

# Logos Church

## Covenant and Bylaws

This document establishes the covenant and bylaws of Logos Church of Chatsworth, GA.



# Contents

Article I: Statement of Basic Beliefs.....	4
Section 1: Pronomian Distinctives.....	4
I. Autonomy and Leadership of the Local Church.....	5
II. Priesthood of believers.....	6
III. Ordinances.....	7
IV. Individual freedom-responsibility.....	7
V. Saved Church Membership.....	8
VI. Two Church Offices: Pastor/Elder & Deacon.....	8
VII. Separation of Church and State.....	9
Article II: Membership.....	11
Section 1: General.....	11
Section 2: Candidacy.....	11
Section 3: Duties.....	12
Section 4: Rights.....	13
Section 5: Termination.....	13
Section 6: Restoration.....	14
Section 7: Record of Membership.....	14
Article III: Church Organization.....	15
Section 1: General.....	15
Section 2: Church Officers.....	15
I. Senior Pastor.....	16
II. Elders (including other pastors):.....	17
III. Deacons:.....	18
IV. Secretary:.....	19
V. Treasurer:.....	19
VI. Trustees:.....	20
Section 3: Board of Directors.....	21
Section 4: Church Meetings.....	23
Moderator's Role.....	23
Article IV: Church Ministries.....	25
Article V: General.....	26
Section 1: Licensing and Ordination.....	26
Section 2: Adoption of Bylaws.....	26
Section 3: Fiscal Year.....	26
Section 4: Amendments.....	26
Article VI: Logos Church Member Covenant.....	28

The Church Member Covenants to:.....28

- I. Pursue Spiritual Growth..... 28
- II. Maintain Fellowship and Accountability..... 28
- III. Serve Actively.....28
- IV. Uphold Moral Integrity.....28
- V. Exercise Financial Stewardship.....29
- VI. Participate in Mission and Evangelism.....29
- VII. Seek Conflict Resolution..... 29
- VIII. Support Church Leadership.....29
- IX. Commit to Regular Attendance.....29
- X. Devote Time to Prayer..... 29

Article VIII: Amendments..... 31

# Article I: Statement of Basic Beliefs

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## Pronomian Distinctives

Pronomian Christianity stands distinctive in its concerted affirmation and application of biblical truth, embodying a robust synthesis of orthodox Christian beliefs and an intentional adherence to the entire Law of God. At the heart of Pronomian distinctiveness are commitments articulated in the [First Pronomian Statement \(FPS\)](#), underscoring a faith practice that is meticulously comprehensive and unyielding in its theological and moral pursuits. While the **FPS** forms the bedrock of Pronomian Christian belief, Logos Church of Chatsworth further elucidates and extends these fundamental principles within our exhaustive longform confession: [The Reformed Pronomian Confession of Faith \(RPCF\)](#). This confession, steadfastly rooted in the **FPS**, delves deeper into each article and spans additional doctrines, establishing a comprehensive theological framework and serving as the exhaustive confession of our church.

## An Overview of the First Pronomian Statement:

**Canon:** A steadfast belief in the authoritative and divinely-inspired nature of the 66-book canon, concurrently acknowledging its infallibility as the Word of God.

**Nature of God:** An unequivocal adherence to the triune nature of the one true God, asserting His eternal existence as Father, Son, and Spirit.

**The Messiah:** The unwavering affirmation that Jesus of Nazareth is God incarnate, the prophesied Messiah, and the Savior of humankind through His propitiatory sacrifice.

**Mankind:** The recognition of mankind's creation in God's image, yet fallen and intrinsically incapable of self-redemption from sin.

**Salvation:** The assurance that salvation is an unmerited gift, secured solely by grace through faith in Christ, independent of works.

**Commandments:** A committed observance and respect for God's commandments as both a revelation and an expectation of moral conduct.

**The Sabbath:** A dedicated observance of the Sabbath on the seventh day, recognized as a divine institution from creation, celebrated through rest, worship, and fellowship.

**The Church:** The understanding of the Church as the collective of believers tasked with discipleship, baptism, and teaching obedience to God's commandments amidst cultural and societal pressures.

**Marriage:** An unwavering commitment to uphold marriage as a covenantal union, divinely designed to be between one man and one woman, reflecting the covenant between Christ and the Church.

**Names:** Acknowledging that the names of God serve as linguistic placeholders, devoid of impact upon spiritual favor or functionality, while conveying His divine nature.

Pronomian Christians, therefore, not only embrace these tenets but also engage in practices and celebrations, such as Sabbath observance and honoring Biblical festivals, that intertwine to form a faith expression that is both richly historical and vibrantly lived. The preservation and propagation of these distinctives are vital, guiding the ministry and mission endeavors of Logos Church of Chatsworth to build a community rooted in these truths and practices.

## I. **Autonomy and Leadership of the Local Church**

Logos Church of Chatsworth operates under the grace of God, adhering to the principles of the First Pronomian Statement (FPS) and the Reformed Pronomian Confession of Faith (RPCF). Our governance is characterized by a plurality of elders, with one elder—the Senior Pastor—serving in a primary leadership role. This model blends congregational input with elder-led oversight, reflecting both biblical precedent and practical governance:

- **Plurality of Elders:** Consists of a council of qualified elders who oversee the spiritual, doctrinal, and operational aspects of the church. This council ensures that all decisions align with biblical teachings and the church's doctrinal commitments.
- **Role of the Senior Pastor:** While part of the elders, the Senior Pastor holds specific responsibilities for spiritual oversight and church leadership, acting as a guide and primary point of contact for spiritual matters.
- **Congregational Involvement:** Major decisions, including the selection of the Senior Pastor and other elders, require affirmation from the congregation, ensuring that leadership remains accountable and reflects the congregation's consent.
- **Checks and Balances:** Critical decisions, particularly those involving disciplinary actions or doctrinal shifts, require a supermajority vote among the elders, with the congregation informed and involved in major resolutions.

### **Biblical Precedent of Congregational Involvement:**

- **Electing Its Officers:** The early church practiced congregational involvement in selecting its leaders, as seen when deacons were chosen (Acts 6:1-7).
- **Missionary Efforts:** Local churches initiated missionary endeavors, evident when Barnabas and Saul were sent off (Acts 13:1-4).
- **Disciplining Members:** Congregations held the authority for discipline, a mandate provided in Paul's letter to Corinth (1 Corinthians 5:1-5).
- **Resolving Disputes:** Local churches served as the final authority in scriptural disputes, demonstrated in the Jerusalem council (Acts 15).

While congregational involvement is central, Logos Church of Chatsworth recognizes the value of singular leadership, deeply anchored in both Old and New Testaments.

### **Biblical Foundations of Single Leadership:**

- **Adam in the Garden:** Leadership began with Adam in the Garden of Eden. His authority was evident in tasks like naming the animals, symbolizing dominion. The responsibility of the fall is primarily attributed to Adam, underscoring representative leadership. (Romans 5:12)
- **Leadership of Moses:** Moses wielded singular authority, guiding the Israelites through events like the Exodus and receiving the Ten Commandments. (Exodus 33:12)
- **Monarchical Model:** Israel's shift from judges to kings highlighted a singular leadership model. Kings like Saul, David, and Solomon shouldered immense spiritual and administrative roles. (1 Samuel 15:17)
- **Timothy and Titus:** Representing singular leadership in the New Testament, Timothy and Titus held distinct authoritative roles in their churches. (Titus 1:5)
- **Apostolic Model:** Early church practices frequently had individual apostolic figures spearheading leadership in various regions, exemplified by James in Jerusalem. (Galatians 2:9)

### **Distinct Advantages of Single Leadership:**

- **Unified Vision:** A solitary leader embodies a cohesive vision, eliminating potential conflicts that might arise from multiple leaders with equal authority.
- **Direct Communication:** With a singular point of contact, communication is clearer. Members know precisely who to approach with concerns, ensuring that messages from leadership remain undiluted.
- **Efficiency:** A single leader ensures streamlined decision-making, crucial in times of urgency, sidestepping potential decision paralysis often seen in board settings.
- **Consistent Leadership Voice:** A single elder/pastor ensures teachings, directives, and the church vision are delivered consistently, reducing chances of mixed messages.
- **Personal Accountability:** A lone leader can be held directly accountable for decisions, fostering a heightened sense of responsibility to the congregation.
- **Adaptive Capacity:** Singular leadership allows rapid adaptation to changing circumstances, from shifts in community needs to unexpected events.

### **Addressing Challenges of Single Leadership:**

- **Burnout:** While singular leadership can be demanding, biblical principles of rest, delegation, and shared duties can alleviate this. (Mark 6:31)
- **Misuse of Power:** Proper measures of accountability, like seeking counsel and engaging in dialogue with others, can deter potential abuses. (Acts 15:6)

By amalgamating the autonomy of congregational polity with the clarity of the single elder/pastor-led model, Logos Church of Chatsworth ensures agile, purpose-driven governance. This structure, rooted in biblical precedent and historical validation, fosters unity, clarity, and growth, all while emphasizing the

essential tenets of the FPS and the Reformed Pronomian Confession of Faith. Additional details concerning the roles and responsibilities of church offices can be found in **Article III, Section 2**.

## II. Priesthood of Believers

Every born-again believer has direct access to God through Jesus Christ, as emphasized in the New Testament scriptures. This principle, known as the Priesthood of Believers, is based on the teaching that Christ's sacrificial act on the cross (Hebrews 10:19-20) has granted all believers the privilege to directly commune with God, eliminating the need for a human intermediary.

The New Testament highlights this direct relationship, contrasting it with Old Testament practices where only selected priests could approach the Holy of Holies. Specifically, Revelation 1:5-6 and 1 Peter 2:1-10 serve as foundational texts underscoring this doctrine. In this light, the confession of sins, prayer, and other spiritual interactions by believers are directly with God, not through any human representative.

While this direct access is a significant privilege, it also comes with responsibilities. Believers must be mindful of potential hindrances to this relationship, such as personal sin, doubt, or other barriers. Overcoming these obstacles is crucial to maintaining a clear and direct relationship with God. Furthermore, as part of this priestly function, each believer is encouraged to intercede in prayer for others and actively engage in sharing the gospel message with the world.

## III. Ordinances

In Logos Church, ordinances are revered as divine markers and affirmations of God's covenant of grace. These ordinances, having been established directly by God, function as vivid representations of Christ's blessings and His work in the lives of believers. They serve multiple purposes:

- **Confirmation of Relationship:** ordinances affirm and confirm our individual and collective relationship with Christ (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).
- **Distinctive Mark:** They provide a visible distinction between the community of believers in Logos Church and the broader world, underscoring the uniqueness of our faith and commitment.
- **Solemn Dedication:** Ordinances are avenues through which individuals solemnly dedicate themselves to serve God, honoring the teachings and example of Christ.

It is vital to understand that the inherent power of ordinances does not stem from the rites themselves or from the individual administering them. Their true efficacy is anchored in the Spirit's work and the foundational word of their institution. This establishes them not as mere rituals but as experiences of faith where the physical act is deeply connected to its spiritual significance.

Logos Church recognizes all ritual observances and celebrations instituted by God in His Word as ordinances. While baptism and the Lord's Supper are commonly practiced, we also acknowledge other divinely instituted observances throughout scriptures, such as the Festivals of the Lord (Leviticus 23). Each of these rituals provides a unique opportunity for believers to engage with and contemplate the divine truths they symbolize.

Furthermore, while there is an evident distinction between the ordinances of the Old and New Testaments, both sets are unified in their core message. They serve to underline the consistent thread of God's promise throughout history, culminating in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Colossians 2:17; Hebrews 9:8-15). Considering this, the local church is the sole administrator of the ordinances of the Lord.

#### **IV. Individual freedom-responsibility**

At Logos Church, we emphasize the sanctity of individual freedom under the broader umbrella of divine guidance. While some might term it "soul liberty," this freedom is neither an endorsement of unchecked self-will nor an encouragement towards lawlessness. Instead, it's a spiritual acknowledgment, echoing the sentiments of passages like 1 John 2:27 and Romans 14:5. This divine freedom, however, doesn't stand isolated; it is intrinsically tied to responsibility. As expressed in Ephesians 4:7, grace is not a blanket blessing but is uniquely imparted to each believer.

This notion of individual freedom and responsibility is vividly illustrated in Acts 5:29 – we are always to prioritize obedience to God over obedience to men. Yet, while cherishing this freedom, we are concurrently mindful of the immense responsibility and accountability that comes with it. We believe every believer has been crafted uniquely by the Creator; no two individuals are entirely alike. This individuality is further emphasized in the gifts we receive: spiritual gifts are personally bestowed (1 Corinthians 12:7,11,27), and judgments are rendered individually (Revelation 20:11-15).

Logos Church staunchly opposes any externally imposed forms of worship or obedience. Yet, we ardently advocate for the freedom and responsibility of every believer to be obedient to God, both individually and collectively as a congregation. Our stance is clear: while freedom in Christ is a divine gift, it comes with the grave responsibility of aligning our actions and decisions with God's will as expressed in Holy Scripture.

#### **V. Saved Church Membership**

Logos Church firmly upholds the doctrine of saved church membership. Entrance into the local congregation is reserved for individuals who openly confess Christ as Lord and Savior, exhibit a readiness to follow Him in baptism, and resonate with the core doctrines of the church, echoing the commitment and practices of the early church as witnessed in Acts 2:41-42,47. The term "church," while occasionally referring to the universal body of Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23), is predominantly used in the New Testament to signify a local assembly. It is our conviction that local assemblies, like Logos Church, should be organized and operate in harmony with the foundational teachings of the New Testament.

As a part of a newly established movement within the broader Christian community, Logos Church is committed to setting a strong foundation of integrity and doctrinal fidelity in our local assembly. We uphold the principles of saved church membership with dedication, striving to ensure that our community not only reflects the sanctity expected of followers of Christ but also serves as a model for future Pronomian churches. Through rigorous adherence to our core doctrines and practices, we are pioneering a legacy of faithfulness and purity in worship and community life.



## **VI. Two Church Offices: Pastor/Elder & Deacon**

Logos Church affirms the biblical structure of two primary offices within the local assembly: the Pastor/Elder and the Deacon.

At the forefront of Logos Church's leadership structure stands a single Pastor/Elder who provides the primary spiritual direction and oversight for the congregation. This central Pastor/Elder role is pivotal in ensuring the spiritual vitality, growth, and well-being of the community. However, the church also acknowledges and values the role of other individuals who serve as Elders. These Elders play a vital role in teaching, offering wisdom, guidance, and support in the governance and spiritual direction of the church.

The titles "Pastor," "Bishop," and "Elder" are viewed synonymously within Logos Church, each illuminating different facets of this esteemed office. The term "Elder" speaks to the maturity and experience needed for the role (I Timothy 3:6). "Bishop" or "Overseer" denotes the duty of oversight and guidance within the local congregation. "Pastor," often likened to a shepherd, reflects the nurturing, guiding, and protective role taken on for the spiritual health of the congregation, as evidenced in scriptures such as I Peter 5:1-4, Philippians 1:1, and Titus 1:5-7.

The criteria for the office of Pastor/Elder are comprehensive, including moral, spiritual, and character qualifications (I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9). Additionally, essential are specific attitudes (II Timothy 2:24-26), doctrinal training (Titus 1:9, II Timothy 3:16-17), and ordination (I Timothy 4:14, 5:22, Titus 1:5). Their primary duties encompass preaching, evangelizing, teaching, leadership, diligent work, prayer, and discipleship. The Pastor/Elder is committed to guiding Logos Church according to Scripture, fostering a deep-rooted, godly living among its members.

The role of "Deacon" is centered on service, as the name inherently suggests. Their qualifications focus on moral and spiritual attributes (Acts 6:27, I Timothy 3:7-13). In Logos Church, deacons attend to the tangible needs of the community and aid the Pastor/Elder, ensuring a seamless blend of spiritual and practical aspects of church life.

## **VII. Integration of Church and State in Pursuit of Godly Governance**

Logos Church holds a foundational belief that while the church and the state are distinct institutions with unique roles and responsibilities, they are both divinely ordained to function under the lordship of Christ. This conviction is deeply rooted in the teachings of Scripture, particularly as demonstrated in Matthew 22:17-22, where Christ delineates the responsibilities owed to God and to governing authorities.

God has established three primary institutions, each bearing unique responsibilities: the home, initiated in Genesis 2:20-25; the government, highlighted in Romans 13:1; and the church, established in Matthew 16:18. The duties towards these institutions are designed to complement rather than conflict with one another. Christians are called to not only recognize but also actively influence their governments, promoting legislation that aligns with God's Law as revealed in Scripture (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17; 1 Timothy 2:1-6).

Logos Church is committed to advocating for governance that reflects God's justice and righteousness, reminiscent of the Christian abolitionist movement in the 19th century which championed the abolition of slavery through legislative change. We believe that part of fulfilling the Great Commission to "make disciples of all nations" includes influencing lawmakers and legal systems to uphold Biblical values.

While acknowledging the historical concept of church-state separation as practiced in the United States, which seeks to prevent the establishment of a state religion and guarantees religious freedom, Logos Church advocates for a proactive role of the church in guiding the state towards laws that uphold Biblical morality and justice. This does not mean merging church and state into a single entity, but rather promoting a cooperative relationship where each respects the influence of the other in advancing the common good according to God's will.

It is our position that while the church should not wield political power, it should not shy away from its responsibility to speak prophetically to the state, advocating for laws and policies that reflect divine justice and the sanctity of life. This approach ensures that both institutions can fulfill their God-given purposes, serving society holistically and righteously.

Logos Church remains vigilant against models of governance that would conflate the church's spiritual authority with state power, such as state churches or the direct funding of religious institutions by the government. We believe in maintaining the integrity of both church and state, ensuring that each operates within its God-ordained sphere to promote a society governed by truth and justice.

# Article II: Membership

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## Section 1: General

Logos Church operates as a sovereign congregation under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, guided by the principles and teachings outlined in the First Pronomian Statement (FPS) and Reformed Pronomian Confession of Faith (RPCF). Logos Church holds the ultimate authority and right to self-governance in every aspect of its spiritual and temporal life.

It is within the sole discretion of the church to define and determine the criteria for membership within Logos Church. This includes the conditions and requirements for entry, maintenance, and exit from the membership.

In the unfortunate event of a division within the church leading to a vote for congregation separation, any and all properties and assets held by Logos Church shall remain in the possession of the majority faction. However, if it's discerned that the majority faction is deviating from the core tenets and teachings of the church's doctrine as specified in the First Pronomian Statement (FPS) and the Reformed Pronomian Confession of Faith, the properties, including the chapel and any associated trust funds, will not automatically be allocated based on majority. Such criteria exist to ensure the lasting commitment of Logos Church to its foundational beliefs and practices.

## Section 2: Candidacy

The membership of Logos Church is composed of individuals who openly profess Jesus Christ, God-incarnate, as their Savior and Lord. To be considered for membership, individuals must:

1. Acknowledge the triune God—God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit—as the one true God, and proclaim Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.
2. Undergo examination by Logos Church regarding their Christian journey. If migrating from a church of similar faith<sup>1</sup>, they should provide a letter of recommendation or an acceptable alternative.
3. Have undergone baptism.
4. Attend the Logos Church Membership Information Class.
5. Commit to the church covenant.
6. Receive approval via an affirmative vote from the church membership.

For an individual to join, they must first consult with an elder. Upon unanimous agreement from the Elders about his or her eligibility, the individual will be introduced to the congregation for membership consideration. Subsequently, the individual must attend the Membership Information Class, agree to the membership covenant, and commit to uphold the church's By-Laws and policies.

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<sup>1</sup> A church with "similar faith" will be identified at the discretion of the senior pastor.

The Elders will announce a date for the membership presentation at least 7 days in advance. If any concerns or objections arise during this period, they are directed to the Elders for consideration.

Membership confirmation is ceremonial, resembling wedding vows. The presiding elder will address the congregation, allowing any objections. If multiple members raise concerns, the membership process might be postponed, but it's crucial to address and resolve these issues before the ceremony. In the absence of dissent, the elder will seek the candidate's commitment to the church and its teachings. Following this, the congregation will be asked to accept the candidate as part of the Logos Church family, signifying their vote of approval.

## **Section 3: Duties**

Members recognized in harmony with Logos Church are called upon to consistently demonstrate their faithfulness and commitment to the church. As such:

- Every member is expected to pursue a life in obedience to God's Word and the teachings of the Logos Church.
- Regular attendance at church services is a testament to one's devotion and connection with the community.
- Members are encouraged to contribute willingly to the church's sustenance, remembering that such contributions are a reflection of their gratitude and commitment to God's work and a modern application of the laws concerning tithes and offerings.
- Active participation in church ministries is vital. It's not just a duty but an opportunity to serve, grow, and bond with fellow believers.

A lapse in these duties, exceeding three consecutive months without adequate communication, will result in the member being regarded as no longer in harmony with the church. As a result, they will temporarily lose the rights detailed in Section 4. Reinstatement to a harmonious status requires the individual to reconnect with the congregation and obtain the affirmation of the church Elders. The Elders hold the discretion to define what constitutes "adequate communication" and the criteria for re-establishing one's harmonious status.

## **Section 4: Rights**

Members aged 18 and above, in harmony with the Logos Church as described in Section 3, and who are not undergoing any form of spiritual guidance or correction, are granted the following privileges:

- Participation in the various ministries that the church offers.
- Voting rights in church congregational meetings.
- The opportunity to hold church offices and roles.
- The privilege to lead, serve, and guide others as explained by the teachings of Scripture.

## Section 5: Termination

Membership of Logos Church may be terminated under the following circumstances:

- The death of the member.
- Dismission upon confirmation that the member has joined a different church from any denomination.
- Exclusion resulting from a disciplinary process rooted in the church's scriptural guidance (Matthew 18:15-22).
- A formal written request submitted by the member seeking termination.
- An extended absence from church services, spanning a period of 24 months, unless the member is providentially impeded from attending (Hebrews 10:24-25).
- Other circumstances as agreed upon by a majority decision of the Elders.

Should there be any disagreements or reservations regarding membership termination, such matters will be directed to the church Elders for a thorough examination and a conclusive recommendation.

Specifically addressing the disciplinary process: if any member poses a persistent disturbance to the church, either through behaviors that conflict with Christian morals, a consistent breach of covenant vows, or actions that reflect unrepentant worldly desires (Galatians 5:19-21 and 1 Corinthians 6:9-10), the church may terminate the membership. However, this decision will only come after due notice (with a minimum duration of 3 months, ultimately left to the discretion of the Elders) and sincere efforts to guide the member towards repentance and rectification, consistent with Matthew 18:15-17.

Members of Logos Church collectively concur that there will be no appeals to external legal systems or courts in the aftermath of a termination due to church discipline or any associated public declarations to the congregation.

Moreover, if a member chooses to depart from Logos Church during a disciplinary phase or subsequent to a membership termination, and then commences attendance at another church, the Elders or their appointed spokesperson, upon being contacted by the new church, hold the right to notify them of the individual's ongoing or past disciplinary status and the reasons leading to it. The chief intention behind such communication is the sincere hope of fostering genuine repentance and holistic restoration for the individual, aligning with the teachings of 1 Corinthians 5:1-13, 2 Thessalonians 3:6-14, 2 Timothy 2:16-18, and 3 John 9-10.

## Section 6: Restoration

Any person whose membership has been terminated may be restored upon evidence of his/her repentance and reformation by recommendation of the Elders and affirmative majority vote of the church.

## **Section 7: Record of Membership**

The designated secretary of Logos Church is responsible for maintaining a comprehensive and accurate list of all current members. This register will also include, to the greatest extent feasible, current addresses, attendance records, and any additional pertinent details as deemed necessary. This record ensures transparency, accountability, and effective communication within the church body.

# Article III: Church Organization

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## Section 1: General

Logos Church operates as a spiritual entity and also adheres to its status as a non-profit corporation, in accordance with the legal requirements of the State of Georgia. Always guided by the authority of the Scriptures, the church also recognizes its obligations to duly established public governance, as emphasized in Romans 13:1-7. The organizational structure of the church has been designed to facilitate the smooth and orderly execution of its various activities and to serve its congregation efficiently.

## Section 2: Church Officers

Logos Church recognizes distinct roles and responsibilities for its officers, categorizing them as either **Ministerial** or **Administrative** in nature.

**Ministerial Officers** comprise the following:

- **Elders:** Rooted in the teachings of the early church, elders hold a vital position in our congregation. Drawing from Paul's counsel to the Ephesian elders in Acts 20:27-28, they are entrusted with understanding the entirety of God's council, overseeing the spiritual health of the congregation, and pastoring – tending to the spiritual needs and direction of the church. The criteria for selecting elders are rigorous, reflecting the standards outlined in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.
- **Deacons:** Serving as extensions of the elders, deacons assist in various ministerial duties, ensuring the smooth functioning of the church's activities.
- **Treasurer:** Entrusted with the church's finances, the treasurer ensures transparent and responsible fiscal management in line with the church's vision and needs.
- **Secretary:** Responsible for the church's documentation, minutes, and official correspondence, the secretary aids in preserving the integrity and history of the church's operations and decisions.

**Administrative Officers** are essential for the non-ministerial operations of the church and include:

- **Trustees:** Guardians of the church's physical assets, trustees ensure the proper maintenance and judicious use of church property.
- **Moderator:** Acting as a neutral facilitator during church meetings, the moderator ensures discussions remain productive and aligned with the church's values and objectives.
- **Board of Directors:** This group holds the responsibility of steering the church in its broader administrative direction, making decisions about long-term goals, infrastructure, and other non-spiritual matters.

Together, these officers ensure that Logos Church remains spiritually nourishing, administratively efficient, and in compliance with both biblical teachings and contemporary needs.

#### **I. Senior Pastor:**

A Senior Pastor is to be appointed for an indefinite period of time by recommendation by the pulpit committee and majority vote of the church.

#### **Role and Designation**

The Senior Pastor serves as both the spiritual and organizational leader of Logos Church. Recognized as an elder, the Senior Pastor functions as the foremost spiritual guide for the congregation and other elders. This unique position entails additional responsibilities beyond those common to all elders.

#### **Appointment and Tenure**

The Senior Pastor is appointed based on a recommendation from the pulpit committee and requires affirmation through a majority vote from the church membership. This role does not have a fixed term and is intended to last indefinitely. Either the Senior Pastor or the church can decide to conclude this appointment, but a thirty-day notice is mandatory. Should the church wish to dissolve this relationship, a two-thirds majority vote from the membership is required. The proposal to end the pastor's tenure must originate from a current elder and receive support via a second from another serving elder before any voting occurs. In particular circumstances, the Elders reserve the right to render this termination immediate based on their collective judgment.

#### **Responsibilities**

- **Spiritual Oversight:** As the primary spiritual leader, the Senior Pastor is tasked with guiding the growth and direction of the church membership and its elder body. This requires a steadfast commitment to applying and teaching God's Word without compromise.
- **Leadership:** Unless otherwise delegated, the Senior Pastor will also serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the corporation and Chairman of the Board.
- **Staff Management:** All ministerial staff, ministerial assistant staff, and other church employees report to the Senior Pastor, either directly or through his appointed representative. The Senior Pastor has the authority to realign, replace, or remove staff positions as deemed necessary.

#### **Vacancy and Succession**

Should the position of Senior Pastor fall vacant, the Elders will assume responsibility for interim pulpit duties and will form the Pulpit Committee. This committee will diligently assess potential candidates, ensuring they meet the scriptural criteria from 1 Timothy 3. Once a suitable candidate is identified, the church membership will vote, with only one candidate considered at a time. A minimum of a two-thirds majority approval is necessary for the candidate to be acknowledged as the new Senior Pastor. Following acceptance, the new Senior Pastor will assume leadership duties promptly.



## Compensation

As instructed in 1 Timothy 5:17-18, the Senior Pastor will receive compensation for his service. This package, decided by the Board of Directors without the Senior Pastor's involvement, will align with the church's budgetary constraints. It will incorporate a housing allowance, as stipulated by IRS publication 517, and should be generous but not excessive.

## II. Elders (including other pastors):

Elders play a pivotal role in the spiritual and administrative functions of Logos Church. They provide spiritual leadership, oversee the congregation's well-being, and partner with the Senior Pastor in ensuring the church's spiritual health and growth.

### Appointment and Criteria

- **Ordination:** Elders are ordained men (see section [V.1](#)) who have passed the ordination process set forth by this church.
- **Eligibility:** Men may either express their interest or be approached by a current elder for the role, provided they fulfill the scriptural qualifications detailed in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 and heed the exhortation of 1 Peter 5:1-4.
- **Function:** Elders are responsible for spiritually guiding the congregation, specifically in teaching and leading in spiritual matters.
- **Integrity:** They uphold the integrity of the church by acting as spiritual beacons for the congregation and overseeing church discipline as required.
- **Collaboration:** Elders regularly collaborate with the Senior Pastor, recognizing him as an elder and the primary leader of the elder group.

### Number and Succession

- **Determination:** The number of elders is determined based on the needs and total membership of the church.
- **Appointment:** Elders are appointed by their fellow elders after a successful two-thirds vote of approval by the members of the church.
- **Vacancy Scenario:** Should the position of Senior Pastor be vacant and no elders are present, a pulpit committee will be constituted from the church membership. This committee will seek a new Senior Pastor based on scriptural qualifications and these Bylaws. Once appointed, the Senior Pastor will subsequently appoint elders as required.

### Responsibilities and Compensation

- **Duties:** While elders may serve in multiple capacities, they must at least aid in teaching, supervising discipleship, and maintaining discipline within the church.
- **Compensation:** Elders who exert considerable effort in preaching and teaching should be fairly compensated, as noted in 1 Timothy 5:17-18. The compensation principles applied to the Senior Pastor should extend to them. Recommendations for such compensation may come from the Senior Pastor or any other church officer.

### III. Deacons:

#### Role and Definition

Deacons, in line with the New Testament depiction (1 Timothy 3:8-13), are servants within the church. They function in tandem with the Elders, providing them with the necessary support to lead and teach the congregation effectively.

#### Duties and Responsibilities

- **Primary Duties:** Deacons primarily manage church meals, maintenance of church grounds and infrastructure, coordinating services and meetings, and overseeing other non-spiritual ministries within the church.
- **Extended Ministries:** While their primary role doesn't encompass teaching, preaching, prayer, or worship, this doesn't bar deacons from engaging in other ministries according to their talents. They can also delegate tasks to suitable church members.
- **Specific Services:** Their roles include serving the Lord's Supper, assisting with baptisms, attending to the elderly, widows, and those with particular needs through visitations and other suitable means. They also function as ushers, greeters, parking assistants, and other auxiliary roles as the need arises.

#### Women as Deaconesses

- The office of deacon is reserved for men who fulfill the qualifications required in Scripture (1 Timothy 2:8-13).

#### Appointment and Number

- The number of deacons is determined based on both the church's requirements and its total membership. The elders will identify the church's needs concerning deacons and recommend this to the church membership for consideration.
- To be elected as a deacon, one must be a member in good standing, fulfill the qualifications and expectations of this section, and secure a majority vote from the church body during an official business meeting.

#### Other Church Roles

- Every church officer should embody the qualities of a deacon. Aside from the established officer roles, additional roles such as Sabbath School Administrator, Hospitality Coordinator, and others might be established. If these roles possess official authority over church resources or ministries, they essentially function as deacon roles. As such, individuals assuming these roles should be evaluated against the deacon's expectations.

#### **IV. Secretary:**

##### **Election and Term**

The Secretary shall be elected annually by the church membership. This role primarily addresses administrative requirements including, but not limited to, communication, recordkeeping, and operational resources.

##### **Duties and Responsibilities**

- **Membership Records:** The Secretary is entrusted with maintaining an up-to-date record of the church membership. This includes documenting the acceptance of new members, noting the departure of existing members, and tracking the overall standing of all church members.
- **Communication and Supplies:** The Secretary oversees all internal church communications. This responsibility spans a range of tasks such as managing bulletin boards, producing handouts, and ensuring the availability and distribution of other church-wide communications or consumable materials.
- **Documentation of Meetings:** The Secretary is charged with the task of recording minutes during church and board meetings, ensuring that all decisions, discussions, and points of note are accurately documented for future reference.
- **Delegation:** While the Secretary can delegate specific tasks as deemed necessary, the ultimate responsibility for their completion lies with the Secretary. This delegation should be strategic, ensuring that tasks are assigned to those most qualified and ensuring that the church's administrative functions run smoothly and efficiently.

##### **Reporting and Accountability**

The Secretary will regularly liaise with the Board of Directors and will attend to any additional administrative requirements that the board identifies. This collaborative approach ensures that the church's administrative functions are always aligned with its broader mission and goals.

#### **V. Treasurer:**

##### **Election and Term**

The Treasurer shall be elected annually by the church membership. This role primarily focuses on the financial responsibilities and stewardship of church resources.

##### **Duties and Responsibilities**

- **Financial Oversight:** The Treasurer oversees all financial transactions of the church, ensuring the proper tracking of income and expenses, managing bank deposits and withdrawals, and any other financial operations necessary for the church's business and ministry functions.
- **Handling and Depositing Funds:** Working collaboratively with the deacons, the Treasurer ensures that all offerings and other income sources are safely collected, handled, and deposited in a timely manner.

## Financial Reporting:

- **Quarterly Reports:** The Treasurer is responsible for preparing and presenting financial reports on a quarterly basis for the Board of Directors and the ministry leaders. These reports will provide a snapshot of the church's financial health and offer insights into areas of potential improvement.
- **Annual Reports:** An annual financial report is to be prepared by the Treasurer for the church membership. This report aims to maintain transparency and promote accountability in the management of church funds. It should be comprehensive yet easy to understand.
- **Budgeting:** Annually, the Treasurer will take the lead in preparing a church budget. This process involves gathering input from ministry leaders about their needs and examining past expenditures. After careful consideration, a proposed budget will be presented to the Board of Directors and the Elders. It is imperative that the budget reflects wise stewardship of church resources and aligns with the church's mission and goals. The final budget proposal will undergo a vote by the Board of Directors in January and will be shared with the church membership for review in February.
- **Delegation:** The Treasurer is empowered to delegate specific tasks as necessary. However, as with other church officers, the Treasurer retains ultimate responsibility for ensuring the successful completion of these tasks.

## Reporting and Accountability

The Treasurer shall be in regular communication with the Board of Directors, ensuring all financial activities align with the church's strategic objectives and values. The Treasurer also works closely with ministry leaders, providing them with relevant financial insights to guide their decision-making. This collaboration ensures responsible and effective financial stewardship for the betterment of the church and its mission.

## VI. Trustees:

### Definition and Role

Trustees are the official legal representatives of the church in all matters related to its property and financial instruments. Their primary role is to safeguard and manage the tangible and intangible assets of the church, ensuring that they are used appropriately for the mission and vision of the church.

### Selection and Tenure

- **Eligibility:** Trustees must be church members in good standing. Their selection should be based on their proven trustworthiness, integrity, demonstrated Christian character, and capability in handling responsibilities of a fiduciary nature.
- **Appointment:** Trustees are appointed through an election process involving the church body.
- **Term:** Trustees will serve a term of three years. A trustee may choose to step down before the end of their term or may be removed by a majority vote of the board of directors due to mishandling of church property or any concerns regarding their capacity to fulfill their duties.

## **Key Responsibilities**

- **Legal Representation:**
  - Trustees have the authority to execute, on behalf of the church, various legal documents such as deeds, mortgages, liens, leases, and other documents as required. They also represent the church in any litigation matters, either instigated by or against the church.
- **Financial Management:**
  - Receive, manage, and disburse funds in line with the terms of wills, bequests, and special instruments where the church is named the beneficiary.
  - Sell any real or personal property bequeathed to the church through wills or other instruments.
  - Oversee and, if necessary, authorize financial loans to ensure the continuity and purpose of the church's mission.

## **Delegation of Duties**

While trustees hold the ultimate responsibility for their tasks, they may choose to delegate certain responsibilities to the church staff for execution or coordination, as they deem appropriate.

## **Accountability**

Trustees are accountable to the church body and the board of directors. Regular reports and updates about their activities should be provided to ensure transparency and maintain the confidence of the church members in the stewardship of the church's assets.

## **Closing Remark**

The role of a trustee is pivotal in ensuring the church's assets, both tangible and intangible, are managed with integrity and foresight. Their service ensures the church's mission can continue unhindered, and they serve as a vital link between the church's spiritual goals and its practical realities.

## **Section 3: Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors, hereafter referred to as "The Board," serves as the administrative oversight body of Logos Church, focusing primarily on the non-spiritual aspects of church governance. This includes management of property, legal compliance, and financial accountability. The Board ensures that all administrative actions align with the church's mission and values as set forth by the doctrinal leadership of the elders.

## Composition

- **Membership:** Composed of trusted church members including trustees, and possibly an elder and a deacon to provide linkage to the spiritual leadership. The roles of Treasurer and/or Secretary can be part of this Board to streamline financial and administrative communication.
- **Quorum:** A minimum of two board members are required for decision-making processes to ensure adequate representation and accountability.

## Key Responsibilities

- **Committee Oversight:** Manages the church's physical assets and financial operations, ensuring integrity and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- **Committee Formation:** While the Board can establish committees for specific tasks (such as building maintenance or financial auditing), these committees operate under the policies set forth by the elders.
- **Delegation:** May delegate certain operational tasks to church staff or volunteers, under the framework established by the elders.
- **Quarterly Meetings:** Conducts regular reviews of the church's administrative health, financial status, and compliance with strategic goals.
  - Reviewing the church's financial health, with the Treasurer presenting the necessary reports.
  - Assessing the ministry status and the church's trajectory.
  - Reviewing decision notes and records presented by the Secretary.
  - Hearing updates or presentations from other key individuals as required.
- **Delegation:** May delegate certain operational tasks to church staff or volunteers, under the framework established by the elders.

## Accountability

The Board of Directors remains accountable not only to the elder council but also to the entire church body. This accountability is crucial to maintaining the trust of the congregation and ensuring that all administrative decisions align with the church's mission and spiritual commitments.

Transparency is key; therefore, the Board will provide regular updates and comprehensive reports on their stewardship of the church's resources and administrative decisions to the church membership. These communications help foster a collaborative environment and ensure that the congregation remains well-informed about the church's operational health.

## Closing Remark

The Board of Directors holds a pivotal role in ensuring that Logos Church operates within a framework of sound administration and robust fiscal management. While their responsibilities are primarily in the realm of the tangible aspects of church management, they perform their duties under the spiritual guidance of the elder council.

This role demands a high level of operational insight, financial acumen, and an unwavering commitment to the church's mission. The Board's work, though primarily administrative, is vital to freeing up the elder council to focus on spiritual guidance and pastoral care, thereby supporting the church's overall mission to serve and grow its community in faith.

## Section 4: Church Meetings

Church meetings serve as pivotal platforms for spiritual nourishment and administrative functions. They are categorized into spiritual and business-focused meetings, each with distinct objectives and oversight.

Church meetings are separated into two categories: **spiritual** and **business**.

- **Spiritual Meetings:** Centered on spiritual enrichment and led by elders.
- **Business Meetings:** Concerned with administrative and operational affairs and overseen by the Board of Directors.

Deacons play a central role in facilitating both kinds of meetings. They manage logistics, ensure smooth proceedings, and can delegate responsibilities to other church members when needed.

### Moderator's Role

- **Definition:** The Moderator orchestrates the flow and activities of the meeting, ensuring it remains on course and addresses all listed agenda items.
- **Appointment:**
  - For spiritual meetings, the default Moderator is the Senior Pastor. However, he has the liberty to assign an elder or, in certain situations, a church member to preside over the meeting.
  - For business meetings, the Moderator can be the Senior Pastor, a board member, the Treasurer, or a trustee. The Secretary is typically exempt from this role to avoid any conflicting duties.

### Spiritual Meetings:

- **Frequency:** The congregation assembles weekly for communal worship and spiritual activities.
- **Objective:** These meetings are platforms for worship, prayer, scripture study, evangelism, and other spiritual engagements.
- **Scheduling:** The timing and dates for spiritual meetings are determined by the elders.

### Business Meetings:

- **Definition:** Business meetings handle the operational and administrative facets of the church.

- **Frequency:** There will be biannual business meetings in February and August, with other meetings being scheduled as needed. Additionally, three or more church members can initiate a request for a business meeting.
- **Announcement:** If a decision necessitates a vote, the reason and date of the meeting must be publicized at least two weeks in advance.
- **Agenda:** Business meetings can cater to various agendas including, but not limited to:
  - Appointing or voting on deacons and other officers.
  - Voting on the Senior Pastor's appointment or removal.
  - Proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws.
  - Membership considerations.
  - Financial reviews, including annual general church budget and missions' budget presentations.
  - Any other topic deemed crucial by the Board for congregational approval.
- **Voting:** Issues presented at business meetings usually require a majority vote from attendees for approval, except when explicitly stated otherwise in these Bylaws.
- **Quorum:** Members present during a scheduled or regular church business meeting are considered a legal quorum.

Church meetings, both spiritual and business-oriented, are crucial to the harmonious functioning and spiritual nourishment of the congregation. Proper facilitation, direction, and structure ensure their effectiveness and alignment with the church's mission and values.



# Article IV: Church Ministries

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Church ministries are the tangible extensions of the church's mission, deeply rooted in the guiding principles outlined in the Church Covenant, the FPS, and the RPCF. Every ministry, while aiming to serve, nurture, and evangelize, must align with these foundational guidelines to ensure consistent doctrinal and ethical integrity throughout the church's outreach.

Under the vigilant oversight of the Senior Pastor, ministries function seamlessly, though he may delegate specific church staff members for more specialized attention to certain areas. This structure not only ensures a dedicated focus on each ministry but also fosters accountability and robust management. Every ministry must operate transparently and ethically, upholding the values and vision of the church.

To maintain clarity and organization, a Directory of Church Ministries is housed within the church office. This directory lists each ministry, outlining its objective and the individual responsible for its leadership. While these leaders have the autonomy to structure their respective ministries, the overarching framework and decisions must receive the Senior Pastor's endorsement, ensuring alignment with the broader vision of the church. Through this organized approach, the church ensures that each ministry functions effectively, reflecting the church's values and serving the congregation and community faithfully.

# Article V: General

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## Section 1: Licensing and Ordination

Ordination in the church is a sacred process, ensuring that individuals who step into roles of spiritual leadership are genuinely called by God and exhibit the qualities outlined in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. Any man who believes he has this divine calling, or is identified by an elder as possessing the potential and spiritual giftings for ordination, can express his desire to be ordained.

Recognizing that spiritual readiness and integration into church life can vary significantly from person to person, Logos Church does not strictly prescribe a fixed timeframe for the ordination process. Instead, we implement a flexible period of evaluation to ensure candidates are not only called but are also thoroughly equipped for such pivotal roles. This period of evaluation typically ranges from one to two years of active church membership, during which candidates undergo careful observation and assessment by the elders.

If a candidate has been previously ordained by another congregation of like faith, this ordination may be recognized, provided the elders are fully convinced of the candidate's genuine calling and the authenticity of the previous ordination. This acknowledgment of prior ordination aims to respect the spiritual journey and ministerial experiences that the individual brings to our community.

When the elders determine that a man possesses the requisite spiritual, moral, and leadership qualities and is genuinely called to serve, they will rigorously examine the candidate's qualifications. Upon confirmation, the candidate will be presented to the church membership for approval, requiring a two-thirds majority vote for ordination. Once approved, the Senior Pastor will conduct a public ordination ceremony in the presence of the congregation. This solemn event marks the candidate's formal induction into his ministerial role, entrusting him with the responsibility to lead and nurture the spiritual growth of the church body.

## Section 2: Adoption of Bylaws

On January 1, 2024, the Senior Pastor adopted these By-Laws, marking a pivotal step in the church's governance and operations. Subsequently, the church congregation gave its affirmation on January 1, 2024, with a unanimous vote underscoring their collective support and agreement. This adoption effectively nullifies any prior rules that are inconsistent with these By-Laws.

## Section 3: Fiscal Year

The church hereby adopts the calendar year as its fiscal year.

## Section 4: Amendments

To ensure that the Constitution and the Bylaws remain responsive and adaptable, the following process for making amendments has been established:

- Any member in good standing is empowered to propose amendments, which they can present to the Board of Directors.
- Acting as the official amendment committee, the Board will evaluate and decide on which proposed amendments to bring forth to the church congregation.
- Once the Board approves an amendment, a written statement detailing the proposed changes will be distributed to the membership. This will be done a minimum of ten days before a scheduled church business meeting where the amendment will be voted upon.
- For an amendment to be adopted, it requires the endorsement of at least two-thirds of the members present at the meeting, ensuring a broad consensus for any changes made.

# Article VI: Logos Church Member Covenant

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Joining Logos Church involves entering into a covenant with every member of the congregation. This covenant signifies a commitment to live out our faith collectively and supportively. As members of Logos Church, individuals and the community together embrace the responsibilities and blessings of this sacred partnership.

## The Church Member Covenants to:

### 1. Pursue Spiritual Growth

- Engage in regular study of the Scriptures. (2 Timothy 2:15)
- Commit to prayer. (Philippians 4:6-7)
- Participate in corporate worship and the ordinances. (Hebrews 10:25)
- ***By God's grace, will you seek to grow in your relationship with Christ and deepen your understanding of His Word?***

### 2. Maintain Fellowship and Accountability

- Be actively involved in the life of the church. (Hebrews 10:24-25)
- Support and hold each other accountable in spiritual matters. (Galatians 6:1-2)
- ***By God's grace, will you walk in unity and love, upholding one another in faith and practice?***

### 3. Serve Actively

- Recognize and use spiritual gifts for the edification of the church. (Romans 12:4-8)
- Support and aid deacons and elders in their tasks. (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13)
- ***By God's grace, will you dedicate yourself to serving others, both within the church and beyond?***

### 4. Uphold Moral Integrity

- Live in a manner worthy of the gospel. (Philippians 1:27)
- Seek reconciliation when sin occurs. (Matthew 5:23-24)
- ***By God's grace, will you strive for personal holiness, making amends when necessary?***

### 5. Exercise Financial Stewardship

- Give regularly, cheerfully, and sacrificially. (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)
- Support the church's vision and mission through financial contributions. (Malachi 3:10)

- ***By God's grace, will you be a faithful steward of the resources God has entrusted to you?***

**6. Participate in Mission and Evangelism**

- Share the gospel within personal spheres of influence. (Matthew 28:19-20)
- Support missionary endeavors. (Acts 1:8)
- ***By God's grace, will you commit to spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ locally and globally?***

**7. Seek Conflict Resolution**

- Address disagreements biblically. (Matthew 18:15-17)
- Pursue unity and peace. (Ephesians 4:3)
- ***By God's grace, will you address conflicts with love, aiming for harmony within the church?***

**8. Support Church Leadership**

- Pray for, respect, and submit to those in authority. (Hebrews 13:17)
- Value and trust the guidance provided by church leaders. (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13)
- ***By God's grace, will you uphold, support, and submit to those God has placed in leadership over you, recognizing their authority and guidance in our spiritual community?***

**9. Commit to Regular Attendance**

- Value corporate worship and fellowship. (Hebrews 10:24-25)
- Engage actively in church functions. (Acts 2:42)
- ***By God's grace, will you prioritize gathering with the church body for worship and edification?***

**10. Devote Time to Prayer**

- Intercede for the church, its members, leaders, and mission. (Colossians 4:2)
- Seek the Spirit's guidance in personal and corporate matters. (Ephesians 6:18)
- ***By God's grace, will you commit to being a prayerful follower, seeking God's will in all things?***

Member signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Elder signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# Article VIII: Amendments

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Changes in this constitution and bylaws may be made according to the guidance contained in Article V Section 4. Passed amendments are contained in this Article.