

Bylaws of Calvary Chapel Seneca Falls (hereafter referred to as "Calvary Chapel")

All Bible quotations are from the New King James Version of the Bible

I. Purpose of Calvary Chapel

1. The worship of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
2. Building up the universal church of Jesus Christ through the teaching of the Bible and the ministry of the Spirit;
3. The persuasion of men, women and children to repent and confess Jesus Christ as Lord.

II. Statement of Faith

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, equal in power and glory; that this triune God created the universe and everything in it and upholds and governs it all.

We believe that the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments – the Bible - are the Word of God, fully inspired without error in the original manuscripts, and the infallible rule of faith and practice.

We believe in God the father, an infinite, personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love; that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men; that He hears and answers prayer; and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings, His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and His future, personal, visible return to earth.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, Who was sent forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify and empower for ministry all who believe in Christ; we believe the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Jesus Christ and that He is an abiding Helper, Teacher and Guide. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit and in the exercise of all the Biblical gifts of the Spirit.

We believe that all men are sinners by nature and choice and, therefore, under condemnation; that God regenerates by the Holy Spirit, those who repent of their sins and confess Jesus Christ as Lord; that Jesus Christ baptizes the seeking believer with the Holy Spirit and power for service, often subsequent to regeneration.

We believe in the universal church, the living spiritual body, of which Christ is the Head and all regenerated persons are members.

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ committed two ordinances to Calvary Chapel: 1) baptism, and 2) the Lord's Supper, or Communion. We believe in baptism by immersion and communion open to all believers.

We believe in the laying on of hands for the baptism of the Holy Spirit, for ordination of pastors, Elders and deacons, and receiving gifts of the Spirit for healing.

We believe in the personal, visible return of Christ to earth and the establishment of His Kingdom; in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, eternal blessing of the righteous and endless suffering of the wicked.

III. Principal Office

The principal office for the transaction Calvary Chapel's business is located at Calvary Chapel Seneca Falls, 2291 Rt. 89, Seneca Falls, NY 13148. The Board of Ruling Elders (hereafter referred to as "the Board") may at any time change the location of the principal office from one location to another in this county.

IV. Membership

Qualifications and Reception to Membership

There is no formal membership process. The membership of Calvary Chapel shall be open to any Christian who acknowledges and accepts Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who is willing to subscribe to the doctrines and policies of Calvary Chapel as defined by the Board, and who desires to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of love. Confirmation of membership is in no way binding on the member or Calvary Chapel.

Membership Rolls

Calvary Chapel does not maintain a formal membership roll; a permanent record of membership in God's universal church is kept by Him in the Lamb's Book of Life. However, Calvary Chapel maintains a list of regular attenders in order to facilitate email and phone communications. At a member's request, in order to facilitate a member's tax-exempt claims, the church will keep a legal record of a member's financial contributions to the church; that courtesy is only extended to those who make their contributions using the church's numbered envelope system.

Disfellowship

Definition: A member is disfellowshipped when he or she is no longer allowed to attend any or all of Calvary Chapel's meetings, including regular and special church services, Sunday School, Bible studies, Youth programs, etc.

Disfellowship may be visited upon any person in serious error in the doctrines held by Calvary Chapel, or who engages in practices deemed by Calvary Chapel to be unacceptable for membership. Those doctrines and practices are based on the Calvary Chapel's interpretation of Biblical doctrines and standards. Those interpretations are made by the Calvary Chapel Board.

Summary dismissal from Calvary Chapel may occur for flagrant divergence in doctrines or practices. However, dismissal normally occurs only after a the process outlined in Matthew 18 has been followed:

1. If a member is in error he or she will be confronted and counseled by a Board member. If the member accepts the counsel and repents (ceases to be in error), fellowship is unaffected.
2. If the member remains in error, the Board member will bring another Board member to meet with the member in an attempt to persuade him or her to change and repent.
3. If the second attempt is unsuccessful, the member will be brought before the Board. If the situation remains unresolved, the member will be disfellowshipped.

Disfellowship decisions are made by the Board.

A disfellowshipped member may be reinstated to fellowship by specific action of the Board. Restoration will be based on the member's accepting the counsel given, repenting and changing his or her beliefs or practices.

VI. Employees and Volunteers

An Employee or Volunteer of Calvary Chapel and any of its ministries must meet the following qualifications. He or she must:

1. be a born-again Christian.

2. agree with the above-referenced Statement of Faith.
3. not practice or believe in:
 - a. any so-called "Christian" religion that teaches that Jesus is not God; that there is no heaven and/or hell; that there is any mediator between man and God, the Father, except Jesus Christ; that salvation is based in part or in full on good works as opposed to faith alone; that there is, after death, any intermediary state, such as purgatory, before entering heaven or hell; that keeping the Sabbath(s), feasts and other ordinances of the Old Testament law is necessary for salvation.
 - b. any non-Christian religion, such as Wicca, Paganism, Islam, Buddhism (this is, obviously, not an exhaustive list.)
 - c. sexual activity outside of marriage.
 - d. co-habitation with a member of the opposite sex in a relationship that substantially constitutes or mimics a marriage relationship, even if there is no sexual activity.
 - e. same-sex romantic relationships, sexual activity or marriage.
 - f. drunkenness, the use of any illegal drugs or the misuse of legal drugs.

This is not meant to be an exhaustive list. Other flagrantly un-Christian attitudes or behaviors could be reason for denying or terminating employment or volunteer activity, such as divisive behavior, disobedience to authority, lawlessness, uncontrollable temper, etc. The ones listed above are simply those that are most frequently encountered in today's culture when discussing what constitutes true Christian faith and practice.

The Board will determine, at any time prior to or during employment or volunteering, whether those criteria are met.

The interpretation of "orthodox fundamental precepts...of the Christian faith," "Biblical teaching," "born-again Christian" and "flagrantly un-Christian attitudes" is at the discretion of the Board.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the members of this church shall be held on the first Sunday in February at 12:15 p.m., at Calvary Chapel's principal office, or at any other time and/or place if determined by the Board. No notice need be given if the meeting is held on the date and at the time stated above, and at the principal office of Calvary Chapel. Otherwise, notice of the time and place of the annual meeting shall be given verbally in the regular Sunday service at least two weeks in advance of the meeting.

Special Meetings

Special meetings of Calvary Chapel membership for any purpose may be called at any time by the Senior Pastor of Calvary Chapel or by any three Elders.

Notice of the time and place of special meetings of Calvary Chapel body shall be given verbally in the regular Sunday service, normally at least one week in advance. However, unless any member at the Sunday service objects, a meeting may be announced that is scheduled for less than one week in advance.

VII. Government

The Headship of Christ

The government of this church shall be focused on seeking and maintaining the Lordship and direction of Jesus Christ over His church. All those in authority – Pastors, Elders, Deacons and heads of ministries - shall continually seek His mind and will through His Spirit and the Word of God, in all actions and decisions.

The Oversight of Calvary Chapel by the Pastor and Board

The Board, headed by the Senior Pastor, shall be the governing body of Calvary Chapel.

The Board

The Board membership shall consist of the Senior and Associate Pastors, the Elders and the Deacons. Members shall attempt to reach consensus in all matters. In the case of a vote being required, the voting Board members are the Pastors and Elders. Deacons are non-voting Board members.

Board Ministry

1. The Board shall oversee and rule the ministry of Calvary Chapel by precept and example under the leadership of the Senior Pastor. They shall pray together regularly, seeking the mind of God. They shall meet regularly to review the progress of the execution of day-to-day functions. As frequently as needed for mutual counsel, they shall informally gather to pray and review this progress.
2. All legal and administrative powers of Calvary Chapel shall be exercised by or under the authority of Board and the business and affairs of Calvary Chapel shall be controlled by the Board. Without limiting its general powers, the Board shall have the following powers:
 - a. To appoint and remove all other officers, agents, volunteers and employees of Calvary Chapel and its subordinate ministries, prescribe such powers and duties for them consistent with law and Calvary Chapel bylaws, ratify their compensation where applicable, and require from them faithful service.
 - b. To conduct, manage, and control the affairs and business of Calvary Chapel and to make rules and regulations not inconsistent with law and the Bylaws.
 - c. To borrow money and incur indebtedness for the purposes of Calvary Chapel and for those purposes to be executed and delivered, in Calvary Chapel's name, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, deeds of trust, mortgages, pledges, or other evidence of debt and securities.

Pastors and Elders and Deacons Qualifications

(See 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)

Pastors and Elders must be:

- Blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous.
- A man who rules his home well and whose children follow his example.
- An Elder must have a good reputation among unbelievers, must not be self-willed, nor a drunkard, nor violent, nor greedy, but rather, gentle, uncontentious, hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, and holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught,
- A mature believer who is able to teach.
- Appointed by a unanimous vote of the serving Board.

A Deacon must be:

- Blameless, not a slanderer, temperate and faithful in all things.
- The husband of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.

- Reverent, with reverent wives, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money.
- Holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience.
- Appointed by a unanimous vote of the serving Board.

B. Number of Board Members.

The Board shall consist of a maximum of twelve and a minimum of three members.

C. Selection to the Board.

New Board members will be selected by the Senior Pastor with counsel from the Board, and will be presented to and approved by a majority vote of the congregation.

C. Removal.

Board members serve at the discretion of the Senior Pastor and may be removed by summary decision.

D. Quorum.

A majority of the voting members of the Board must be present to constitute a quorum. A quorum is only necessary if a vote must be taken.

E. Place and Time of Meetings.

Regular meetings of the Board are to be held at 2291 Rt. 89, Seneca Falls, New York 13148, at 6:30 p.m. on Mondays, generally at intervals of three weeks. The place, time and frequency of Board meetings may be changed without consent by the Senior Pastor.

F. Meetings.

Meetings of the Board for any purpose or purposes may be called at any time by the Senior Pastor or a majority of Board voting members. For any non-regularly-scheduled meeting each Board member must receive written notice (email suffices) or other notification prior to the specially called meeting. Regular Board meetings do not need to be announced to the congregation.

G. Removal.

Any member of the Board other than the Senior Pastor may be removed from office by the vote of a majority of the voting Board members. The Senior Pastor may not, per se, be removed from his position as head of the Board. He can only be removed from his position as Senior pastor of Calvary Chapel at a special meeting of the church, and by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the church's members.

H. Compensation.

The Board members shall receive no compensation for their services as Board Members.

VIII. Officers of Calvary Chapel

Section 1. Officers.

The officers of this church shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and such other officers as the Board may appoint. One person, other than the President, may hold more than one of these offices. Officers other than the President need not necessarily be members of the Board.

Section 2. Election.

The Board shall elect by simple majority the officers of Calvary Chapel for indefinite terms.

Section 3. Vacancies.

A vacancy in any shall be filled by majority vote of the Board.

Section 4. President (Pastor).

President (Senior Pastor) shall have general supervision, direction, and control of the business and affairs of Calvary Chapel. He shall be responsible for the presidency of all meetings of the members and the Board and shall have such other powers and duties as may be prescribed from time to time by the Board.

A. His Ministry.

The Pastor shall minister unto the Lord in regular personal worship and praise. He shall give himself to the ministry of the Word and prayer (Acts 6:4) and seek to walk uprightly before the Lord in his personal life. He shall seek the mind of God.

The Pastor shall be the teaching-shepherd of Calvary Chapel. He shall give considerable time to the study of the Word and shall teach the Scriptures to the flock by precept and example. He shall aim to feed the flock, equip the saints for ministry and guard Calvary Chapel against the attack of the enemy.

The Pastor shall be the President of Calvary Chapel and its Chief Executive Officer. He shall oversee the business of Calvary Chapel on a daily basis and give leadership to the Associate Pastors, the Board, the general church body and its ministries. The Pastor shall have general supervision of the entire church and charge of all services, gatherings and meetings.

B. His Qualifications. (See 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)

The Pastor shall be generally qualified according to the qualifications for Elder.

The Pastor shall be a Spirit-gifted teacher of the Word, an ordained pastor of good reputation, of Biblically conservative theology, Christ-centered, Spirit-filled, and willing to serve a non-denominational church without promoting denominational interests.

B. His Appointment.

In the event of a vacancy, the Board shall constitute a nominating committee. This committee shall seek, find and nominate a candidate. They shall seek first among the Associate or Assistant Pastors from within the fellowship. Election shall be by three-fourths (3/4) vote of the voting membership.

The resigning or retiring Pastor may nominate in conjunction with the Board, a successor and/or participate in the selection of his successor.

C. His Compensation.

The Pastor's initial compensation shall be specified by the Board at the time of his calling. Calvary Chapel shall provide as possible adequate salary, housing allowance, health insurance, expense allowance, pension, conference funds, vacation time, continued education and other special funds as needed for his ministry. Calvary Chapel shall also defray the costs of sending the Pastor to out-of-town conferences, conventions or missionary trips attended for Calvary Chapel, as approved by the Board at meetings held prior to or within ninety (90) days after the conference, convention or missionary trip.

D. Potential Termination.

For the purpose of potential termination of the Pastor, a simple majority of voting Board members may call a special meeting of the Board. The meeting shall be called in accordance with the procedure outlined for calling special meetings (Section 3, Board (II Membership, Section 4). Should 3/4 of the quorum present agree that the Pastor should be terminated, it shall be brought before the voting membership at a duly called meeting. A simple majority of negative votes of the voting membership will terminate the Pastor.

Section 5. Associate or Assistant Pastors.

A. Their Ministries.

An Associate or Assistant Pastor shall minister unto the Lord in regular worship and praise. He shall give himself to the ministry of the Word and Prayer (Acts 6:4) and seek to walk uprightly before the Lord in his personal life. He shall seek the mind of God.

The Pastor shall define an Associate or Assistant Pastor's ministry upon his appointment. He shall serve under the Pastor's direction and with the Pastor in the teaching of the Word.

B. Their Qualifications.

An Associate Pastor or Assistant Pastor shall meet the same qualifications as the Pastor.

C. Their Appointment.

The Pastor shall appoint and the Board shall confirm by a two-thirds (2/3) vote an Associate or Assistant Pastor to share in the ministry.

D. Their Compensation.

The Associate or Assistant Pastor(s)' compensation shall be specified by the Pastor to be ratified by the Board at the time of their calling. For a full-time Associate or Assistant Pastor, Calvary Chapel shall provide, as possible, adequate salary, housing allowance, health insurance, expense allowance, pension, conference and continued education funds and vacation time. For a part-time Assistant or Associate Pastor, Calvary Chapel shall provide as seems appropriate to the Board.

E. Termination.

It shall be the prerogative of the Pastor, after counseling with the Board, to ask for the resignation of Pastoral Associates or Assistants if they are not in harmony with the ministry of Calvary Chapel as directed by the Pastor.

Section 6. Vice-President.

In the absence or disability of the President, the Vice-President shall perform temporarily all the duties of the President and in so acting, shall have all the powers of the President until the Board takes action to fill the vacancy. The Vice-President shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed from time to time by the Board.

Section 7. Secretary.

The Secretary shall keep a full and complete record of all the proceedings of the Board, shall make services of such notices as may be necessary or proper, shall supervise the keeping of records of Calvary Chapel, and shall discharge such other duties of the office as prescribed by the Board.

Section 8. Treasurer.

The Treasurer shall receive and safely keep all funds of Calvary Chapel and deposit them in a bank or banks. Those funds shall be paid out only on checks of Calvary Chapel signed by the President, Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer, or by such officers as may be designated by the Board.

IX. Rights of Ordination

Section 1. Principles of Ordination.

Candidates for ordination recognize that only our Sovereign, Holy God can truly call and ordain His children for service in the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The calling of a minister is not the result of a title, rather the title is a result of His calling. This calling is recognized as from the true and living God.

It is man's privilege and specifically the privilege of the overseers of the true church of Jesus Christ to ratify the ordination of God when such is obviously placed upon a man's life.

The purpose of this Article is to provide for the ordination rites of ministers of the Gospel of Calvary Chapel.

Section 3. Qualifications for ordination.

A candidate for ordination must be a "born-again" believer in Jesus Christ as described by our Lord in the third chapter of the Gospel of John.

A candidate for ordination must ascribe to the statement of faith as described in the preamble of these Bylaws.

A candidate should have evidenced the obvious calling of God upon his life to the satisfaction of the Board.

A candidate must have completed four years of Bible Study, or the equivalent as designated by the Board. The Board may make an exception to this qualification when, in its unanimous opinion and under strong conviction of the Holy Spirit, such exception is determined to be according to the Will of God.

Section 3. Procedure for Ordination.

Each person fulfilling the above qualifications, and upon approval by the Board, will be presented to the congregation for consideration of their ordination. There shall be a period of at least two weeks between the time a candidate is announced to the congregation and his ordination, in order to give time for members to consider his qualifications. Members shall be encouraged to come to the Board with any information that might disqualify the candidate from ordination.

Upon approval by a majority of the congregation the candidate will be ordained as a minister of the Gospel, in any manner of ceremony deemed appropriate by the Senior Pastor, with the right to perform ministerial functions in accordance with the laws of the land, the ordinances of God's Holy Word and these bylaws.

Section 4. Certificate of Ordination.

The Certificate of Ordination shall read as follows:

Certificate of Ordination

This is to certify that Pastor _____ was duly ordained by Calvary Chapel Seneca Falls as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He has met all the requirements of this body for recognition of such office; further, by rite of ordination this date he is duly ordained to perform all ministerial functions without limit as accorded by the laws of the land, the bylaws of this church and in compliance with the ordinances of God's Holy Bible. We now pray for God's divine Blessing and the power of the Holy Spirit upon him.

Given this _____ day of _____, _____.

President

Secretary

Calvary Chapel Seneca Falls, with headquarters in Seneca Falls, New York.

X. Auxiliaries

Any organization, group or club whose membership is primarily for a church activity, shall be considered an auxiliary of Calvary Chapel and shall be subject to the constitution and Bylaws of Calvary Chapel. An auxiliary organization shall exist only in cooperation with the Pastor and Board.

XI. Amendment of Bylaws

These Bylaws may be amended or replaced and new Bylaws adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board.

XII. Annual Accounting Period

The annual accounting period for this church shall begin on the first day of January, and shall end on the last day of December.

XIII. Miscellaneous

Section 1. Execution of Documents.

The Board may authorize by majority vote any officer or officers, agent or agents, to enter into any contract or execute any instrument in the name of and on behalf of Calvary Chapel. Such authority may be general or confined to specific instances. Unless so authorized, no officer, agent, or other person shall have any power or authority to bind Calvary Chapel by any contract or engagement or to pledge its credit or to render it liable for any purpose or to any amount.

Section 2. Inspection of Bylaws.

Calvary Chapel shall keep in its principal office a copy of its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, as amended to date, certified by the Secretary, which shall be open to inspection by the members at all reasonable times during the office hours.

Section 3. Construction of Definitions.

Unless the context otherwise requires, the general provisions, rules of construction and definitions contained in the New York State General Non-Profit Church Law shall govern the construction of these Bylaws.

Section 4. Statement on Marriage and Sexuality.

We believe the term "marriage" has only one meaning: a marriage sanctioned by God joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in the New King James Version of the Bible. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage between a man and a woman.

"And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said: 'This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.' Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed." (Genesis 2:21-25)

"Submit to one another in the fear of 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 Calvary Chapel; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as Calvary Chapel is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved Calvary Chapel 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. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does Calvary Chapel. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and Calvary Chapel. Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband." (Ephesians 5:21-33)

XIV. Miscellaneous

Doctrines concerning sexuality

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Calvary Chapel as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a Biblical role model to Calvary Chapel members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Calvary Chapel **in any capacity**, or who serve as volunteers, should abide by and agree to the Statement on Marriage and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly. Furthermore, the marriages performed in this church shall follow these guidelines and no Pastor or staff of Calvary Chapel shall participate in any marriage except between one biological man and one biological woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography, any attempt to change one's gender or disagreement with one's biological gender at birth, is sinful and offensive to God.

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual is to be repudiated and is not in accord with scripture or the doctrines of Calvary Chapel.

Use of the church facilities

The use of the facilities shall be for functions of Calvary Chapel. Any use of facility by any group must be in accordance with the purpose and Biblical practice of Calvary Chapel. Approval for use of facility is subject to the Senior Pastor or whoever he designates with that authority.

XV. The Final Authority for Matters of Belief and Conduct

The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our belief. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For the purposes of Calvary Chapel faith, doctrine, practice, policy and discipline, our Pastor/Board of Elders is Calvary Chapel's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

Certification

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that I am the duly elected and acting Secretary of Calvary Chapel, a New York State Church; and that the foregoing Bylaws constitute the amended Bylaws of Calvary Chapel Seneca Falls, as adopted at a meeting of the Board, held on _____.

Signature

Printed Name