

Statement of Faith & Bylaws

Unalaska Christian Fellowship

Revised March 22nd, 2015

Unalaska Christian Fellowship Bylaws

Article I – Name

This body shall be known as the Unalaska Christian Fellowship, Inc., hereinafter referred to as “The Fellowship.”

Article II – Purpose

The purpose of “The Fellowship” shall be as revealed in the New Testament; to win people to faith in Jesus the Christ, to help them grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ that increasingly they may know and do His will, and to work for the spiritual unity of all Christians and with them, engage in the common task of the building of the kingdom of God. (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:12-13)

Article III – Affiliation

“The Fellowship” is an inter-denominational self-governing part of the body of Christ.

Article IV – Tenets of Faith

“The Fellowship” believes in unity in the essentials (#1-6) and freedom in the non-essentials (#7-13).

1. in the Divine inspiration of the Bible, the inerrant all-sufficient rule of faith and conduct; (II Tim. 3:16-17)
2. in one God, creator of all things, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, Holy Spirit; (Deut. 6:4; Mark 12:29; John 1:1-18)
3. in the prophesied and virgin birth of Christ, His atoning blood shed death, bodily resurrection and ascension; (Is. 7:14; Rom. 8:34; Acts 1:9-10)
4. in the necessity of the rebirth of man from spiritual death and hell through repentance towards God and faith in Jesus the Christ as Savior and Lord; (John 3:1-7, 16-18; John 5:11-12; Acts 20:21)
5. in the observable evidence of regeneration, the inward evidence being the direct witness of the Holy Spirit, and the outward evidence being a life of holiness and love of God and man; (Rom. 8:16; I Peter 1:15-16; Matt. 22:36-40)
6. in the second coming to earth of Jesus the Lord, who will receive the Church as His chosen bride and will institute new heavens and a new earth; (Acts 1:11; II Peter 3:1-13; Rev. 21:1-5)
7. in regular participation in the Holy Communion, in remembrance of Him who is our gospel; (I Cor. 11:23-30)
8. in the baptism of the Holy Spirit as an experience distinct from and subsequent to the new birth; (Acts 2:4; 19:2)
9. in the gifts of the Holy Spirit of God as He gives them to each one, as He determines; (Acts 2:4; I Cor. 12:1-11)

10. in the divine healing of body, mind, and spirit through faith in God's grace and mercy; (Is. 53:4-5; Matt. 8:16-17; James 5:13-16)
11. in the water baptism by immersion symbolic of our death, burial, and resurrection with Christ, through whom we walk in newness of life; (Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:38)
12. in intensive world evangelization and missionary work in accordance with the Great Commission, with signs following; (Matt. 28:19)
13. in the Church as the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with each born-again believer as an integral functioning member; (Heb. 12:22-24; I Cor. 14:26)

Article V – Distribution or Dissolution

In the event of the dissolution of "The Fellowship" no member shall be entitled to any distribution or division of its remaining property or its proceeds, and the balance of all money and other property received by "The Fellowship" from any source after the payment of all debts and obligations of the corporation shall be distributed to the Alaska District Council of the ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, INC., exclusively for the purpose within the instrument of Section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code as the same now exists, or as it may be amended from time to time.

Article VI – Identification

Membership is by identification. Identification with "The Fellowship" shall be open to those who subscribe voluntarily to the tenets of faith as set forth in the BYLAWS ARTICLE IV, Numbers 1-6, and the Statement of Faith.

Article VII – Church Leadership

Section 1:

As a New Testament congregation, "The Fellowship" desires to pattern its organization as closely as possible after the example given in the New Testament. "The Fellowship" shall be led by a Board of Elders, who must be identified with the congregation (I Peter 5:1-4). The Board of Elders are charged to pray, minister the Word, and to oversee the needs of "The Fellowship." All other programs and directors that may come into being as a matter of expediency are responsible to the Board of Elders.

Section 2: Board of Elders

- a) Qualifications: As found in I Timothy 3:1-9 and Titus 1:6-9
- b) Number: No set number, although there shall be a minimum of three.
- c) Term: Additional Elders shall be added from time to time by unanimous call of the Board of Elders. The ordination of the proposed new Elders shall be subject to ratification by 2/3 majority vote of "The Fellowship" of those present and assembled at any duly called Congregational Business Meeting (See Article VIII, section 7) (Acts 15:22). In the event that there are no Elders left in "The Fellowship," the congregation shall elect a new body of Elders by a 2/3 majority vote of "The Fellowship" of those present and assembled at any duly called congregational meeting (See Article VIII, section 7) (Titus 1:5). A person will retain his position as Elder so long as he fulfills the above qualifications and maintains his local identification with "The Fellowship." If an Elder's

conduct is questioned by two or more members of "The Fellowship" they shall proceed according to the pattern as set forth in Matthew 18:15-17. If the situation is not rectified and it is brought to the Board of Elders, the defendant Elder will not have a part in the unanimous decision reached by the Board of Elders. (I Tim. 5:19-22)

- d) Ministry: The Board of Elders shall be spiritual leaders in all matters pertaining to the spiritual life of "The Fellowship," and in the ministering of its ordinances with respect to counseling, regular attendance at the Lord's Supper, visitation of the sick, and concern for the morally delinquent and spiritually indifferent. They shall give prayerful consideration to policies and procedures that will enable "The Fellowship" to fulfill its complete mission. They shall encourage by example and word, the missionary, evangelistic, educational, and stewardship responsibilities of "The Fellowship" and serve at the Lord's table. The Board of Elders shall be in close relationship to "The Fellowship," and shall be sensitive to its needs. The Board of Elders shall see that principles of open communication are employed. These men have the oversight of the receiving and disbursement of finances. These men shall maintain a list of identified members for prayer and voting purposes.

Section 3: Deacons and Deaconesses

- a) Qualifications: Shall be men and women of "honest report, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom" (Acts 6:3), and who meet other qualifications as set forth in the scriptures. (Acts 6:1-8; and I Tim. 3:8-13)
- b) Number: No set number.
- c) Term: "The Fellowship" shall be given the opportunity to recommend men and women full of the Holy Spirit to serve as deacons and deaconesses. The Board of Elders shall then choose from this list according to the qualifications of I Timothy 3. Those chosen shall be ratified by a 2/3 majority vote of a duly called Congregational Business Meeting (See Article VIII, section 7). (Rom. 16:1; I Tim. 3:8-13; Acts 6:1-8)
- d) Ministry: The deacons shall be under the general oversight of the Board of Elders, serve the needs of "The Fellowship," have the oversight and care of the needy and the widows, and care for all properties of "The Fellowship."

Section 4: Salaried Personnel (other than hourly employees)

- a) "The Fellowship" may employ, either on full-time or part-time basis, personnel to serve as pastors, or ministry leaders.
 - 1. Number: No set number.
 - 2. Term: Shall be chosen by unanimous call of the Board of Elders and ordained only after ratification by a 2/3 majority vote of those present and assembled at any duly called Congregational Business Meeting (See Article VIII, section 7). The minister shall serve for an indeterminate period. If the minister's performance is questioned by an Elder, that Elder will confer with the minister privately. If the situation is not rectified, the Elder will take another Elder as a witness to approach the minister. If no resolution occurs, the minister's performance will be reviewed at a Board of Elders meeting. The minister's employment may be terminated, only after the above steps are taken upon 30 days written notice by the Board of Elders (Matt. 18:15-17). If a minister wishes to terminate his employment he may do so upon 30 days written notice.

3. Definitions:

Minister: Any person who serves under the umbrella of "The Fellowship."

Pastor: Shall be spiritual overseer of "The Fellowship." He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and departments.

4. Remuneration: The salaries of the minister(s) shall be such as is agreed upon by the Board of Elders and Deacons.

Section 5: Corporate Officers:

a) President, Vice-President, Corporate Secretary, Treasurer:

1. Term: Service shall be every two (2) years so long as local identification is maintained.

2. Selection: The Offices of President, Vice-President, Corporate Secretary, and Treasurer shall be chosen from the Board of Elders by a 2/3 majority vote of the Board of Elders.

3. Duties:

i. The Corporate Secretary shall be overseer of the minutes of the Congregational Business Meetings. He shall keep a record of the people identifying with "The Fellowship," and perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper charge of his duties. He shall be custodian of all legal documents.

ii. The Corporate Treasurer shall be responsible for monies entrusted to him/her. Generally accepted methods of bookkeeping and accounting shall be used and periodic reports shall be made to "The Fellowship," and Board of Elders as requested.

iii. The Corporate Vice-President shall preside over all presidential duties in the absence of the president and delegation of his responsibilities by the president.

iv. The Corporation President shall serve as an elder. The Corporation President shall act as chairman of all Congregational Business Meetings in the absence of the senior pastor. He shall sign all legal documents of the corporation where a president's signature is required. He has no authority other than that which is vested by the Board of Elders to transact.

Section 6: Staff & Volunteers

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of "The Fellowship" as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to "The Fellowship" body and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by "The Fellowship" in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by the Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (See Article XI) (Matt. 5:16; Phil. 2:14-16; I Thess. 5:22)

Article VIII - Meetings

Section 1: Regular Meetings

Regular meetings for public worship shall be held on each Sunday and during the week in selected homes or in the auditorium as may be provided for, under the direction of the Pastor and the Board of Elders.

Section 2: Congregational Business Meetings

Business meetings of “The Fellowship” may be called by the Church Leadership. Meetings will be held semi-annually, and as often as needed to conduct business of “The Fellowship.” A member of “The Fellowship” may call a business meeting by presenting a petition to the Chairman of the Board (see Article VIII, section 8) signed by not less than one-third of the persons identified with “The Fellowship.” (See Article VIII, section 7b)

Section 3: Leadership Meetings

- a) Leadership: Shall be constituted of all ratified deacons and all ratified Elders.
- b) The Leadership shall meet regularly to transact business.
- c) The Board of Elders shall meet regularly to pray for God’s direction for “The Fellowship.”

Section 4: Notice

The Chairman of the Board (see Article VIII, section 8) shall give notice of all meetings specified in Article VIII. Notice of Congregational Business Meetings shall be given not less than ten days and at least two Sundays prior to the date of the proposed meeting.

Section 5: Parliamentary Authority

To facilitate the conduct of business, all Congregational Business Meetings shall be governed by the standards of parliamentary procedures as set forth in Robert’s Rules of Order (Newly Revised).

Section 6: Quorum

See section 7: a), b), and c).

Section 7: Voting

- a) Congregational Business Meetings: A 2/3 majority vote, by secret ballot, of the eligible voters present (See Article VIII, section 7b), at any duly called Congregational Business Meeting is necessary for the ordination of Elders; employment of salaried personnel; acquisition, disposal or building of facilities; and amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws. Properly called meetings shall require notification of “The Fellowship” for the purpose of informing, answering questions, and discussing the business at hand.
- b) An eligible voter shall be a member as stated in Article VI, 16 years of age or older who has attended Sunday morning services regularly for 3 months or longer.
- c) Board of Deacons: All decisions will be made on the basis of a 2/3 majority vote of all ratified Deacons.
- d) Board of Elders: All decisions will be made by a unanimous decision by the Board of Elders in all matters. If in any case, a unanimous decision cannot be made, the Board of Elders shall come together one week later, after prayerful consideration. If a unanimous decision cannot still be made, then the decision shall be made on the basis of a 2/3 majority vote of all ratified Elders. (Except Article VII section 2, subsection C. Article VII section 4, subsection a-2)

Section 8: Chairman of the Board

The Chairman of the Board shall be selected by the board of Elders.

Article IX – Finances

Section 1:

“The Fellowship” shall be financed according to the scriptural plan by tithes and offerings. (Gen. 14:20; Mal. 3:6-10; Luke 6:38; I Cor. 16:1-2; II Cor. 9:6, 7)

Section 2:

All monies received shall be deposited in banks designated by the Board of Elders and Deacons by a 2/3 majority vote of those present and not present.

Section 3: Treasurer

Shall be appointed by a 2/3 majority vote of the Elders. He shall be overseer of the receiving and disbursement of all funds of “The Fellowship” according to the authority designated by the Board of Elders and Deacons. He shall provide regular monthly reports to the Board of Elders and have books available for an annual audit.

Section 4:

“The Fellowship,” itself, shall give to the Lord's work according to the scriptural plan of tithes and offerings. (Gen. 14:20; Mal. 3:6-10; Luke 6:38; I Cor. 16:1-2; II Cor. 9:6-7)

Article X – Property

“The Fellowship” in its corporate name, shall have the right to purchase or acquire by gift, bequest or otherwise, either directly or as trustee, and to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of any real or chattel property. However, no real property of “The Fellowship” shall be acquired, sold, mortgaged, or otherwise alienated without authorization in accordance with Article VIII section 7. The Chairman of the Board shall certify in such conveyance or mortgage that the same has been duly authorized and recommended by a vote. Such certificate of that particular vote of the eligible voters (See Article VIII, section 7b), signed by all ratified Elders shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof. (See Article VI)

Article XI – Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen. 1:26-27) Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe that the term “marriage” has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Gen. 2:18-25) We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (I Cor. 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4.) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matt. 15:18-20; I Cor. 6:9-10)

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31) Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of "The Fellowship."

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Rom. 10:9-10; I Cor. 6:9-11)

Article XII - Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended or changed by a 2/3 majority vote of the Board of Elders with ratification by the eligible voters. The Congregational Business Meeting must be announced to the congregation at least ten days in advance, including two Sundays, preceding the time of such meeting, and a written copy of these Bylaws shall be in effect upon ratification by a 2/3 majority vote of the eligible voters present at any duly called Congregational Business Meeting. (See Article VIII, section 7) (See Article VI, section 2)