

**TRUE VINE CHRISTIAN CENTER**  
EST. 2023  
REV. JHONTRE R. GREEN, PASTOR/FOUNDING VISIONARY

# Church By-Laws

of True Vine Christian Center, Incorporated  
Ascension Parish, Louisiana

## **Article 1** IDENTITY

These are the By-Laws of the above named, True Vine Christian Center (TVCC), a non-profit religious corporation organized and existing pursuant to the laws of LOUISIANA, with its principal place of business at the above stated city and county in LOUISIANA (hereafter "TVCC").

## **Article 2** PURPOSES AND POWERS

Section 1. TVCC is organized as a local non-denominational religious corporation exclusively for religious purposes and maintains independence from all other denominations, fraternities, associations, fellowships, etc. and all of its property subject to the law, usages and discretion of itself.

Section 2. All the powers authorized and permitted by the King James Holy Bible and the Articles of Baptist/Christian Faith shall be the powers of this Corporation, together with such powers as granted to religious corporations in the State of Louisiana, as amended from time to time.

### **Article 3**

#### GOVERNANCE

Section 1. The corporation shall look to the Holy Bible first, then to these By-laws and the laws of LOUISIANA with reference to non-profit religious corporations for guidance in the operation of its affairs.

Section 2. Where these By-laws conflict with the Holy Bible, the Holy Bible shall control.

Section 3. Where these By-laws conflict with the laws of LOUISIANA with reference to non-profit religious organizations, LOUISIANA law shall control.

### **Article 4**

#### MEMBERS

Section 1. Members of True Vine Christian Center shall be any person who has professed Jesus Christ to be their personal Lord & Savior, and have gone down in the waters of baptism via full emersion, and come up to walk in the newness of life and subsequently publicly joined into the fellowship at True Vine in the presence of the Pastor and other members or at the private approval/admission of the Pastoral leadership.

Section 2. Members maintain their good standing by actively attending and participating in the worship, teachings and ordinances of the church **and** through supporting the church financially as God prospers them according to the Holy Scriptures; most specifically Malachi 3:10 and 2 Corinthians 9:12.

Section 3. Financial contribution shall not maintain membership in the absence of attendance except in special cases such as sickness or another calamity. Attendance shall not compensate for the absence of giving except in special cases. In the event of special circumstances causing the conflict for anyone in fulfilling one or both of these obligations and proper notification to the Pastor or Deacons of such circumstance being made, final membership status shall be determined by the Pastor and Deacons.

Section 4. Any person who fails to meet their respective membership obligations for a period of 90-days or more **without proper notification to church leadership** relinquishes their

membership until they are restored back before the church or by the Pastoral leadership.

Section 5. Hybrid membership is an acceptable form of maintaining membership at TVCC for distant members who desire to join via online means. Hybrid membership must be accompanied by active participation in online worship and financial contributions in reverence and respect to the same guidelines outlined in article 4, sections 2 and 3.

## **Article 5**

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of an odd number of individuals that shall not exceed seven (7). Each member of the board shall be appointed by the Pastor and shall serve a term of 2 years at a time with each term expiring in the month of January of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of their term. The Pastor reserves the right to remove any individual from the Board of Directors at his discretion as guided by the Holy Spirit.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the oversight and carrying out the everyday general business of TVCC and other responsibilities as delegated and decided by the Pastor and deacons; inclusive of, but not limited to:

- a. Ensuring bills and expenses of TVCC are paid.
- b. Ensuring payroll is completed.
- c. Count and record monies and donations.
- d. Keep and maintain all financial records.
- e. Assist the Pastor in developing and keeping a general church budget.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall meet once quarterly. All other business of the board shall be handled through polling of the board by the chairperson or the Pastor. Majority will always rule in matters left to the board's approval.

## **Article 6**

### CHURCH DEACONS

Section 1. Any individual desiring to serve in the office of deacon must first meet the qualifications of a deacon as defined in the Holy Bible; most specifically 1 Timothy 3:8-12 and Titus 1:7.

Section 2. Deacons of TVCC shall be selected/recommended by the congregation at-large and approved by the Pastor in accordance with the Holy Bible (Acts 6:1-6) after mandatory deacon training. The Pastor also reserves the right to appoint deacons with the congregation's assistance.

Section 3. Deacons of TVCC shall assist the Pastor in carrying out the vision and mission of the church. Deacons shall be subject to the Pastor's leadership and oversight.

Section 4. The Pastor reserves the right to remove any deacon both definitively and indefinitely at his discretion; mainly in the cases where deemed necessary according to scripture.

## **Article 7**

### THE PASTOR

Section 1. The Pastor shall serve as the head Spiritual and Administrative leader of TVCC. It shall be his duty to preach the gospel and teach all the doctrines of faith, administer the ordinances of the church, have general oversight of the Church in all matters. He shall serve as an ex-officio chair of all auxiliary organizations, boards and committees of the Church.

Section 2. The Pastor should be one who meets all biblical requirements for Pastoral Leadership as defined in the Holy Bible and carry out his duties according to the principles listed in it.

Section 3. **Vacancy:** Whenever a Pastoral Vacancy shall arise, the first course of action should call for the departing Pastor, leaving in good standing, to appoint his successor. In the event the departing Pastor cannot appoint or abstains from doing so, a Pastor shall be elected by the majority vote of active members, ages 18 and older and as defined by Article 4 of the church by-laws.

In the event an election is warranted, the church shall wait a period of 90 days before considering candidates. Once the 90 days are concluded, a search committee shall be established by the head deacon with the guidance of an outside Pastor or Bishop to develop guidelines for the search process.

Section 4. **Salary & Vacation:** The salary shall be fixed at the time of the Pastor's call to the pastorate of the ministry during a meeting between the Pastor and the Board of Directors. The Pastor's salary shall be decided based on compromise between the needs of the Pastor and the current resources of the church; being mindful of the scriptures; most specifically 1 Corinthians Chapter 9. The Pastor shall be given two, two-week paid vacations per year and at minimum one month in paid sabbatical time per year unless otherwise decided at the Pastor's discretion and need.

Section 5. **Termination:** In the event termination of a Pastor is considered or recommended by the church, the Deacons are to seek counsel from an outside Pastor or Bishop for guidance. The third-party Pastor or Bishop shall serve as a mediator between the people and Pastor to consider reconciliation of whatever indifference causes the consideration for termination. Should the circumstances stretch beyond reconciliation or reasoning, official termination of the Pastor shall only be done with a majority vote of active members, ages 18 and older - as defined by the By-laws - in a general church meeting with a quorum as defined by the church By-laws.

## **Article 8**

### TERMINATION OF MEMBERS

Section 1. The continuance of membership shall be subject to the principals and usages of The Holy Bible and especially as follows:

- a. Any member in good standing who desires a letter of dismissal to any other church is entitled to receive it upon his/her request.
- b. The process to terminate any member shall only begin after unsatisfactory attempts to reconcile whatever issues presented in reverence and reference to the rules of the Savior outlined in the Holy Bible; especially Matthew Chapter 18.

- c. Should a member become an offense to the Church and to its good name by reason of immoral or unchristian conduct, or by consistent breach of its covenant vows, the church may terminate his/her membership in reverence and reference to the advice of the Apostle Paul found in 1 Corinthians Chapter 5.
- d. Any member who willfully forsakes their responsibilities as a member of TVCC as outlined in Article 2 of these By-laws and who are unable to show satisfactory reason for the same, shall be dropped from the membership roll of the Church without formal notice.
- e. All requests for termination of membership shall be approved or denied by the Pastor.

## **Article 9**

### RESTORATION

Any member whose membership is terminated for (whatever reason) may be restored by public or private acceptance back into the fellowship by the Pastor.

## **Article 10**

### FUNERALS & CEMETERY

Section 1. All members in good standing of TVCC are welcomed to having their funeral services and visitation held at the church's worship facility at no cost as scheduled by the Pastor or Administrative Staff; as delegated and approved by the Pastor. A member in good standing shall be defined as a member who meets the requirements and fulfills all responsibilities for church membership outlined in Article 2 of these by-laws.

Section 2. All non-member funerals and visitations must be approved by the Pastor and are subject to paying a fee fixed by the Pastor and Administrative Staff. Non-members who are declared to be the immediate relative of an active member in good standing shall be charged no more or less than fifty percent (50%) of the fixed rental cost.

Section 3. All funeral services at TVCC must adhere to the Pastor's rules and protocol for funerals and visitations. All funerals held in the TVCC sanctuary or facility shall be officiated by the Pastor, an approved member of the TVCC Ministerial Staff or any minister approved by the Pastor.

Section 4. All members in good standing of TVCC are welcomed to free burial in the church's cemetery as scheduled by the Pastor or Administrative Staff as delegated and approved by the Pastor. A member in good standing shall be defined as a member who meets to requirements and fulfills all responsibilities for church membership outlined in Article 2 of these by-laws.

Section 5. All non-member burials in the TVCC cemetery must be approved by the Pastor and are subject to paying a fee fixed by the Pastor and Administrative Staff. Non-members who are declared to be the immediate relative of an active member in good standing shall be charged no more or less than fifty percent (50%) of the fixed burial cost.

Section 6. An immediate relative shall be defined as parent, child or sibling. In special cases, provisions shall be approved by the Pastor at his discretion.

## **Article 11**

### **WEDDINGS**

Section 1. All active members in good standing are welcomed to host their weddings at no cost in the facilities of TVCC upon proper scheduling and approval by the Pastor and Administrative Staff. A member in good standing shall be defined by the guidelines outlined in Article 2 of these By-Laws.

Section 2. All non-member weddings must be approved by the Pastor and are subject to paying a fee fixed by the Pastor and Administrative Staff. There shall be no family or relational exceptions to this rule unless otherwise approved by the Pastor only.

Section 3. All couples desiring to be married at TVCC must attend pre-marital counseling with the Pastor or other appointed person(s) by the Pastor.

Section 4. All weddings performed at TVCC shall be between one consenting adult male and one consenting adult female ONLY. TVCC does not permit the practice of same-sex weddings on its premises due to its protected, religious beliefs by the Holy Bible, these By-laws and the U.S. Constitution which permits freedom of religion.

## **Article 12**

### ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT

Section 1. The by-laws shall be considered adopted and in immediate effect if and when the majority of the members of the church board of directors, at the request of the Pastor, present at a special in-person meeting vote in favor of the same. The adoption of these shall affect a repeal if all previously adopted rules in conflict herewith.

Section 2. The by-laws maybe amended, repealed or suspended by the majority of the board of directors present and voting at the request of the Pastor provided the proposed change was given in written notice to the members of the board at least two weeks prior.

Section 3. All recommendations for amendment, repeal or suspension of any of these by-laws must be officially brought forth by the Pastor before any vote can be made by the board of directors.

## **Article 13**

### QUORUM

A quorum for all official church meetings shall be constituted as ten (10) percent membership. For votes, a quorum shall be constituted as fifty-one (51) percent.