

By-laws

Relentless Church Savannah, Inc.

Preamble

WHEREAS, it is the express purpose of God our Heavenly Father to call out of the world a saved people who shall contribute to the Body of Christ, built and established on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the Chief Cornerstone.

WHEREAS, the members of the Body of Christ are enjoined to assemble themselves together for worship, fellowship, counsel, and instruction in the Word of God and the work of the ministry and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices provided for in the New Testament, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that we recognize ourselves as a body of Christian believers working together for the common purpose of spreading the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and that under the laws of the State of Georgia we may exercise all the rights and privileges granted to religious bodies.

Language

The masculine gender stated within this document shall refer to both men and women.

Article I Name

The name of this corporation shall be Relentless Church Savannah, Inc.

Article II Purpose

The purpose of this corporation shall be:

1. To See People Come Alive in Christ
2. To establish and oversee places of worship under the guidance of the Holy Spirit (Titus 1:5; Ps. 107:3; Acts 2:42, 46, 47; Heb. 10:25).
3. To create departments as may be necessary in order to establish places of worship, to spread the Gospel by all necessary means, and to support other religious activity as deemed necessary by the Apostolic Leader and Board of Elders to further our exempt purposes (Matt 28: 19, 20).
4. To have the right to own, hold in trust, use, possess, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or dispose of such property, real or chattel, as may be needed for the prosecution of its work.
5. To license and ordain ministers of the Gospel and be their covering (1 Thess. 5:12; 2 Thess. 2:15; 3:4; Heb. 13:17).
6. To provide avenues through which the Body of Christ might work together for Kingdom purposes through regional gatherings, and strategic assignments, locally and trans-locally.

Article III Vision

We See a House that Accepts People as Family.

There is only one church, which is the body of believers all around the world and we all exist in, what we call, houses of worship. We desire to be a “Welcome Home” kind of house; a place where anyone can walk through our doors and feel accepted, at home, and part of the family of God while building authentic relationships.

We See a House that Embraces Freedom in Worship

We want to experience such freedom in worship that we do not appeal to one age group, culture, or race. We see everyone coming together; simply as sons and daughters of the living God, worshipping Him in freedom and in truth; worship that touches Heaven and changes the earth.

We See a House that Attracts People Who Don't Know God

We want to be so different in the way we talk, the way we act, the way we love, and the way we give, and the way we respond, that people who don't know God will see Christ through the lens of passionate people in love with Jesus.

We See a House that Attracts People Who Do Know God

We see a place where believers are hungry to grow in their faith; becoming so Kingdom minded that they will do anything to see the earth look like Heaven; pursuing a relationship with God rather than just a religious experience.

We See a House that Partners with our Community

We see a day where we, as a house, are so sacrificial in our giving and time, that our cities and communities can depend on the church to serve the needs of our local and global partnerships.

We See a House that is Dependent on Holy Spirit and Prayer

We want to be a place that realizes nothing can happen on our ability alone. Instead, we are a house that is committed to prayer and dependent on the Holy Spirit in every decision we make individually and corporately.

We See a House that Equips

We want to equip people to walk in the gifts and talents God has given them so they walk in to the destiny God has for their lives individually; caring for the individual rather than just a crowd. We are called to be an apostolic center for this region; seeing the vision God has given people become a reality.



Article IV Mission

To See People Come Alive in Christ.

Article V Core Values

We Are A Loving Family

We are a community of believers who love God and do life together.

We Are Passionate for Revival

We are hungry for a move of God and take bold steps of faith to see His Kingdom come here and now.

We Are Committed to Personal Growth

We are committed to discipleship and empowering people to accomplish God's purpose in their lives.

Article VI Beliefs

Community and Foundation The Church is a community of believers unified through faith in Jesus committed to all of the teachings and commands found in the Holy Bible. It is without error and completely relevant to our lives. Everything we need is found in scripture, which is our foundation. Matthew 16:18-19, Acts 2:41-47, 1 Timothy 4:14-16

God: Three in One God exists as one in three persons. We live, move, and exist in God the Father, Jesus, the Son, brings people into a right relationship with the Father, and Holy Spirit guides us into all truth, convicts us, leads us, comforts us, and empowers us to fulfill God's purpose for our lives Genesis 1:26, Deuteronomy 6:4, Matthew 3:16-17, Luke 1:35

Eternity and Man Man is created in the image of God and is meant to be in unity with God for all eternity. Because of sin, we can either choose to be eternally separated from God in Hell or we can choose to be unified for eternity with God in Heaven. Genesis 1:26-31, John 3:16, Romans 6:23

Salvation and Life Salvation is obtained only in accepting Jesus who purchased life through His sacrifice on the cross and His resurrection from the grave. We are transformed in His image as we live a life of separation from the desires/ways of the world as we abide in Christ's teachings. Acts 2:21, Acts 3:19, 1 John 1:9, Galatians 2:16, Ephesians 2:8-9

Gifts and Purpose All believers receive, and operate in, gifts of the Spirit as manifested in the early church. They are given so that God would receive glory and honor as we carry out the commission of Jesus to be witnesses throughout our lives, establishing His Kingdom on earth as it is in Heaven. 1 Corinthians 6:14-15, 1 Corinthians 1:7

Symbols of Unity in Jesus We believe in baptism by immersion of water as a public testimony of our faith in Jesus Christ representing new birth in Jesus. We participate in the regular taking of Communion with the elements of bread and juice, representing the sacrifice of Jesus' flesh and blood on the cross. Matthew 28:19, Matthew 26:26-28, Mark 1:4-5, Luke 22:19-20

Financial Honor Tithing is the way we honor God, our Provider, by giving 10% of our income to the storehouse so that believers will not go without, supporting the mission of the church. After we give our tithe, we give offerings as Holy Spirit leads us individually. Malachi 3:8-12, Matthew 6:21, 2 Corinthians 9:7

Christ's Return Jesus Christ will physically and visibly return to earth, at a date undisclosed by the Scriptures, for the second time to establish His Kingdom. Matthew 24:30-21, Acts 1:9-11, Revelation 1:7

Marriage We believe that God created marriage to be the holy union of those born as male and female. We believe that God created humanity to be gender specific as male and female, and that we are to honor God's creative order as established in Genesis and verified throughout Scriptures. (Genesis 2:15-24; Romans 1:16-32)

Article VII Membership

This organization shall have a non-voting membership. The Apostolic Leader and the Board of Elders may create a membership program that details the requirements of membership and procedures for dismissal.

Article VIII Government

Relentless Church is characterized by an organizational structure that is consistent with scripture. Spiritual, administrative and legal authority is delegated, as occurred in the New Testament. Respectively, the Apostle of the house and Governing Officers have been entrusted with the spiritual, administrative, and legal oversight of the church.

Section 1. Officers -

- a. Apostolic Leader/Apostle/Lead Pastor/President/CEO
- b. Board of Elders
- c. Secretary/Treasurer
- d. Other officers shall be added as needed

Section 2. Governance -



- a. **Apostolic** - This organization is apostolic in government. In any growing congregation, there will be people at all stages of spiritual growth and maturity. For that reason, it is not proper to submit the affairs of the church to a democratic vote as the same is not God's way, for the purpose of the church is not to do the will of the majority, but the will of God.

Any disputes that arise over the interpretation of these bylaws shall be deferred to the highest authority of this church. In this case it would be the Apostle with the advice of the Board of Elders and the Apostolic Council. The Apostle shall be responsible for the day-to-day decisions and shall run the affairs of the church.

In *Watson v. Jones*, the court ruled that

"Whenever the questions of discipline, or of faith, of ecclesiastical rule, custom, or law have been decided by the highest church judicatory to which the matter has been carried, the legal tribunals must accept such decisions as final, and as binding on them . . ."

The Apostolic Leader will be kept accountable by the Board of Elders and the Apostolic Council so as not to abuse authority.

- b. **Apostolic Leader** - The Apostolic Leader will give vision and spiritual direction to the elders, ministry team, support staff, and the members of Relentless Church. The Apostolic Leader will serve as a permanent member of the elder board. The Apostolic Leader will serve as chairman of the board of elders and will be responsible as the visionary leader and overseer of church staff. The Apostolic Leader shall be responsible for providing weekly administrative oversight and direction for the paid and unpaid staff under the advisement of the board of elders. The qualifications and duties of other prophets, teachers, evangelists, pastors and other staff members shall be defined by the Apostolic Leader with accountability to the Board of Elders and the Apostolic Council. The Apostolic Leader also has the right to override any vote of the Board of elders when it comes to direction of Relentless Church and can only be removed by the Apostle that the Apostolic Leader is aligned with or with a unanimous decision by the Apostolic Council and Board of Elders.
- c. **Apostolic Council** - Accountability to an external apostolic council shall be established of a minimum of three recognized, respectable leaders who will carry the privilege and responsibility of oversight, and intervention should issues of unresolvable conflicts, matters of a breach of integrity or morality, or any other matters where external assistance would be needful. The apostolic council would have the authority to bring correction, provide steps of reconciliation and/or restoration, and removal, if deemed mandatory after every attempt of resolution has been made.
- d. **Board of Elders** - The Apostolic Leader/Apostle/Lead Pastor/President/CEO shall work with a local leadership team of elders to establish direction, procedures, best practices, and operations for the day-to-day workings of the ministry. The Board of Elders is responsible to establish direction, procedures,

best practices, and day-to-day operations of Relentless Church. The Board of Elders are not required to be members of Relentless Church. The Board of Elders will have no legal or fiscal authority over Relentless Church. Overseers can be removed from office upon a two thirds (2/3) of the board of elders or by the decision of the Apostolic Leader overriding all votes. Elders have a duty to question, request information, raise any issue of concern, and fully canvass all aspects of any issue confronting Relentless Church. Each Elder has the right of access to all relevant information. The Board regularly assesses the success of each of the key services and programs provided by Relentless Church. These activities are continually being renewed to maintain their relevance and effectiveness. Relentless Church is a Christ-centered Ministry and therefore the directors, management and employees are expected to conduct themselves with the highest of ethical and biblical standards and will be held accountable. Relentless Church objectives are distinct and independent from any political agenda. The Board of Elders do not have the ability to remove the Apostolic leader, only to suggest removal to the Apostle that the Apostolic Leader is aligned with. Elders shall serve an indefinite term. However, an Elder may take a sabbatical from his active duties as deemed necessary by the Board of Elders, remove themselves, or be removed by a 2/3 vote from the board of elders with approval from the Apostolic Leader or by the sole decision of the Apostolic Leader.

- e. **Ministry Team** - The Ministry Team assists the church in accomplishing its mission and vision by providing leadership and support for the church's overall ministry. The Ministry Team is comprised of the prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelists and ministry leaders. The Ministry Team serves under the direction of the Apostolic Leaders and the Elders. For those who have not been ordained, a service of ordination will be scheduled and planned by the Apostolic Leader as led by Holy Spirit.
- f. **Deacons**—A Deacon is simply a servant. Everyone that calls Relentless their house of worship is a deacon to the ministry. All deacons serve in ministries they choose to serve in , paid or unpaid, are under total submission to the Apostolic leader and Elders/Ministry Team Leaders of Relentless.

Article IX Ministers Of The Gospel

The Apostolic Leader of this ministry shall by virtue of his office automatically be recognized as an ordained minister.

Section 1 Classes of Ministers

This ministry shall have a set number of classes of ministers, as set forth below. Each class of minister will have distinct rights and privileges; they are listed below:

Commissioned Minister:

This recognition is automatically given to all believers in fellowship with this ministry. They are not authorized to perform any sacerdotal services, but primarily assist others in the Body of Christ. Individuals in this category may include, but are not limited to: teachers, worship leaders, instructors, ministerial assistance, administer communion, provide spiritual counseling, serve on the Board of Elders, conduct dedication ceremonies, baptisms, weddings, funerals, visit the sick, minister in hospitals and prison, and lay persons. These are simply deacons as discussed in the constitution of this corporation.

This person is not in charge of a congregation. Limited authority is granted to run the affairs of the ministry.

Ordained Minister:

This recognition is given by the Apostolic Leader to those persons who have an "established" or "proven" ministry. Ordained ministers are authorized to perform all functions of the Christian ministry and religious functions, and must be capable of doing so. Ordained ministers are authorized to perform all religious functions:

1. Conduct religious worship
2. Religious instruction
3. Administer communion
4. Provide spiritual counseling
5. Serve on the Board of Elders of a church
6. Ministry administration
7. And other sacerdotal functions including
 1. Conduct baby dedication ceremonies
 2. Perform baptisms
 3. Perform weddings
 4. Conduct funerals
 5. Visit the sick and shut-in
 6. Minister in prisons

He must be capable, as determined by the Apostolic Leader, to take charge of a congregation.

Section 2 Apostolic Leader's Authority

The Apostolic Leader of this ministry shall have ecclesiastical authority to decide who, how or if a person will be licensed by this ministry to hold any of the classes mentioned above (Matt. 16:13-19).

Article X Ordinances

Section 1. Water Baptism - The ordinance of water baptism (Matt. 28:19) shall be administered by all established places of worship to all those who have repented of their

sins and who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of their souls (Ro. 6:3-5; Col.2:12). unless prohibited by a baptismal candidate's special needs.

Section 2. Communion - The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed regularly by all established places of worship, as enjoined in the Scriptures (Luke 22:19, 20; 1Cor. 11:23-26).

Section 3. Marriage - We believe in the sanctity of the marital union as described in Scripture:

- a. God created the first marriage as a sacred covenant relationship between one man and one woman for the purposes of procreation, companionship, and dominion over creation, in keeping with the covenant relationship God himself established with his own creation (Genesis 2:15-24; Romans 1:16-32); and
- b. Jesus blessed a marriage celebration between a man and a woman with his presence and his first public miracle, thereby affirming the traditional definition of marriage as a cornerstone of every culture and community (John 2:1-11); and further that he advised those who are for congenital or psychological reasons unable to enter into marriage (i.e. between a man and a woman) to remain single and therefore celibate (Matthew 19:4-12); and
- c. Society historically has embraced this traditional definition of marriage, eschewing all other unions as unnatural, inappropriate, and anti-social, and has advocated the family unit of husband and wife and their children as the chief building block of society (Leviticus 18:22- 30; Psalm 127:3-5; Romans 1:16-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-2; Hebrews 13:4).

Article XI Meetings

Section 1. Services—The church will meet at least once each weekend and at other times as determined for services of worship. Decisions to cancel services of worship will be made by the Apostolic Leader. In emergency situations the Apostolic Leader will be responsible for making a decision to cancel.

Section 2. Corporation Meetings—The Apostolic Leader and Board of Elders will meet at least once a year to conduct matters of business as needed. The Apostolic Leader will have final say of the decisions made in these meetings.

Article XII Quorum

Two-thirds of the Board of Elders (including the Apostolic Leader) at an official Board of Elders meeting constitutes a quorum.

Article XIII Finances

Section 1. Tithes and Offerings— Tithes and offerings shall be recognized as our plan of finance. All members shall be encouraged to give at least a tenth of their income to the church and any other offerings as they feel led to give. We believe this is taught in the

Word of God. This not only includes regular attenders, but also includes the Apostolic Leader, Board of Elders, and all leadership. Any Non-Local Elders are required to be regular tithe givers to their home church.

Section 2. Church Treasure - The treasurer shall be appointed by the Apostolic Leader and in good standing with Relentless. The Treasurer shall supervise the payment of all accounts consistent with the budget of Relentless Church. The Treasurer shall keep a permanent record of all gifts and tithes for all that use the envelope system that desire a record for income tax purposes. All contribution records shall be confidential. The Treasurer's books must be available for audit or inspection at any time the Apostolic Leader or Board of Elders may deem necessary. All monies received and disbursed in the name of Relentless Church will go through the church treasury.

Section 3. Church Purchases-

- a. No staff member or leader is to make purchases in the name of the church except upon proper authorization, within the limits of the church budget, by the Apostolic Leader or Board of Elders.
- b. The signature of the CEO must be on any check or withdrawal at or more than \$2,500.00.

Section 4. Salaries-

- a. The Senior Pastor/President may be given a regular and reasonable salary as determined by agreement of the official board. His/her salary shall be reviewed each year during the last meeting of the calendar year.
- b. All other salaries shall be determined in the following manner:
 - i. Recommendation from the Senior Leader/Apostle/President.
 - ii. Approval from the Board of Directors after review of recommendation.

Section 4. Fiscal Year- The calendar year shall be our financial year (January 1 to December 31).

Article XIV Accountability

The Apostolic Council and Board of Elders serves as the Accountability to the Apostolic Leader.

The purpose of Accountability to:

1. Provide a spiritual covering by prayerfully giving necessary aid, instruction, guidance, protection and correction as well as counsel, wisdom and fellowship to the Apostolic Leader. (II Timothy 3:16, 17; Acts 15) and,
2. To hear accusations against the Apostolic Leader of the corporation brought to them and make a determination as to whether the Apostolic Leader has committed any of the infractions listed below.
3. The Board of Elders conduct an investigation for the following accusations against the Apostolic Leaders:



- A. Adultery
- B. Embezzlement
- C. Compulsive Lying
- D. Sexual Impurity
- E. Conviction of a felony that is a violation of Scripture

4. The Board of Elders may suggest dismissal of the Apostolic Leader to the Apostolic Council if they find the apostolic leader guilty of any of the following action:

- 1. Adultery
- 2. Embezzlement
- 3. Compulsive Lying
- 4. Sexual Impurity
- 5. Conviction of a felony that is a violation of Scripture
- 6. The only person with the power to remove the Apostolic Leader is the Apostle/Corporation that the Apostolic Leader of Relentless Aligns with. The Apostle of, or in, that council can suggest removal and the Apostolic Leader can choose to submit and leave or come out of alignment and continue as the leader.

Article XV Mutual Interest

The behavior of anyone in fellowship with this church is of common interest to the Apostolic Leader and the Board of Elders. (Gal. 6:1) This church requires everyone to adhere to a life style that is consistent with the doctrines as taught in the Holy Scriptures. Therefore, this church reserves the right to refuse service to any individual that is not submitting their life style to this Scriptural mode of conduct. This refusal would include services, benefits and any use of church assets.

Article XVI Prohibited Activities

This church is prohibited from engaging in activities which violate its written doctrines. This church is also prohibited from condoning, promoting or allowing any of its assets to be used for activities that violate its written doctrines.

Article XVII Dissolution & Property Rights

If Relentless Church should dissolve, the Apostolic Leader and Board of Elders shall cause the assets herein to be distributed to another religious organization by majority vote or stored for later use in other ministry ventures.

- 1. All property, real or chattel, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred or conveyed in the corporation's name.
- 1. No real or chattel property of the corporation shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise alienated without authorization of the Senior Leader/Apostle/President.



2. The Senior Leader/Apostle/President of the corporation shall certify in such conveyances, leases, or mortgages.
3. In the event that the corporation ceases to exist, all assets of THIS CHURCH shall, at the discretion of the Senior Leader/Apostle/President and Board of Elders, be given to organizations that are exempt as described in section 501(c)(3) and/or 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. The receiving organization must be of similar purpose.

Article XVIII Amendments

Amendments to this constitution may be made by two-thirds vote of the official Board of Elders, including the Apostolic Leader or by sole decision of the Apostolic Leader.

Article XIX Privacy

This church shall diligently watch to keep private all records concerning polity, doctrine, counseling and information on individuals in fellowship with this church. This church must not disclose any records that may compromise information about a member's attendance, membership status, giving and counseling records.

These Bylaws adopted on this day make null and void all prior addenda and these Bylaws supersede and replace all previous Bylaws voted on prior to this day.

Signed and certified, to be effective immediately.