

**International Fellowship
of
Bible Churches**
Incorporated
(IFBC)

**Handbook
of Faith and Practice**



2021 Edition

Revised by International Assembly
July 13-15, 2021

SECTION ONE

THE INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF BIBLE CHURCHES, INC.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

PREAMBLE

These Constitution and Bylaws are formed and adopted by the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Incorporated (IFBC) to govern and facilitate its business activities and to meet the requirements of civil law and with respect to the holding of real estate and the maintenance of a tax exempt status. It is not intended that this constitution and bylaws, or any other human law, shall in any way interfere with or modify the doctrines and religious practices of the Fellowship. This corporation is organized for religious, charitable, benevolent, and educational objectives and purposes to advance the kingdom of God.

Chapter One

THE INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF BIBLE CHURCHES, INC.

100. The International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc.

The International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc. (IFBC) is a connectional fellowship of ministers, churches and organizations within the Church of Christ universal which commit themselves to common biblical purposes, strategies and goals.

105. What we do (our Purpose)

IFBC exists to glorify God by connecting, encouraging, and equipping members to advance authentic faith in Jesus everywhere, so that others may also glorify God.

110. How we do what we do (Methodology)

- A. We champion orthodox Wesleyan-Arminian theology.
- B. We pursue a global vision.
- C. We enhance ministry capabilities of affiliated ministers, churches and organizations.
- D. We build community.
- E. We simplify governance.

115. The results of (for) which we dream and for which we strive (Vision)

We envision flourishing Christian congregations in every city, town, and village in the world.

Chapter Two

STATEMENT OF FAITH

200. Statement of Faith

The following paragraphs represent a summary of the beliefs held firmly by IFBC. For more thorough doctrinal explanations, see the official publication, *Fellowship Foundations*. William Sillings with Vic Reasoner. (Bethany, OK: IFBC Publishers), 2003.

205. Revelation of God

We believe God exists and has sufficiently revealed himself. There is a general consciousness of God among all people through creation and conscience. He spoke through the prophets and apostles and finally revealed himself through His Son. The Holy Scriptures are the record of His disclosure, as well as the record of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Eccl 3:11; Psalm 19:1-4; John 1:9; Acts 14:17; Rom 1:23-25; Heb 1:2

210. Creation

God created the heavens and the earth and sustains all creation by his Word. All creation is sacred, even though subjected to the fall and suffers the results of the curse. However, Christ's redemption extends to all creation, and at the consummation, all creation will be renewed so that there will be a new heaven and a new earth (See par. 265).

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen 1:1). "He [Christ] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together" (Col 1:15-17 NASB). "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with

God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made” (Jn 1:1-3 ESV). “The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word” (Heb 1:3). “In him we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28 ESV). Rom 8:20-24.

215. Authority of Scripture

We believe the Bible was fully inspired by God, given without error, and is our final authority for faith and practice. God superintended the human authors so that what they composed and recorded are an accurate reflection of His revelation of truth. The authority of Scripture is based upon the fact that the Scriptures are the Word of God.

Psalm 12:6; 18:30; 19:7; 119:140; Prov 30:5; Matt 5:18; John 17:17; 2 Tim 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21

220. Sufficiency of Scripture

When the Scriptures are accurately understood, interpreted and applied, with the illumination of the Holy Spirit, as well as careful study and discernment, they are completely sufficient for the believer's direction in Christian living. The Bible is of such complete sufficiency that whatever is not contained in its pages is not to be considered essential to the faith or practice of any believer.

1 Cor 2:10-14; Jude 3; Rev 22:18-19

225. The Trinity

We believe the Bible teaches that there is one eternal God, existing as three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God created the heavens and the earth and sustains all creation by his Word. He is self-existent, infinite, eternal, and unchanging. He is sovereign, everywhere present, all knowing, almighty, and absolutely perfect. He is the source of all truth, love, goodness, grace, and holiness.

Gen 1:26; 3:22; 11:5-7; Deut 6:4; Isa 6:3; Matt 2:16-17; 28:19; John 1:1-3, 14: 16-17; 1 Cor 12:4-6; 2 Cor 12:14; Eph 4:4-6; Col 1:17; Heb 1:2b-3; 1 Peter 1:2; 3:18; 5:4-7

230. Deity and Humanity of Christ

We believe the Bible teaches that Jesus Christ, who was eternally one with the Father, entered this world in a human body. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He was fully God and fully man. He lived a sinless life, died on the cross for our sins, rose from the dead, and ascended into heaven where he sits at the right hand of the Father. Thus, His kingdom has been established. From Heaven, he will come again to receive His own unto Himself for eternity.

Matt 1:23; 3:3; 4:2; Luke 2:52; John 1:1; 4:6 8:58; 19:28; Acts 10:36; Rom 9:5; 10:13; 1 Tim 2:5; Titus 2:13; Heb 1:8; 2:14-18; 4:15-16; 1 John 5:20; Rev 1:8

235. The Holy Spirit

We believe the Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. We emphasize that the Holy Spirit is a person, not merely a power. He convicts the world of sin. He brings spiritual life and assurance to believers. He produces the fruit of salvation in our lives and gives spiritual gifts to build up the Church. However, since the Spirit divides the gifts according to His will, no single gift can be required for all believers. The true evidence of the Holy Spirit in one's life is holy living.

Ezek 36:26-27; John 3:5-8; 16:8-11; Acts 5:3-4; Rom 8:9; 8:16; 12:4-11; Gal 4:6; 5:19-23; Titus 3:4-7

240. Original Sin

We believe the Bible teaches that we are created in God's image, but we have fallen into a state of sin through Adam's original sin. We are corrupt and cannot save ourselves. Jesus Christ is our only salvation. This salvation comes by God's grace through our faith in the atoning work of Christ as our only sacrifice for sin.

Psalm 51:5; Jer 17:9; Matt 7:11; Rom 3:10-18; 5:12-19; Eph 2:3; 4:22; James 4:1-2; 2 Peter 1:4

245. Atonement

We believe the Bible teaches that the atonement of Christ demonstrates the love of God and turns away the wrath of God against our sin. Thus, the atoning work of Christ satisfies the justice of God's law, reconciles us with God, provides for full restoration from the Fall, and gives us victory over Satan. This atonement is universal in provision but is effectual only for those who believe.

Isa 53:5; Matt 20:28; John 1:29; 3:16; Rom 5:6-8, 17-21; 1 Cor 7:23; 2 Cor 5:14-21; 1 Tim 2:6; Titus 2:11; Heb 2:9; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 John 2:2

250. Grace

We believe the Bible teaches that God makes the first move in bringing this salvation to us. The Gospel call is the drawing of the Spirit. His preliminary grace awakens the sinner and enables us to repent and believe. Yet this grace is not irresistible. We must repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. This saving faith is the gift of God given to those who genuinely repent.

John 1:9-13; 6:44; 12:32; 16:8-11; Acts 8:16; 9:4-18; 10:35; 11:18; 13:43; 18:10; 19:3-4, 22:16; 18:24-6; Acts 16:14-16; Rom 2:4; 2 Cor 6:1-2; Eph 2:8; 2 Tim 2:25; Titus 2:11

255. Salvation and Security

We believe the Bible teaches we must be born again. The new birth brings forgiveness and regeneration to a new life with freedom from

the practice of willful sin. It also brings adoption as a child of God and the life of holiness is begun. As we walk in the Spirit, we have security in Christ. This security of the believer is conditioned upon a maintained obedient faith.

John 3:3-5; 5:25; Rom 5:1; 8:1; 8:15-17; 1 Cor 6:11; 2 Cor 5:17; Gal 4:7; Eph 2:1; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 1:23; 2 Peter 1:4; 1 John 3:9; 5:1; Ezek 18:24-26; 33:12-18; John 8:31; 15:6; 1 Cor 15:2; 1 Tim 4:1, 15-16; 2 Tim 2:12; Heb 6:4-6; 10:26-29; James 5:19-20; 2 Peter 1:10-11; 2:20-22; Rev 2:11; 3:5.

260. The Church

We believe the Bible teaches that at the new birth all believers are adopted into the family of God, which is the body of Christ or the Church. The Church is not a particular denomination, but the entire body of believers in Jesus Christ. It exists wherever faithful believers congregate, the Word of God is proclaimed, and the sacraments are administered. The Church exists to glorify God through worship, evangelism, discipleship, service, fellowship, social responsibility, and through expanding the Kingdom of Christ throughout the world into every sphere of human experience. The Bible teaches that we should observe the sacraments of baptism and communion as outward and visible signs of God's inward grace.

Matt 5:13-16; 6:10; 28:19; John 4:23; 17:21; Acts 2:42, 47; Rom 14:19; 1 Cor 3:10-11; 11:2, 24-26; Eph 3:4-6; 4:4, 16; Heb 10:24-25

265. Sanctification

We believe the Bible teaches that obedient believers will become increasingly convicted of the nature of sin remaining in them. As they walk in the Spirit, they will be led to a full cleansing from the inner nature of sin and filled with a holy love toward God and our neighbor through the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit. We believe the Bible promises this perfecting grace, which is also called entire sanctification or Christian perfection. Entire sanctification is commanded, prayed for, and exemplified in the New Testament. Sanctification is provided for by the atoning work of

Jesus Christ through the presence of the Holy Spirit. This sanctification, resulting in Christian perfection, implies neither the end of growth or progress, nor absolute perfection. It is a relative perfection in which God imparts holiness and imputes perfection to those who are governed by and who continue to develop in His holy love. Whether in a single crisis moment, or through gentler steps over a longer period of time, all believers are exhorted to press forward and not stop short of the fulness of this blessing.

Deut 30:6; Psalm 130:8; Ezekiel 36:25; 2 Cor. 7:1; 1 John 3:8; Eph. 5:25-27; Rom 8:3-4; Matt 5:48; 22:37; 1 Peter 1:16 ; Phil 3:15; 1 John 4:17 ; Matt 6:13; John 17:20-23; 2 Cor 13:9, 11; Eph 3:14-21; Phil 1:4-6, 9-11; Col 4:12; 1 Thess 5:23; Heb 13:20-1; 1 Peter 5:10-11

270. Last Things

We believe that the kingdom of Christ was established at the time of Christ's first advent and that he will cause his kingdom to so come to earth that his will shall be done on earth as it is in heaven. While no man knows the day or the hour of his return, we believe that Christ will return a second time to catch away the Church, to raise all who are dead, and to judge the whole world. He will be revealed in his glory, bring the work of salvation to completion, overthrow the world system, and establish a new heaven and earth. There is an eternal heaven to gain and an eternal hell to avoid.

Mark 9:1; Luke 9:27; 17:20-21; John 16:16; Matt 6:10; Psalm 22:27-31; 72:1-20; 86:9; 110:1; Isa 2:2-4; 9:6-7; 11:6-9; 25:7-8; 66:23; Jer 31:34; 10

Ezek 47:1-12; Micah 4:1-5; Hab 2:14; Matt 24:36; 1 Thess 4:16-18; Dan 12:2; John 5:28-29; 1 Cor 15:42-44; Rev 20:12-13; Acts 17:31; 1 Cor 4:5; Rev 22:12; Rom 14:10-12; 2 Cor 5:10; 2 Thess 2:8; Heb 9:28; John 14:2-3; 1 John 3:2; Rev 7:14-17; 22:3; Matt 8:12; 25:30-46; Mark 9:42-48; Luke 16:19-31; 2 Thess 1:7-10; Rev 14:10; 20:10

Chapter Three

Doctrinal and Practical Implications for Holy Living

300. Theological Basis

While the IFBC statement of faith, adopted in 2002, was intended to be a declaration of essential (mere) Christianity as an irreducible minimum, we believe orthodoxy (correct doctrine) should result in orthopraxy (holy living).

We adopt the Bible, carefully and prayerfully interpreted and applied under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, and in light of the faith and practice of the Church of Christ universal--ancient and contemporary--to be our rule of faith and practice.

We believe righteousness comes by faith alone (Rom. 4:5), and hence it cannot be legislated. Therefore, it is part of the philosophical and theological underpinning of the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc. that the multiplication of rules and/or a rule book approach to Christianity shall be avoided. Furthermore, we adopt a position of tolerance toward diversities in practice which are brought about by the individual operations of the Spirit-led conscience in aspects of life which are not clearly revealed in Scripture by either word or principle.

However, granting that Scripture is unavoidably silent concerning many issues peculiar to each generation since the closing of the canon, and granting that not all things permissible are either constructive or beneficial to the life of Scriptural holiness, it is a duty inherently enjoined upon each congregation and upon each individual Christian to exercise the greatest of caution and careful spiritual discernment when determining what is the mind of the Spirit concerning such issues.

We believe the following principles to be applicable to Christian living. The principles are general, and direct application of the supporting Scriptures as rules, without appropriate exegetical interpretation, should be avoided.

305. Love

Whereas the trajectory of love is always outward, seeking the best for others, it is the foundational essence of the Christian life.

The impulse of the love of God which He calls us to emulate is always outward. In the case of one's love for God it is the pursuit of God's glory and His Kingdom. In the case of another individual or people groups, it is the active seeking of what is good for love's object. Only in the case of loving "the world" does this love become twisted, turning inward, seeking what is perceived to be good for oneself.

"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 22:37-39). "Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law." (Rom 13:10) "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. (Jn 15:13)." "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (1 John 2:15).

310. Obedience and Abhorrence

Love for God is demonstrated through obedience to God and abhorrence of evil.

"If you love Me, keep My commandments" (John 14:15). "But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people" (Jer 31:33. 2 Cor 3:3). "Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God" (Jas 4:4). "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God

has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people." Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty" (2 Cor. 6:14-18). "I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but I will not be mastered by anything." (1 Cor 6:12 NIV, 2011). Finally, brothers, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy meditate on these thing" (Phil. 4:8). For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ," (2 Cor. 10:3-5).

315. Spiritual Vitality

A consistent walk in the fullness of God's Spirit is the biblical paradigm for Christian living.

It is not inevitable that spiritual vitality should wane, but when such occurs, God persistently calls and provides for His children to be energized by the Holy Spirit, burning with zeal for Kingdom living.

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint" (Isa 40:31). "Tarry ...until ye be endued with power from on high" (Lk 24:49). "Go on being filled with the Spirit" (Eph 5:18). If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit" (Gal 5:25).

"Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer" (Rom 12:11-12 NIV 2011). "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Cor 15:58 NASB 95). "Be on the

alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong” (1 Cor 16:13 NASB 95).

"Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ (Eph 5:18-21 NIV). But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by [in] the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. (Gal 5:25).

320. Restoration

Christian restoration is the process of repairing, reestablishing, revitalizing and reinstating broken lives to full usefulness in God’s household and ministry.

"Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself" (Gal. 6:1-3). "Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me" (Ps 51:12). If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness (1 Jn 1:9).

325. Preservation

We are to be faithful stewards of what God has revealed (see ¶210).

God is Truth. That Truth has been revealed through the created world, the Scriptures, and in God’s Son Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit works to ensure that Truth is not depreciated nor lost to the thinking of mankind. In addition, what God has created, He also maintains and sustains. (Also see ¶330 Transmittance).

"When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth." (Jn 16:13). Hold on to the pattern of right teaching you learned from me. And remember to live in the faith and love that you have in Christ Jesus. With the help of the Holy Spirit who lives within us, carefully guard what has been entrusted to you." (2 Tim 1:13-14 NLT).

"In him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28). "He is before all things, and in him all things hold together" (Col 1:17). "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word" (Heb 1:3).

330. Transmittance

The knowledge and wisdom of Scripture must be intentionally and diligently passed through the generations so that every succeeding generation may make informed decisions regarding adherence to the truth and obedience to God. Without transmission of such things, subsequent generations suffer due to its loss.

"And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." (Deut. 6:6-9). "And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also" (2 Tim. 2:2).

335. Evangelism and Disciplemaking

God commissions every believer to engage in seeking the lost (evangelism) and in maturing believers (disciplemaking).

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, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am

with you always, even to the end of the age" (Mt 28:19). And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation" (Mk 16:15). He [Jesus] said to them, "Thus it is written...that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem" (Lk 24:46-47). "So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek" (Rom 1:15 - 16). But you, be sober in all things. Endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry (2 Tim 4:5 NASB). "And the things that you have heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also (2 Tim 2:2). "In this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples" (Jn 15:8). "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Tim 3:16-17). "So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelist, the pastors and teachers to equip his people for works of the service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fulness of Christ (Eph 4:11-13).

340. Authority and Order

Scripture reveals that all creation exists and is sustained through the authority and power of God. Therefore, all people are subject to the authority of God, whether or not they are willing to recognize or to obey that authority. Scripture also reveals that all authority is instituted by God (therefore calling for submission to it), however God's authority supersedes all other authority and is to be honored even when humanly instituted governmental authority demands the contrary. All authority is to be exercised with Godly love, compassion, and gentleness.

"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore, whoever resists the authorities resists

what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment” (Rom 13:1-3). “remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work” (Tit 3:1). “Be subject to every human institution...” (1 Pet 2:13). “Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord” (Col 3:22). “But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God? “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So, husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.” Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: “that it may be well with you, and you may live long on the earth.” (Eph. 3:22 - 28, 6:1, 2).

345. Stewardship

All creation belongs to God and is on loan to us as stewards of everything entrusted into our care, including not only our money, but also our time, our inalienable rights, our rights as citizens, life itself, and even earth’s environment.

“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil” (Eph 5:15-16 ESV). “Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity” (Col 4:5 NIV). “Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this,” Says the LORD of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it” (Mal 3:10). “But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will

also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work" (2 Cor. 9:6-8). "But just as you excel in everything...see that you also excel in this grace of giving" (2 Cor 8:7). "Again, it [the Kingdom] will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them (Mt 25:14 See vv. 14-28). "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. (1 Cor 10:31). (See also Lk 12:13-21, 19:1-27).

350. Temple Ownership

Whereas believers' bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, Every aspect of one's health (physical, spiritual, mental, and emotional) should be developed and maintained as is fit for the residence of the Holy Spirit.

"Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Cor. 6:19, 20). "And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God . . . Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?" (Romans 6:13, 16). "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?" (1 Cor 3:16). "I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified" (1Cor 9:27 NASB). "Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God (1 Cor 10:31 NASB).

355. Modesty and Humility

Modesty is an attitude of the heart which prioritizes appropriateness and seeks to avoid inordinate personal attention.

“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men” (Php 2:3-7 NASB). “For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.” (Rom 12:3-5 ESV). “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever” (1 Jn 2:15 - 17. See context, vv 3 - 29). “In like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.” (1 Tim 2:9-10). “Do not let your adornment be merely outward arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel, but rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.” (1 Pe 3:3-4).

360. Sanctity of Marriage

We believe the Bible teaches, that marriage is only between one man, naturally, genetically, biologically born with XY chromosomes who identifies with his birth sex and one woman, naturally, genetically, biologically born with XX chromosomes who identifies with her birth sex.

This issue is compounded by efforts to corrupt Biblical teaching related to gender and sexuality. We recognize there are anomalies (both physical and psychological, including anomalies of genitalia at birth). These may cause men and women to sense their gender identity to be other than their birth sex. Nevertheless, these are not to be a basis for acting out sexually in ways inconsistent with one's birth sex.

IFBC ministers shall not be permitted to approve, teach, support, counsel toward, or perform any other kind of marriage ceremony. Nor shall an IFBC credentialed minister endorse in any fashion or through any method, any relationship or behavior that is contrary to this biblical teaching.

"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let not man separate" (Mt 19:5-6). (See also Mt 5:31, 32, 19:1-9. Mk 10:11, 12). Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God (1 Cor 6:9-10 NASB). For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. (Eph 5:5 NASB). "But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully, realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever

else is contrary to sound teaching, according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted. (1 Tim 1:8-11NASB). For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper (Rom 1:26-28 NASB)

365. Sanctity of Life

All life is a gift from God and is to be treasured as such. Revealed in Scripture to be created in the Image of God, human life is uniquely sacred, from conception to natural death. Thus, human life is to be nurtured and protected from undue harm or death from the moment of conception to its natural ending at death. Therefore, we believe Scripture clearly teaches that any depraved indifference or harm to human life should be rejected as both unChristian and consummately antithetical to the sanctity of life as God's creation. Even in the case of capital punishment, there should be no indifference to the value of that human life.

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Gn 1:27). "Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man" (Gn 9:6). "For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb" (Ps 139:13). "Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, 'Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.' And He took them up in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them" (Mk 10:13-16). "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you..." (Jer. 1:5a). "You shall not murder" (Gn 20:13). "Everything that lives and

moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything” (Gn 9:3). “Then he said to me, ‘Stand over me and kill me! I am in the throes of death, but I’m still alive.’ So I stood over him and killed him, because I knew that after he had fallen he could not survive...For David had said to him, ‘Your blood be on your own head. Your own mouth testified against you when you said, “I killed the Lord’s anointed”’” (2 Sam 1:9-10a, 16). “And he [God] is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live” (Acts 17:25-26). “For he [ruler, civil authority] is God’s servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God’s servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer” (Rom 13:4). “When a mocker is punished, the simple gain wisdom...When justice is done, it brings joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers” (Pro 21:11a, 15).

Chapter Four

CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNANCE

400. Structure for the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc.

Decisions regarding global priorities and activities for the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc. are determined through wide participation by many representative leaders. The highest level of policy and decision making in the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc. is the local member ministry which is represented at every International Assembly.

405. Local Church Interdependence

- A. We believe local congregations to be the visible manifestations of the Church of Christ universal. Furthermore, we believe in connectional interdependence between IFBC congregations, the International Assembly, and the Church of Christ universal. (Matt. 16:17-19. 1 Cor. 12:13. Col. 1:18. Rev. 1-3.)
- B. Notwithstanding the connectional interdependence of its congregations, IFBC anticipates wide diversity of practice concerning church structure and governance on the local level.
- C. The authority to call pastors shall be vested in the local church.

410. Local Property

- A. Right to purchase, hold title to, use, and dispose of property for its own use may be vested in the local congregation or the local corporate body.
 - 1. In the unfortunate circumstance that a member local congregation/organization should become inactive or depleted beyond reasonable hope of recovery, and it is to be dissolved or withdrawn from membership in International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc., any property of this local church that may exist shall in no way be encumbered by additional debt, nor transferred or diverted to other purposes, but title shall pass to the International Fellowship

of Bible Churches, Inc., as Fellowship Property as defined in ¶1425, with the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc. acting as agent under power of attorney for said church where such has been incorporated, or other authorized agents, for the use of the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc. at large, as the ICC of the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc. shall direct.

2. Local church trustees holding property for the inactive or disorganized church shall sell or dispose of the same only on the written order and under the direction of the ICC of the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc. or other appointed agent of the ICC of the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc.; either conveying said property or delivering the proceeds from the sale thereof as directed by the ICC of the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc.”
- B. Nevertheless, it is herein provided that in the case of the voluntary dissolution of a member congregation, local church property (assets) shall revert to IFBC.
- C. After title to any such property passes to the ICC of the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc., then the ICC of the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc. shall have power, on its own resolution, to purchase, own, sell, exchange, mortgage, deed in trust, hypothecate, lease, and convey any property, real and personal, as may be necessary or convenient for the purpose of the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc. In these circumstances, the ICC of the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc. shall also have authority to verify and conserve the titles to local church property of any member church of the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc.
- D. Member congregations of IFBC shall agree to insert the following paragraphs into the bylaws of the local congregation.
1. Whereas section 501.c.3 of the Internal Revenue Service Code for nonprofits governs the charitable interests of local churches and denominations in the United States;
 2. Whereas said code requires that no profit may inure to any individual from use or sale of properties held by members of

- said 501.c.3 organizations, and in the present case, International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc.
3. Whereas member churches and organizations enjoy access to the tax status benefits of being affiliated with said International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc.,
 4. Whereas this church/organization, name (Insert Name here), located at (insert full address information of all properties here) is an active member of International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc., as attested to by its International Assembly held on (Date of Assembly at which organization was admitted to membership) and assigned by its General Superintendent and a witnessing officer on said date.
 5. Therefore, the following action was approved by the local congregation and entered into the local bylaws in a duly called meeting on (Date of Meeting),
 6. To wit: "In the unfortunate circumstance that this local congregation/organization should become inactive or depleted beyond reasonable hope of recovery and it is to be dissolved or withdrawn from membership in International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc., any property of this local church that may exist shall in no way be encumbered by additional debt, nor transferred or diverted to other purposes, but title shall pass to the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc., as Fellowship Property as defined in ¶425, with the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc. acting as agent under power of attorney for said church where such has been incorporated, or other authorized agents, for the use of the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc. at large, as the ICC of the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc. shall direct. Local church trustees holding property for the inactive or disorganized church shall sell or dispose of the same only on the written order and under the direction of the ICC of the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc. or other appointed agent of the ICC of the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc.; either conveying said property or delivering the proceeds from the sale thereof as directed by the ICC of the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc."

415. Induction of Churches into Membership of the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc. and Participation in the International Assembly

- A. Membership for churches in the International Assembly is predicated upon their successful application for membership within the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc. Member churches have full benefit of the rights, privileges and responsibility of participation in the International Assembly. Formal induction of churches into the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc. occurs during the International Assembly in recognition of induction during the interim between Assemblies.
- B. Application and approval for membership in the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc. is effected through the Commission for Credentials and Membership.
- C. Admission of churches into the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc. shall be based upon successful completion of the application process, including formal affirmation of IFBC's "Belief and Intent," agreement to be governed by the *Handbook of Faith and Practice*, commitment to participate in the International Assembly (or alternative provided for international localities), and to support the global mission of IFBC both spiritually and financially. (See ¶500).

420. International Assembly--Function

The International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc. shall hold a biennial International Assembly. The business of the Assembly shall be:

- A. To elect, by majority ballot, an elder to serve a four year term as General Superintendent of the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc. (¶435.A.1).
- B. To elect, by majority ballot, an International Coordinating Council composed of twenty members. (¶431. and 432. *in toto*).
- C. To make any necessary changes in the Handbook of Faith and Practice by the procedures outlined below.
- D. To be the final voice of the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc. including all boards, commissions, and officers of the Fellowship.

421. International Assembly--Time and Place of Meeting

- A. The International Assembly shall convene biennially. The specific days and location of the Assembly shall be determined by the International Coordinating Council.
- B. The General Superintendent or the International Coordinating Council shall be empowered to call for a special International Assembly in case of emergency.

422. International Assembly – Delegation

- A. The General Superintendent and all ICC members shall be voting members of the Assembly by virtue of their offices.
- B. For each International Assembly, every IFBC member church is entitled to choose and send 3 lay delegates for each 25 active members in the church.
 - 1. However, it is herein provided that no church shall be expected to have fewer than 3, nor be allowed more than 12 delegates.
 - 2. At any point during Assembly business, Alternate Delegates chosen by a congregation may be recognized to be seated instead of any duly appointed delegate who has become unable to fulfill his/her role as a delegate.
 - a. IFBC Elders shall be voting delegates by virtue of ordination.
 - b. IFBC Licensed Ministers who serve as lead pastor/s in an IFBC congregation shall be delegates by virtue of their pastoral responsibilities.
 - 3. All delegates to the International Assembly shall be at least 18 years of age.

423. Quorum

Fifty-one percent of the elected and ex-officio members present for the International Assembly shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of official business. Once a quorum has been established, a lesser number may approve the minutes and adjourn.

424. Parliamentary Rule

The standard reference work which shall govern the parliamentary processes of deliberative bodies of the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc. shall be the latest revision of *Robert's Rules of Order*.

425. Nominating Committees

- A. The International Assembly shall elect a nominating committee composed of two elders and two lay persons from each quadrant of the United States where possible.
- B. This committee shall provide nominees for all elective offices specified herein, except that a nominee for General Superintendent shall come from the ICC itself. The committee shall elect a chairperson and a secretary at the time of its first meeting.
- C. Any deliberative bodies of the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc. may use a nominating committee, except that ¶425.A shall prevail at International Assemblies. Such committees shall be appointed by the board responsible at the respective level and shall be composed of six or more members in good standing from the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc. in addition to the official(s) responsible at the respective levels.
- D. Any elected board may function as a nominating committee by its own vote. However, it is recommended that where possible one-half of the committee be composed of non-board members.

421. Constitutional Amendments

The provisions of this constitution may be amended or repealed by the following method:

- A. By a two-thirds vote of the International Assembly on resolutions presented by either the International Coordinating Council, or by any three member churches in good standing with the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc.

- B. All resolutions must be in the hands of the Fellowship Secretary no later than sixty (60) days prior to the International Assembly in which they are to be considered so that they can be printed and placed in the hands of the registering delegates on the first day of the Assembly.
- C. Before being submitted to the International Assembly for a vote, such resolutions shall be committed for study, formulation and recommendation as to disposition.

422. Effective Date of Legislation

- A. Legislation enacted in an International Assembly shall be in force upon conclusion of that Assembly unless otherwise stipulated by the Assembly.
- B. Legislation enacted by any Assembly shall be published as soon as practical after the close of that Assembly.

423. Interpretation of the Handbook of Faith and Practice

The International Assembly shall be the final interpreter of the Handbook of Faith and Practice. However, the International Coordinating Council may offer an official interpretation which shall stand until an International Assembly establishes an official interpretation.

424. General Statistical and Fiscal Year

The General Statistical and Fiscal Year for the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc. shall run from January 1 to December 31.

425. Fellowship Property

Right to purchase, hold title to, use, and dispose of property for its own use shall be vested in the International Coordinating Council or International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc.

430. International Coordinating Council (ICC)

431. Composition

The International Coordinating Council (ICC) shall be composed of ten elders and ten lay representatives as prescribed in ¶432, inclusive.

432. Election of ICC Members

- A. The International Assembly shall elect, by majority ballot, a General Superintendent and a twenty-member International Coordinating Council.
- B. One elder and one lay person shall be elected to serve on the ICC from each of the four quadrants of the United States, if possible. Six additional elders and six additional lay persons shall be elected at large.
- C. ICC members shall be elected to serve a four-year term. They may be elected to serve as members of the ICC for additional four-year terms by majority vote of the International Assembly.
- D. Ten members of the International Coordinating Council shall be elected at each International Assembly.
- E. Employees of the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc., shall be eligible to serve in any elected official or representative capacity while thus employed, provided that the number of employees elected does not exceed 25% of the total number of members of the boards or commissions to which they are elected.
- F. Any office or elected representative position which becomes vacant due to such employment shall be filled according to the stipulations set forth in ¶433.
- G. The General Superintendent, the Director of Foreign Initiatives, the Director of Domestic Initiatives, and the Director of Chaplain Initiatives shall serve as *ex officio* members of the ICC, with privileges of both voice and vote in all matters, except where affected by any conflict of interest.

433. Filling Interim Vacancies

- A. Whenever any International level position is vacated between International Assemblies, such vacancy shall be filled by a two-thirds majority vote of the International Coordinating Council, subject to ratification by majority vote of the next International Assembly.
- B. In the event any member of the International Coordinating Council who was elected to represent a quadrant moves from the quadrant he/she was elected to represent between Assemblies, his/her office shall be declared vacant. Such vacancies shall be filled according to the method prescribed in ¶433.A.
- C. However, it is herein provided that should a vacancy occur in the final year of an officer's term, the International Coordinating Council may, by two-thirds vote, permit the vacancy to remain until the next International Assembly.

434. Duties of the ICC

- A. The ICC shall meet at the time of the International Assembly and one other time annually and/or upon call of the General Superintendent.
- B. The ICC shall set the time and place of the International Assembly and shall have the power to call a special session of the International Assembly if deemed necessary.
- C. The ICC shall submit a nomination for the election of the General Superintendent to the International Assembly.
- D. The ICC shall elect both a Fellowship Secretary and Treasurer.
- E. Minutes of ICC meetings shall be made available upon request to members of the International Assembly, except in cases where personnel or other similarly sensitive issues are under consideration.
- F. The ICC shall be empowered to act on all matters of business and administration between International Assemblies. This empowerment shall include, but not be limited to, the authority to create and empower service commissions to act on its own behalf during the interim between ICC meetings.

- G. The ordained Elders on the ICC shall form the ICC Credentials Committee and be vested with the authority to appoint and/or to act as a Duly Appointed Credentials Examination Committee.
- H. The ICC shall budget and allocate income for IFBC Global Mission in an ethical and appropriate manner, as follows:
 - 1. Assure the support of all administrative functions and personnel in support of Global Missions.
 - 2. Review and approve/disapprove projects and budgets submitted by Initiative Directors.
 - 3. Approve the Foreign Initiatives Guide and any changes submitted by the Director of Foreign Initiatives.
 - 4. Approve personal budgets submitted by IFBC appointed missionaries against which the missionaries may raise funds for their personal support.
 - 5. Provide for the funding of discreet financial reserves which may be used as an emergency fund for unanticipated downturns in IFBC income, emergency repatriation of missionary personnel, or for emergency humanitarian aid.
 - 6. Appoint Initiative Directors upon recommendation by the General Superintendent.
 - 7. Monitor the IFBC related activities of all Initiative Directors.
- I. The ICC shall establish a Chaplain Initiatives Council (CIC) for the purpose of promoting and managing the chaplain initiatives of the IFBC under guidelines established by the ICC in the Chaplaincy Guide.

435. ICC Officers

- A. **General Superintendent (GS).**
 - 1. Election of: The GS shall be elected from among IFBC Elders to serve a four-year term by majority vote of the International Assembly.
 - 2. Duties of:
 - a. Oversee operations of the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc.
 - b. Work in connection with the ICC and the Executive Committee.

- c. Provide leadership and oversight for the activities of the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc., the International Assembly and the ICC, including the implementation of programs.
- d. Serve as chairperson of the ICC.
- e. Serve as chairperson of the International Assembly.
- f. Serve as chairperson of the Executive Committee.
- g. Sign or direct the signing of IFBC credentials, letters and endorsement certificates as needed.
- h. Be directly amenable to the General Assembly.
- i. Give reports, advice, and suggestions with regards to the administration of his/her position.
- j. Provide for the maintenance of any necessary office personnel and supplies as approved by the ICC.
- k. Submit statistical reports regarding the effectiveness of his/her administration to the ICC at least once per year or as otherwise directed by the ICC.

B. Fellowship Secretary.

- 1. Elected annually by the ICC
- 2. Duties
 - a. Attend the meetings of the International Assembly and correctly record and preserve the Journal of its proceedings.
 - b. Correctly record and preserve general statistics of the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc.
 - c. Sit on the meetings of the ICC and correctly record and preserve the minutes of said meetings.
 - d. Direct the archiving and preservation of all surrendered credentials of ministers and deliver them only on proper order from the Commission for Credentials and Membership.
 - e. Maintain a list of the names and addresses of all Fellowship ministers and ministries and make this list available to Fellowship members upon request.
 - f. Maintain a complete and current record of all ICC policy decisions.

- g. Convene and chair the review meeting called for in ¶436.C. before each IA, or more often, as determined by a majority of the Executive Committee.

C. Fellowship Treasurer.

1. Elected annually by the ICC.
2. Duties
 - a. Have custody of funds of the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc. and to receive and disburse funds as ordered by the International Assembly and/or the International Coordinating Council.
 - b. Furnish financial reports to the ICC and the International Assembly.
 - c. Present a financial report to each International Assembly.

D. Director of International Initiatives.

1. Appointed by the ICC upon recommendation by the General Superintendent.
2. The term of service for the DII shall run concurrently with the term of the General Superintendent and may be renewed at the first ICC meeting following the election of the GS.
3. Duties
 - a. Facilitate work founded by, funded by, or sponsored by IFBC outside the United States.
 - b. Serve at the direction of and be amenable to the ICC.
 - c. Serve as an *ex officio* member of ICC with the right of both voice and vote in all decisions except in cases where voice and vote may be impacted by a conflict of interest.
 - d. Confer and cooperate with the General Superintendent regarding major decisions concerning International Initiatives.

E. Director of Domestic Initiatives

1. Appointed by the ICC upon recommendation by the General Superintendent.
2. The term of service for the DDI shall run concurrently with the term of the General Superintendent and may be renewed at the first ICC meeting following the election of the GS.

3. Duties
 - a. Oversee and facilitate work founded, funded, or sponsored by IFBC within the United States.
 - b. Serve at the direction of, and be amenable to, the ICC.
 - c. Serve as an *ex officio* member of ICC with the right of both voice and vote in all decisions except in cases where voice and vote may be impacted by a conflict of interest.
 - d. Confer and cooperate with the General Superintendent regarding major decisions regarding US Initiatives.

F. Director of Chaplain Initiatives

1. Shall be appointed by the ICC upon recommendation of the CIC, as outlined in the Chaplaincy Guide.
2. The term of service for the DCI shall run concurrently with the term of the General Superintendent and may be renewed at the first ICC meeting following the election of the GS.
3. Duties
 - a. Oversee all matters pertaining to the endorsement of chaplains, subsequent to ordination.
 - b. Fulfill all chaplaincy responsibilities in full compliance with the Chaplaincy Guide.
 - c. Serve as an *ex officio* member of the ICC with the right of both voice and vote in all decisions, except where matters are affected by any conflict of interest.
 - d. Confer and cooperate with the General Superintendent regarding major decisions or policy changes regarding chaplaincy initiatives.

436. ICC Executive Committee.

- A. The ICC shall be empowered to create an Executive Committee which shall be empowered to act in all matters for the ICC in the interim between ICC Meetings.
 1. The Executive Committee shall be composed of no fewer than three members from the ICC.
 2. Executive Committee Members shall be nominated by the General Superintendent and ratified by the ICC.

3. ICC officers shall serve as *ex officio* members of the Executive Committee.
 4. The General Superintendent or his personally appointed representative shall serve as chairperson of this committee.
- B. A quorum shall be set at a majority of the members of the committee.
 - C. The Executive Committee, led by the Fellowship Secretary or the Secretary's appointed representative, shall conduct a special review meeting with the General Superintendent prior to each International Assembly, or more often if deemed necessary by a simple majority of the Executive Committee. The purpose of this meeting shall be to discuss the Superintendent's intentions, plans, health issues, and any other items which may affect the ICC's decision concerning the Superintendent's continued service in that office.

437. Chaplain Initiatives Council

- A. The ICC shall establish a standing subcommittee called the Chaplain Initiatives Council (CIC) as determined in the Chaplaincy Guide.
- B. The CIC shall be composed, function, and be directed as defined in the IFBC Chaplaincy Guide.

Chapter Five
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

500. Financial Support for IFBC Global Mission

- A. IFBC Global Mission is financially underwritten by contributions from its member churches, organizations, ministers and other Friends of Global Mission.
 - 1. All contributions received by IFBC shall be used to support Global Mission operations, both domestic and foreign.
 - 2. The ICC shall be empowered and responsible to budget and allocate income received for all purposes in an ethical and appropriate manner which prioritizes Global Mission efforts.
- B. Every member ministry or minister connected with the IFBC is expected to help carry the financial load to support the global mission of IFBC.

505. Protection of Internal Revenue Service Exemption Under Section 501(c)(3) Ruling for Non-profit Organizations

- A. No member, trustee, officer or employee of, or member of a commission of, or person connected with International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc., shall receive at any time any of the net earnings or pecuniary profits from the operations of said organization. Nor shall any such person be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the organization's assets upon the dissolution of said organization. However, it is herein provided that no person shall be prevented from receiving payment of such reasonable compensation for services rendered to or for said organization, as shall be determined by the appropriate board.
- B. Furthermore, eligible voting members of International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc. shall be deemed to have expressly consented and agreed that upon such dissolution or disposal of the property and assets of said organization, either voluntary or involuntary, the assets of International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc., after debts have been satisfied, then remaining in the hands of the International Coordinating Council (ICC) shall be distributed, transferred, conveyed, delivered, and

paid over, in such amounts as the ICC may determine or as may be determined by a Court of competent jurisdiction upon the application of the ICC, to exclusively charitable, religious, scientific, literary or educational organizations which would then qualify under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and its regulations.

510. Exempted Activities

Notwithstanding any other provision of these bylaws, no member, director, officer, employee, or representative of International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc., shall take any action or carry on any activity by or on behalf of said organization, not permitted to be taken or carried on by an organization exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and its regulations, or by an organization contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of such code and regulations.

Chapter Six

The Ministry

600. Divine Call to Vocational Christian Ministry

The International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc. recognizes that responsibility for ministering the Gospel to other human beings lies with every Christian. In addition, we also believe that Christ, the head of the Church, divinely calls some men and women to devote themselves to the work of ministry as a vocation. Therefore, we endorse the same by taking suitable steps to equip, enable, and provide appropriate credentials for individuals who are called to engage and thrive in the life of vocational Christian ministry.

605. General Qualifications of the IFBC Minister

The minister in the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc. is required to meet at least the following criteria before being granted any IFBC credential:

- A. The minister must believe that his/her sins are forgiven and that he/she has peace with God through the Lord Jesus Christ. He/she must believe that he/she has received the fullness of the Holy Spirit and that the Spirit of God currently abides in His sanctifying fullness. And he/she must believe he/she has been called by God to vocational ministry.
- B. The minister must give careful attention to the virtues of Christian character, knowing that the example set forth by ministers will greatly influence their public service and, to a large degree, determine the level of spirituality evident within the church.
- C. The minister shall meet the requirements of candidates for credentials as set forth throughout Chapter Six of these Bylaws, including successful completion of both the application and interview process, as well as ministry and academic requirements.

610. Credentialing Process

- A. Applicants for credentials shall successfully complete IFBC's written application, including the following:
 - 1. Curriculum Vita or current resume.
 - 2. Academic transcripts.
 - 3. Copies of any credential held at the time of application.
 - 4. Statement of length of service in pastoral ministry.
 - 5. Personal and professional reference letters.
 - 6. A positive recommendation from the pastor or church board of the congregation in which the applicant is actively engaged in ministry.
 - 7. Background check authorization.
 - 8. Application fee.
 - 9. Written answers to the questions in *Fellowship Foundations*, 2nd Edition, pp. 106-108.
 - 10. Ensure that the beliefs of the candidate are in line with IFBC's Statement of Faith.
- B. As soon as practical after the submission of the completed application form, the credentials candidate shall be interviewed by a duly appointed Credentials Examination Committee according to the practices outlined in ¶620 *in toto*.
- C. Once the application and interview process has been successfully completed, the applicant may then be considered a candidate for the credential for which he/she has applied.

615. Credentials Examination Committees, Formation of.

- A. IFBC shall provide for the formation of duly appointed Credentials Examination Committees for the formal examination of applicants for credentials with the organization.
- B. Credentials Examination Committees shall be composed of no fewer than three duly appointed Elders in good standing within the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc.
- C. Credentials Examination Committees shall be amenable, first to the ICC and secondly to the Fellowship of Elders at an International Assembly.
- D. Duly appointed Credentials Examination Committees shall be vested with the authority to grant the Minister's License and/or

the Silver Seal Credential in the appropriate circumstances, as set forth in ¶620.A and ¶620.B of this *Handbook of Faith and Practice*.

- E. Credentials Examination Committees shall be considered “duly appointed” in one of the following ways:
 - 1. Appointment by the ICC (¶420.4).
 - 2. Appointment by the Fellowship of Elders, present and voting in a duly called meeting.
 - 3. Appointment by the ICC Executive Committee.
 - 4. Appointment by the General Superintendent.

620. Credentials Examination Committees, Duties of

- A. Duly appointed Credentials Examination Committees shall conduct examination interviews for applicants seeking IFBC credentials.
 - 1. All Credentials Examination Committee interviews shall be conducted in person, barring prohibitive circumstances, in which case video meeting technology may be employed for the interview.
- B. A duly appointed Credentials Examination Committee shall interview/examine the applicant pursuant to verifying the following items.
 - 1. The applicant’s knowledge of and harmony with the IFBC Handbook of Faith and Practice.
 - 2. The applicant’s personal Christian experience, good character, honest business and financial dealings, theological and intellectual concepts, usefulness in ministry, and related inquiries.
 - 3. The applicant’s level of academic preparation and ministerial experience for the credential being sought.
 - 4. The applicant’s overall readiness for the credential being sought.
 - 5. Other items listed in IFBC’s standardized list of questions for the examination of candidates, and/or items deemed appropriate and advisable by the Credentials Examination Committee.

- C. Determine appropriate recommendations regarding the applicant's credential, based upon findings from the examination.
- D. Prepare and see to the preservation of minutes for any examination conducted by the committee.
- E. Submit to the IFBC Credentials office a copy of the committee's minutes and recommendations as soon as reasonably possible.

625. Categories of Credentialing, Descriptions of

625.1 The Minister's License

- A. The Minister's License shall be a temporary license, preparatory for ordination, which may be granted in the following manner.
 - 1. Before being granted the Minister's License, the applicant shall complete Sequence A as outlined in ¶645 (or an approved equivalent thereof).
 - 2. Before being presented the Minister's License, the applicant shall be thoroughly examined by a Credentials Examination Committee, established according to the stipulations set forth in ¶615, ¶620 *in toto*, and determined to be a properly qualified candidate for the Minister's License.
 - 3. The candidate shall have a favorable report concerning his/her own personal Christian experience, good character, honest business and financial dealings, theological and intellectual concepts, usefulness in ministry and other items listed in a standardized list of questions for the examination of ministers. Other items of examination may be added at the discretion of the Committee conducting the interview.
 - 4. Having been found a properly qualified candidate for the Minister's License, the candidate may be granted the license by the Credentials Examination Committee conducting the interview.
 - 5. Each minister so licensed shall be presented a parchment signed by two elders from the Credentials Examination Committee which conducts the interview, or by the General Superintendent and a witnessing officer. The Minister's License Parchment shall bear no seal.

6. The Minister's License shall expire at the end of each International Assembly. However, the Minister's License may be renewed at each International Assembly, provided that requirements for the renewal have been met.
- B. Renewal of the Minister's License shall be contingent upon:
1. Receipt of the Licensed Minister's submission an annual written report of ministry activities by the IFBC Credentials Department (**¶665.1**).
 2. A positive recommendation for renewal, by a duly appointed Credentials Examination Committee, based upon their biennial interview of the Licensed Minister.
 3. A majority vote of approval by the Fellowship of Elders present and voting at the International Assembly.

625.2 The Silver Seal Credential

- A. The Silver Seal Credential is granted upon transfer of an ordained minister with a minimum of two years of relevant experience in an organization of compatible faith.
- B. The Silver Seal Credential may be presented upon a transferee's successful completion of IFBC's application and interview process (**¶602**).
- C. To remain valid, the Silver Seal Credential must be renewed at each International Assembly until the candidate has met all requirements for the Gold Seal Credential.
- D. Renewal of the Silver Seal will be contingent upon the candidate's submission of annual reports (**¶650**), maintenance of Christian character, consistent performance of the duties of ministry, and making suitable progress toward completing any remaining studies for the Gold Seal Credential .
- E. Succession to the more permanent Gold Seal Credential may be granted upon both the completion of Training Sequences A-C (or the approved equivalent thereof, **¶650**) and a majority vote of a duly called plenary session of the Fellowship of Elders.

625.3 The Gold Seal Credential

- A. The Gold Seal Credential shall serve as the recognition of ordained eldership within IFBC.

1. Ordination to the office of elder within the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc. is considered a recognition to be bestowed, not a right to be earned.
 2. The office of Elder shall be regarded as the highest office in the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc.
- B. The Gold Seal Credential may be granted by a majority vote of the Fellowship of Elders at an International Assembly, provided that the candidate has successfully completed all ordination requirements as described in Chapter Six of the Handbook of Faith and Practice.
- C. Ordained elders shall be welcomed into the Fellowship of Elders by the officer in charge and presented with a Gold Seal Credential signed by the General Superintendent and a witnessing officer, and sealed with the seal of the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc.
- D. The Gold Seal Credential shall continue in perpetuity, subject only to the maintenance of godly character and bearing, orthodox Wesleyan doctrine and lifestyle, general usefulness within the Kingdom of God, and consistent fulfillment of the expectations of Elders as outlined in Chapter 6 of the *IFBC Handbook of Faith and Practice*.
- E. However, in the case of an ordained elder voluntarily surrendering his/her credential for any reason, such surrendered credentials may, at any subsequent time, be restored to the elder upon a two-thirds majority vote of the ICC Committee for Credentials and Membership, by their duly appointed representatives, or by a majority vote of a plenary session of the Fellowship of Elders present and voting at an International Assembly.
- F. Gold Seal ordination candidates must be present at the ceremony in which they will be ordained.

630. General Requirements for Ordination

- A. Ministers desiring to pursue ordination may begin the process by filing a completed application form with IFBC's Credentials department. The form may be requested at info@ifbc.org .

- B. Prior to being recommended for ordination, applicants for ordination shall meet the following requirements prior to being ordained.
- C. Applicants for ordination shall have held a Minister's License (or the equivalent thereof) for at least two years and shall have been a primary minister within a congregation or its affiliated works for at least two years.
 - 1. Applicants for ordination shall have completed Ministerial Training Sequences A-C or their equivalent from other approved sources. (For further information on Training Sequences A-C, see ¶645),
 - 2. Applicants for ordination shall have a favorable report and recommendation based upon the successful completion of the application and interview process as outlined in ¶610, ¶615 *in toto*.
- D. After successful completion of the application and interview process for ordination as outlined above, and upon recommendation by the duly appointed Examination Committee in charge of the process, the applicant will then be considered a candidate for ordination.
- E. After successful completion of the requirements listed above, ordination candidates will be recommended to the Fellowship of Elders for a final vote of approval for ordination.
- F. Prior to the final approval for ordination, candidates shall meet with a plenary session of the Fellowship of Elders at an International Assembly, the purpose of which shall be to acquaint the candidate with said Fellowship and *vice versa*.
- G. The official vote for final approval of ordination candidates shall be cast by a plenary session of the Fellowship of Elders.
- H. Once final approval is granted, the candidate shall be ordained in a formal ordination ceremony as outlined in ¶635.

635. The Ordination Ceremony

- A. The ordination ceremony shall occur on the evening of the final full day of Assembly.
- B. An ordinand may request a second formal ceremony performed in another location, provided that a schedule can be agreed upon

and that the candidate underwrites the officiant's travel expenses to and from the ceremony.

- C. The ordination ceremony shall be conducted by the General Superintendent, or by an appointed representative acting in the Superintendent's behalf.
- D. The ordination ceremony shall occur in conjunction with an appropriate Christian service, with the ordination ceremony itself serving as the major focus of the event.
- E. The Ordination ceremony shall consist of at least the following elements:
 - 1. An appropriate biblical message addressing such topics as the call to ministry, and/or the privileges and duties of Christian ministry for the current times.
 - 2. Laying on of hands with prayer for the purpose of ordination of the candidate by members of the Fellowship of Elders,
 - 3. Charging the ordinand with the work of the Christian ministry.
 - 4. Granting authority to the ordinand to perform the work of Christian ministry within IFBC.
 - 5. Presenting the new elder with the Gold Seal Certificate, appropriately signed and sealed with the official IFBC seal.
 - 6. Welcoming the newly ordained elder into the IFBC Fellowship of Elders.

640. Fellowship of Elders

- A. The Fellowship of Elders shall be composed of all elders in good standing within the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc.
- B. The members of the Fellowship of Elders who are present and voting in a duly called plenary session at an International Assembly shall be vested with the final authority to approve all credentialing.

645. The IFBC Course of Study

A. General Outline

Training Sequence A	Training Sequence B	Training Sequence C
NT intro	Pastoral Leadership	Church History
OT Intro	Theology I	Intro to Pastoral Counseling
Intro to Theology Fellowship Foundation	Inductive Bible Study & Exegesis	Theology II
Church Administration	History & Authority of Scripture	Doctrine of Holiness
Preaching I	Preaching II (expository)	Preaching III
Discipling Believers	Evangelism	Exegetical Study - Romans
Apologetics and Worldview I	Apologetics & Worldview II	Approved Elective

- B. The completion of Training Sequence A, or the approved equivalent thereof, is required of applicants for the entry level Minister's License.
- C. Completion of a minimum of 1 course per year in Training Sequences B and C, or an approved equivalent course, is required between Assemblies to maintain the Minister's License.
- D. The completion of Sequences A, B and C, or the approved equivalent thereof, are required prior to ordination.
- E. Courses shall be offered online and normally take about 8 weeks to complete. Lists of materials and fee schedule are available on our website at www.ifbc.org/courseofstudy

650. Ministerial Reports

- A. All ministers credentialed by the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc. shall submit an annual written report to IFBC Credentials Department, along with the annual administrative fee as determined by the ICC.
- B. Ministers shall be allowed 60 days to submit the report after the request has been sent.

650.1. Failure to Report

- A. Should a minister fail to submit the report within 60 days of the request, the following actions shall ensue.
- B. A second letter of request shall be sent to the minister, informing of the missing report and requesting said submission within 30 additional days.
- C. The credentials of any Fellowship minister who has failed to submit an annual report or to pay the annual administrative fee for one year shall be temporarily suspended for non compliance, thus forfeiting the authority valid credentials provide for their ministry. Any related agencies, including but not limited to chaplaincy related agencies shall be informed of the suspension.
- D. After two successive years of non compliance, a minister's IFBC credential shall be forfeited, the credential shall become invalid, and the minister's name shall be dropped from the roll of credentialed ministers.

- E. The minister shall be informed of such action by registered, signature-required letter allowing an additional 30 days from the date of receipt of letter to submit the report.

650.2 Reinstatement of Credentials After Suspension or Drop

- A. Ministry credentials which have been suspended because of one year of non compliance may be reinstated upon meeting the following conditions:
 - 1. Filing the annual report and paying the annual administrative fee within 30 days of notification of suspension.
 - 2. Approval by the General Superintendent upon receipt of the annual report.
 - 3. Any such reinstatement of credentials shall be subject to final approval by a duly called meeting of the Elders of the ICC following the reinstatement.
- B. Any related agencies which have been notified of the earlier suspension shall then be notified of the minister's full reinstatement to good standing.
- C. After being dropped because of two years of non compliance, reinstatement of credentials may be pursued through the normal application process. (See ¶1610).

Chapter Seven

JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION

700. Church Discipline

Recognizing that Scripture mandates the disciplining of wayward members of the body of Christ, it shall be the duty of each local congregation to provide for the discipline of any wayward members or ministers within the congregation. It is fundamental to the convictions of the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc. that (1) the purpose of any discipline administered by the church should be redemptive in every case and that (2) wherever discipline is administered, the church shall apply biblical principles in the matter of church discipline, always seeking to be charitable and to secure the final redemption of the wayward by every possible means. (See Gal.6:1-5).

705. Appellate Court

Recognizing that within the processes of church discipline apparently irreconcilable disagreements arise, and recognizing that Scripture forbids taking one's brother to a court of law made up of unbelievers, the ICC shall appoint and provide for the operation of an appellate court whose duty it shall be to settle disputed matters of discipline of members, ministers, churches and/or member ministries according to the principles outlined in ¶700.

710. Restrictions and Responsibilities

- A. It shall be the duty of the appellate court to act as a review court to determine whether proper judgment has been made regarding church discipline of members or pastors, and regarding the suspension and termination of membership of churches within the International Assembly and/or the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc.
- B. The ICC appellate court shall not conduct court sessions in lieu of or prior to judgment by the local congregation, except in cases where local congregations have no incorporated boards or when

judgments are being made against general level executives in the ICC or when the membership of a church within the International Assembly and/or the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc. is in question.

- C. The ICC appellate court shall make final judgment in all cases appealed to it.
- D. Activities in the appellate court shall conform to the following:
 - 1. All court actions shall be conducted in an orderly manner and in Christian temper, according to the Scriptures.
 - 2. All court decisions shall be based upon Scriptural principle and shall be subservient to it.
 - 3. In all appeals, both the plaintiff and the defendant shall have full right to counsel, provided, however, that such counsel be selected from within the membership or ministry of the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc.
 - 4. Any involvement of counsel beyond such provision shall serve to disqualify an appeal as a church-honored action, and the appellate court shall discontinue proceedings and the case be governed by the stipulations set forth in ¶715, 720, 725, 730, and 735.

715. Termination of Ministerial Relationship by Suspension

- A. In the event a minister shall demonstrate sufficient evidence of departure from the Statement of Faith of the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc., or from Christian morals or ethics, formal written and signed complaint may be brought before the ICC Credentials Committee.
- B. After investigation and upon a two-thirds majority vote, said committee shall reduce complaint to written charges. Such written charges shall be delivered to the accused without undue delay, and the accused shall have thirty days from date of delivery in which to submit to said committee a written answer. Should no response be forthcoming, following the thirtieth day and after further consideration the ICC Credentials Committee may, if it deems advisable, vote by a two-thirds majority to place the member in a state of suspension for a period of not less than six months nor more than a year. However, if such action is not taken, no permanent record

of the case shall be kept. During the period of suspension, the ICC Credentials Committee, or its properly appointed representatives shall faithfully, prayerfully, and tenderly deal with said minister in effort to effect reconciliation and redemption of the minister's relationship to the ministry.

- C. Any suspended minister shall be ineligible to vote, hold office or minister during the period of suspension.
- D. The ICC Credentials Committee, on its own initiative, may reverse its decision for suspension at any time during the period of suspension and the minister be restored to full ministerial relationship immediately.
- E. If at the end of the stipulated suspension period the suspended minister has not shown sufficient evidence of repentance and correction, resulting in the reversal of the decision of the ICC Credentials Committee for suspension, his/her ministerial relationship shall terminate, and his/her name be removed from the roll of elders. However, in such cases, the local church shall determine the church membership status of the minister.
- F. While in suspension a minister may appeal to the ICC appellate court. If the ruling of the ICC Credentials Committee is overruled, the member shall be restored to ministerial relationship according to the decisions, provisions and/or restitutions prescribed by the appellate court.

720. Guarantee of Rights, Disciplinary Action, and Reinstatement Limitations and Privileges

- A. No minister shall be required to enter the state of suspension more than once on the same charge. Succeeding suspension or trial actions must be predicated upon new action by the defendant even though the charge may be identical to one overruled in a previous suspension or trial proceeding.
- B. No person shall be denied the right to face those who shall finalize the judicial action against him/her.
- C. No defendant or plaintiff shall be denied the right to meet and cross-examine all witnesses called upon during a trial proceeding.

- D. Evidence secured from witnesses in a suspension or trial proceeding shall not be considered or received unless such testimony be given under solemn affirmation.
- E. In the event the ministerial relationship is terminated under stipulations set forth in ¶715, or said minister surrenders his credentials rather than face charges or follow trial or suspension proceeding to conclusion, said termination shall be permanent after one year. However, it is herein provided that such termination may be subject to review at a later date.

725. Special Investigative Procedure Regarding Single Signature Charges

If a statement of charges is submitted against an IFBC credentialed minister, signed only by a single person who is involved as an alleged victim or participant, the ICC Credentials Committee shall have the power to appoint an investigative committee to determine the validity of the charges being made. The investigative committee shall be composed of at least three members from the Fellowship of Elders. After sufficient investigation, the committee shall submit a full, written report of findings to the Chairman of the Credentials committee, who shall then refer the matter to the ICC Credentials Committee for an appropriate resolution.

730. Termination of Ministerial Relationship by Default

In the event an ordained elder or licensed minister forfeits his/her local church membership, his/her credentials shall automatically terminate by default.

735. Termination of Membership Within the International Assembly

- A. Should a member church of the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc. give sufficient evidence of departure from the faith and practice of the Fellowship, formal complaint may be brought before the ICC by written document, signed by the plaintiffs describing the alleged departure and submitted to the ICC Credentials Committee. After a formal complaint has been received, the ICC or its duly appointed representative shall

investigate the complaint. After investigation and upon two-thirds vote, said committee shall reduce complaint to written charges. Such written charges shall be delivered to the accused without undue delay, and the accused church shall have thirty days from the date of delivery in which to submit a written response to the ICC. Should no response be forthcoming, following the thirtieth day and after further consideration said commission may, if it deems advisable, vote by two-thirds majority to place the church in a state of suspension for a period not shorter than six months, but not to exceed eighteen months. However, if such action is not taken, no permanent record of the case shall be kept.

- B. Any suspended member church shall be ineligible to vote or to retain officers in any international level office during the period of suspension.
- C. The ICC Credentials Committee, upon its own initiative, may reverse its decisions at any time during the suspension period and the church restored to full membership privileges immediately.
- D. If by end of the designated suspension period the suspended church has not shown sufficient evidence of correction of faith and practice, the ICC Credentials Committee may present the case to the International Coordinating Council for review, after which, the International Coordinating Council may, if it deems advisable, recommend the termination of membership for the suspended church from the International Assembly and/or the International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc.
- E. While in suspension, a member church may appeal the Committee's decision to suspend to the ICC Appellate Court. If the ruling of the ICC Credentials Committee is over-ruled, the church shall be restored to full membership according to the conditions and/or restitutions prescribed by the appellate court upon the member church or the ICC Credentials Committee. Actions against the ICC Credentials Committee shall be subject to ratification by the next International Assembly.

Chapter Eight

BOUNDARIES

800. Quadrants

- A. Quadrants shall be defined as those four sections of the United States and Canada imposed as the result of the following lines and instruction.
- B. A line extending in an east-westerly direction along the southern borders of Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, Nebraska, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia and Maryland shall divide the continental United States into northern and southern portions.
- C. A line extending in a north-southerly direction along the eastern border of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas shall divide the continental United States into eastern and western portions.
- D. The imposition of the lines named above shall form the quadrants. They shall be named the Northwest Quadrant, the Southwest Quadrant, the Northeast Quadrant, and the Southeast Quadrant, according to their relations to the lines and the compass.
- E. The State of Hawaii shall partake of the Southwest Quadrant.
- F. The Dominion of Canada west of the eastern border of the province of Manitoba and the state of Alaska shall partake of the Northwest Quadrant.
- G. The Dominion of Canada east of the eastern border of the Province of Manitoba shall partake of the Northeast Quadrant.