

Established 1944 Security with Liberty

American Evangelical Christian Churches, Inc.

Constitution and By-Laws

Adopted November 25, 2014

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A Brief History of the American Evangelical Christian Churches

In the 1930's, legalism and, in many cases, liberalism began to creep into the "mainline" church world. During the year 1944, a group of evangelical ministers being impressed with the need of true fellowship and conference in the things of God as concerning the ministry of God's infallible Word, met in Chicago, Illinois and launched a work known as the American Evangelical Christian Churches.

The American Evangelical Christian Churches was to be composed of groups and individuals who have the same doctrinal views concerning the 'Essentials' of the Christian faith and have united in fellowship to proclaim these views as their common denominator. Because of major spiritual, moral, and evangelical issues besetting our nation and world, the founders keenly realized that such a work of the Lord (as manifested in the AECC) can stand and grow, only by the superintendence and care of God and by nurture afforded through Godly people of evangelical passion and missionary zeal. Over the years, the American Evangelical Christian Churches has grown throughout the world while never leaving the 'Essentials' of our faith.

In 1999, The American Evangelical Bible College and Seminary (a wholly owned Christian educational ministry of the AECC) was established so that many can be trained for the ministry God has called them to and for the development of serious and competent church leaders.

Our aim is to exalt Christ, the centerpiece of our faith. We pray that the ministry of the AECC may be enlarged and strengthened so that the cause of God may prosper and increase in response to the Great Commission of our Lord and Savior, Jesus – the Christ.

Board of Directors American Evangelical Christian Churches, Inc.

President Dr. Gordon N. Elliott
Secretary Dr. Lowell P. Ford
Treasurer Dr. Michael E. Ward, Sr.
Dr. Douglas Schlemmer
Development Director Rev. George Lamb



American Evangelical Christian Churches, Incorporated

Constitution and Bylaws

(Adopted November 25, 2014)

Constitution PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, it is the express purpose of God our Heavenly Father to call out of the world a saved people who shall contribute to the Body of Christ, built and established on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus the Christ being the Chief Cornerstone,

WHEREAS, the members of the Body of Christ are enjoined to assemble themselves together for worship, fellowship, counsel, and instruction in the Word of God and the work of the ministry and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices provided for in the New Testament, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that we recognize ourselves a body of Christian believers working together for the common purpose of building the kingdom of God by providing guidance, aid, instruction and a denominational covering to individual members and affiliate churches which will aid them to spread the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ, and that under the authority of the Holy Scriptures doing everything in our power to honor the laws of the State of Indiana we may exercise all the rights and privileges granted to religious bodies.

The American Evangelical Christian Churches, Incorporated, incorporated under the General Non-for-Profit Corporation Act of the State of Indiana, is a religious, nonprofit organization. The following Constitution and By-laws are set forth as future guidance for this Corporation.

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name assumed by this Corporation and by which it shall be known in law is American Evangelical Christian Churches, Inc.

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ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

- A. The purpose of the organization shall be exclusively for charitable, religious and educational purposes within the meaning of the Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States of America revenue law), including, but not limited to, for such purposes; the establishing and maintaining of religious worship, the building, maintaining and operating of churches, parsonages, schools, chapels, radio stations, television stations, rescue missions, print shops, day care centers, camps, nursing homes, cemeteries, and any other ministries that the Corporation may be led of God to establish (Titus 1:5; Psalm 107:3; Acts 2:42, 46, 47; Hebrews 10:25; Matthew 28: 19, 20).
- B. The Corporation shall also ordain and license men and women to the Gospel ministry, evangelize the unsaved by proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; educate believers in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Holy Scriptures, both in Sunday and weekday schools of Christian education; maintain missionary activities in the United States of America and any foreign country; and engage in any other ministries that the Corporation may decide, from time to time, to pursue in obedience to the Will of God (1 Thessalonians 5:12; 2 Thessalonians 2:15, 3:4; Hebrews 13:17).
- C. The Corporation shall also have the right to own, hold in trust, use, possess, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or dispose of such property, real or chattel, as may be needed for the carrying out of its purpose.

ARTICLE III - NON-PROFIT STATUS

A. No part of the net earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the Corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the Statement of Purpose hereof. The property of this Corporation is irrevocably dedicated to the Corporations 501(c)(3) exempt purposes, and no part of the net income or assets of this Corporation shall inure to the benefit of any director, officer, or member thereof, or to the benefit of any private individual. No substantial part of the activities of this Corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, and it shall not participate in or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

American Evangelical Christian Churches, Inc. Constitution and By-Laws Page 2 of 17 B. Upon dissolution of the Corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government or to a state or local government, for such a purpose.

ARTICLE IV - STATEMENT OF FAITH

- A. All members of this Corporation shall subscribe to and abide by the following Articles of Faith:
 - 1. The Holy Bible as the infallible, written Word of God.
 - 2. The God of Creation who manifests Himself in three personalities: Father, son and Holy Spirit.
 - 3. The virgin birth of Jesus, the Christ.
 - 4. The deity and humanity of Jesus, the Christ.
 - 5. The salvation of sinners by faith through the atoning death and resurrection of Jesus, the Christ.
 - 6. The guidance of our lives through prayer to the Father, through Jesus, the Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - 7. The visible return and eternal reign of the Savior Jesus, the Christ.

B. STATEMENT CONCERNING MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

We believe God ordained marriage and the family to the foundational institute of human society, and that the only legitimate marriage is a sacred and permanent covenant relationship between one man and one woman, symbolizing the union of Christ and His Church. The husband is to be the servant leader in the home and is to love his wife as Christ loves the Church, and the wife is submit herself to the scriptural leadership of her husband as the Church submits to the headship of Christ (Genesis 2: 18-25; Matthew 19:1-6; Ephesians 5:22-25).

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A. STATEMENT ON HUMAN SEXUALITY

We believe God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity is to be engaged in outside of the marriage of a man and a woman. Any form of child molestation, fornication, adultery, homosexuality, lesbianism, bestiality, bisexuality, incest, pedophilia, or pornography is a sinful perversion of God's gift of sex. We believe God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance (Genesis 2:22-24, 19:5, 13; Leviticus 18: 1-30; Matthew 19: 4-6; Romans 1: 26-29, 7:2; 1 Corinthians 5:1, 6:9; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 5:22,23; 1 Thessalonians 4: 1-8; Hebrews 13:4). No ordained or licensed minister shall perform any type of marriage, cohabitation, or covenant ceremony for persons who are of the same sex. Any minister or our fellowship, who performs a ceremony for these types of disapproved relationships, unless innocently deceived into doing so, shall be dismissed from this fellowship.

ARTICLE V - SOVERIGNTY OF THE NATIONAL BODY

The American Evangelical Christian Churches shall remain a sovereign body in itself. It shall have its own Board of Directors and be responsible for its finances, deportment and conduct.

ARTICLE VI – GOVERNMENT

A. DENOMINATIONAL GOVERNMENT

The government of the American Evangelical Christian Churches rest in the self-perpetuating Board of Directors, to include three denominational officers: President, Secretary and Treasurer. As an accommodation to legal relationships outside the denomination, the President shall serve as the highest office of the Corporation.

B. OFFICERS

The officers of the Corporation shall be a President, Secretary and a Treasurer.

President. The President shall be the chief executive officer and shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors.
 The President will not have a vote except in the event of a tie. The President may establish ad hoc committees at any time, subject to the same rules and operating procedures as the Corporation.

American Evangelical Christian Churches, Inc. Constitution and By-Laws Page 4 of 17 Secretary. The Secretary shall give notice of all meetings of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee, shall keep an accurate list of the directors, and shall have the authority to certify any records, copies of records, as the official records of the organization.

The Secretary shall maintain the minutes of the Board of Directors meetings and all committee meetings. The minutes of the meeting shall be sent to the Board of Directors within two (2) weeks after the meeting.

If the office of President is vacated, the Secretary shall serve as the Interim President until a duly called meeting of the Board of Directors, where a successor will be selected. This meeting must take place within ninety (90) calendar days of the vacancy of the office of President.

3. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be responsible for conducting the financial affairs of the Corporation as directed and authorized by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall make reports of corporate finances as required, but no less often than at each meeting of the Board of Directors. The Treasurer is charged with maintaining the Corporation's savings and checking accounts and is authorized to make payment on all usual, customary and reasonable invoices.

C. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Corporation shall be managed by a Board of Directors consisting of not less than three (3) but no more than seven (7) directors.

- 1. Directors shall be nominated and elected by the Board of Directors. Each Directors term of office will be four (4) years. Expiration of the terms of office will be staggered so that no more than two (2) officers of the Board of Directors shall expire in the same year.
- 2. In order to avoid any possible conflict of interest, no elected member of the Board of Directors may serve while someone related, either by blood or marriage is serving on the Board at the same time.
- 3. A simple majority vote (one half plus one) of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

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- 4. The vote of a majority of the Directors present at a properly called meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board of Directors, unless the vote of a greater number is required by law or by these by-laws for a particular resolution. A Director of the organization who is present at a meeting of the Board of Directors at which action on any corporate matters taken shall be presumed to have assented to the action taken unless their dissent shall be entered into the minutes of the meeting. The Board shall keep written minutes of its proceedings in its permanent records. Action may be taken on a matter without a meeting if consent in writing or by Email is agreed to by a majority of the members of the Board of Directors.
- 5. A Director shall be subject to removal, with or without cause at a meeting called for that purpose. Any vacancy that occurs on the Board of Directors, whether by death, resignation, removal, or any other cause, may be filled by the remaining Directors until a replacement is nominated an voted upon.
- 6. Racial Nondiscrimination. The Board of Directors may employ and discharge employees of this organization any may prescribe their duties and compensation. The Board shall discharge its duties and shall not discriminate against any member, applicant or student, based on the person's age, sex, race, color or national origin.
- 7. No Board member or Officer or any member of any committee shall receive at any time any of the net earnings or profits from the operations of the organization. However, this shall not prevent the payment of any such person of reasonable compensation for services rendered to or for the organization. Such compensation shall be fixed by the Board of Directors from time to time. Majority shall serve without remuneration.

D. MEETINGS

- The Corporation year shall coincide with the calendar year beginning on January 1st and running through December 31st.
- 2. The Board of Directors shall have regular meetings; a minimum of one (1) with a preference of two (2) or more per year as needed to accomplish the business of the Corporation. The date, time and venue for each meeting will be set in advance by the Board. Special meetings may be requested by the President, Secretary, or any two (2) Directors by providing five (5) days written notice by ordinary United States mail effective when mailed, or by Email effective when sent with a reply of receipt by each Board member, or by phone call to each Board member.

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- 3. Meetings by remote communication technology
 - a. Subject to the notice provision aforementioned in this Article, the Directors may also hold meetings by means of a remote electronic communications system, including video or telephone conferencing technology or the Internet, or any combination, only if each person entitled to participate in the meeting consents to the meeting being held by means of that system, and the system provides access to the meeting in a manner or using a method by which each person participating in the meeting can communicate concurrently with each other participant. Participation in such a meeting shall constitute presence in person at such meeting, except participation for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business on the ground that the meeting is not lawfully called or convened.
- 4. Action by unanimous written consent without meeting
 - a. Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Board of Directors under any provision of law may be taken without a meeting, if all members of the Board shall individually or collectively consent in writing to such action. Such written consent or consents shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Board. Such action by written consent shall have the same force and effect as the unanimous vote of the Directors. Any certificate or other document filed under any provision of law which relates to action so taken shall state that the action was taken by unanimous written consent of the Board of Directors without a meeting and that the By-Laws of this Corporation authorize the Directors to so act and such statement shall be prima fade evidence of such authority.
- 5. The American Evangelical Christian Churches shall hold a meeting for the membership on a regular basis at a time and place determined by the Board of Directors.
- 6. Each region throughout the United States of America shall conduct an annual meeting at a place and time determined by the Regional Coordinator in conjunction with the Director of Regional Coordinators.

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ARTICLE VII - ECCLESIASTICAL POWER

The Organization is theocratic in government. In any growing organization, there will be people at all stages of spiritual growth and maturity. For that reason, it is not proper to submit the affairs of the Organization to a democratic vote among its members or affiliate churches as the same is not God's way, for the purpose of the ministry is not to do the will of the majority, but the will of God.

Any disputes that arise over the interpretation of these By-Laws shall be deferred to the highest authority of this ministry. In this case it would be the President, with the advice of the Board of Directors. The President shall be responsible for the day-to-day decisions and shall run the affairs of this Organization.

In Watson v Jones, the court ruled that:

"Whenever the questions of discipline, or of faith, of ecclesiastical rule, custom, or law have been decided by the highest church judicatory to which the matter has been carried, the legal tribunals much accept such decisions as final, and as binding on them . . ."

ARTICLE VIII – MUTUAL INTEREST

The behavior of anyone in fellowship with this ministry is of common interest to the Board of Directors and membership (Galatians 6:1). This ministry requires every Board member, Minister and Affiliate Church member to adhere to a life style that is consistent with the doctrines of this ministry as taught in the Holy Scriptures. Therefore, this ministry reserves the right to refuse service to any individual, whether member or not, that is not submitting their life style to this Scriptural mode of conduct. This refusal would include services, benefits and any use of ministry assets.

ARTICLE IX - PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

This ministry is prohibited from engaging in activities which violate its written doctrines. This ministry is also prohibited from condoning or allowing any of its assets to be used for activities that violate its written doctrines.

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ARTICLE X - MEMBERSHIP REVIEW OF MINISTRY RECORDS

Requests Made by Members

To insure the trust of the membership and to also ensure that a public interest is being served, all ministry records, financial information and all kinds of financial transactions must always be available for membership inspection and review. Any questions by any members shall be addressed to the Treasurer either in writing or by scheduled appointment.

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.

Required Fee

If requested by a member of this ministry, a photo copy of any financial transaction in question shall be given. The member shall pay a reasonable fee of \$2.00 per copy (per sheet of paper).

Confidentiality

In order to keep the records of the ministry confidential, records shall not be released to any outside agency, person or entity unless due process has been serviced and a certified subpoena has been personally delivered. This includes the IRS, except under the provision 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.

Denying a Request

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

1. The request is considered by the Board of Directors and deemed to be frivolous.

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- 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 paragraph 1 of this article.
- 4. The person making a request is a non-member or a person whose membership was terminated.

ARTICLE XI - CORPORATE SEAL, EXECUTION OF INSTRUMENTS

The Corporation will have a corporate seal. All instruments that are executed on behalf of the Corporation which are acknowledged and which affect an interest in real estate shall be executed by the President and the Secretary or Treasurer. Any written document may be executed by any Officer that is specifically designated by resolution of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended, altered or repealed by the Board of Directors by a majority of a quorum vote at any regular or special meeting. The text of the proposed changes shall be distributed to all Board members at least ten (10) calendar days before the meeting.

ARTICLE XIII - INDEMNIFICATION

Any Director of Officer who is involved in litigation by reason of his or her position as a Director or Officer of this Corporation shall be indemnified and held harmless by the Corporation to the fullest extent authorized by law as it now exists or may sequentially be amended (but, in the case of any such amendment, only to the extent that such amendment permits the Corporation to provide broader indemnification rights).

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By-Laws

ARTICLE I – ORDER

For the purpose of conducting business, the President shall, in an orderly manner, preside over all of the affairs of this Corporation.

ARTICLE II - FINANCES

Audit

The Treasurer and or other Board appointed person shall complete an internal audit. This audit of all financial records shall be made after the close of the calendar year, prior to the end of February.

Checks and Withdrawals

The signature of the Treasurer (Chief Financial Officer) or other Board member or members authorized by the Board of Directors must be on any check or withdrawal.

Salaries

All salaries shall be determined in the following manner:

- 1. The Board of Directors shall consider each candidate and create a compensation package that then shall be deemed valid only by unanimous vote at any regularly called Board meeting.
- 2. Only uncompensated individuals of the Board of Directors shall vote on any recommended compensation package.
- 3. All salaries shall be reviewed each year during the last meeting of the calendar year.

ARTICLE III – PROPERTY RIGHTS

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

American Evangelical Christian Churches, Inc. Constitution and By-Laws Page 11 of 17 No real or chattel property of the Corporation shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise alienated without authorization of the President and the Board of Directors.

In the event that the Corporation ceases to exist, all assets of THIS MINISTRY shall at the discretion of the Board of Directors be given to organizations that are exempt as described in section 501(c)(3) and/or 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. The receiving organization must be of similar purpose.

ARTICLE IV – GOVERNMENT AND OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS

PRESIDENT

Qualifications

The President shall have wisdom in handling the Corporation's affairs. He/she shall be of sound doctrine and good judgment.

Duties

The President shall be the leader of the ministry and all subordinate churches as provided by the Holy Scriptures

The President shall be Chairman of the official Board and preside over all corporation meetings.

Manner of Appointment

The President shall be appointed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Term of Office

The term of office of the President shall be reviewed every four (4) years. He/she is subject to removal at any time by majority vote of the Board of Directors.

SECRETARY

Qualifications

The Secretary shall be a spiritually minded person and of sound judgment. He/she must be administratively minded with the ability to multi-task.

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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 perform clerical duties, and shall be the custodian of all legal documents.

Manner of Appointment

The President shall nominate and the Board of Directors shall confirm the Secretary to office by majority vote.

Term of Office

The term of office of the Secretary shall be reviewed every four (4) years. Should the Secretary be found in violation of the By-Laws, the Board of Directors may dismiss him/her by a majority vote of the Board including the President.

TREASURER

Qualifications

The Treasurer shall be a spiritually minded person and of sound business judgment. He/she shall be capable of doing the accounting required to maintain the Corporation books.

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 moneys committed to his/her trust and shall make reports to be presented during official Board meetings. He/she shall deposit and make withdrawals in a manner prescribed in Article II of the By-Laws.

Manner of Appointment

The President shall nominate and the Board of Directors shall confirm the Treasurer to office.

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Term of Office

The term of office of the Treasurer shall be reviewed every four (4) years. Should the Treasurer be found in violation of the By-Laws, the Board of Directors may dismiss him/her by majority vote of the Board including the President.

ARTICLE V - MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL

The President of this ministry shall by virtue of his/her office automatically be recognized as an Ordained Minister.

Classes of Ministers

This ministry shall have two classes of ministers. Each class of minister will have distinct rights and privileges; they are listed below:

- 1. Ministerial membership in the organization shall be open to both men and women, and no worthy, God called person shall be denied the right to apply for membership. The Board of Directors may withdraw membership or credentials for any reason they deem necessary in order to maintain the integrity and original purpose of this organization.
- 2. Ministerial standing in the American Evangelical Christian Churches shall consist of either a Licensed or Ordained Minister.
 - a. A person may apply to become a Licensed Minister. This spiritual covering would include those working as Evangelists, Exhorters, Youth Ministers, Children's Ministers, Pastoral Counselors, Licensed Psychologist/Therapist, Social Workers, Minister of Music, Christian Teacher, Prison Ministry, Hospital/Police/Prison Chaplaincy, Trucking Ministry, Retreat/Camping Ministry, etc. Licensed Ministers are often counselors to the hurting and mourning members of the church. They offer comfort in times of stress or crisis or act as long-term counselors to resolve issues. The counseling duty involves the same level of confidentiality that licensed psychologist or therapist share with their patients. Although ordination in not required for all positions in ministry, for those who plan to serve in a church setting as a pastor, this would be a provisional license required prior to ordination.
 - Such persons are limited to perform only the following religious functions; conduct religious worship services, religious instruction, provide spiritual counseling, conduct funerals, visit the sick and shut-ins, minister in prisons, etc.

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- ii. Although the laws regarding officiating at weddings vary from state to state, the American Evangelical Christian Churches requires that only Ordain Ministers be allowed to legally officiate at weddings. A Licensed Minister may be granted permission to perform a wedding by the Board of Directors on a case-by-case basis, providing it is allowed in the state in which the wedding is to be performed. The request must be submitted in writing at least thirty (30) days prior to the wedding date.
- b. A person may apply to become an Ordained Minister only after completing one (1) year of service in the American Evangelical Churches as a Licensed Minister and if the position they are ministering in requires it. Typically and Ordained minister would work in a church setting as a Pastor (Solo, Senior, Associate or Assistant) with responsibilities for teaching, preaching, and performing the Sacerdotal Rights of the Church on a regular basis. They main duties of an Ordained Minister include, but are not limited to the following: perform specific ceremonies for their church members or others who seek such services such as weddings, funerals, and the administration of communion which (depending on the individual church's Constitution) may not be performed by a layperson like the Deacons or the Elders of the Church; prepare and deliver sermons to the congregation you are assigned to on a regular basis where you teach, encourage, exhort and admonish the congregants in order to edify the believers personally and the church corporately. The Pastor is a teacher of the Holy Scripture and church beliefs through sermons and regular Sunday school and/or Bible study classes. Finally, the Ordained Minister/Pastor is to be the spiritual leader of the congregation leading worship services and works with other staff members to ensure the smooth flow of the organization's ministry.
 - Ordained Ministers are authorized to perform all religious functions listed above for the Licensed Minister plus other Sacerdotal functions such as; administer communion, perform baby dedications, perform baptism and perform weddings.
 - ii. The requirement for one (1) year of service as a Licensed Minister may be waived by the Board of Directors on a case-by-case basis if the candidate is able to show immediate just cause that such an exception needs to be granted.

American Evangelical Christian Churches, Inc. Constitution and by-Laws Page 15 of 17 iii. The requirement for one (1) year of service as a Licensed Minister may be waived by the Board of Directors on a case-by-case basis if the candidate is an Ordained Minister in good standing with another Christian Denomination recognized by the American Evangelical Christian Churches.

3. ETHICS

Licensed and Ordained Ministers of the American Evangelical Christian Churches are representatives of the Lord, Jesus, His body (the Church) and the Corporation. As such, all ministers are required to sigh the American Evangelical Christian Churches Code of Ethics statement which will be kept on file. All new applicants will also be required to successfully pass a background examination prior to licensure or ordination. For anyone who knowingly breaches this Code of Ethics, their rights and privileges under this Constitution will be revoked and the name will be removed from our roster.

4. A church or ministry may become a member of the organization. They will be known as Affiliated Member of the American Evangelical Christian Churches.

These bodies may recommend candidates for licensure or ordination. The American Evangelical Christian Churches will lay no claim to any church or organizations property nor will it dictate their internal policy. This membership is for fellowship only with the common goal of promoting the Gospel of Jesus, the Christ.

5. Every individual, group or church shall remain an independent Sovereign Body answerable to God alone in their conduct, deportment and business.

Presidents Authority

The President of this ministry shall have ecclesiastical authority to decide who, how or if a person will be accepted by this ministry to either of the Ministry classes mentioned above (Matthew 16:13-19).

ARTICLE VI - PRIVACY

This ministry shall diligently watch to keep private all records concerning polity, doctrine, counseling, and information on individuals in fellowship with this ministry. This ministry must not disclose any records that may compromise information about a member's membership status, giving and counseling records.

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AMENDMENT VII – OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Anything that has not been discussed in this Constitution and By-Laws shall be discussed and decided upon at an official Board meeting.

AMENDMENT VIII - AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the By-Laws may be made by a majority quorum present vote of the official Board, including the President.

ADOPTION

This constitution and By-Laws were adopted by a majority vote of the members present and voting at a duly called meeting of the Board of Directors in which a quorum was present.

This Constitution supersedes any other Constitution and/or By-Laws of the American Evangelical Christian Churches.

Signed and certified, to be effective immediately.

Gordon N. Elliott President Lowell P. Ford Secretary Michael E. Ward, Sr. Treasurer

Adopted November 25, 2014

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