

BYLAWS FOR LIVING TRUTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, CORONA

Article I – *Name*

The name of this corporation shall be LIVING TRUTH, CORONA, incorporated February 10, 1964, under the laws of the State of California (herein referred to as LIVING TRUTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP)

LIVING TRUTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP...

1. Is a God-centered Christian church
2. Is an “elder-led” church
3. Has attempted in this document to state where we stand with matters of faith and practice; however, the Bible is always our final authority.

Article II – *Statement of Purpose*

1. **Glorify God: to glorify God by worshipping Him in spirit and in truth**
(*Living a lifestyle of worship and obedience*) (John 4:23-24; Colossians 3:17; I Corinthians 10:31; Mark 12:29-31; Romans 12:1-2)
2. **Equip the saints: to teach the truth about God and the Bible; to equip and disciple the Christian towards full maturity** (Matt 28:18-20; Eph 4:11-16; John 8:31-32; Acts 20:27; Heb 13:20-21; Phil 3:12-14)
3. **Evangelize: to seek to save the lost through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ** (Mark 16:15; Lk 19:10; John 3:16; John 14:6; Acts 4:20; Acts 1:8; Rom 1:16,17; Rom 10:13-15; I Cor. 1:23,24; I Cor. 9:16; I Pet 3:18)
4. **Serve: to serve the body of Christ and the community at large**
(I Timothy 5:3-8; James 1:22-27; Romans 12:1-2; John 13:4-17; Luke 10:30-37). **To love God and one another in unity** (John 17:20-23; Psalm 133:1; Philippians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:36-40; John 13:34-35; Colossians 3:12-17; Ephesians 4:1-6) (John 17:20-23; Ps 133:1; Phil 2:1-8; Matt 22:36-40; John 13:34-35; Col 3:12-17)
5. **Fellowship: to encourage fellowship and unity within the church family**
(this unity is rooted in the truth of Jesus Christ), **seeking to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.** (John 17:17-23; Ephesians 4:3; Hebrews 10:22-25)

Article III – *Location and Inspection*

The Church shall keep at its principal office the original or copy of the incorporation articles and by-laws, as amended to date, which shall be open to inspection by members at all reasonable times, during office hours.

Article IV – Offices

1. The principal location for the transaction of the business of LIVING TRUTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, a California corporation, is 1009 Arsenal Way, Corona, Riverside County, California 92878. The Directors, hereafter denoted as the Board of Elders, may change the principal office to another location. Any change of location shall be noted in these Bylaws.
2. The Board of Elders may establish a branch or subordinate office(s) at any location(s) where the corporation is qualified to do business.
4. The Board of Elders shall establish the hours of operation of the primary, branch and/or subordinate office(s), which shall be published in the church bulletin and office door.
5. Volunteers are covered by the provisions of Section 3363.6(a) of the California Labor Code, in that a person who performs voluntary service without pay is deemed an employee of the organization while performing such service.

Article V – Nonpartisan Activities

1. This Corporation is formed under the California Law for Non-profit Religious Corporations for the religious purposes described herein, and it shall be non-profit and nonpartisan. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall consist of the publication or dissemination of materials with the purpose of attempting to influence legislation; the Corporation shall not participate or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office; or for or against any cause or measure being submitted to the people for vote, unless the action is against the principles of the Word of God.
2. The Corporation shall not, except in an insubstantial degree, engage in activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the mission and purposes of the Church, described herein.

Article VI – Church Property

1. The properties and assets of this Corporation are irrevocably dedicated to religious and charitable purposes. No part of the net earnings, properties or assets of this Corporation, on dissolution or otherwise, shall benefit any private person, individual, member or officer of this Corporation. On dissolution or liquidation, all properties, assets and obligations shall be transferred to an organization dedicated to the same religious purposes described herein, provided that the organization continues to be dedicated to the same exempt religious purpose, as specified in the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, paragraph 501(c)(3).
2. The Church must give written notice to the Attorney General, State of California, twenty (20) days before it sells, leases, conveys, exchanges, merges, transfers or otherwise disposes of all or substantially all of the church's assets, unless the Attorney General has given the church a written waiver for the proposed transaction.

Article VII – Statement of Doctrine

1. We believe that the Bible (Old and New Testament) is the inspired Word of God, inerrant and infallible in the original manuscripts, a complete and final revelation of God. (II Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 19:7-11; Psalm 119:160; Hebrews 1:1-2, Proverbs 30:5)

2. We believe that there is One Living and True God who is personal and knowable. He is sovereign, Creator of all things, immutable, omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, and perfect in all His attributes. Within the Nature of the One True God, there simultaneously exist three Eternal Persons, namely God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. All three Persons are Co-equal in all the attributes of the Divine Nature. (Isaiah 43:10-13, 44:24, 45:11-12; Psalm 139:1-10; Jeremiah 32:17, 27; Exodus 34:6; Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 90:2 John 6:27; I John 5:20; Acts 5:3-4; Luke 3:21-22)
 - a. The Trinity - We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons; that these three persons (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit) are co-equal in every divine perfection; and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence, and redemption. (Deuteronomy. 6:4; Isaiah 48:16-17; Matt 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14)
 - b. God, the Father - We believe in God, the Father, an infinite, personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and life. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully with the affairs of men; that He hears and answers our prayers; and that He saves from eternal damnation all men who come to Him through faith in Jesus Christ. (John 4:24; 3:16-17)
 - c. God, the Son, Jesus Christ - We believe in Jesus Christ, fully God, fully man, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary, atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and His personal and visible return. (Isaiah 7:14; John 1:14, 8:58; Acts 1:9-11; I Corinthians 15:3-6; II Corinthians 5:21; I John 1:7; I Thessalonians 4:13-17; Hebrews 7:25)
 - d. God, the Holy Spirit - We believe in the Holy Spirit who was sent from the Father and the Son to convict the world of sin, and to generate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and that He is their abiding helper, guide, teacher, seal, author and interpreter of the Word. (John 16:8-11; 16:13-15; John 15:26; Romans 8:14-17; Ephesians 1:13-14)
3. We believe that Jesus Christ is God in the flesh (fully man and fully God).
4. We believe that Jesus Christ is co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Holy Spirit, the Creator of all things, virgin born, sinless, and the only Savior of mankind. (John 1:1-3, 14; Hebrews 2:17-18; John 8:58, 10:30; 14:6,9; Colossians 1:15-19, 2:9; Luke 1:26-35; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
5. We believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross and paid the penalty for our sins with His blood. He was buried, rose bodily from the dead, and ascended to heaven. (Romans 5:6-9; I Peter 3:18; Luke 24:36-43; I Corinthians 15:3-4; Acts 1:9-11).
6. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells and seals every believer at the moment of salvation. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit and that the Biblical gifts of the Spirit are available to believers today. We believe the Holy Spirit came to convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment and to regenerate, sanctify and empower all believers for witnessing and ministry. (John 14:16-17; I Corinthians 6:19;

Ephesians 1:13-14; I Peter 4:10; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Romans 12:4-8; John 16:7-11; John 3:3-8; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 5:18; Acts 1:4-8)

7. We believe that sin is falling short of God's divine standard and that sin separates man from God. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1-2)
8. We believe that everyone is a sinner by nature, guilty before God, deserving of judgement, and in need of the Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 3:9-26; Romans 5:12-21; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:1-3; Psalm 51:5)
9. We believe that Hell is a place of eternal punishment for the unbeliever, and that Heaven is a place of eternal blessedness for the believer. (Rev. 20:10-22:5; II Corinthians 5:1-10)
10. We believe that salvation from sin is by God's grace through faith, is not earned or deserved, and is based upon the work of Jesus Christ alone. (Ephesians 2:8-10; John 6:39; Ephesians 1:13-14; John 14:6; Acts 4:12)
11. We believe that saving faith requires repentance and will result in a pattern of good works in the believer's life. (Acts 3:19, 17:30-31, 26:20; James 2:14-26; I John 2:3-6)
12. We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and obeying the Great Commission. (Matthew 24:36; Acts 1:7-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; 2 Peter 3:10-13; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 28:18-20)

Article VIII – *Beliefs, Practices and Values*

1. God is alive, personal and knowable. (Psalm 14:1; Acts 17:24-27; Romans 1:20; James 4:8)
2. God has made Himself known and His existence evident through creation, conscience, human history, the Word of God, and ultimately, through the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Psalm 19:1-4; Romans 1, 2, 3; Heb. 1:1-3)
3. Jesus Christ is the Son of God (God in the flesh). He is the only way of salvation and the only true hope for mankind. His presence in the life of the believer brings wholeness and makes sense of life itself. (John 1:1, 14, 8:24, 10:7-11, 24-30, 14:6; Hebrews 1:1-8)
4. God's word is truth and God's Spirit makes that truth alive and known. At LIVING TRUTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, our primary method of teaching is verse by verse exposition of the Biblical text. (Nehemiah 8:1-8; John 17:17; I Corinthians 2:9-16; Ephesians 6:17, I Timothy 4:1-13; Hebrews 4:12) Additionally, we will not hesitate to deal with current issues of our time and apologetic issues to strengthen and equip the church body.

5. God's strong presence is sought in our worship, mined in His word, and beseeched through our prayer. (Psalm 119; Matthew 7:7-11; John 4:23-24; Acts 20:27)
6. We are a church that believes prayer must be central in our fellowship, therefore we encourage believers to gather together for midweek prayer time to lift up the needs the body of Christ, families, community, country and the unsaved world. (I Samuel 12:23; Ephesians 6:18-19; Colossians 1:9-14; I Thessalonians 5:17; I Timothy 2:1-4; James 5:14-15)
7. We are open to all God has for us as a church including all spiritual gifts. However, we will be Biblically balanced in our approach, look to God for the results, to the leading of the Holy Spirit for direction and to the elders of the church for Biblical guidance. All of these things will be governed by sensitivity to others, unity among brethren, edification of the body, order and most of all love. Within the body of Christ believers possess different gifts. No one "spiritual gift" is ever required for salvation. Furthermore, it is the Holy Spirit, according to His will, Who sovereignly gives all the gifts. The diversity in the body is by God's design. There is no room in the body of Christ for believing one merited his gift or for looking down on another's gifting. The greatest evidence that one is submitted to the power of God and filled with the Holy Spirit is love. (I Corinthians 12-14)
8. We reach out as a church family to our brothers and sisters, and the community at large, who have genuine material need. We also care for the poor, orphan and widow as the Bible commands. (Proverbs 21:13; Isaiah 58:6-11; Jeremiah 22:16; Matthew 22:37-40, 25:31-40; Romans 15:25-26; Galatians 2:10; I Timothy 5:3-15; James 1:27)
9. We believe in the sanctity of life from the moment of conception and the sanctity of life for all human persons. However, we believe capital punishment is Biblical. (Exodus 20:13; Leviticus 19:32, 24:17; Psalm 127:3, 139:13-18; Romans 13:1-5)
10. We support (Biblical) marriage and family because they are by God's design, precious to Him and the basic institution of society. This church defines "marriage" as the exclusive covenantal union of one man and one woman in which such union is a lifetime commitment. A civil government's sanction of a union will be recognized as a legitimate marriage by the church only to the extent that it is consistent with the definition of "marriage" found in these Bylaws. We encourage parents to raise their children to be equipped Christians and provide Biblical training and encouragement to our children and youth. (Genesis 1:26-28, 2:18-24; Deuteronomy 6; Proverbs 18:22; Ephesians 5:25-31, 6:1-4)
11. We believe legitimate sexual relations are exercised solely within marriage. Hence, sexual activities outside of marriage (referred to in the New Testament as "porneia") including but not limited to adultery, premarital sex, homosexuality, and pedophilia are inconsistent with the teachings of the Bible and the Church. Further, lascivious conduct, transgender behavior, and the creation and/or distribution and/or viewing of pornography, are incompatible with the biblical witness.
12. Although we do not believe that the below ordinances are requirements for salvation, we will be obedient to conducting them as acts of obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26):

Water baptism - The act of baptism is a solemn and beautiful emblem of our faith and identification in the crucified, buried and risen Savior; and it signifies our death to sin and our resurrection to a new life in Christ. (Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12)

Communion - We believe that Communion sets forth in a sacred manner, the death of our Lord Jesus Christ on our behalf, and our union with Him in the body of Christ. We believe the emblems used are not literally the transubstantiated body and blood of Christ. This ordinance is for believers only and to partake only has value if it is unified with the faith and repentance of the communicant. (I Corinthians 11:23-32)

13. Essential and Non-Essential Doctrines. Essential doctrines regarding the nature of God and salvation (i.e., who is God and how do you come to know Him) are what determines whether one is a Christian. With regards to non-essential doctrines, we are called to endeavor to preserve unity, and we believe there needs to be humility and charity regarding different perspectives. We can debate these topics, but they should never divide us. (Romans 14; Ephesians 4:1-6; cf. John 17:20-23) We believe our main focus should be the Gospel of Jesus Christ, building the Kingdom of God for His glory by the power of the Spirit.
14. The Rapture and the Millennium. The timing of the Rapture, and the timing and nature of the Millennium are non-essential doctrines. The Bible makes it clear that only God knows the day of Christ's return. (Matt. 24:36; Acts 1:7) Speculation, sensationalism, and an overemphasis on these topics have produced disappointment, division, and distraction. Church history, both past and present, has shown the need for ongoing study and humility.
15. The Church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ. It is composed of believing saints, both Jews and Gentiles, united in one body of which Christ is the Head. (Galatians 3:26-29; Ephesians 2:11-22, 4:15, 5:23) We believe we should follow Paul's heart in praying for the salvation of Jews and Gentiles who don't yet know Jesus as their Messiah/King. (Romans 9:1-3, 10:1-4, 11:17-24; 1 Timothy 2:1-7)

Article IX – Elders

1. Qualifications:
 - a. Elders shall meet the requirements as set forth in I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, and I Peter 5:1-4.
 - b. Only men shall serve as elders and/or pastors. (I Timothy 3:2)
 - c. There shall be a minimum number of three elders. Should the elder board constitute a number of less than three, the remaining elders will seek to restore the elder board to the minimum number in an expedited fashion.
 - d. Elders shall affirm their agreement with LIVING TRUTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP's Beliefs, Practices, and Values, and behave in a manner that is consistent therewith.
2. The elders shall elect or re-affirm corporate officers each year from amongst the elder board.

Chief Executive Officer – Will supervise and control the affairs of the corporation and the activities of the officers.

Secretary – Will manage all elder board meeting logistics, attend and ensure recording of minutes of all elder board meetings, facilitate board communications, and ensure maintenance of key corporate documents and records.

Chief Financial Officer - Will serve as Treasurer, to see that church funds are properly deposited and disbursed and financial records are properly maintained and reported to the elders of the church.

3. The elders shall elect or re-affirm an elder board chairman each year from amongst the elder board. The elder board chairman will prepare the agenda and preside over (“chair”) the elder meetings and any congregational meetings.
4. Responsibilities of Elders:
 - a. Shepherd the flock; serve as overseers; provide spiritual direction; rule and take care of the church of God. (I Peter 5:1-2; Acts 20:28; Acts 15:2,6; I Thessalonians 5:12; I Timothy 3:4-5; I Timothy 5:17; Acts 16:4)
 - b. Exhort fellow believers in sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. (Titus 1:9; Ephesians 4:11-16)
 - c. Exercise church discipline in accordance with Matthew 18:15-17.
 - d. Ensure that the material needs of church widows and orphans are met. (Acts 6:1-6; James 1:27; I Timothy 5:3-15)
 - e. Pray for those who are sick and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. (James 5:14-15)
 - f. Manage the finances of the church for the needs of the saints. (Acts 11:29-30) Ensure that church spending is directly related to our purpose and that we prioritize spending on people over programs or buildings.
 - g. Remove a person from the fellowship (in a manner consistent with Matthew 18:15-17) when any of the following conditions exist:
 - 1) Prolonged and inexcusable lack of interest and failure to attend the services of this church, except for illness or advanced age. (Hebrews 10:24-25)
 - 2) Persistent engagement in sinful practices (as outlined in the Bible) without repentance. (I Corinthians 5:9-13)
 - 3) Denial of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Savior from sin. (Romans 10:9-13; I Corinthians 16:22).
 - 4) Advocation or propagation of any belief or practice contrary to the Bible.
5. Appointment/Removal of Elders and Other Leaders:
 - a. The Elder Board shall review the qualifications of any potential elder candidate, leader, deacon or deaconess and instate any elder, leader, deacon, or deaconess in accordance with I Timothy 3:1-13, Titus 1:5-9, and I Peter 5:1-4. (I Timothy 4:14; Acts 13:1-3).
 - b. All appointments shall require a unanimous approval by the Elder Board. The elders will additionally ask the congregation to affirm new pastor and/or elder candidates. While there is no specific New Testament doctrine given to enforce congregational affirmation, documentary evidence does exist. (Acts 6:3-6; Acts 14:23). It is logically necessary for the congregation to be involved in the affirmation of elder and/or pastor

candidates, since in most cases, future pastors and elders develop their reputation amongst the people of the church, thereby making both accountable to each other.

- d. Remove any elder, leader, deacon, or deaconess of this church in accordance with I Timothy 3:1-13, 4:14; I Timothy 5:19-20; Titus 1:5-9; and 1 Peter 5:1-4. Removal shall be based on at least a 3/4 elder vote of all elders.
6. Meetings:
 - a. Hold regular meetings at a date, time and place fixed by the elders.
 - b. Call special congregational meetings at a time deemed necessary by the elder Chairman.
 - c. Hold required business transactions based on a quorum of 3/4 ~~2/3~~ attendance of elder board members.
 - d. Record each decision in the minutes of the meeting
 - e. The final copy of the minutes shall be reviewed and approved and signed by the elders prior to submission to the permanent files of the church.
 7. Decisions:
 - a. With the exception of 5.d. above, accept and support each decision based on the following:
 - i. A unanimous vote by the elders for decisions associated with Statement of Purpose, Statement of Doctrine, or By-Laws.
 - ii. A 3/4 majority vote by the elders for decisions affecting the corporation, such as the purchase and sale of land, or borrowing money
 - b. Allow for believers in this fellowship to voice their opinions and make reasonable suggestions. (Acts 6:1-2)

Article X - Pastors

In the issue of church governance, pastors may serve as elders; however, pastors may serve as pastors in certain areas and not necessarily serve as an elder. This could occur by their (the pastors') choice (as not to overburden them and their families), by the current elders' discretion, or to allow for an interim time period before they begin to serve as elder. The serving board of elders will determine the responsibilities of all pastors. The senior pastor is always considered an elder.

1. Qualifications:
 - a. Pastors shall meet the requirements as set forth in I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, and 1 Peter 5:1-4,
 - b. Pastors shall affirm their agreement with LIVING TRUTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP's Beliefs, Practices, and Values, and behave in a manner that is consistent therewith.
2. Responsibilities of Pastors:
 - a. Equip believers for ministry. (Ephesians 4:11-12)
 - b. Shepherd the flock; serve as overseers; provide spiritual direction; rule and take care of the church of God (I Peter 5:1-2; Acts 20:28; Acts 15:2, 6; 1; Thessalonians 5:12; I Timothy 3:4-5; I Timothy 5:17; Acts 16:4).
 - c. Exhort fellow believers in sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. (Titus 1:9; Ephesians 4:11-16)

- d. Exercise church discipline in accordance with Matthew 18:15-17.
- e. Ensure that the material needs of church widows and orphans are met. (Acts 6:1-6; James 1:27; I Timothy 5:3-15)

Article XI – Deacons

1. A deacon and deaconess is an Attendant, Servant or Helper.
2. Even though each believer is a servant or helper because of his or her spiritual gift(s) and function within the body (Romans 12; I Corinthians 12), every believer is not a deacon or deaconess. Nor does every believer need to meet the qualifications of a deacon or deaconess in order to serve with their spiritual gift(s). A deacon or deaconess is a special position of service within the church.
3. Deacons and deaconesses shall meet the requirements as set forth in I Timothy 3:8-13.
4. Men may serve as deacons; women may serve as deaconesses. (I Timothy 3:11-12; Romans 16:1-2)
5. The elders will approve, organize and oversee deacons and deaconesses in accordance with the needs of the church body. (Acts 6:1-6; I Timothy 3:1-5)
6. Deacons shall affirm their agreement with LIVING TRUTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP's Beliefs, Practices, and Values, and behave in a manner that is consistent therewith.

Article XII – Membership

1. Purpose of Membership:
 - a. Discipleship:
 - 1) Having an official church membership and the correlative requirements (e.g., such as taking a basic or essential Christianity or doctrine class), can assist LIVING TRUTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP in systematically teaching the great truths of the Faith.
 - 2) Such membership and corresponding classes can help us more easily identify false views that are held by people who are attending our fellowship. We can better know where people are "coming from" (e.g., note those who have had some affiliation with cultic groups or other exposures to various types of false teachings).
 - 3) In accord with the Great Commission, we can make sure to the greatest extent possible that individuals are correctly taught "the faith that has been once for all delivered to the saints."
 - b. To Protect the Flock, and the Good Name of Christ and His Church:
 - 1) Having an official church membership list can help us identify a person or group of people who might try to identify with us--our fellowship--to promote their own agenda. Such agendas can range from false teaching to political opportunism.
 - c. Church Discipline:
 - 1) It can aid in the case where church discipline--up to and including excommunication--is necessary for an individual or group of people.
2. Qualifications:

- a. Provide testimony to the elders as to one's faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord,
- b. Been water baptized,
- c. Complete LIVING TRUTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP's new members class,
- d. Agree with LIVING TRUTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP's Statement of Doctrine,
- e. Agree with LIVING TRUTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP's Beliefs, Practices, and Values, and behave in a manner that is consistent therewith.
- f. Been received into church fellowship by the elder board

Article XIII – Amendments

- 1. These bylaws may be repealed, amended, or otherwise modified, either in part or in whole by the elders. The church fellowship shall be notified of these changes and copies of the bylaws will be available upon request.
- 2. The specific operations of this church will occur as outlined in the policy and procedures of the church.