

# **Steadfast Church Bylaws**

*Approved 3/5/2021, Amended 8/27/21 (Article 5.2), Amended 3/19/23 (Articles 6-8)*

## **Preamble**

These bylaws (as amended, the “Bylaws”) govern the affairs of Steadfast Church, a religious non-profit corporation.

## **Article 1: Name & Organizational Provisions**

1.1 – This church will be known as Steadfast Church (hereafter also referred to as “Steadfast” or the “church”).

1.2 – Steadfast Church is organized under the North Carolina Nonprofit Corporation Act (G.S. 55A), as amended (the “Law”).

1.3 – Steadfast Church is autonomous and maintains the right to govern its own affairs, independent of any other institutional control.

## **Article 2: Purpose**

2.1 – Steadfast Church is formed for any lawful purpose or purposes not expressly prohibited under the Law. It is organized and shall operate exclusively for religious, charitable, and educational purposes as will qualify it as an exempt organization under Sections 501(c)(3) and 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (herein the “Code”) or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Code, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as tax-exempt organizations under that Code. The church’s purposes also include limited participation in any other activities, including taxable activities, but only to the extent that the activities would be permitted by a tax-exempt organization.

2.2 – More particularly, but without limitation, the purposes of Steadfast Church are to:

- a) Encourage and promote the advancing of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- b) Establish and maintain services for the worship of God.
- c) Provide a basis of relationship and community among fellow believers.
- d) Encourage and promote the spiritual growth and discipleship of believers.
- e) License and oversee ministers of the gospel.

- f) Respond to human need with ministries of service and compassion.
- g) Own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise acquire or dispose of such property (real or chattel) as may be needed for accomplishing the mission of the church.

### **Article 3: Statement of Faith**

3.1 – Steadfast Church’s Statement of Faith is presented in the Philosophy of Ministry document.

### **Article 4: Authority and Government**

4.1 – Steadfast Church is first and foremost an ecclesiastical body of believers, with Christ as its head. Christ delegates His authority to elders in each local church; they care for His church and are accountable to Him for the use or abuse of that authority.

4.2 – The Bible is the supreme governing document. The Bible is the final authority for all questions of theology and ethics. We believe that the life of the Christian should be characterized by obedience to Scripture and the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) in all personal and vocational relationships and engagements.

4.3 – Steadfast Church is secondarily a civil corporation, the governance of which is established by its Articles of Incorporation and these bylaws. The Articles of Incorporation and these bylaws, however, are subordinate to the Bible and must be interpreted in light of the Scriptures. The Bylaws establish the ecclesiastical bodies that govern Steadfast Church. The powers, duties, and function of the body shall be presumed to be ecclesiastical unless explicitly required for civil purposes.

4.4 – Steadfast Church is committed to an Elder-led, Deacon-served, and congregation-affirmed form of church government.

4.5 – While autonomous, Steadfast may voluntarily affiliate with other churches, denominations, networks, and movements of similar faith and practice. Steadfast is currently aligned with the Evangelical Free Church of America (EFCA) and Harbor Network. Affiliations may be initiated and terminated by the Board of Elders as they see fit with the exception of the EFCA. The church would require a congregational vote in order to leave the EFCA.

### **Article 5: Membership**

5.1 – Definitions: As stated in these bylaws, the term “member” is a spiritual and theological term for a member of the body of Steadfast Church that does not have any

civil effect for purposes of state or federal law. Any action otherwise requiring approval by corporate members for civil purposes shall only require approval of the governing body outlined in these bylaws in Article 6 and 11. All rights, which would otherwise vest in the corporate members, shall vest in this governing body. The terms “congregation,” “body,” and “membership” are used interchangeably in this document to designate the corporate body of all members of the church.

5.2 – Qualifications: An individual is eligible for church membership if they 1) profess to have accepted Jesus Christ as his or her personal Savior (John 1:12), 2) give satisfactory evidence of this in the form of a life lived in accordance with Scriptural principles (Galatians 5:22-25), 3) agree with the church’s Statement of Faith and understands and cooperates with the church’s theological distinctives (as contained in the church’s Philosophy of Ministry document), 4) are willing to abide by the bylaws and 5) are at least 16 years of age.

5.3 – Candidacy: The church’s pastoral staff and/or Elders will meet with membership candidates to review the membership requirements set forth in the bylaws and Philosophy of Ministry documents. If all requirements are met, the Lead Pastor, Elders, or a delegate of the Lead Pastor will recommend the candidate to the Elders for approval. Following approval, the member’s status will be communicated to the congregation in a timely manner (no later than the next annual member meeting).

5.4 – Rights: All Church members in good standing will have equal rights, including the right to vote and hold office as set forth in the bylaws. Those under sixteen years of age are ineligible to vote or hold elected office. No church member will have any right of ownership in or to the church’s real or personal property.

Membership reserves the right to approve or affirm, as the case may be, the following matters:

- a) Calling or dismissal of church Pastors/Elders
- b) Approval of the annual budget
- c) Amendment of church bylaws
- d) The taking on of financial debt in the form of property and/or real estate
- e) Leaving the Evangelical Free Church of America

Unless otherwise required by the bylaws or applicable law, a 75% approval of present voting members will be necessary to pass any item of business. A 50% quorum of voting members is required to transact business. Voting may be conducted in-person or online as specified by the Board of Elders (BOE).

5.5 – Responsibilities: Every member is expected to be an active participant in the ministry of Steadfast Church by:

- a) Faithful attendance and participating in worship gatherings, meetings,

- and other church functions.
- b) Being devoted to one another in love and pointing each other to Christ through encouragement, building up, sharpening, exhorting, rebuking, rejoicing with, weeping with, and praying for one another.
  - c) Being a faithful presence in our neighborhoods, workplaces, and community, committed to welcoming those outside the faith, and looking for ways to invite others to follow Jesus and join our community.
  - d) Pursuing personal holiness through engaging in spiritual disciplines (e.g., Bible reading, prayer, fasting, repentance, and resting).
  - e) Cheerfully stewarding time, treasure, and talent for the good of the church, our community, and God's kingdom.

Further exploration and explanation of these points can be found in the Philosophy of Ministry document.

5.6 – Termination: Termination of membership shall occur in any of the following:

- a) Request by the member to be removed
- b) Death of the member
- c) Transfer of membership to another church
- d) Inactivity for a period of 12 months
- e) By action under Article 15 of these Bylaws.

## **Article 6: Board of Elders**

6.1 – Steadfast Church is governed by a Board of Elders (also referred to as “Elders” or “BOE” elsewhere in these bylaws). The BOE shall have the power to determine all issues regarding the church, having the rights, powers, and responsibilities of a board of directors pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code, subject to any limitations under the Internal Revenue Code, the Articles of Incorporation of the Church, and these Bylaws.

6.2 – There is no minimum or maximum number of total Elders though a plurality, for voting, is preferred. The number of Elders shall be set by the BOE as they see fit.

6.3 – Biblically, “Pastor” and “Elder” are synonymous titles. For the purposes of the church, a “Pastor” is a paid staff member operating as an Elder. Therefore, the Lead Pastor of the church is also considered an Elder. Elders can also be lay volunteers. Any future “Pastors” hired by the church must also thereby be Elders unless otherwise specified by the BOE.

6.4 – All Elders shall be members of the BOE for the purposes of the law.

## **Article 7: Qualifications, Selections, and Service of Elders**

7.1 – To be considered as an Elder, a man must have been called by God into leadership at Steadfast Church (Acts 20:28), exhibit the highest Christian character, demonstrate the requisite competencies of pastoral ministry, and display unity with the other Elders, according to the qualifications of Scripture (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9).

Calling: an Elder possesses a godly ambition to serve in the office of Elder. This aspiration comes from the Holy Spirit, who establishes leaders in the church (Acts 20:28). This internal sense of divine calling must be confirmed by the Elders and members of Steadfast Church.

Character: an Elder exhibits the character qualities as detailed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. These qualities include being above reproach, a mature Christian, a good husband (if married) and a good father (if he has children), temperate, self-controlled, without addictions, respectable and respected by others, and gentle and kind rather than contentious. While still sinful and needing to repent of sin when his life does not manifest these qualities, an Elder must exhibit these characteristics in increasing measure.

Competencies: an Elder demonstrates the requisite competencies for this office, including the ability to teach (cherishes sound doctrine for himself, is able to communicate sound doctrine to others, and is able to refute false doctrine), lead (carry out governing responsibilities), pray (for all church matters, especially for the sick), and shepherd (exercise church discipline, protect the members, and provide excellent examples of faithfulness and obedience for members to follow).

Coherence with fellow Elders: an Elder displays coherence with his fellow Elders so that they are united in theological vision, core values, philosophy of ministry, and brotherhood.

7.2 – Selection: To be selected as an Elder, the following process is generally followed: assessment of calling, character, competencies, and coherence; successful completion of the Elder-in-training process; approval by the BOE; affirmation (through voting) by the members of the church (see Article 5.4); and installation as an Elder. In the case of hiring a Pastor/Elder from outside of Steadfast Church, the investigation, interviews, and due diligence carried out by the Elders doing the hiring constitutes the above process. Upon his hiring, he is installed as an Elder unless otherwise specified by the BOE.

7.3 – Elders must affirm the Statement of Faith, bylaws, and other documents of Steadfast Church (e.g., Theological Distinctives and Philosophy of Ministry documents). They agree to notify the BOE if they take “exception” to anything in

these documents, and the board will determine if their exceptions are disqualifying.

7.4 – Elder Service: Elder service may be vocational or bi-vocational, paid or unpaid. The Lead Pastor, and other staff Pastors, will serve as Elders indefinitely until their voluntary departure from their role or termination. Lay Elders will serve for a term of two years unless otherwise specified by the BOE. A lay Elder can serve two terms consecutively (if approved by the congregation) but then must take a mandatory sabbatical from serving for at least six months before entering into a new term.

An elder shall be dismissed from office in the following instances (an illustrative, not exhaustive, list): moral impropriety, doctrinal error, bringing reproach to the name of Christ and/or Steadfast Church, incompetency, disunity with the rest of the Elders, and any other failure that would fall under the category of actions that demand church discipline. The BOE shall investigate a credible charge against an Elder and act accordingly.

Service as an Elder confers the authority to preach, oversee the administration of the ordinances, marry, and enjoy all the rights and privileges accorded to licensed or ordained ministers under state law.

### **Article 8: Roles and Responsibilities of Elders**

8.1 – The roles and responsibilities of Elders include instructing and encouraging the church with sound doctrine, shepherding the people of the church, developing godly leadership in the church, and general leadership of the church.

8.2 – Governance: The BOE may structure and organize itself however it deems necessary for the sake of simplicity, clarity of communication, and efficiency of organization, according to the needs of Steadfast Church and the size of the BOE. Any such restructuring must preserve the plurality of Elders and the calling, character, competencies, and coherence requirements for Elders articulated above.

To promote efficient handling of its matters, the BOE may appoint various advisory teams from within its membership, the staff, and from the church at large. These teams shall perform tasks solely in accordance with the duties and powers specifically delegated by the BOE. All teams shall exist for the period specified by the BOE and serve under its authority as delegates of the BOE.

### **Article 9: Board of Elders' Meetings**

9.1 – The BOE shall hold regular meetings. Additional meetings may be called by

any Elder.

9.2 – A selected member of the Elders or staff shall make a reasonable effort to notify the team of Elders of any special meetings. Notice of regular meetings need not be given.

9.3 – Members of the BOE may participate in meetings, if not in person, by means of a conference telephone, video technology, or similar communication equipment by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other at the same time. Participation by such means shall constitute presence at a meeting.

9.4 – Each Elder shall have one vote.

9.5 – As it pertains to major issues, the BOE shall attempt to act by consensus. However, unless an act of a greater number is required by the law, the Articles of Incorporation, or these bylaws,

- a) a quorum of the BOE consists of a majority of the Elders then in office immediately before the meeting begins, and
- b) the affirmative act of the majority of the Elders present whenever a quorum is present at the time of the vote constitutes the act of the BOE.

An Elder who is present at a meeting of the BOE or a committee of the BOE when corporate action is taken is deemed to have assented to the action taken unless his dissent or abstention from the action taken is entered in the minutes of the meeting.

9.6 – The BOE shall keep a record of its proceedings.

9.7 – Any action required or permitted to be taken by the BOE may be taken without a meeting if all of the members of the BOE, individually or collectively, consent in writing or via electronic transmission to the action. Such action by written consent or consents shall be filed with the minutes.

9.8 – Non-Elders, including officers, may be present and have a voice at BOE meetings at the discretion of the Elders, but they will not have a vote.

### **Article 10: Lead Pastor/Elder**

10.1 – As an Elder in the church, it is the duty of the Lead Pastor to help co-lead the BOE and the rest of the church in effectively obeying God's leading as revealed in Scripture. He will serve as the lead teacher, shepherd, and co-leader of the church. It is his duty to initiate and facilitate the collective and interdependent leadership of the BOE. The Lead Pastor will co-represent the congregation faithfully; co-lead with

respect to values, purpose, vision, mission, and strategies of the congregation; and co-labor in service to the congregation. The Lead Pastor is directly accountable to the Elders.

10.2 – The Lead Pastor must meet the qualifications of a member and an Elder (Articles 5 & 7, respectively). He shall be called for an indefinite term of office.

10.3 – If a vacancy is created as a result of the resignation, death, or removal of the Lead Pastor, the vacancy shall be filled as soon as practical. In the event that a new Lead Pastor is to be called, the Pastoral Search Committee shall be assembled by the BOE. The Pastoral Search Committee should be composed of Elders and non-Elder members. Should the BOE appoint an interim Lead Pastor, he also must meet the qualifications of members and Elders outlined in Articles 5 & 7.

10.4 – When the Pastoral Search Committee identifies a candidate for the Lead Pastor position and a 75% majority of the Elders affirm the recommendation, the Elders shall present him to the membership of Steadfast Church for a vote of affirmation and approval. The BOE must present the candidate to the membership for approval at:

- a) the Church's annual meeting or
- b) a special business meeting called in accordance with Article 14.

Once the membership has approved the BOE's recommendation, the BOE is authorized to extend the call to the candidate to become the church's next Lead Pastor.

10.5 – The Lead Pastor or any Elder can be removed from their position by one of the following:

- a) Elder Recommendation and Congregational Vote
  - i) A quorum of at least 75% of the Elders (excluding himself) votes to recommend his dismissal to the congregation after reasonable efforts by the BOE to engage with the Elder in the spirit of biblical teaching (Galatians 6:1; Matthew 18); and
  - ii) a 75% majority of membership present and voting approves of the BOE's recommendation for his dismissal via secret ballot at a special member meeting called for that purpose. This special meeting must meet the requirements for notice as outlined in Article 14.
- b) Congregational Vote
  - i) The congregation may vote to remove the Lead Pastor or any Elder by a special business meeting as specified in Article 14.3

The BOE may elect in its discretion to suspend any or all of the Elder's duties pending the congregational vote. If the membership votes to dismiss the Lead Pastor through



the process outlined above, then the Lead Pastor's employment will be terminated immediately (or on such date established in the BOE's recommendation to the congregation).

### **Article 11: Officers**

11.1 – The BOE shall designate the following officers:

- a) a President, who is also the Chairman and Lead Pastor
- b) a Secretary of the corporation from the active church membership
- c) a Treasurer of the corporation from the active church membership

11.2 – The BOE may also choose other officers and agents as it deems necessary. Any number of offices may be held by the same person, except that the office of the president and secretary or treasurer may not be held by the same person. All temporary officers are listed in the Philosophy of Ministry document.

11.3 – All officers are to function in line with the Statement of Faith and Philosophy of Ministry of the church.

11.4 – The President: The President's office is filled by the Lead Pastor of the Church. The President shall, subject to the provisions of these bylaws,

- a) have general and active management of the Church and general supervision of its officers, agents, and employees;
- b) preside at all meetings of the BOE; and
- c) perform those other duties incident to the office of the president as from time to time may be assigned to him by the BOE.

The President's term is indefinite. He is to chair an annual member meeting of Steadfast Church that includes a report of the spiritual and financial state of the church. This will include the reporting of the state of the values, purpose, vision, mission, strategies, and other features that make Steadfast a unique local church.

11.5 – The Secretary: The Secretary of the Corporation shall be chosen by the BOE during the first meeting of the year. The term of the office shall be for one year, and he/she may succeed themselves.

The Secretary shall keep a true and accurate record of all meetings of the church and the BOE. The Secretary shall also be custodian of all legal documents and shall be authorized to sign all official and legal documents, to conduct church correspondence where required, and to perform any other functions as are customary or as may be directed by the BOE. He/she may personally fulfill the duties or delegate as agreed to

by the BOE.

11.6 – The Treasurer: The Treasurer shall be chosen by the BOE during the first meeting of the year. The term of the office shall be for one year, and he/she may succeed themselves.

The Treasurer's duties shall include being the overseer and custodian of all church funds, which shall be deposited into bank accounts, as designated by the BOE. The Treasurer shall be authorized to sign checks and make disposition of funds as may be required in the accurate conduct of church business under the supervision of the BOE and consistent with this or any other provision of these bylaws.

The Treasurer, or designee, shall give a financial report to the BOE at its regular meeting and help prepare reports that are given to the church.

The Treasurer shall perform any other functions that may be customary or as may be directed by the church or the BOE. He/she may personally fulfill the duties or delegate as agreed by the BOE. The Treasurer will present an independent audit of the financial reporting of the church annually.

11.7 – Removal of officers for good and sufficient cause shall be by action of the BOE, and reported to the congregation. No officer shall be removed from office until positive effort has been made to assist that officer in correcting the problem, except in the case of gross moral, civil, or criminal misconduct, in which case removal will be immediate.

11.8 – Resignations of officers shall be in writing to the President, effective on the date specified in the resignation as determined by the BOE. The resignation of the President shall be in writing to the BOE.

## **Article 12: Deacons**

12.1 – The Church shall have a spiritual office of Deacon that is accountable to the office of Elder. Deacons may be male or female and must meet the qualifications of a deacon set forth in Scripture (1 Timothy 3:8-13, as applicable). The general responsibility of Deacons shall be to assist the Elders with the ministry of Steadfast Church. This office provides wide latitude to promote the work of ministry in and through the church in a way that involves members in weighty and meaningful ways.

12.2 – Deacons must affirm the Statement of Faith, bylaws, and other important documents of Steadfast Church (e.g., Theological Distinctives and Philosophy of Ministry documents). They agree to notify the BOE if they take "exception" to anything in these documents, and the board will determine if their exceptions are disqualifying.

12.3 – The process by which an individual becomes a deacon at Steadfast Church, including role definitions and service terms, shall be established and may be amended from time to time by the BOE. These descriptions are outlined in greater detail in the Philosophy of Ministry document.

### **Article 13: Hired Staff**

13.1 – Steadfast Church intends to hire full and part-time staff members in order to carry out its purposes. The Elder team is accountable for all hiring/firing decisions in cooperation with the congregation as specified in article 5.4. The BOE is accountable to co-represent the congregation in these decisions.

### **Article 14: Member Meetings**

14.1 – Regular Meetings: Steadfast Church shall meet regularly for the purpose of worship, fellowship, and mutual encouragement. The ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper shall be observed on a regular basis.

14.2 – Annual Members Meeting: The annual business meeting of members shall be organized by the BOE in the final month of the fiscal year seeking the membership's approval of the following matters:

- a) the church budget for the upcoming fiscal year
- b) any Elder candidates recommended by the BOE
- c) any other matters deemed appropriate by the board or required by Article 5.4

14.3 – Special Membership Meetings:

- a) Special business meetings may be called at any time at the request of the BOE.
- b) Church members may request that the BOE call a special business meeting by submitting to the board a letter signed by at least 20% of the church's members then eligible to vote. Both the Elders and the requesting members should make reasonable efforts to engage with one another in the spirit of Biblical teaching, including the principles set forth in Matthew 18 and Galatians 6:1, prior to any decision regarding the Church members' request. The BOE will consider the Church members' request at its next regularly scheduled meeting and will promptly notify the requesting members of the Board's decision regarding the request.
- c) If the BOE fails to call the requested special business meeting, then the church members may call a special business meeting by submitting to the BOE a letter, signed by at least 50% of the church members then

eligible to vote, stating the date, time, and purpose of the special business meeting. In this case, the congregation has the right to call for a congregational vote on any business permitted under Article 5.4

14.4 – Notice of any business meeting must be provided to the membership at least one week before the meeting date. Notice must be distributed through means regularly used by the church for the purposes of communicating with the congregation.

### **Article 15: Church Discipline**

15.1 – God involves His church in every aspect of his redemptive work. This holds true even when God disciplines His children out of His love for them so they can share in His holiness (Heb. 12:4-11). In what is commonly referred to as church discipline, God invites His church to participate with Him as He carries out His loving, redeeming discipline. God carries out His discipline in and through the body of Christ (Matthew 18:15-20).

Church discipline makes membership meaningful—members and leaders care about one another and commit to encourage each other to follow Christ, enabling the church to enjoy life with God and participate in his mission.

15.2 – Purpose: Church discipline has four broad purposes:

- a) restoring relationships
- b) removing wickedness
- c) renewing God's people
- d) revealing God's love and glory

15.3 – People: Church discipline involves members and regular attendees who refuse to seek and obey God; as well as, those who seek to encourage them to turn back to Jesus Christ for mercy and forgiveness (Isaiah 55:1-7). God's discipline is accomplished as the people of God seek to fight the good fight of faith together as a community of believers (1 Timothy 6:12). The Elders oversee church discipline as they seek to shepherd the church.

15.4 – Process: Jesus offers a general process for church discipline in Matthew 18:15-20. God's discipline expands (involving more people, to include Elders) and escalates (involving increasing efforts of warnings, telling the church and removal). As agreed in the church membership requirements, if a person is the subject of pending disciplinary action, the person consents and submits to the Elders' continuing authority to complete the disciplinary process and not withdraw from membership. See the Philosophy of Ministry Document for more details on church discipline.

By joining this church, all members agree that the church discipline process shall

provide the sole remedy for any civil dispute (non-criminal dispute) arising against the church and its agents, and they waive their right to file any legal action against the church in a civil court or agency.

### **Article 16: Prohibited Activities & Mutual Interest**

16.1 – Prohibited Activities: This church is prohibited from engaging in activities which violate its written doctrines. It is also prohibited from condoning, promoting, and/or allowing any of its assets to be used for activities that violate its written doctrines.

16.2 – Mutual Interest: The behavior of anyone in fellowship with this church is of common interest to the BOE and members (Galatians 6:1-2). This church requires every BOE member, Elder, Deacon, staff member, and church member to adhere to a lifestyle that is consistent with the doctrines of the church as taught in the Bible. Therefore, this church reserves the right to refuse service to any individual, whether member or not, that is not submitting their lifestyle to this scriptural mode of conduct. This refusal would include services, benefits, and any use of church assets.

### **Article 17: Dissolution**

17.1 – Steadfast Church may be dissolved by a 75% majority vote of the Elders of the church with a 100% quorum required and a subsequent congregational approval of 75% of members present and voting at a business meeting called in accordance with Article 14.

17.2 – In the event of dissolution, all outstanding debts will be retired, including any severance of current employee(s) granted by the Elders. The remaining church property (or properties), both real and personal, and all proceeds therefrom, shall be given without cost to one or more like-minded churches and/or other tax-exempt religious organizations. The Elders shall choose the recipients.

### **Article 18: Indemnification**

18.1 – Steadfast Church has the power to indemnify (including the power to advance expenses to) its Elders, officers, employees, and agents made a part to a proceeding, provided, however, that no such indemnity shall indemnify any such Elder, officer, employee or agent from or on account of:

- a) Acts or omissions of such Elder, officer, employee, or agent finally adjudged to be intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law.
- b) Conduct of the Elder, officer, employee, or agent finally adjusted to be in violation of applicable state law.

- c) Any transaction with respect to which it was finally adjudged that such Elder, officer, employee, or agent personally received a benefit in money, property, or services to which such person was not legally entitled.

18.2 – Steadfast Church may purchase and maintain insurance, at its expense, to protect itself and any Elder, officer, employee, or agent, or any person who, while as an Elder, officer, employee, or agent of Steadfast Church, is or was a director, officer, partner, trustee, employee, or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan, or other enterprise against any expense, liability or loss, whether or not Steadfast Church would have the power to indemnify such a person against such expense, liability, or loss under the North Carolina Nonprofit Corporation Act.

18.3 – Any repeal or modification of this Article shall not adversely affect any right of any person existing at the time of such repeal or modification.

18.4 – If any provision of this Article or any application thereof shall be invalid, unenforceable, or contrary to applicable law, the remainder of this Article, or the application of such provision to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it is held invalid, unenforceable, or contrary to applicable law, shall not be affected thereby and shall continue in full force and effect.

### **Article 19: Amendments**

19.1 – The BOE must approve any proposed amendment by a two-thirds majority vote before presenting the amendments to the Church members for their approval.

19.2 – The BOE may seek the membership's approval of any amendments to the bylaws at a meeting in accordance with Article 14. Notwithstanding any notice requirements established under these bylaws, the Board must provide written copies of any proposed amendments at least 30 days before the date of the meeting. Such copies must be distributed through means regularly used by the Church for the purposes of communicating with the congregation.

### **Article 20: Books and Records**

20.1 – The fiscal year of Steadfast Church shall be September 1 – August 31.

20.2 – Steadfast Church shall keep correct and complete books and records of account.

- a) Articles of Incorporation and bylaws shall be kept indefinitely.
- b) Lists of members, Elders, and officers shall be kept current.
- c) Complete financial books, records of account, meeting minutes,

and legal documents shall be maintained and kept for a minimum of 3 years unless otherwise specified by the law.

20.3 – Records shall be available to be inspected by any active member in good standing for reasonable purposes at any reasonable time. Requests to view records must be made to the BOE.