

MONETA COMMUNITY CHURCH

BYLAWS AND ORGANIZATION

Rev. November 2007

ARTICLE 1 – NAME AND PURPOSE

SECTION 1.01—NAME

This congregation of believers shall be known as the Moneta Community Church.

SECTION 1.02—PURPOSE

This congregation is organized as a church exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue Law), including, but not limited to, for such purposes, the establishing and maintaining of religious worship, the building of churches, parsonages, the evangelizing of the unsaved by the proclaiming of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; the educating of believers in a manner consistent with the requirements of Holy Scripture, and the maintaining of missionary activities in the United States and any foreign country.

Moneta Community Church is a church devoted to Christ and His Kingdom. We are a discipleship church, committed to evangelism, spiritual growth, and obedience to Jesus Christ. Our unique “community worship,” in which all ages worship together, is an application of the discipleship mandate in the context of corporate worship.

Our ministry philosophy is very simple: Glorify God. Serve Others. Make Disciples. We desire to glorify God in becoming more like Christ and living in obedience to Him. We serve others as we help those in need within our church body and reach out to those in our community. We make disciples by our life-style choice to continually share Christ with others and invest our time in their spiritual development.

At the heart of this ministry philosophy is our commitment to see the wedding of orthodoxy and orthopraxy among the people of God; living each day *corum Deo* (In the face of God)—Sound doctrine and sound living coming together. Although we strive to live obediently to the commands of God, we also recognize our own imperfections, sinfulness, and frailty. Our fervent prayer is that our perfect and loving God will be glorified as we admit our own inabilities and allow Him to work through us.

ARTICLE 2 – STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT

SECTION 2.01—STATEMENT OF FAITH

The following comprise the Scriptural beliefs of this church and its members.

(A) The Holy Scriptures. We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the authoritative, complete, and inspired Word of God. The Scriptures are inerrant, infallible and God-breathed and, therefore, are the final authority for faith and life. The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament are the complete and divine revelation of God to Man. The Scriptures shall be interpreted according to their normal grammatical-historical meaning, and all issues of interpretation and meaning shall be determined by the elders. While The New King James Version of the Bible will be used in teaching by the church, we acknowledge that other translations can be helpful in personal devotion and study. (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21)

(B) The Godhead. We believe in one triune God, eternally existing in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—each co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, coequal in power and glory, and having the same attributes. (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; John 14:10, 26; 2 Cor. 13:14)

(C) The Person and Work of Jesus Christ.

1. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men. (Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2, 14; 2 Cor. 5:19-21; Gal. 4:4-5; Phil. 2:5-8)

2. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. (Acts 2:18-36; Rom. 3:24-25; Eph. 1:7; 1 Pet. 2:24; 1 Peter 1:3-5)

3. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate. (Acts 1:9-10; Rom. 8:34; Heb. 9:24; 7:25; 1 John 2:1-2)

(D) The Work of the Holy Spirit.

1. We believe that the Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment; and that the Holy Spirit is the supernatural agent in the regeneration of believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption. (John 16:8-11; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 3:6; Eph. 1:13-14)

2. We believe that Holy Spirit is the divine teacher who assists believers to understand and appropriate the Scriptures and that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Holy Spirit. (Eph. 1:17-18; 5:18; 1 John 2:20, 27)

3. We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowal of spiritual gifts to every believer. God uniquely uses evangelists, pastors, and teachers to equip believers in the assembly in order that they can do the work of the ministry. (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-11, 28; Eph. 4:7-12)

(E) The Total Depravity of Man. We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the human race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; therefore, man is a sinner, he commits acts of sin and stands before a holy God in need of forgiveness and repentance. Man is totally depraved and, of himself, is utterly unable to remedy his lost condition. (Gen. 1:26-27; Rom. 3:22-23; 5:12; 6:23; Eph. 2:1-3; 4:17-19)

(F) Salvation. We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on the cross at Calvary for the forgiveness of the sins of each individual person. (Matt. 12:31; John 1:12; Eph. 1:7; 2:8-10; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; 1 John 1:9)

(G) Baptism, according to the Bible

- Following Christ's example

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river. Mark 1:9

- Obeying Christ's command

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit . . ." –Jesus in Matthew 28:19 And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized. Acts 18:8

- Obeying Christ shows that you know Christ

Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 1 John 2:3

What is the meaning of baptism?

- A picture of Christ's burial and resurrection

Christ died for our sins. He was buried . . . and He rose again. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ. Colossians 2:12

- A picture of your new life as a Christian

if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, behold, all things have become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17

At Moneta Community Church it is our practice to baptize by immersion those who have come to personal faith in Jesus Christ, and who desire to be baptized.

(H) The Eternal Security and Perseverance of Believers. We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever, persevering during this life. (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1; 38-39; 1 Cor. 1:4-8; 1 Pet. 1:4-5)

(I) The Church

1. We believe that the local church, which is the *ekklesia*, the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is solely made up of born-again believers. (1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:25-27)

2. We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures. (Acts 14:27; 20:17, 28-32; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11)

3. We believe in the autonomy of the local church free of any external authority or control. (Acts 13:1-4; 15:19-31; 20:28; Rom. 16:1, 4; 1 Cor. 3:9, 16; 5:4-7, 13; 1 Pet. 5:1-4)

4. We recognize water baptism and the Lord's Supper as the scriptural ordinances of obedience for the church in this age. (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 18:18; 1 Cor. 11:23-26)

(J) The Second Advent of Christ. We believe in that *blessed hope*, (i.e. the personal, imminent return of Christ), who will, one day, return to receive His church. During the absence of the church, God will pour out His wrath on mankind and then Christ will personally and visibly return with His saints to establish His earthly millennial kingdom which was promised to the nation of Israel. (Ps. 89:3-4; Dan. 2:31-45; Zech. 14:4-11; 1 Thess. 1:10, 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Rev. 3:10; 19:11-16; 20:1-6)

(K) The Eternal State.

1. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. (Matt. 25:46; John 5:28, 29; 11:25-26; Rev. 20:5-6, 12-13)

2. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord. (Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; 3:21; 1 Thess. 4:16-17; Rev. 20:4-6)

3. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain after death with their bodies and will appear at the great white throne judgment, and shall be cast into the lake of fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment and torment. (Matt. 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Rev. 20:11-15)

(L) The Personality of Satan. We believe that Satan is a fallen angel, the author of sin and the cause of the fall of man; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and that he shall be eternally punished in the lake of fire. (Job 1:6-7; Isa. 14:12-17; Matt. 4:2-11; 25:41; Rev. 20:10)

(M) Creation. We believe that God created the universe in six literal, 24-hour periods. We reject evolution, the Gap Theory, the Day-Age Theory, and Theistic Evolution as unscriptural theories of origin. (Gen. 1-2; Ex. 20:11)

(N) Civil Government. We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: 1) the home, 2) the church, and 3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and His Word. (Rom. 13:1-7; Eph. 5:22-24; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 2:13-14)

(O) Marriage We believe that the only scriptural marriage is the joining of one man and one woman for life. (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23)

(P) Family Relationships

1. We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the

church. The husband is to be the leader of the home, and men are to be the leaders (pastors and elders) of the church. (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18; 1 Tim. 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12)

2. We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church. The wife is to submit herself to the Scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the headship of Christ. Children are a heritage from the Lord. Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values and leading them, through consistent lifestyle example and biblical discipline. (Gen. 1:26-28; Ex. 20:12; Deut. 6:4-9; Ps. 127:3-5; Prov. 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; Mk. 10:6-12; 1 Cor. 7:1-16; Eph. 5:21-33; 6:1-4, Col. 3:18-21; Heb. 13:4; 1 Pet. 3:1-7)

(Q) Divorce and Remarriage. We believe that God has ordained marriage as a life-long commitment between a husband and wife and that the words of Moses and Jesus uphold the sacredness of marriage. Moses issued certificates of divorce to protect women from disgrace because they were being unjustly divorced by their husbands who were acting in defiance to God's commands. Jesus, facing the same dilemma, protected women who were being flippantly divorced by their husbands, reminding the men that divorce and remarriage, except on grounds of fornication, is an act of adultery.

While acknowledging the sinfulness of adultery, we also recognize the place of grace, repentance, forgiveness, and restoration in the life of the believer. Those guilty of marital unfaithfulness, including desertion and unbiblical divorce and remarriage, who have not demonstrated repentance, will be subject to church discipline for the purpose of bringing about repentance and ultimately restoration. We also provide Biblical counseling and guidance for the family, as well as for those wishing to pursue remarriage.

Leadership—All candidates for the offices of pastor/elder or deacon in the church will be examined on the basis of spiritual leadership in the home and marital faithfulness. While divorce does not exclude an individual from service, there must be a demonstrated pattern of godliness, marital faithfulness, and active spiritual leadership in the home.

(Mal. 2:14-17; Matt. 19:3-12; Rom. 7:1-3; 1 Tim. 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6)

(R) Abortion. We believe that human life begins at conception and that the child in the womb is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of human life. Abortion is murder. (Job 3:16; Ps. 51:5; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44)

(S) Missions, Discipleship, and Evangelism. We believe that God has given the church a great commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ we must use all available means to go to the lost people in the world, tell them of Christ, and disciple them, both in our native land and abroad. (Matt. 28:19-20; 2 Cor. 5:20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:20)

(T) Giving. We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to financially support his local church. We believe that God has established the tithe (*10% of gross income*) as a basis for giving, but that every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. (Gen. 14:20; Prov. 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17)

SECTION 2.02—COVENANT

Moneta Community Church Covenant

The Church Defined

The Church is a household of God (v.19), growing into a holy temple (v. 21); built on the Word of God (v. 20); brought near to God through the blood of Christ (v. 13), created in Christ Jesus for good works (v. 10); and made up of sinners who were previously dead in trespasses (v. 1) but have been saved by grace (v. 8) for the glory of God. (Ephesians 2)

The Word of God contains many commands and teachings concerning this unique organization. Upon accepting Christ as Lord and Savior, an individual receives the gift of the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 12:13; II Cor. 1:22) and becomes part of the “body of Christ,” the church (Rom. 12:5; Col. 1:18). He/she is now a “follower of Christ” or what many call today, a *Christian* or *believer*. While the believer is now a member of the church universal, he/she is also called to commit to a local church assembly: “*not forsaking our own assembling together*” (Heb. 10:25). Membership in this local church assembly includes both a commitment by the local assembly to the individual/family and by the individual/family to the members of the local assembly.

The Covenant Examined

While it is possible to attend a local church body without entering into covenant with them, here are some of the benefits of covenanting together. First of all, a covenant defines the terms of agreement and binds all parties involved in the sight of others, just as in the covenant of marriage. Secondly, a covenant identifies the recipients of brotherly/sisterly love: Jesus said, “*By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another*” (John 13:35). Thirdly, a covenant identifies the first recipients of the assembly’s aid: “*So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith*” (Gal. 6:10). Fourthly, a covenant provides a basic framework for unity: “*To sum up, let all be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; not returning evil for evil, or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead*” (I Pet. 3:8-9a). Fifthly, a covenant provides a support network: “*and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another...*” (Heb. 10:24-25a). Sixthly, a covenant provides protection for broken families: “*This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father, to visit orphans and widows in their distress*” (Jam. 1:27a). Lastly, a covenant provides the security by means of spiritual oversight: “*Obey your leaders, and submit to them; for they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give an account*” (Heb. 13:17a).

While there are many more blessings which flow out of covenanting with a local church body, the benefits should be quite evident. Those who chose not to become covenant members in the local body are also not guaranteed to be recipients of these covenant blessings.

The Covenant Outlined

In accepting the Moneta Community Church Covenant, I agree to:

- Join in community with this local church body as a household of God by:
 - Assembling together—“*not forsaking our own assembling together...*” (Hebrews 10:25a)
 - Encouraging one another—“*...but encouraging one another*” (Hebrews 10:25b)
 - Giving tithes & offerings—“*Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house...*” (Malachi 3:10a)
 - Loving one another—“*By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another*” (John 13:35)
 - Being hospitable—“*Be hospitable to one another without complaint*” (I Peter 3:1)
 - Striving for unity—“*Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.*” (Romans 15:2)
 - Submitting to leadership—“*Obey your leaders, and submit to them; for they keep watch over you souls, as those who will give an account.*” (Hebrews 13:17a)
- Grow in my commitment to God and others.
 - To God—“*And He said to him, ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the great and foremost commandment.*” (Matthew 22:37-38)
 - To Others—
 - “*The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.*” (Matthew 22:39-40)
 - “*So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.*” (Galatians 6:10)
- Lead my family in spiritual development by:
 - Reading the Bible daily in my home—“*This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it...*” (Joshua 1:8)
 - Memorizing God's Word as a family—“*Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.*” (Psalm 119:11)
 - Teaching my children—“*And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.*” (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)
 - Husband, loving my wife—“*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her*” (Ephesians 5:25)
 - Wife, respecting my husband—“*...you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives*” (I Peter 3:1).

- Seek to make more followers/disciples of Christ.
 - By sharing Christ with others—“*And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation’*” (Mark 16:15).
 - By making discipleship a lifestyle—“*And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’*” (Matthew 28:18-20)

ARTICLE 3 – MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 3.01—MEMBERSHIP PRACTICES

Membership shall be extended to all who have had, and whose lives evidence a genuine experience of regeneration through faith in, and acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior; who have been baptized; who renounce sin; who endeavor to live a consecrated life wholly unto the Lord; who fully subscribe to Article 2 - Statement of Faith and the Covenant contained herein; who agree to submit to the authority of the church and its leaders as set forth herein. Our practice in welcoming members is to hear a testimony of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and God's leading you to this fellowship.

SECTION 3.02—DISCIPLINE OF A MEMBER (*Matthew 18 Principles*)

(A) The Elder Board shall have sole authority in determining heretical deviations from the Statement of Faith and violations of the church covenant. The pastors/elders shall be entitled to the same restorative steps as other church members and shall be subject to the same discipline.

(B) Members are expected to demonstrate loyalty and concern for one another. When a member becomes aware of an offense of such magnitude that it hinders spiritual growth and testimony, he is to go alone to the offending party and seek to restore his brother. Before he goes, he should first examine himself. When he goes, he should go with a spirit of love and humility, having the goal of restoration.

(C) If reconciliation is not reached, a second or third member is to accompany the one seeking to resolve the matter. This second step should also be preceded by self-examination and exercised in a spirit of love and humility, with the goal of restoration.

(D) If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in subsections (B) and (C) have been taken, the pastors/elders, as the church representatives shall hear the matter and go to the offending member and seek the member's restoration.

(E) If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in subsections (B), (C), and (D) have been taken, such members who refuse to repent and be restored are to be removed from the membership and fellowship of the church.

(F) If an unrepentant offending party is removed from the church membership, all contact with him from that point forward (except by family members) must be for the sake of restoration.

(G) The procedures provided in this section are based on Matt. 18:15-20; Rom. 16:17-18; 1 Cor. 5:1-13; 2 Cor. 2:1-11; Gal. 6:1; 1 Thess. 5:14; 2 Thess. 3:6, 10-15; 1 Tim. 5:19-20; and Titus 3:10-11.

SECTION 3.03—TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

(A) The membership of any individual member shall automatically terminate without notice if the member in question has not attended a regular worship service of the church in the preceding six months. Upon good cause being shown to the senior pastor, this provision for termination may be

waived in the case of any individual member at the discretion of the Elder Board. In consideration of biblical oversight, we would expect that members feeling God's leading to leave and associate with another church to fulfill the covenant contained herein and discuss the decision to leave with the senior pastor or another pastor/elder.

ARTICLE 4 – OFFICERS

SECTION 4.01—CHURCH OFFICERS

The officers of the church shall be one or more pastors/elders, deacons, a minister of records, and a minister of finance. One person may hold two or more offices, except that of senior pastor/lead elder. The Elder Board, from time to time as they deem appropriate, may appoint additional church officers and will notify the church membership.

SECTION 4.02—DESIGNATION OF CORPORATE OFFICERS

As an accommodation to legal relationships outside the church, the senior pastor/lead elder and pastors/elders (collectively, the “Board of Trustees” or “Elder Board”) shall serve as the official representatives of the congregation.

SECTION 4.03—ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE

(A) All church officers shall affirm their agreement with the Statement of Faith (as set forth in Article 2).

(B) All church officers must be approved by a majority vote of the Elder Board in order for them to commence or continue in their offices. Once the candidate has been approved by the Elder Board a sheet listing the candidate’ name and a list of the Biblical qualifications will be presented to the congregation. At this time the members of the congregation will be allowed to select any area which they are aware that the candidate fails to meet the qualifications. The member must also provide their name and a brief description of the facts. The elders will examine any accusations and meet with the candidate again, if necessary. The candidate must, then, be approved by a second majority vote of the Elder Board.

(C) Only church members are eligible for election or appointment to any church office or position.

SECTION 4.04—TERMS OF OFFICE

(A) The relationship between the senior pastor and the church shall be permanent unless dissolved at the option of either party by the giving of one (1) month’s prior written notice, or less by mutual consent. The Elder Board takes the spiritual responsibility for the calling of a senior pastor or severance of the relationship between the senior pastor and the church. Disciplinary removal of the senior pastor from office shall automatically terminate his membership. The unanimous approval of the Elder Board will be necessary to call a senior pastor.

(B) A vacancy occurring in any office or board, except in the case of the senior pastor, may be filled at any regular Elder Board meeting.

(C) All appointed officers shall serve in their respective offices until their successors are duly appointed.

(D) Members of the Board of Trustees may be removed from office for unbiblical conduct, as determined by the other board members, upon unanimous agreement of the remaining members of the Board of Trustees.

SECTION 4.05—PASTORAL OVERSIGHT OF OFFICERS AND STAFF

(A) The Board of Trustees may hire associates and assistants to assist in carrying out the mission of the church.

(B) All church staff, whether paid or volunteer, shall be under the supervision of the Board of Trustees, who have the sole authority to employ or dismiss the same. No employee or volunteer shall be hired, appointed, or retained who expresses disagreement with the Statement of Faith.

ARTICLE 5 – DUTIES AND POWERS OF OFFICERS

Governing of the church body: Pastor/Elder Led

Biblical Characteristics of Pastors/Elders:

1. Shared leadership with roles and responsibilities determined by calling and giftedness. The relationship between the senior pastor/lead elder and the other pastors/elders is simply “a first among equals” and “leader of leaders.”
2. Shepherds with responsibilities of leading, feeding, and protecting. (1 Peter 5:1-2; 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9; 1 Timothy 5:17,18; Acts 20:17,28-31)
3. Male leadership
4. Biblically qualified leadership (1 Timothy 3; Titus 1)
5. Servant leadership

SECTION 5.01—THE SENIOR PASTOR/LEAD ELDER

(A) The senior pastor shall be responsible for the teaching of the Word of God (Bible) regularly and shall preach the whole counsel of the Word as the Lord teaches and guides him. He shall act as moderator at all church meetings for the transaction of church matters, oversee the activities of the church, and tenderly shepherd the spiritual interests of the membership. The senior pastor will minister in harmony and serve in mutual leadership with the other pastors/elders.

SECTION 5.02—THE PASTORS/ELDERS

(A) The pastors/elders shall govern with the senior pastor, in promoting the spiritual welfare of the church, in conducting the religious services, and in performing all other work of the church. They shall make provision for the observance of the ordinances of the church. They shall, in cooperation with the senior pastor, consider applications for church membership/covenant. They shall, in cooperation with the senior pastor, disburse the benevolence fund. They shall assist the senior pastor in visitation and all other evangelistic efforts of the church. The pastors/elders shall assist the senior pastor in caring for the administrative needs of the church’s various ministries. They shall provide the pulpit supply and choose a moderator for church meetings if the senior pastor is unavailable or the office of senior pastor is vacant. Upon the death, resignation, or dismissal of the senior pastor, the Elder Board will be responsible for filling the vacancy. The pastors/elders may elect a senior pastor from among the Elder Board or from outside, both by a unanimous vote of the Elder Board. The election process will follow the process outlined in the appointment of church officers outlined in Section 4.03.

(B) All appointments for corporate worship and Bible study and the arrangements thereof, including time and place and the use of the property belonging to the church for purposes other than the stated appointments, shall be under the direction of the Elder Board.

(C) The Elder Board shall also constitute **the board of trustees** to act for the church in the following specific areas:

1. To purchase, hold, lease, or otherwise acquire real and personal property on behalf of the church, and to take real and personal property by will, gift, or bequest on behalf of the church;

2. To sell, convey, alienate, transfer, lease, assign, exchange, or otherwise dispose of, and to mortgage, pledge, or otherwise encumber the real and personal property of the church, to borrow money and incur indebtedness for the purpose and the use of the church; to cause to be executed, issued, and delivered for the indebtedness, in the name of the church, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, or other evidence of indebtedness; and to secure repayment by deeds of trust, mortgages, or pledges; and

3. To exercise all powers necessary for the dissolution of the church corporation.

(D) New pastors/elders will be identified and appointed by a unanimous vote of the Elder Board. Appointees will undergo a six-month probationary training period. At the end of the six months, the Elder Board may vote to extend the probationary period, end the probationary period, or release the candidate from the office of elder, all by unanimous vote.

(E) Pastor/Elder Communication: It is our goal in leading to be *above reproach*, to be *transparent* with the congregation, to *provide disclosure* of common records and finances (except where confidentiality is an issue), and to *communicate* with the body through various means, including verbally, through our website, the bulletin, and other printed pieces.

SECTION 5.03—THE DEACONS

The deacons shall assist the pastors/elders, in such manner as they shall request, in promoting the welfare of the church, and in performing all other work of the church in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- They shall make provision for the observance of the ordinances of the church.
- They shall, in cooperation with the pastors/elders, disburse the benevolence to those in need.
- They shall, in cooperation with the pastors/elders, visit the sick, the elderly, and make the church aware of needs within the body and the community.
- The deacons, in cooperation with the pastors/elders will make provisions for the place of meeting, its rent, upkeep, and order including insurance and matters of liability.

SECTION 5.04—THE MINISTER OF RECORDS

The minister of records shall:

(A) Maintain on file the original bylaws or a copy thereof, including all amendments or alterations to the bylaws;

(B) A record of the proceedings of meetings of the Board of Trustees, with the date, and the names of those present at the meetings will be maintained with the bylaws.

(C) Sign, certify, or attest documents as may be required by law;

(D) See that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws. (In case of the absence or disability of the secretary, or his or her refusal or neglect to act, notice may be given and served by the pastor or a member of the Board of Trustees.);

(E) Be custodian of the records of the church, including the membership roll, record of baptisms, and certificates of ordination, licenses and commissions;

(F) See that the reports, statements, certificates, and all other documents and records required by law are properly kept and filed;

(G) Exhibit at all reasonable times to proper persons on terms provided by law the bylaws and minutes of proceedings of the Board of Trustees or the minutes of the meetings of the church members;

(H) Keep an account of any special events in the life of the church which are of historical interest and give a report periodically of the status of the church.

(I) Keep and maintain all records on file and deliver them to any successor upon leaving office; and

(J) Serve as the financial secretary of the church or appoint one.

SECTION 5.05—THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The minister of finance shall:

(A) Have charge and custody of, and be responsible for, all funds of the church, and deposit all funds in the name of the church in banks, trust companies, or other depositories as shall be selected by the elders;

(B) Receive, and give receipts for, all contributions, gifts, and donations to the church;

(C) Disburse, or cause to be disbursed, the funds of the church as may be directed by the pastor, the elders, or the budget of the church taking proper vouchers for the disbursements;

(D) Keep and maintain adequate and correct accounts of the church's properties and business transactions including account of its assets, liabilities, receipts, disbursements, and capital;

(E) Make all expenditures of the church by check or bankcard;

(F) When and as requested, provide the pastor and the elders with accounts of all his transactions as financial minister and of the financial condition of the church;

(G) Present a written financial report of all accounts annually;

(H) Keep all church financial records and deliver them to any successor upon leaving office; and

(I) Serve as treasurer for the church.

ARTICLE 6 – MEETINGS

SECTION 6.01—MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Unless otherwise determined by the Elder Board, the church shall meet each Sunday for public worship, Bible study, and prayer. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed each Sunday during worship.

SECTION 6.02—MEETINGS FOR CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

(A) Administration & report meetings shall be periodically called at which time the regular church business shall be reported upon.

(B) All church administration & report meetings shall be opened and closed with prayer for divine guidance and blessing.

(C) A moderator who shall be chosen by unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees shall determine the rules of procedure in accordance with general principles of fairness and common sense, giving all members a reasonable opportunity to be heard on a matter. The moderator is the final authority on questions of procedure, and his decision is final and controlling.

SECTION 6.03—SPECIAL MEETINGS

(A) The senior pastor (or Elder Board if the office of senior pastor is vacant or the senior pastor is the subject of possible disciplinary action) may call a special meeting by giving notice of such a meeting and the purpose for which it is called to the church from the pulpit at least one Sunday and not less than one week prior to said meeting. A meeting for the calling of a senior pastor or the severance of the relationship between the church and pastor shall be called in accordance with the provision of Section 4.04(A).

(B) Bible conferences, missionary conferences, and revivals may be held as the pastors/elders deem beneficial.

SECTION 6.04—FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the church shall begin January 1st and end December 31st.

ARTICLE 7 – ORDINATION

SECTION 7.01—ORDINATION QUALIFICATIONS

Any member of this church or its mission churches, who gives evidence of a genuine call of God into the work of the ministry and possesses the qualifications stated in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9, may be ordained as a *Minister of the Gospel*.

SECTION 7.02—ORDINATION PROCEDURE

(A) The Elder Board shall call a council to examine and pass on the qualification of the candidate. The ordination council shall consist of all members of the Elder Board.

(B) If the candidate is found worthy of the Biblical qualifications of a pastor/elder, the ordination council may ordain the candidate on behalf of the church.

(C) The Elder Board shall arrange for the ordination service.

ARTICLE 8 – INDEMNIFICATION

SECTION 8.01—ACTIONS SUBJECT TO INDEMNIFICATION

The church may indemnify any person who was or is a party to or is threatened to be made a party to, any threatened, pending or completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative, including all appeals (other than an action by or in the right of the church, or in which such person has taken a position which is in opposition to the church, or which is not in the best interests of the church) by reason of the fact that the person is or was a pastor, elder, officer, employee, or agent of the church, against expenses, including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with the action, suit, or proceeding; and if that person acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the church and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit, or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or on a plea of *nolo contendere* or its equivalent, shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner that he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the church and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful.

SECTION 8.02—EXPENSES SUBJECT TO INDEMNIFICATION

To the extent that a pastor, elder, officer, employee, or agent has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit, or proceeding referred to in this Article, or in defense of any claim, issue, or matter in that action, suit, or proceeding, he or she may be indemnified against expenses, including attorneys' fees, actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with the action, suit, or proceeding.

SECTION 8.03—LIMITATIONS OF INDEMNIFICATION

Any indemnification made under this Article, may be made by the church only as authorized in the specific case on a determination that indemnification of the pastor, elder, officer, employee, or agent is proper in the circumstances because he has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in Section 8.01. The determination shall be made (a) by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of the pastors/elders who were not and are not parties to or threatened with the action, suit, or proceeding; (b) if the described quorum is not obtainable or if a majority vote of a quorum of disinterested pastors/elders so directs, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion; or (c) by a majority vote of the members of the church.

SECTION 8.04—TIMING OF INDEMNIFICATION

Expenses of each person seeking indemnification under this Article, may be paid by the church as they are incurred, in advance of the final disposition of the action, suit, or proceeding, as authorized by the Board of Trustees in the specific case, on receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the pastor, elder, officer, employee, or agent to repay the amount if it is ultimately determined that he or she is not qualified to be indemnified by the church.

SECTION 8.05—EXTENT OF INDEMNIFICATION

The indemnification provided by this Article shall be deemed to be discretionary unless otherwise required as a matter of law or under any agreement or provided by insurance purchased by the church, both as to action of each person seeking indemnification under this Article in his official capacity and as to action in another capacity while holding that office, and may continue as to a person who has ceased to be a pastor, elder, officer, employee, or agent and may inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors, and administrators of that person.

SECTION 8.06—INSURANCE

The church may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a pastor, elder, officer, employee, or agent of the church against any liability asserted against him and incurred by him in that capacity, or arising out of his status in that capacity, whether or not the church would have the power to indemnify him against liability under the provisions of this Article.

ARTICLE 9 – COMMITTEES

STANDING & SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Elder Board, in its discretion, may create special committees to provide them with advice and information regarding matters submitted to the committee for consideration. The committee shall have no authority to act on behalf of the church. The members of the committee shall be chosen by a majority vote of the Elder Board. The special committee shall be subject to the control and direction of the Elder Board at all times.

ARTICLE 10 – DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTIONS

From time to time the church, in the exercise of its religious, educational, and charitable purposes, may establish various funds to accomplish specific goals. Contributors may suggest uses for their contributions, but all suggestions shall be deemed advisory rather than mandatory in nature. All contributions made to specific funds or otherwise designated shall remain subject to the exclusive control and discretion of the elders. No fiduciary obligation shall be created by any designated contribution made to the church other than to use the contribution for the general furtherance of any of the purposes stated in Section 1.02. *(The senior pastor will notify the congregation of any and all designated funds established by the pastors/elders, as well as the provision of Article 10 of these By Laws to do so, before accepting such contributions.)*

ARTICLE 11 – BINDING ARBITRATION

SECTION 11.01—SUBMISSION TO ARBITRATION

Believing that lawsuits between believers are prohibited by Scripture, all members of this church agree to submit to binding arbitration any matters which cannot otherwise be resolved, and expressly waive any and all rights in law and equity to bringing any civil disagreement before a court of law, except that judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof.

SECTION 11.02—NOTICE OF ARBITRATION

In the event of any dispute, claim, question, or disagreement arising out of or relating to these bylaws or any other church matter, the parties shall use their best efforts to settle such disputes, claims, questions, or disagreement as befits Christians. To this effect, they shall consult and negotiate with each other in good faith and, recognizing their mutual interests not to disgrace the name of Christ, seek to reach a just and equitable solution. If they do not reach such solution within a period of sixty (60) days, then upon notice by either party to the other, disputes, claims, questions, or differences shall be finally settled by arbitration as described in Section 11.01, above, and such Procedures for Arbitration as are adopted pursuant to Section 11.04, below.

SECTION 11.03—LIMITATIONS ON ARBITRATION DECISIONS

(A) Should any dispute involve matters of church discipline, the arbitrators shall be limited to determining whether the procedures for church discipline as outlined under Section 3.02, were followed.

(B) Should any dispute involve the removal from office of the pastor or any church officer, the arbitrators shall be limited to determining whether the procedures set forth in Sections 3.02 were followed.

SECTION 11.04—ARBITRATION PROCEDURES

See **Procedures for Arbitration** (*not a part of these Bylaws; see the minister of records for these procedures.*)

ARTICLE 12 – TAX-EXEMPT PROVISIONS

SECTION 12.01—PRIVATE INUREMENT

No part of the net earnings of the church shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the church shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for the services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Section 1.02 hereof.

SECTION 12.02—POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT

No substantial part of the activities of the church shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. The church shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

SECTION 12.03—DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of the church, the trustees shall, after paying or making provision for payment of all the liabilities of the church, dispose of all of the assets of the church to such organization or organizations formed and operated exclusively for religious purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the trustees shall determine. Assets may be distributed only to tax exempt organizations which agree with the church's Statement of Faith.

SECTION 12.04—RACIAL NONDISCRIMINATION

The church shall have a racially nondiscriminatory policy and, therefore, shall not discriminate against members, applicants, students, and others on the basis of race, color, or national or ethnic origin.

SECTION 12.05—LIMITATION OF ACTIVITIES

Notwithstanding any other provision of these bylaws, the church shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the purposes stated in Section 1.02.

ARTICLE 13 – AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be revised or amended by a majority vote of the Elder Board at any time. The church will be notified at the next regular meeting of the body.

ADOPTION

These bylaws were adopted by the church leadership and represent the founding and organizing principles of Moneta Community Church.

_____ Date Approved

_____ Brett Weeks, *Senior Pastor*

_____ John Doe, *Pastor/Elder*

_____ John Doe, *Pastor/Elder*

_____ John Doe, *Deacon*

_____ Attest, John Doe

PROCEDURES FOR ARBITRATION

*Since the **Procedures for Arbitration** are not a part of the bylaws, they are not required to be voted upon by the church members and should not be included in the church bylaws. These procedures should be held by the pastor and attached to the minutes of the Board of Trustees meeting in which they are adopted, and should be kept in a safe place with the other important church documents.*

SECTION 1—SCOPE OF ARBITRATION

The parties must, prior to the selection of arbitrators, agree to the scope of the matters to be considered by the arbitrators. In doing so the parties must conduct themselves with the utmost courtesy as befits believers in Jesus Christ. If the parties cannot agree upon the scope of the dispute for arbitration, the scope shall be determined by the arbitrators.

SECTION 2—SUBMISSION TO ARBITRATION

(A) The parties, as Christians, believing that lawsuits between Christians are prohibited by Scripture, and having agreed, according to Article 12 of the church bylaws, to submit disputes to binding arbitration, and to waive any legal right to take the dispute to a court of law, will refer and submit any and all disputes, differences, and controversies whatsoever within the agreed scope of arbitration to a panel of three arbitrators, to be selected as follows:

- 1.** All arbitrators must be born-again Christians of good reputation in the community and who affirm the church's Statement of Faith in its entirety.
- 2.** Each party shall submit a list of three proposed arbitrators to the other party, and the other party will choose one of the three proposed arbitrators to serve on the panel.
- 3.** The third arbitrator will be selected by mutual agreement of the other two arbitrators.
- 4.** In selecting the arbitrators, each party shall act in good faith in choosing Christian arbitrators who have no prior knowledge of the facts leading up to the dispute, are not related to or close friends with the selecting party, and who will act impartially and with fundamental fairness.
- 5.** No arbitrator may be employed or ever have been employed by, or under the authority of, either party or any other arbitrator.
- 6.** The arbitrators will be selected as soon as possible but no later than 30 days after the parties have agreed to the scope of the arbitration.
- 7.** The arbitration will be held at a neutral site agreed to by the arbitrators.

(B) The arbitrators shall, subject to the provisions of these procedures, arbitrate the dispute according to the terms of these procedures, the Bible as interpreted by the church's Statement of Faith, and any applicable church documents.

(C) Each party may be represented by counsel throughout the process at the party's own expense. Discovery will be allowed as needed, as determined in the discretion of the arbitrators. Formal rules of evidence shall not apply.

SECTION 3—TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ARBITRATION

(A) The arbitrators shall have full power to make such regulations and to give such orders and directions, as they shall deem expedient in respect to a determination of the matters and differences referred to them.

(B) The arbitrators shall hold the arbitration hearing as soon as possible, but no later than thirty (30) days after the selection of the third arbitrator.

(C) There shall be no stenographic record of the proceedings, and all proceedings shall be closed to the media and any other individuals not directly involved in the proceedings.

(D) Normally, the hearing shall be completed within three (3) hours. The length of the hearing, however, may be extended by the arbitrators in their discretion or an additional hearing may be scheduled by the arbitrators to be held promptly.

(E) There will be no post-hearing briefs.

(F) The arbitrators are to make and publish their award, in writing, signed by each of them concerning the matters referred, to be delivered to the parties no later than 48 hours from the conclusion of the hearing, unless otherwise agreed by the parties. The arbitrators may, in their discretion, furnish an opinion.

SECTION 4—CONDUCT AND RULES OF HEARING

(A) The arbitrators may, in their absolute discretion, receive and consider any evidence they deem relevant to the dispute, whether written or oral, without regard to any formal rules of evidence.

(B) The parties and their respective witnesses must, when required by the arbitrators, attend and submit to examination and cross-examination under oath as to all or any of the matters referred to in the proceedings and to produce and deposit with the arbitrators all or any evidence within their possession or control concerning such matters.

(C) If a party defaults in any respect referred to in Subsection 4(B), above, the arbitrators may proceed with the arbitration in their discretion as if no such evidence were in existence, insofar as it may be favorable to the party in default.

(D) All presentations shall be controlled by the arbitrators. Any disputes regarding procedure shall be decided solely by the arbitrators.

SECTION 5—DUTIES OF ARBITRATORS

(A) The arbitrators are to receive all evidence, prayerfully consider such evidence in an impartial manner, and render a decision which, based upon Scriptural principles, is fair to all parties.

(B) The arbitrators have full power to order mutual releases to be executed by the parties, and either of the parties failing, such orders shall have the effect of a release, and may be duly acknowledged as such.

(C) In the event that either party or a witness for either party shall fail to attend the arbitration hearing, after such written notice to such party as the arbitrators shall deem reasonable, the arbitrators may proceed in the absence of such party or witnesses without further notice.

SECTION 6—DECISION OF ARBITRATORS

(A) It is preferred that the arbitrators reach a unanimous decision, but if a unanimous decision cannot be obtained, a majority decision will be accepted. The written decision of a majority of the arbitrators shall be final and binding on all parties, and judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrators may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof. There is no appeal from the decision of the arbitrators.

(B) The decision of the arbitrators is to be kept confidential by all parties for a period of one year. For purposes of these procedures, the church membership may be informed of the decision if the church or any church pastors, officers, trustees, employees, or board members were a party to the proceeding.

(C) Should any party commence legal proceedings against another party with respect to the agreed scope of the dispute or the binding decision of the arbitrators, with the exception of an action to enforce the decision of the arbitrators, that party shall pay to the other party all expenses of said proceedings, including reasonable attorneys' fees. In the event it becomes necessary for one party to commence legal proceedings to enforce the decision of the arbitrators, the non-prevailing party must bear all of the costs of said proceedings, including reasonable attorneys' fees.

SECTION 7—PARTIES TO COOPERATE

No party shall unreasonably delay or otherwise prevent or impede the arbitration proceedings. No party will involve the news media in the dispute in any way. No party shall publicize the dispute in any way to anyone not a party to the proceedings, except as permitted by the arbitrators and except that a party may disclose the proceedings of this arbitration to his or her spouse, legal counsel, accountants, insurance carrier, and as otherwise required by law.

SECTION 8—COSTS AND EXPENSES

Each party shall pay his or her own costs and expenses related to presenting the party's case to the arbitrators. The costs of the arbitration, including any fees for the arbitrators is to be shared equally by both parties.

SECTION 9—COMMANDMENTS

These Procedures for Arbitration may be revised or amended by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees present and voting at any regular board meeting.

SECTION 10—ADOPTION

(A) These Procedures for Arbitration were adopted by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees at which a quorum was present.

(B) These Procedures for Arbitration supersede any other Procedures for Arbitration previously adopted by the Board of Trustees, if any exist.

_____ Date Approved

_____ Minister of Records