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Baptism of the Holy Spirit is the infilling of power for life and service, and the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry. This experience may be distinct from and subsequent to being *born again*. (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31; Acts 2:38; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9)

## **SECTION G - THE GREAT COMMISSION**

The Great Commission is a mandate given to all believers by Jesus Christ which says: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20; 24:14; 26:13; Mark 14:9; 16:15-18; Luke 24:46-49; John 20:21-22; Acts 1:8; Romans 1:8; Colossians 1:6)

We believe that the fulfillment of the Great Commission is accomplished through the public statement of the gospel of Jesus Christ and by witnessing to the unsaved in order to win disciples for Him and the church. The message is the Good News that Jesus died for our sins, and was resurrected according to prophecy, and that as the reigning Lord now offers the forgiveness of sins to all who repent and believe. (2 Corinthians 5:14-15; Matthew 5:16; 1 Peter 2:9; Philippians 2:15-16; 1 Peter 4:10-11)

## **SECTION H - THE CHURCH**

The church is the collective body of Christ, made up of individual *born again* believers in Jesus. Each believer is an integral part of the church, and his or her name is written in the Lamb’s Book of Life. (Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:47; 1 Corinthians 11:18; 14:19, 23, 28, 33, 34; 15:9; Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:24; Revelation 3:5)

## **SECTION I - PURPOSE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH**

The purpose of the local church is to fulfill the great commission (Section G), edification, and worship. Edification involves the building up of a person’s faith and dedication to Christ through preaching and teaching of the Word of God; fellowship through group interaction; and love through the application of the teachings of Jesus Christ. Worship involves, but is not limited to, blessing of God through music, prayer, communion, tithes and offerings, and giving ourselves for service. (Deuteronomy 12; Psalm 134; Psalm 147:7; Acts 17:22-31; Acts 20:33-35; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; 12:12; 2 Corinthians 4:5; Ephesians 4:1-12; Jeremiah 26:2)

## **SECTION J - DIVINE HEALING**

Divine healing is both physical and spiritual in nature. The central focus of divine healing is in the person of Jesus Christ. He is the center and source of all healing gifts and miracles from God.

All that we are and have is provided for in the atonement of Jesus Christ including the privilege of petition for divine physical healing. However, this privilege does not guarantee a physical healing.

The ultimate spiritual healing was done when Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins and we became *born again*. His righteousness at the moment of our salvation covered our sins and we have been spiritually healed and saved from the penalty of death.

(Numbers 21:5-9; Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:16-17; John 3:14-15; 1 Peter 2:24; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10)

### **SECTION K - THE BLESSED HOPE**

The blessed hope is the resurrection of those who have died in Christ, together with those Christians who are alive when the LORD returns for His church. This is the hope and promise of spending eternity with Jesus Christ. (Romans 6:23; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; 1 John 5:13)

### **SECTION L - THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF JESUS CHRIST**

The millennial reign of Jesus Christ consists of the following: the thousand years of Jesus Christ's literal reign as King on earth with His saints, the salvation of the nation of Israel, and the final judgment of all the nations of the world as prophesied in the Scriptures. (Romans 11:25-29; 2 Thessalonians 1:7; Revelation 19:11-16; Revelation 20:1-6; 12-15)

### **SECTION M – FINAL JUDGMENT**

All people will be judged and stand before the righteous judge Jesus Christ and give account for their lives. True *born again* believers in Jesus Christ will receive crowns as rewards. Those people who have not been saved will be judged based on their own works and inability to live a sinless life apart from Christ. (Psalm 19:9; Romans 14:10-12; Romans 2:5-6; 2 Peter 3:7-15; Ezekiel 38:22; Revelation 2:23; Matthew 13:36-43; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 2 Timothy 4:6-8; James 1:12; 1 Peter 5:4; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-9)

### **SECTION N - THE LAKE OF FIRE**

The devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, and whosoever is not found written in the Lamb's Book of Life shall be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burns fire and brimstone, which is the second death. (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9; Revelation 19:20; Revelation 20:10-15)

### **SECTION O - THE NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH**

There will be a new heaven and a new earth after the end of the millennial reign of Jesus Christ and after the final Judgment, wherein righteousness dwells. (Isaiah 65:17; 2 Peter 3:13, Revelation 21-22:5)

## **ARTICLE VI - ORDINANCES**

Water Baptism and the Lord's Supper are the two ordinances instituted by Christ to be observed by His church until He returns. (John 6:48-57; Matthew 28:18-20)

## **SECTION A - WATER BAPTISM**

The ordinance of water baptism should be observed by all that have repented of their sins and in their hearts have believed on Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord as commanded by the Scriptures. This observance symbolizes and declares to the world that they have died with Christ and that they have also been raised to walk with Him in newness of life. Baptism is by immersion whenever possible as it is exemplified in the Scriptures. (Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 6:4; Matthew 3:16; Acts 8:38-39).

## **SECTION B - THE LORD'S SUPPER**

The Lord's Supper (Communion) is the Biblical practice in which Christians partake of bread (symbolizing Jesus' body) and the fruit of the vine (symbolizing Jesus' blood) with the purpose of remembering Christ, the penalty He paid for our sin on the cross, the promise of living forever with Him, and the prophecy of His second coming. (John 6:48-57; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

## **ARTICLE VII – MEMBERSHIP**

Membership is more than simply a statement of where you worship, it is a commitment to the vision, mission, and ministries of VCC. Members serve together as we grow towards intimacy with God, reach out to impact our community, and change the world through spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

### **SECTION A - QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP**

A person who is at least eighteen (18) years old is eligible to become a member of VCC if he/she acknowledges and accepts the following:

1. Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior
2. The Tenants of Faith in this document (Article V)
3. Agrees to be governed by the constitution and bylaws of VCC as herein set forth
4. Has been water baptized

### **SECTION B - APPLICATION FOR AND CONFIRMATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

An individual seeking to become a member of VCC must attend membership orientation classes, complete a membership application, and meet with one or more of the elders for approval. The board reserves the right to deny membership to any prospective applicant. Once an applicant has been approved for membership, he/she shall be received into the church publicly at any of our regular Sunday services.

### **SECTION C - NON-VOTING MEMBERSHIP**

We believe that scripture teaches a theocratic form of church government. That is to say, God chooses, calls and equips persons to be leaders in the church, investing and delegating to them degrees of authority according to His will. We believe that the model for a church is to be governed by a plurality of elders called by God and responsible for the affairs of the church. Therefore, VCC subscribes to a non-voting membership. (Acts 14:23; 6:2-6; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:2-3; 1 Timothy 6:1)

## **SECTION D - RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERSHIP**

Each member of VCC will agree to pursue the following standards:

1. Consistent growth in living a Christian life as prescribed in the Scriptures (Romans 6:4; 8:1-4; 13:13-14; Ephesians 4:1-2,15,17-32; 5:1,2,15; 1 John 1:6,7)
2. Regular attendance at Sunday services, Wednesday services, annual business meetings, and special meetings called by the senior pastor (Hebrews 10:25)
3. Regular financial contributions for the support of VCC and its ministries in tithes and offerings in accordance with the Scriptures, as God may prosper you (Malachi 3:10; Matthew 23:23; Hebrews 7:4-6; 1 Corinthians 16:1-3; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8; Luke 21:1-4)
4. Willing to serve in an area of ministry where you can use your talents and spiritual gifts to build up the Body of Christ at VCC (Romans 12:6-8; Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Corinthians 12; James 2:17-26; 1 Peter 4:10-11; Revelation 2:26; Matthew 20:26; Philippians 2:12-13)
5. Growth in Scriptural knowledge through personal devotions, Bible reading, Bible studies, classes, and workshops (Psalms 119:11; Proverbs 1:7; 2:10; Hosea 4:6; John 17:17; Colossians 1:9-11)
6. Personal support of the senior pastor, elders, and all church leaders through regular prayer (Ephesians 6:18-19; Colossians 4:2-4)
7. Cultivate brotherly love for all people, especially members of the Body of Christ (Romans 12:10; Hebrews 13:1; 1 Corinthians 12:13-13:13)
8. Maintain as confidential all matters discussed among the members. (Proverbs 21:23; 1 Timothy 1:5,6; Ephesians 4:29)

## **SECTION E - DISCIPLINE**

The acceptance of membership in VCC implies a willingness to be accountable to the church leadership for any serious or ongoing sinful patterns in one's life. Should any member err in doctrine or engage in conduct that violates Scripture as determined by the board, such board shall endeavor to resolve the conflict directly with the involved member(s), in a spirit of Christian kindness and patience. If this effort fails, the Board reserves the right to revoke the membership of the person(s) involved. (Matthew 18:15-18; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; Galatians 6:1-2)

Any person whose membership has been revoked shall be notified of this action in writing and shall have the right to appeal to the board for reconsideration of said action. If the board agrees the person has shown evidence of repentance and reformation, their membership may be restored. (2 Corinthians 2:4-11)

## **SECTION F – TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

Membership status will be terminated if any of the following occurs:

1. Member leaves VCC
2. Upon request by board due to church discipline
3. Personal request on the part of the member
4. Death of a member

## **SECTION G - LIMITATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

Voting is limited to those individuals permitted to vote by the constitution and bylaws of this organization.

## **ARTICLE VIII - ADVISORY COUNCIL**

There shall be an advisory council for the sole purpose of providing an objective judgment in regards to any serious complaint or accusation against the senior pastor of VCC. The advisory council's decision is the only way for the senior pastor of VCC to be terminated or absolved of wrong doing; the council's decision will be final and binding. (VCC Bylaws - Article V, Section D, 6)

## **ARTICLE IX- FINANCE**

VCC shall be financed by the freewill offerings of the members and friends of VCC, by the established places of worship, by all other subordinate groups affiliated with VCC, and by fundraisers that are approved by the senior pastor. VCC shall have the authority to enter into transactions with banks, lenders and other providers of financial services to further its exempt purposes. (1 Chronicles 29:6-9; 2 Chronicles 24:10; 31:10)

## **ARTICLE X - GOVERNMENT**

### **SECTION A – OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION**

There shall be a president/senior pastor  
There may be a vice-president/associate pastor  
There shall be a secretary  
There shall be a treasurer  
Other officers may be added as necessary

### **SECTION B – GOVERNING BOARD**

The official governing board will be called the VCC Board of Elders (herein referred to as the board) and shall consist of elders as defined in the Bible and the VCC Bylaws Article V, Section H.

## **SECTION C – COMMITTEES**

There shall be (as the occasion may demand) operational committees appointed by the senior pastor to serve under the supervision of the board in the capacity of expediting the work of the ministry.

## **SECTION D – OFF-SITE PASTORS**

In any established place of worship other than our principal office, the senior pastor and board will appoint a pastor to govern the affairs of said place of worship. The appointed pastor will give account to the board concerning every aspect of the established place of worship.

# **ARTICLE XI - MEETINGS**

## **SECTION A – CHURCH MEETINGS**

In any established place of worship, the senior pastor or appointed pastor shall be responsible for regular church services.

## **SECTION B – MEMBERS’ MEETING**

The corporate year shall coincide with the calendar year beginning on January 1<sup>st</sup>, and run through December 31<sup>st</sup>.

There shall be an annual meeting of the membership during the month of January each year at the principle office of the organization. The secretary shall be present at the annual members’ meeting to keep an accurate account of the minutes that were discussed. The treasurer shall attend and give a financial report during the annual members’ meeting.

## **SECTION C – BOARD MEETINGS**

There shall be monthly board meetings to discuss the direction of the corporation and make governing decisions. The secretary shall be present at all board meetings to keep an accurate account of the minutes that were discussed. The treasurer shall not be required to attend unless requested by the senior pastor.

# **ARTICLE XII – MEMBERSHIP REVIEW OF CHURCH RECORDS**

## **SECTION A - REQUESTS MADE BY MEMBER**

To ensure the trust of the membership and to also ensure that a public interest is being served, all church records including financial information are available upon request for member inspection and review. Any request by a member shall be addressed to a board member either in writing or by scheduled appointment.

## **SECTION B - REQUIRED PROVISIONS OF THE REQUEST**

The request must state the name of the member, the reason for the request and that the information shall in no way be made public or shared with any other member in a way that will jeopardize the ministry of VCC.

## **SECTION C - REQUIRED FEE**

If requested by a member, a photo copy of the records in question shall be given. The member shall pay a reasonable fee of \$0.15 per page.

## **SECTION D – CONFIDENTIALITY**

In order to keep the records of VCC confidential, records shall not be released to any outside agency, person or entity unless due process has been served and a certified subpoena has been personally delivered. This includes the IRS, except under the provisions of section 7611 which shall be limited only to information deemed to be relevant to the inquiry being made. At all times the IRS will be expected to comply with all of the provisions of section 7611.

## **SECTION E - DENYING A REQUEST**

The board reserves the right to deny such a request for any of the following reasons:

1. The request is considered by the board and deemed to be frivolous.
2. The member making the request has a history of being divisive.
3. The member does not adequately provide the required information on the request as stated in Section B of this article.
4. The person making a request is a non-member or a person whose membership was terminated.

## **ARTICLE XIII - QUORUM**

Two-thirds (2/3) of the board members, including the senior pastor, must be present at an official board meeting to constitute a quorum, unless otherwise defined in the constitution and bylaws of VCC.

## **ARTICLE XIV - AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to this constitution may be made by a three-quarters (3/4) vote of the board members, including the senior pastor.



# **BYLAWS**

## **ARTICLE I - ORDER**

For the purpose of conducting business, the board shall, in an orderly manner, preside over all of the affairs of this corporation, herein referred to as VCC.

## **ARTICLE II – DEPARTMENTS AND COMMITTEES**

VCC shall hereby provide for departments and committees to be created as needs may require. All such departments and committees shall be under the general supervision of the board.

## **ARTICLE III – FINANCES**

### **SECTION A – FUNDING**

The funds for the maintenance of VCC shall be provided for by the freewill offerings of the members and friends of VCC, by the established places of worship, by all other subordinate groups affiliated with VCC, and by fundraisers that are approved by the senior pastor. All gifts and endowments shall be subject to approval by the board. All monies shall be passed on to the treasurer for deposit into VCC's treasury.

### **SECTION B – REVIEW**

An internal review shall be completed by the treasurer and one other board-appointed person. This review of all financial records shall be made after the close of the calendar year prior to the end of February.

### **SECTION C – TRANSACTIONS**

The treasurer under the supervision of the board including the senior pastor shall oversee all financial transactions for the VCC treasury. The treasurer may, with the approval of the board and senior pastor, assign other persons to make withdrawals or deposits. Assigned persons shall be recorded in the minutes of VCC.

### **SECTION D – LOANS AND MORTGAGES**

VCC shall have the authority to enter into transactions with banks, lenders, and other providers of financial services to further its exempt purposes.

VCC must follow the guidelines set forth below in order to enter into such transactions.

- The transaction must be approved by both the board and the senior pastor.

- The board and senior pastor must perform their own inquiry to ensure that the loan they seek is the best one available to the church, and have determined that the church can afford such transactions.

## **SECTION E – SALARIES**

All salaries or wages, together with employee benefits, or other forms of compensation (housing allowance, transportation, or other allowances) paid or provided to any employee of VCC, will not exceed the value which is reasonable and commensurate with the duties and working hours associated with such employment and with the compensation ordinarily paid persons with similar positions or duties.

No one, including a pastor, who is being compensated for their services, can vote on their own salaries. The pastors are allowed to participate in the discussions concerning their salary; however, they are not entitled to vote on their own compensation.

The salaries and wages of all employees of VCC shall be determined by the senior pastor and approved by the board.

## **SECTION F – CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

### **1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this section is to protect this tax-exempt organization's (VCC's) interest when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of an officer or board member of VCC, might result in a possible excess benefit transaction. This section is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state and federal laws governing conflict of interest applicable to nonprofit and charitable organizations.

### **2. DEFINITIONS**

#### **Interested Person**

Any officer or board member, who has a direct or indirect financial interest, as defined below, is an interested person.

#### **Financial Interest**

A person has a financial interest if the person has (directly or indirectly) through business, investment, or family:

- An ownership or investment interest in any entity with which VCC has a transaction or arrangement
- Compensation arrangement with VCC or with any entity or individual with which VCC has a transaction or arrangement
- A potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which VCC is negotiating a transaction or arrangement. Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are not insubstantial

If a question should arise regarding the potential of a conflict of interest, the board will review the facts and render a decision whether a conflict exists or does not exist.

### **3. PROCEDURES**

#### **Duty to Disclose**

In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, an interested person must disclose the existence of the financial interest and be given the opportunity to disclose all material facts to the board.

#### **Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest Exists**

After disclosure of the financial interest and all material facts, and after any discussion with the interested person, he/she shall leave the board meeting while the determination of a conflict of interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining board members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists.

#### **Procedures for Addressing the Conflict of Interest**

An interested person may make a presentation at the board meeting, but after the presentation, he/she shall leave the meeting during the discussion of, and the vote on, the transaction or arrangement involving the possible conflict of interest. The senior pastor shall, if appropriate, appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement. After exercising due diligence, the board shall determine whether VCC can obtain with reasonable efforts a more advantageous transaction or arrangement from a person or entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest. If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably possible under circumstances not producing a conflict of interest, the board shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested board members whether the transaction or arrangement is in VCC's best interest, for its own benefit, and whether it is fair and reasonable. In conformity with the above determination it shall make its decision as to whether to enter into the transaction or arrangement.

#### **Violations of the Conflict of Interest Policy**

If the board has reasonable cause to believe an officer(s) or board member has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, it shall inform the officer or board member of the basis for such belief and afford the officer or board member an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose. If, after hearing the officer or board member's response and after making further investigation as warranted by the circumstances, the board determines the officer or board member has failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take appropriate disciplinary and/or corrective action.

### **4. RECORDS OF PROCEEDINGS**

The minutes of the board shall contain:

- The names of the persons who disclosed or otherwise were found to have a financial interest in connection with an actual or possible conflict of interest, the nature of the financial interest, any action taken to determine whether a conflict of interest was present, and the board's decision as to whether a conflict of interest in fact existed.
- The names of persons who were present for discussions and votes relating to the

transaction or arrangement, the content of the discussion, including any alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement and a record of any votes taken in connection with the proceedings.

## **5. COMPENSATION**

A voting member of the board who receives compensation (directly or indirectly) from VCC for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to his compensation, with the exception of decisions regarding employee benefit packages.

## **6. ANNUAL STATEMENTS**

Each board member shall sign a statement at the January board meeting which affirms such person:

- Has read and understands Article III, Section F of these bylaws
- Has agreed to comply with the Conflict of Interest policy
- Understands VCC is a charitable organization and in order to maintain its federal tax exemption it must engage primarily in activities which accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes

These statements will be filed with the January board minutes.

## **7. ANNUAL REVIEWS**

To ensure VCC operates in a manner consistent with charitable purposes and does not engage in activities that could jeopardize its tax-exempt status, annual reviews shall be conducted. The annual review shall, at a minimum, include the following subjects:

- Whether compensation arrangements and benefits are reasonable
- Whether partnerships, joint ventures, and arrangements with management organizations conform to VCC's written policies, are properly recorded, reflect reasonable investment or payments for goods and services, further charitable purposes and do not result in inurement, impermissible private benefit or in an excess benefit transaction

## **8. USE OF OUTSIDE EXPERTS**

When conducting the annual review as provided for in Section F, 7, VCC may, but need not, use outside advisors. If outside experts are used, their use shall not relieve the board of its responsibility for ensuring such reviews are conducted.

# **ARTICLE IV – PROPERTY RIGHTS**

All property, real or chattel, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred or conveyed in the corporation's name.

No real or chattel property of the corporation shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise alienated without authorization of the board.

The senior pastor/president of the corporation shall certify in such conveyances, leases, or mortgages.

In the event that the corporation ceases to exist, all assets of VCC shall at the discretion of the board be given to organizations that are exempt as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The organization must be of similar purpose and also apply ARTICLE V, SECTION A, B, C and D of the VCC Constitution as essential tenets of the Christian faith.

## **ARTICLE V – GOVERNMENT AND OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS**

### **SECTION A – MEMBERS’ MEETINGS**

There shall be an annual meeting of the membership on the last Sunday of January at 1:00pm at the principal office of the organization. No notice of such meeting need be given if it is held on the last Sunday of January at 1:00 PM at the principal office of the organization. The board reserves the right to change the date and time of such meeting and shall give a two (2) week notice before said meeting.

The secretary shall be present at all membership meetings to keep an accurate account of the minutes that were discussed. The treasurer shall attend the annual meeting and report on the finances of VCC.

Special membership meetings may be called at any time by the senior pastor to discuss the business of VCC.

### **SECTION B – BOARD MEETINGS**

The senior pastor shall call monthly official board meetings to discuss the direction of the corporation. The senior pastor shall set dates and times for board meetings. For an official board meeting to exist a quorum must be present and meet the requirements of Article XIII of the VCC Constitution. Guests may be present at any meeting with prior approval from the senior pastor.

The secretary shall be present at all board meetings and responsible to keep an accurate account of the issues that were discussed at such meeting. He/She shall then submit the minutes at the next board meeting for approval by the board. Upon approval by a simple majority of the board, including the senior pastor, the minutes shall be adopted, and all policy and procedure in them will continue to be enforced.

The treasurer shall not be required to attend board meetings unless requested by the senior pastor.

### **SECTION C – THE GOVERNING BOARD**

The official governing board will be called the VCC Board of Elders (herein referred to as the board) and shall consist of elders as defined in the Bible and the VCC Bylaws Article V, Section H.

The board shall not consist of a majority of members that are related by blood or marriage or who are in business together outside of VCC.

#### **Manner of Appointment**

Board members shall be appointed by the senior pastor and approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the current board, including the senior pastor.

### **Board Responsibilities**

The board will govern over the matters of VCC. The board shall appoint the officers of the corporation.

### **Board Chairman**

The senior pastor shall be chairman of the board.

### **Board Membership and Term**

The board shall consist of a minimum of three (3) with no more than seven (7) members. Each board member shall serve a minimum term of two (2) years and may serve successive terms. The senior pastor shall be a permanent member of the board. In the event there are not three (3) elders available or qualified to serve on the board, the senior pastor may appoint one or more interim board members from the VCC Membership until an elder can be appointed to replace them.

### **Board Voting**

All governing issues will be decided by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the board members including the senior pastor unless otherwise specified.

### **The Board and the VCC Membership**

The board will notify the membership of VCC of any pending decisions that involve the hiring or replacement of the senior pastor or what the board deems to be a large financial decision. The membership will then have a minimum of two (2) weeks to voice any opinion for or against the pending decision with the senior pastor or a board member. All members' opinions will be reviewed and discussed by the board members before a final decision is rendered.

## **SECTION D – SENIOR PASTOR/PRESIDENT**

### **1. QUALIFICATIONS**

The senior pastor/president (herein called the senior pastor) shall have been born again at least five (5) years. He must have graduated from a four (4) year Bible College, Seminary or the equivalent as designated by the board. He must be at least thirty-five (35) years old and shall have wisdom in handling the corporation's affairs. He shall be of sound doctrine and good judgment. He must also cooperate with and listen to the sound advice given by the elders, board advisors, deacons and the members of VCC. The senior pastor shall meet all the qualifications of and be recognized as an elder of VCC. (Article VII, Section C)

### **2. DUTIES**

The senior pastor shall be the head of this organization (VCC) under the authority of Jesus Christ and follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit. He shall be accountable to Jesus Christ for the ministry and teachings of VCC.

The senior pastor is a man who has shown himself to be a servant-leader, is called by God to lead the congregation at VCC, has met all the qualifications of senior pastor, and has been approved by the board as an ordained minister. The senior pastor shall have all the rights

and authority of an overseer/elder/bishop (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9) over the Body of Christ and may perform all the ordinances of the church.

The senior pastor shall be chairman of the board and preside over all official corporation meetings.

### **3. MANNER OF APPOINTMENT**

In the event that VCC needs a new senior pastor, the following steps shall be taken:

- a) Within two (2) weeks of the need for a new senior pastor, the board shall appoint a nominating committee. This committee shall seek, find and nominate a candidate(s) for senior pastor
- b) They shall seek first among the associate or assistant pastors from within VCC
- c) Upon unanimous approval of the board, including the senior pastor, a candidate will be presented to the congregation and will engage in teaching, preaching and fellowship
- d) After such time, the board will allow a minimum of two (2) weeks of discussion and feedback from the members of VCC on said candidate and then the board will render final decision
- e) If the candidate is rejected, another candidate will be presented until the position is filled
- f) If the vacancy is due to termination as described in Article V, Section D, 5, the senior pastor may not participate in the selection of his successor
- g) In the event of a vacancy, the associate pastor will assume all the responsibilities of the senior pastor until a new senior pastor has been appointed

### **4. TERMS OF OFFICE**

The office of the senior pastor shall be for an indefinite period of time.

### **5. TERMINATION**

The senior pastor may be subject to dismissal for indiscretion, immorality, doctrinal errors or unethical behavior.

A unanimous vote of the board (with the senior pastor abstaining) is necessary to initiate a termination of the senior pastor. This is done by submitting to the senior pastor, in writing, charges against him. A special board meeting shall be called to present these charges to the senior pastor and allow discussion. (Matthew 18:15-17, 1 Timothy 5:19-21, Galatians 6:1)

If the senior pastor accepts the vote, then a written statement of his resignation shall be appended to the minutes and the decision will be final. The resignation will be presented to the members of the church at a specially called meeting Article V, Section A. However, if the

senior pastor wishes to challenge the board's decision, then the advisory council shall be convened.

## **6. ADVISORY COUNCIL**

### *a) PURPOSE*

There will be an advisory council established only for the purpose of evaluating moral, ethical, or doctrinal issues charged against the senior pastor. The advisory council will determine if the charges are valid and warrant termination of the senior pastor.

The council shall only be called together by the board with limited authority, purpose, and directives as defined in these bylaws. The council's decision is the only way for the senior pastor of VCC to be removed or absolved from wrong doing; their decision and authority is final and binding.

### *b) STRUCTURE OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL*

The representatives of the advisory council shall be made up of current or former senior pastors or elders who have had at least five (5) years experience and have displayed an uncompromising commitment to the Word of God. The advisory council shall be made up of persons not part of the VCC Membership. The council shall consist of no less than three (3) people and no more than five (5). The advisory council shall be chaired by the representative nominated by the senior pastor and confirmed by the board.

Any member of the advisory council may be replaced or removed at any time deemed necessary by request of the senior pastor and confirmation of the board, provided that it not be after the advisory council has been called to officially meet in accordance with, Section A, 6 of this article. Future vacancies shall be nominated by the senior pastor and two-thirds (2/3) vote by the board with the advice of the remaining members of the advisory council.

A record of the current and past members of the advisory council shall be kept in a log under the custody of the board. The log shall clearly list the name of the current chairman of the advisory council.

Any succeeding senior pastor to the current senior pastor shall keep the advisory council that was in existence at the time he became senior pastor. He may, after a one year period, make nominations for replacements of no more than one representative per year. He must follow the procedure set forth in Section D, 6 of this article.

The advisory council shall have no innate power or authority as a legal, organizational entity, except that which is invested in them by these bylaws.

### *c) PROCEDURE*

The board and advisory council will agree upon a meeting time and place. During this meeting, all evidence will be presented, including witnesses, etc. and the senior pastor may also present his case. The meeting may extend over one or more consecutive days, but no longer than five (5) consecutive days.

100% of the advisory council must be present to constitute a quorum. Any action suggested by the Advisory Council is valid only by a unanimous vote of the members of the advisory council.

The secretary of the corporation shall be present at all officially called meetings of the advisory council and shall record the proceedings. The secretary shall also create minutes of the meeting and present them to the advisory council within one week (seven days) after the meeting has come to a close.

The council shall announce their decision at a special meeting of the membership of VCC. If the senior pastor has been retained, he has the right to reconstitute the board.

From the time of the board of elder's vote to remove the senior pastor until the final vote of the advisory council, the senior pastor will take a temporary leave of absence with pay from pastoral responsibilities.

## **SECTION E – ASSOCIATE PASTOR/VICE-PRESIDENT**

### **1. QUALIFICATIONS**

The associate pastor/vice-president (herein called the associate pastor) shall have been born again for at least five (5) years. He must have graduated from a four (4) year Bible College, Seminary or the equivalent as designated by the board. He must be at least thirty-five (35) years old and shall have wisdom in handling the corporation's affairs. He shall be of sound doctrine and good judgment. The associate pastor shall meet all the qualifications of and be recognized as an elder of VCC. (Article VII, Section D)

### **2. DUTIES**

He will serve as the vice-president of the corporation and chief advisor to the senior pastor. He shall serve on the board. He shall carry out the responsibilities that the senior pastor delegates to him.

### **3. MANNER OF APPOINTMENT**

The senior pastor shall nominate and the board shall confirm the associate pastor to office.

### **4. TERMS OF OFFICE**

The office of the associate pastor shall be for an indefinite period of time. He (associate pastor) is subject to dismissal if he violates the constitution and bylaws of VCC.

### **5. TERMINATION**

The senior pastor may terminate the associate pastor with approval of the board by a simple majority.

## **SECTION F – TREASURER**

### **1. QUALIFICATIONS**

The treasurer shall be a member of VCC and at minimum a deacon as defined in Section I, and of sound business judgment. He/She shall be capable of doing the accounting required to maintain the corporation books.

### **2. Duties**

By virtue of his/her office, the treasurer shall keep, in a business-like manner, an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements of monies committed to his/her trust and shall make reports to be presented during the official board meetings. He/she shall deposit and make withdrawals in a manner prescribed in Article III of these bylaws.

The treasurer may appoint with board approval, including the senior pastor, an assistant to facilitate the duties described above.

### **3. MANNER OF APPOINTMENT**

The senior pastor shall nominate and the board shall confirm the treasurer to office.

### **4. TERMS OF OFFICE**

The office of treasurer shall be for an indefinite period of time. He/She is subject to dismissal if he/she violates the constitution and bylaws of VCC.

### **5. TERMINATION**

The senior pastor may terminate the treasurer with approval of the board by a simple majority.

## **SECTION G – SECRETARY**

### **1. QUALIFICATIONS**

The secretary shall be an individual who is a member of VCC and at minimum a deacon as defined in Section I. He/she must be capable of recording the minutes of meetings, and of doing all of the correspondence necessary in the conducting of official corporation business.

### **2. DUTIES**

By virtue of his/her office, the secretary shall keep a true and accurate record of all meetings, including business meetings of the corporation. He/She shall be the custodian of all legal documents.

The secretary may appoint with board approval, including the senior pastor, an assistant to facilitate the duties described above.

### **3. MANNER OF APPOINTMENT**

The senior pastor shall nominate and the board shall confirm the secretary to office.

### **4. TERMS OF OFFICE**

The office of secretary shall be for an indefinite period of time. He/She is subject to dismissal if he/she violates the constitution and bylaws of VCC.

### **5. TERMINATION**

The senior pastor may terminate the secretary with approval of the board by a simple majority.

## **SECTION H – ELDERS**

### **1. QUALIFICATIONS**

An elder shall have been born again for at least five (5) years, be at least 35 years in age, and shall have wisdom in handling the church ministry. He shall be an official member of VCC, be of sound doctrine, good judgment and apt to teach. (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus: 1:5-9)

### **2. DUTIES**

He will serve as a spiritual counselor and teacher to the congregation of VCC as defined in the scriptures and may serve on the VCC Board.

### **3. MANNER OF APPOINTMENT**

The senior pastor shall nominate and the board shall confirm elders to office.

### **4. TERMS OF OFFICE**

The office of elder shall be for an indefinite period of time. He (elder) is subject to dismissal if he violates the constitution and bylaws of VCC.

### **5. TERMINATION**

The senior pastor may terminate an elder with approval of the board by a simple majority.

## **SECTION I- DEACONS**

Deacons are those appointed to serve as heads of ministries, ministry leaders, or servant volunteers who are in a position of authority over others at VCC.

## **1. QUALIFICATIONS**

A deacon of VCC must be an official member of VCC. He/She must meet the Biblical guidelines of a deacon as defined in the Scriptures, and regularly serve in a VCC ministry. (1 Timothy 3:8-13; Titus 2:2-4; Romans 16:1-2)

## **2. DUTIES**

A deacon will lead or assist in the guidance of an official VCC ministry. Specific ministry duties will be defined individually and are dependent on the needs of that ministry.

## **3. MANNER OF APPOINTMENT**

The senior pastor shall nominate and the board will confirm all deacons.

## **4. TERMS OF OFFICE**

There is no term of office for deacons. He/She (deacon) is subject to dismissal if he/she violates the constitution and bylaws of VCC.

## **5. TERMINATION**

The senior pastor may remove a deacon from service with approval of the board by a simple majority.

## **SECTION J – BOARD ADVISORS**

Board advisors are appointed to counsel the board on the active work of the ministry and general ministry needs.

### **1. QUALIFICATIONS**

A board advisor shall be a deacon of VCC.

### **2. DUTIES**

Board advisors shall attend regular monthly board meetings and may be called to serve at any special board meeting called by the senior pastor. The board adviser is responsible to offer information and advice to the senior pastor and board on the details of his/her specific area(s) of responsibility and participate in general board discussion. (Proverbs 11:14)

### **3. MANNER OF APPOINTMENT**

The senior pastor shall nominate and the board will approve all board advisors. He/She (board advisor) is subject to dismissal if he/she violates the constitution and bylaws of VCC.

### **4. TERMS OF OFFICE**

The board advisor will serve a minimum term of one (1) year but may serve indefinitely.

## **SECTION K – PASTORS**

Pastors are men who are shepherds and teachers who assist in the ministry at VCC. It is a pastor's responsibility to help equip the members of VCC for service and be an example to the Body of Christ. Ephesians 4:11

### **1. QUALIFICATIONS**

A pastor shall be a member of VCC and have been born again for at least five (5) years. He shall be of sound doctrine, good judgment and apt to teach. He must have graduated from a two (2) year Bible College, Seminary or the equivalent as designated by the board. (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)

### **2. DUTIES**

He will serve as a shepherd and teacher who helps equip the congregation of VCC for service. All pastors of VCC will be licensed with the state as a licensed minister of VCC and may perform marriages, funerals, communion, and baptisms.

### **3. MANNER OF APPOINTMENT**

The senior pastor shall nominate and the board shall confirm all pastors.

### **4. TERMS OF OFFICE**

Pastors shall serve for an indefinite period of time. He (pastor) is subject to dismissal if he violates the constitution and bylaws of VCC.

### **5. TERMINATION**

The senior pastor may remove a pastor from service with approval of the board by a simple majority.

## **ARTICLE VI – OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

Anything that has not been discussed in this constitution and bylaws shall be discussed and decided upon at an official board meeting.

Any disputes that arise over the interpretation of these bylaws shall be deferred to the highest authority of this corporation. In this case it would be the senior pastor, with the advice of the board. The senior pastor shall be responsible for the day-to-day decisions and shall run the affairs of the church.

## **ARTICLE VII – MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL**

The purpose of this article is to provide for the ordination rites and privileges of the ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ at VCC.

The board shall have the authority to license and ordain, through appointment, certain persons to legal minister status as it deems proper and prudent. Such appointments shall be in agreement with the VCC Constitution & Bylaws, and in compliance with this article.

### **SECTION A - MINISTERS DEFINED**

A candidate for appointment as an ordained or licensed minister recognizes that only our sovereign, holy God can truly call His children for service in the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The calling of a minister is not the result of a title; rather, the title is the result of God's calling on that person's life. This calling is recognized as from the true and living God. It is man's privilege and specifically the privilege of the board at VCC to ratify the call of God when such is obviously placed upon a person's life.

There shall be two distinct positions of legal minister status:

- Ordained Minister
- Licensed Minister

Other than as delineated within this article, all authority and privileges of said positions shall be defined by the senior pastor and board, in accordance with this organization's constitution and bylaws and applicable laws of the land.

### **SECTION B – VCC DOCTRINAL INTERPRETATION OF MEN & WOMEN SERVING IN MINISTRY**

While the role of men in ministry is clearly defined in scripture (1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9), the role of women is not so clearly defined. We believe that the basic order laid out by God throughout scripture is summarized in 1 Corinthians 11:3 "I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God." (NKJV) In line with this God-given order, we at VCC believe that the headship and duty of leading, shepherding, and overseeing the local church is reserved for men.

However, we also believe that scripture provides many examples of women faithfully serving in ministry. For example: older women are instructed to "be teachers of good things" and "admonish the young women" in Titus 2:3-4; Timothy was taught at home by his mother and grandmother as seen in 2 Timothy 1:5; and in Acts 18:24-28, we see that Priscilla "explained the way of God" to Apollos in private. From these examples, we conclude that women indeed may be called to a ministerial position in the local church, and therefore we will allow for the appointment of women as licensed ministers. In keeping with the divinely appointed order mentioned in the above paragraph, licensed women ministers at VCC will operate in their assigned ministry under the authority of one or more of the pastors of the church, as stated in their position description. In addition, while we allow for women to become licensed ministers as teachers and ministry leaders, we do not allow them to conduct marriages or other official services that would place them in a position of official final authority over men.

## **SECTION C – ORDAINED MINISTER**

The ordained minister is recognized by the state of California to authorize the performance of marriages, funerals, communion and baptism. VCC shall have one ordained minister who is the senior pastor as described in Article V, Section D.

### **CERTIFICATE OF ORDINATION**

This is to certify that (Name of Ordainee) was ordained by Valley Community Chapel of Yucca Valley as the minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He has met all the requirements of VCC for recognition of ordination; further, by rite of ordination this date he is duly ordained to be the senior pastor and perform all ministerial functions as prescribed by the VCC Constitution and Bylaws, as accorded by the laws of the land, and in compliance with the ordinances of God's Holy Church as set forth in the Holy Bible. We now pray for God's Divine blessing and the power of the Holy Spirit upon him.

Given this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Associate Pastor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Elder

## **SECTION D - LICENSED MINISTER**

### **1. LICENSED MINISTER DEFINED**

A licensed minister is a person who is fulfilling his/her calling as a servant of God, and possesses those abilities, qualities, and preparation needed for the performance of their assigned duties within VCC. The issued license is recognized by the state of California to authorize the performance of marriages, funerals, communion, and baptisms. In accordance with Section B of this article, a male licensed minister may perform all such ordinances, whereas a female may perform only communion, and baptisms serving other women specifically.

### **2. QUALIFICATIONS FOR A LICENSED MINISTER**

- a) A candidate for certification must be a born again believer in Jesus Christ as described by our Lord in the third chapter of the Gospel of John.
- b) A candidate must be born again for a minimum of five (5) years and be a member of VCC.
- c) A candidate must subscribe to the VCC Tenets of Faith.
- d) A candidate must meet the qualifications of a Deacon, Article V, Section I. (1 Timothy 3:8-13; Titus 2:2-4; Romans 16:1-2)
- e) A candidate must have completed two (2) years of Bible study that is acceptable by the board or the equivalent as designated by the board.

f) A candidate shall have demonstrated the obvious calling of God upon his/her life to the satisfaction of the board.

g) A candidate for licensed minister may be a man or a woman.

**3. PROCEDURE FOR CERTIFICATION**

a) Each person fulfilling the above requirements and upon the senior pastor’s recommendation to the board, shall be considered for licensing status as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

b) The board may make exceptions only with the educational requirements as set forth within this article. Any exception must be a unanimous opinion of the board and under the strong compelling conviction of the Holy Spirit.

c) Upon unanimous approval of the board, the candidate will be certified as a licensed minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the right to perform ministerial functions as specified in their position description and in accordance with the board’s direction.

d) Certificate of Licensed Minister - The following is the text of the Certificate of Licensed Minister to be issued to each successful candidate:

**LICENSED MINISTER**

This is to certify that (Full Name) was certified by Valley Community Chapel of Yucca Valley as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He/She has met all the requirements of VCC for the recognition licensed minister; further, by rite of certification this date he/she is a duly licensed minister and able to perform all ministerial functions as prescribed by the VCC Constitution and Bylaws, and in compliance with the ordinances of the Word of God as set forth in the Holy Bible. We now pray for God's Divine blessing and the power of the Holy Spirit upon him/her.

Given this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Senior Pastor / Elder

\_\_\_\_\_  
Associate Pastor / Elder

**4. Revocation of Licensed Minister**

The board by unanimous vote has the power to revoke any certificate of Licensed Minister it has issued.

**ARTICLE VIII – ESTABLISHING PLACES OF WORSHIP**

VCC may establish new places of worship that are not located at the principal office of this corporation for religious purposes.

## **ARTICLE IX – HOMOSEXUALITY**

VCC holds that a homosexual lifestyle is contrary to God’s will and purpose for humanity.  
(Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-20)

### **Homosexual Marriage**

Ministers of VCC will not perform any homosexual marriages nor shall any such marriages be conducted at its principle office or other VCC established places of worship. VCC will not condone or recognize such marriages, even if the state passes laws that provide for recognition of such unions.

### **Members and Homosexuality**

Members of VCC are forbidden to practice homosexuality. Any member found to be in such sin shall be disciplined according to Article VII, Section E of the VCC Constitution.

## **ARTICLE X – PRIVACY**

VCC shall diligently watch to keep private all records concerning polity, doctrine, counseling and information on membership. VCC shall not disclose any records that may compromise information about a members’ attendance, membership status, giving and counseling records. Additionally, no request shall ever be released to any government authority without due process and a valid subpoena delivered by the proper government agency.

## **ARTICLE XI – CONFIDENTIALITY PROTECTION**

All VCC ministers according to Article VII of these bylaws must follow the rules set forth below:

When an individual(s) asks to meet with a minister(s), the minister(s) must ask the following questions before proceeding:

- Are you seeking to communicate with me in my capacity as a minister, in confidence, while acting as a spiritual adviser?
- Do you intend the communication to be confidential?

If the answer to either question above is yes, then any information discussed during the meeting must be kept strictly confidential by the minister(s).

## **ARTICLE XII – SCHOOL & DAYCARE**

VCC shall operate a school and daycare as an outreach program that is consistent with the VCC Constitution and Bylaws and directed by the VCC Board of Elders to further our 501(c)(3) purposes.

## **ARTICLE XIII – AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to the bylaws may be made by a three-quarters (3/4) vote of the official board, including the senior pastor.

These bylaws adopted on this day make null and void all prior addendums and these bylaws supersede and replace all previous bylaws voted on prior to this day.

Signed and certified this \_\_\_\_\_ day of December, 2009 to be effective immediately.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Senior Pastor/President  
Valley Community Chapel of Yucca Valley

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, VCC Board of Elders  
Valley Community Chapel of Yucca Valley

# Valley Community Chapel of Yucca Valley Organizational Flow Chart

