



Constitution and Bylaws

Adopted by CrossPointe Fellowship at the Annual Business Meeting held November 13, 2018

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CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
OF
CROSSPOINTE FELLOWSHIP, INC.

PREAMBLE

We, the members (see Article VI, Section 2) of CrossPointe Fellowship, Inc., declare and establish this Constitution and these Bylaws, hereafter referred to as “bylaws”, to preserve and secure the principles of our faith and to govern this body in an orderly manner consistent with the accepted beliefs of the Southern Baptist Convention, also known as Great Commission Baptists, preserving the liberties of each individual CrossPointe member and the freedom of action of this body in its relation to other churches.

These bylaws shall fully replace any bylaws and amend any constitution previously adopted by CrossPointe Fellowship, Inc. upon adoption by its members in accordance with Article XVII.

ARTICLE I. NAME

This corporation shall be known as CrossPointe Fellowship, Inc., a Southern Baptist Church, main office located at 8605 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach, Florida 34217, which office shall be the registered office of the corporation. This corporation shall be not-for-profit and hereinafter be referred to as “CrossPointe” or “CPF”.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE AND MISSION

The purpose of CrossPointe is to glorify God by modeling, as close as possible, the laws, principles and examples given in the Bible for church life and ministry. These laws, principles and examples include lifestyles of holy conduct as defined by the Bible irrespective of the changing morals and ethics of our society. Therefore, as CPF members, we attempt to teach and model for every member a life of holy devotion to God, holy devotion to one another locally and globally, and holy devotion to our mission to reach the lost locally and globally. We believe our love for the lost includes extending the invitation given by Peter on the inauguration of the New Testament church: “*Be saved from this perverse generation.*” (Acts 2:40; see also Acts 2:36-47; 1 Peter 1:13-2:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; 1 Corinthians 5:1-7:5; Galatians 5:13-6:8; Hebrews 12:28-13:7; Romans 1:16-2:16; Romans 8:1-17; and Ephesians 4:11-5:33.)

ARTICLE III. DOCTRINAL STATEMENT OF FAITH

We affirm the 66 books of the Holy Bible as the inspired, inerrant and completed Word of God and the sole basis of our beliefs and practices. CrossPointe subscribes to the doctrinal statement of *The Baptist Faith and Message*, incorporated herein by reference and adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 2000 as a guide to understanding these bylaws. We band ourselves together as a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ, personally committed to sharing the good news of Jesus to lost mankind.

ARTICLE IV. ORDINANCES

CrossPointe recognizes two Ordinances to be observed by our congregation.

Section 1. Water Baptism.

Water Baptism is an act of obedience whereby a regenerate person confesses publicly that he/she has repented of sin and is trusting in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Baptism pictures a new believer's testimony to God's regenerating grace that he/she has died to self and risen to new life in Christ. Therefore, baptism indicates a commitment to follow Jesus Christ in all things at all times no matter the cost.

- A. Baptism shall be by immersion in water, unless not medically feasible.
- B. Baptism is intended to be administered as a public act of worship.

Section 2. The Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper is an act of obedience whereby members of CrossPointe and other believers in Jesus Christ in good standing with Christ and His church through prayerful self-examination and the partaking of the bread and fruit of the vine, commemorate the propitiating death of Jesus Christ, affirm the New Covenant, and anticipate His second coming. (1 Corinthians 11:17-34)

- A. The Lord's Supper shall be observed at such times as the elders shall select, but at least once each calendar quarter.
- B. The elders and those they authorize shall be responsible for the administration of the Lord's Supper.
- C. The deacons, or whomsoever the deacons shall appoint, shall be responsible for the physical preparation of the Lord's Supper.

ARTICLE V. GOVERNING AUTHORITY

Under the sovereignty of God, the government of CrossPointe is vested in those who are CrossPointe members under the leadership of the elders as provided in these bylaws. CrossPointe is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation common among Southern Baptist churches. Insofar as CrossPointe deems appropriate, CrossPointe will cooperate with and support the Manatee Southern Baptist Association, the Florida Baptist Convention and the national Southern Baptist Convention.

ARTICLE VI. ORGANIZATION

Section 1. General.

The church of Jesus Christ is a theocracy. The sole authority for faith and practice is Jesus Christ, the head of the church (Ephesians 4:11-16). His will is determined primarily by the inerrant sixty-six (66) books of the Bible He has inspired and given to us (1 Peter 1:10-12). CrossPointe, being both a spiritual body under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and a nonprofit corporation formed under the laws of the State of Florida, is subject in the first instance to the authority of Scripture in all matters and subject secondarily to the rules of the duly constituted and morally administered public authority, but only so far as such rules are not in conflict with Holy Scripture. (Romans 13:1-7, Acts 4-5)

CrossPointe, a sovereign Southern Baptist Church under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, retains unto itself the exclusive right to establish its temporal life and reserves the exclusive right to determine who shall be members of CrossPointe Fellowship and the conditions of such membership as stated in Section 2 below. Voting rights of CPF members are set forth in Section 4 of this Article.

Section 2. CrossPointe Membership.

- A. Preconditions for membership in CrossPointe include:
 - 1. Public confession of faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord; and
 - 2. Baptism (see Article IV Section 1 above) after confession of faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord; and
 - 3. Living in a way that demonstrates evidence of his/her confession, including trusting the Bible as God's inerrant word and manifesting a surrendered and teachable spirit regarding everything that God's Word affirms; and
 - 4. Completion of a membership orientation and evaluation, as established by the elders.
- B. Qualified candidates shall be presented to CrossPointe at any duly called meeting. Membership in CrossPointe Fellowship requires the approval of a majority of the CPF members present and voting at such meeting.
- C. The church office shall keep a database of CPF members, including each member's name and contact information.

Section 3. Termination of CPF Membership.

Membership in CrossPointe Fellowship shall be terminated in any one of the following ways:

- A. Death.
- B. Verification of transfer of membership to another church.
- C. At the written request of the CPF member.
- D. By action of CrossPointe as provided in Article VI, Section 5 hereof.
- E. Unless explained to the satisfaction of the elders, nonparticipation with the church for twelve (12) consecutive months.

Nothing herein shall prohibit a member of CrossPointe from also being a member of another like-minded church not also located in Manatee County.

Section 4. Voting Rights of CPF Members.

- A. Subject to Section 3 above, every CrossPointe member 16 years of age and older is entitled to one (1) vote on all matters delegated to the CrossPointe members by these bylaws. In all matters in which these bylaws delegate to

the CrossPointe congregation authority, the duly taken CrossPointe congregational vote cannot be overturned by any group other than the CrossPointe congregation.

B. Voting by absentee ballot or proxy is prohibited.

Section 5. Discipline of CPF Members.

- A. In the spirit of Christian discipling, church discipline shall be carried out by the membership of CrossPointe and shall follow the passages in the Bible written to give us instruction in how to protect the members of CrossPointe and how to help troubled, rebellious or heretical persons who consider themselves believers in the discipleship of the faith. (Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5:1-6:11 and Titus 3:10-11)
- B. The membership of CrossPointe shall follow these steps in conducting church discipline:
- Step 1 Matthew 18:15 - "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother." The accusation is not to be mentioned to anyone else.
- Step 2 Matthew 18:16 - But if he does not listen to you, take one or two (*believers*) more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED." The "witnesses" are not to hear the accusation prior to this meeting with the accuser and the accused.
- Step 3 Matthew 18:17a - "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church (*CrossPointe*);" The elders are to be asked to help with this action.
- Step 4 Matthew 18:17b-20 - "and if he refuses to listen even to the church (*CrossPointe*), let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."
- Elders shall be available to help CrossPointe members understand and apply these steps.
- C. Every reasonable measure shall be taken to assist any troubled CPF member or attender claiming to be a follower of Christ. Repentance and restoration, rather than punishment, shall be the goals of discipline and govern the attitude of members of CrossPointe towards one another. The actions of steps 3 and 4 above shall be determined and implemented by the members of CrossPointe with the oversight of the elders, subject to D below.
- D. If removal from CrossPointe membership is appropriate, this shall be implemented by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the CPF members present and voting at a meeting called for such a purpose. Upon removal the disciplined person shall not be administered the Lord's Supper, nor be a part of our intimacy of fellowship, subject to E and F below.
- E. Upon a confession to the church of repentance, a desire for restoration and any appropriate restitution, a person whose CPF membership has been revoked may request reinstatement. The elders are to be available to help this person with this process of healing. A two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote by the CPF members at a meeting called for this purpose is necessary for reinstatement to the membership of CrossPointe Fellowship.
- F. Exercise of church discipline under D and E above shall not prohibit such person from attending the regular worship services (Article XIII, Section 1) nor being ministered to at any gathering where elder oversight is present. Until reinstatement under E above, such person shall not attend nor participate in any other meetings or activities of CrossPointe such as Life Groups (small group meetings) and ministry team meetings which do not have an elder present.

ARTICLE VII. ELDERS

The New Testament exemplifies and teaches elder leadership, authority and oversight with congregational involvement in church governance and ministry (Acts 15; 1 Timothy 5:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:12 and Hebrews 13:17, as well as by implications in the New Testament terms of “pastor,” “elder,” and “overseer”). By virtue of their call and office, elders shall serve as the shepherds and spiritual leaders of CrossPointe and bear accountability for equipping its members in faith and practice for ministry. The Lead Teaching Elder shall be the primary preacher and Bible teacher at CrossPointe.

Section 1. Qualifications, Authority and Responsibilities of Elders.

- A. In this document and for all CrossPointe purposes the following terms, as the Bible teaches, are interchangeable: pastors, shepherds (*poimenes*), elders, presbyters (*presbuteroi*), overseers and bishops (*episkopoi*). (See 1 Peter 5:1-2; Acts 20:17-18, 28; Titus 1:5-7.)
- B. As undershepherds of Jesus, elders are the human authority regarding all matters of church life not delegated to others in these bylaws (same being implied by the terms “pastor,” “elder” and “overseer”, and being exemplified and taught in Acts 15; 1 Thessalonians 5:12, Hebrews 13:17 and 1 Timothy 5:17 – “The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.”) As the elders carry out their authority they are to value and respect the priesthood of every believer/member and the delegated authority of each ministry team leader and team. When these bylaws give authority to the CPF members, ministry teams or Church Council, the elders will submit to their duly made decisions.
The elders are expected to lead in a Christ-like servant-hearted way (Mark 10:42-45; 1 Peter 5:1-3.)
- C. The elders shall have the responsibility and authority to:
 - 1. Pray: James 5:14,
 - 2. Teach (equip): Ephesians 4:11-16,
 - 3. Lead (“rule”): 1 Timothy 5:17,
 - 4. Oversee: 1 Peter 5:1-3 and Acts 20:28,
 - 5. Protect: Acts 20:28,
 - 6. Serve: 1 Peter 5:1-3, including any other duties set forth in these bylaws.
- D. CrossPointe shall have multiple elders which follows every passage related to the topic in the New Testament, including Acts 11:29-30; Acts 14:21-23; Acts 20:17, 28; Philippians 1:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; Titus 1:5; James 5:14; and 1 Peter 5:1-2.
- E. The number of elders shall be as many as Christ calls, equips, and reveals to CrossPointe. These are men who desire to serve and are selected, ordained and installed according to the process set forth in these bylaws. [See Section 2 below.]
- F. Though elders may not perform exactly the same function (1 Timothy 5:17), elders are equal in authority. Though always pursuing consensus, all elder decisions are by a majority vote unless otherwise specified in these bylaws or in the Policies and Procedures Manual.
- G. The qualifications for elders are found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9 and 1 Peter 5:1-3. If an elder ceases to live by any of the qualifications, he is expected to resign or he will be removed by the biblical process of church discipline under Article VII, Section 3.
- H. As seen in these passages and the rest of the New Testament, elders shall be male, they being such biologically and anatomically from birth and continuing. (1 Timothy 2:9-15, 1 Corinthians 11:2-16, 1 Corinthians 14:33-38.)
- I. An elder ordained by a like-minded church may proceed to installation as an elder in CrossPointe earlier than one year at the discretion of the elders, Church Council and CrossPointe members as provided in Section 2 below. Otherwise, an elder must be a member of CrossPointe or a like-minded church for at least one year before being

ordained and installed as an elder. He may begin the elder training process at any time at the discretion of the elders. As the Lord supplies, training men for eldership (and other forms of leadership) shall be an ongoing ministry.

- J. The elders, or a designee of each, shall be non-voting, ex-officio members of all teams and committees.
- K. The elders shall serve indefinitely. If a salaried elder knows that God has called him to service elsewhere, he will give CrossPointe no less than sixty (60) days' written notice of his intention to withdraw from service. Each elder shall serve until his relationship is terminated by (1) his death, (2) his written request, or (3) by the removal process under Article VII, Section 3 below.

Section 2. The Selection, Ordination, and Installation of Elders.

Elders are men gifted, called and ordained by God. (Acts 20:28 and Ephesians 4:11.) They also are recognized, ordained and installed by the elders and the CPF membership. The process for ordination and installation of elders, or installation alone for an elder previously ordained at a like-minded church, is the same, though the training may be different. Both will be referred to as a "candidate for eldership" in these bylaws.

A. Adding Elders

There is a five-step process for adding an elder. Steps 2-5 include a vote. Prior to voting a time for fasting may be deemed appropriate and enacted by a majority vote of those members of the group present and voting.

Note: "Lead Teaching Elder" is not a phrase found in Scripture. We have selected the phrase to convey (1) *equality* among the elders in authority and (2) *prominence* in the teaching role of elders.

Step 1. Nomination.

Any member of CrossPointe may nominate a candidate for eldership at any time. This may be done by submitting to the elders and Church Council the candidate's name. This can be done through the church office.

Step 2. Training and examination by the elders and deacons.

The elders will determine if the nominee for elder is appropriate for elder training. Consideration will be given to prior training and ministry experience at CrossPointe and other like-minded churches. The elder training process is determined by the elders and includes perpetual training for those elders who are able to participate. During the training process, the elders will determine if and when a candidate for eldership is ready for elder ministry by a 75% affirmative vote of the elders. This determination may be revisited by the elders at any time before ordination with a 75% affirmative vote needed to continue the process.

Step 3. Examination by the Church Council.

The candidate for eldership will then appear before one or more gatherings of the elders and Church Council for questioning and a vote by the Church Council. A 75% affirmative vote by the Church Council is necessary prior to Step 4.

Step 4. Examination by CrossPointe membership.

The candidate for eldership will then appear before CrossPointe membership for questioning and their vote, at which time he will share his testimony, family life, call, ministry experience, pertinent theology and ministry perspectives, and the membership of CrossPointe may then ask him questions. A 75% affirmative vote of all the CrossPointe members present and voting is necessary for approval for ordination and installation.

Step 5. Ordination and Installation.

The candidate will then be ordained and installed (or installed if previously ordained) at a service designed for this purpose and will then begin his eldership ministry with his fellow elders.

B. Replacement of the Lead Teaching Elder

Step 1. The Selection of an Interim Lead Teaching Elder.

The elders have the authority and duty to manage pulpit supply. If deemed necessary, they may select an Interim Lead Teaching Elder. Consideration shall be given to the selection of one of the existing elders of CrossPointe to fill this interim position, as well as the permanent position of Lead Teaching Elder. Fulfilling the interim position does not disqualify a man from being selected and installed for the permanent position of Lead Teaching Elder. Elders may remove an Interim Lead Teaching Elder from this role at any time by a majority vote of the elders.

Step 2. The Selection of a Lead Teaching Elder Search Team

The elders and the Church Council will delegate a Lead Teaching Elder Search Team consisting of the elders and an equal or greater number of non-elder CPF members, if possible. The congregation will be asked to submit nominations for this team to the elders and Church Council. Nominees are then recommended by a majority vote of both the elders and then a majority vote of the Church Council. Both groups must approve a nominee for him/her to be invited to the next step. These nominees shall be invited to meet with the elders and Church Council for discussion and questioning regarding the selection process for a Lead Teaching Elder, after which a second vote by the elders and then the Church Council shall occur to recommend individually some or all of these Search Team nominees. Each nominee must be approved by a majority vote of both groups. A list of the recommended nominees will be published by the church office followed by a period of not less than two (2) weeks for consideration and questioning by the CrossPointe membership. These nominees will then appear before the CrossPointe membership for questioning at a meeting called for this purpose. Prior to voting a time for fasting may be deemed appropriate and enacted by a majority affirmative vote of those CPF members present and voting. There shall be a separate vote for each nominee. A majority vote of all the CPF members present and voting at that meeting is necessary for installation onto the Lead Teaching Elder Search Team.

Step 3. The Election of the Lead Teaching Elder

The Lead Teaching Elder Search Team will present, one nominee for Lead Teaching Elder at a time, to the CrossPointe membership. This nominee must meet all of the qualifications for elder (Article VII, Section 1) and will share his testimony, family life, call ministry experience, theology, ministry perspectives, leadership philosophy and vision for CrossPointe. The congregation may then ask him questions. Prior to voting a time for fasting may be deemed appropriate and enacted by a majority affirmative vote of those CPF members present and voting. A 75% affirmative vote of all the CPF members present and voting is necessary for his approval and installation. The Lead Teaching Elder will be installed at a service designed for this purpose and will then begin his eldership ministry with his fellow elders.

Section 3. The Removal of an Elder.

A. Elders may be removed pursuant to the following biblically prescribed steps for church discipline; and any member of CrossPointe may initiate the following biblically prescribed steps for removal of an elder:

Step 1 (Matthew 18:15) “If your brother (elder) sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.” These sins include the breach of the elder’s oath before God and this congregation to uphold the biblical requirements for elders which include 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9,

and 1 Peter 5:1-4, as well as the appropriate fulfilling of the responsibilities of elders (Article VII, Section 1C.) If the sin is grievous enough to possibly disqualify one from eldership, even if the elder is repentant, the elder should, of his own initiative, confess his sin to the other elders for the purpose of counsel and possible resignation and the person(s) initiating the Step 1 process shall be present. If the elder refuses to fulfill Step 1, Step 2 should be carried out with at least one other elder present.

Step 2 (Matthew 18:16) But if he (the elder) does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED.” The witnesses are not to hear the accusation prior to meeting with the accuser and the accused. (1 Timothy 5:19-20) “Do not receive an accusation against an elder except on the basis of two or three witnesses. Those who continue in sin, rebuke in the presence of all, so that the rest also may be fearful of sinning.”

Step 3 (Matthew 18:17a) “If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church;” (*CrossPointe*) The other elders will oversee and assist in this action as well as in Step 4. All disciplinary decisions and actions in Steps 3 and 4 are made by the members of CPF in meetings called for this purpose conducted with elder leadership and oversight.

Step 4 (Matthew 18:17b-20) “and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst.”

Elders shall help members of CrossPointe understand and apply these steps.

- B. Every reasonable measure shall be taken to assist any troubled elder. The other elders and deacons shall be available to give guidance to the troubled elder. Repentance and restoration, rather than punishment, shall be the goals of this discipline and shall govern the attitude of CPF members towards the elder. Even if repentant, an elder may still be deemed disqualified from eldership due to the need to be viewed by the church as “beyond reproach” (1 Timothy 3:2) and “having a good reputation” (1 Timothy 3:7), etc.
- C. If removal from CrossPointe membership is appropriate, a 2/3 affirmative vote is needed by the CPF members present and voting, as in Article VI, Section 5. Removal from CrossPointe membership is a disqualification from eldership. If removal from eldership alone is appropriate, a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the members of CrossPointe present and voting is needed. The elder being disciplined will be invited to be present and speak to the congregation prior to the vote. A recess for fasting and a second meeting may be considered prior to a vote, however a majority vote of the CrossPointe members present is necessary for a postponement of the vote.

Section 4. Reinstallation of a Repentant Elder.

An elder removed under Article VII Section 3 above may be reinstated by the process of adding elders to the elder team (Article VII, Section 2A) as stated above, after the passage of sufficient time for the ex-elder to regain the trust and reputation needed for eldership ministry as determined by the elders.

ARTICLE VIII. DEACONS

The deacons at CrossPointe serve CrossPointe and each member of CrossPointe both temporally and spiritually. They are to be examples to CrossPointe in how to live a life of Christ-like service and devotion, working under the leadership of the elders, freeing the elders to focus more time in their responsibilities of prayer, teaching, leading, overseeing, protecting and serving.

Section 1. Qualifications and Organization of Deacons.

- A. The specific responsibilities of the deacons are found in the Policies and Procedures Manual
- B. Qualifications for being selected, ordained and installed as a deacon are found in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. If a deacon ceases to live any of these qualifications he is expected to resign, or he will be removed by the same process as the removal of an elder (Article VII Section 3.) A deacon must be a member of CrossPointe for at least one year before being ordained and/or installed as a deacon. A deacon must be a male, biologically and anatomically at birth and continuing. He may begin the deacon training process at any time at the discretion of the deacons and elders. Training and installing men for deaconship shall be an ongoing process as God supplies.
- C. The number of deacons shall be as many as Christ calls, equips and reveals to CrossPointe. These are men who desire to serve and are selected, ordained and installed according to the process set forth below.
- D. A deacon shall serve indefinitely until his relationship is terminated by his death, written request or by disciplinary action.
- E. Organization of the Deaconate. Staying within the guidelines of the Policies and Procedure Manual, the deacon body shall organize itself. Coordinating with the elders the deacons shall determine how to minister effectively to the needs of CPF members and others attending services. The deacons shall select annually one man to serve at the pleasure of the Deaconate as lead deacon and to speak for and represent the Deaconate in CrossPointe church matters.

Section 2. The Selection, Ordination and Installation of Deacons.

Deacons are gifted, called and ordained by God and are recognized, ordained and installed by the deacons, the elders, and CrossPointe. The process for ordination and installation (or just installation for a deacon previously ordained at a like-minded church) shall be the same though the training may be different. Both will be referred to as “candidate for deaconship” in these bylaws.

A. Adding Deacons

There is a five-step process for adding a deacon. Each of Steps 2-4 include a vote. Prior to voting a time for fasting may be deemed appropriate and enacted by a majority vote of those members of the group present and voting.

Step 1. Nomination.

Candidates for deaconship may be nominated by any member of CrossPointe at any time, by submitting to the deacons, elders and Church Council the candidate’s name. This can be done through the church office.

Step 2. Training and examination by deacons and elders.

The deacons and elders will determine if the nominee for deacon is appropriate for deacon training. Consideration will be given to prior training and ministry experience at CrossPointe and other like-minded churches. The deacon training process is determined by the deacons and elders and includes perpetual training for those deacons who are able to participate. During the training process, the deacons and elders will determine if and when a candidate for deaconship is ready for deacon ministry by a 75% affirmative vote of both the deacons and then the elders. This determination may be revisited by the

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deacons and/or elders at any time before ordination with a 75% affirmative vote needed to continue the process.

Step 3. Examination by the Church Council.

The candidate for deaconship will then appear before one or more gatherings of the deacons, elders and Church Council for questioning and a vote by the Church Council. A 75% affirmative vote by the council is necessary prior to Step 4.

Step 4. Examination by CrossPointe members.

The candidate for deaconship will then appear before CrossPointe membership for questioning and their vote, at which time he will share his testimony, family life, call, ministry experience, pertinent theology and ministry perspectives, and the congregation may then ask him questions. A 75% affirmative vote of all the CrossPointe members present and voting is necessary for approval for ordination and installation.

Step 5. Ordination and Installation.

The candidate will then be ordained and installed (or installed if previously ordained) at a service designed for this purpose and will then begin his deaconship ministry with his fellow deacons.

Section 3. Removal and Reinstallation of Deacons.

Removal and Reinstallation of a Deacon shall be done in accordance with the substance and procedures for the removal and reinstallation of elders in Article VII Sections 3-4.

ARTICLE IX. MINISTRY TEAMS AND CHURCH COUNCIL

Section 1. Ministry Teams.

- A. CrossPointe shall minister to its members, the community, nationally and internationally through teams established and eliminated from time to time by the elders with the advice of the Church Council.
- B. The teams and their purposes and functions shall be set forth in the Policies and Procedures Manual.
- C. Teams are responsible to organize themselves while remaining faithful to organizational policies in the Policies and Procedures Manual.
- D. Team members must be members of CrossPointe and each member of CrossPointe shall be encouraged to join a team and participate in its work. Persons become team members by a majority vote of the team present and voting at any team meeting, unless otherwise stated in the Policies and Procedures Manual.
- E. Each team shall have a team leader who shall be at least 21 years of age, called by God, proposed by the team, approved by the elders and the Church Council, and by a majority vote of CrossPointe members present and voting at any regular or special meeting. Each team leader shall stand for reelection or replacement at each annual meeting. Each team leader shall continue as leader until removed, as hereinafter provided, or replaced by a majority vote of CrossPointe members at an annual meeting
- F. A team leader may resign by written notice to the team. A team leader may also be removed from leadership by a majority vote of the team present and voting at a meeting, or by the elders with the advice of the Church Council. Such team leader, sought to be removed, may be present at any such meeting and be heard. If a team leader shall resign or be removed, such team leader shall be replaced by a new leader as provided herein, or the team may by

majority vote of CrossPointe members present select an interim leader to serve until a new leader is duly chosen at the next regular or special meeting.

Section 2. Church Council.

While not in the Bible, the Church Council is a practical way for our ministry team leaders to work together to coordinate the activities of the ministry teams as well as provide counsel to CrossPointe regarding the areas of church life listed below under their responsibilities.

The Church Council operates under the leadership of, with the oversight of and in coordination with the elders in all it does. The Church Council is not to be viewed as an authoritative branch of church government or as a group possessing a balance of power to offset the authority of the elders. The Church Council has authority in matters delegated to it by these bylaws.

A. The responsibilities of the Church Council are to:

1. Pray together for guidance and blessing regarding each of their responsibilities listed below.
2. Facilitate mutual edification, fellowship and ministry between team leaders.
3. Organize and calendar ministry team activities in coordination with the CrossPointe calendar kept by CrossPointe church office.
4. Give counsel to CrossPointe regarding financial decisions in coordination with the Stewardship Team and the CrossPointe office.
5. Help the Stewardship Team with the formulation and recommendation to CrossPointe of an annual budget and budget adjustments.
6. Approve unbudgeted expenditures not to exceed \$2,500⁰⁰ per calendar quarter.
7. Plan, organize and call church business meetings, including the meeting agendas.
8. Give counsel to CrossPointe regarding church business and any observations deemed helpful to the wellbeing and health of CrossPointe.
9. Give counsel to the elders regarding any observations deemed helpful to the wellbeing and health of CrossPointe.
10. Give counsel to teams and team leaders regarding church business and any observations deemed helpful to the wellbeing and health of CrossPointe.
11. Exercise all functions and authority herein elsewhere delegated in these bylaws to the Church Council.

B. Voting Council members shall be at least 21 years of age and shall include the leader of each ministry team with a vote as set forth in the Policies and Procedures Manual; and one representative of the deacons. Though always pursuing consensus, all Church Council decisions are by a majority vote of those present and voting, unless otherwise specified in the bylaws or the Policies and Procedures Manual. A quorum is a majority of all voting Council members and is required to conduct any business or take any vote.

C. Ex-officio Council members shall include the elders, the officers and ministry staff as defined in Articles X and XI below.

D. The Church Council shall meet as called by the Moderator, by any two Church Council members, or by the elders. A Moderator, Vice Moderator, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected annually by the members of CPF (see Article X, Section 1) and the Moderator or Vice Moderators shall chair each meeting of the Church Council.

E. The Church Council must have no less than five (5) members.

ARTICLE X. OFFICERS AND MODERATORS

The primary function of the president, vice-president(s), secretary and treasurer as referred to herein is to comply with Florida corporate law. Titles in this section are extra-biblical and used for the purposes of compliance with Florida law only.

Section 1. Corporate Officers.

The officers of CrossPointe shall include a President, one or more Vice Presidents, a Secretary, and a Treasurer; each of whom, and any replacement, shall be proposed by the Church Council, approved by the elders, and then by CrossPointe members at the annual meeting, by majority vote of those present and voting. Any officer may be removed by a majority vote of the elders, a majority vote of the Church Council or a majority vote of CrossPointe members present and voting at a meeting called for such purpose. Any officer may resign by written notice given to the Moderator. An officer shall serve until he/she resigns or is replaced.

- A. The President shall serve as the primary contact person for the state of Florida.
- B. The Secretary shall keep minutes at all CrossPointe business meetings and Church Council meetings.
- C. The Treasurer shall oversee the finances of CrossPointe as stated in Article XIV, Section 1 of these bylaws.

Section 2. Moderators.

Any CrossPointe member 21 or older may also be elected to serve as Moderator by the Church Council. The Moderator shall moderate the Church Council and CrossPointe business meetings. Any CrossPointe member 21 or older may be elected to serve as Vice Moderator, who shall moderate meetings in the absence of the Moderator.

ARTICLE XI. STAFF

Section 1. Ministerial Staff.

Ministerial staff shall be called as the elders, with the advice of the Church Council, determine the need. Each ministerial staff member will serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Church Council.

Calling shall be at the recommendation of the elders and affirmed by a majority vote of the members of the Church Council present and voting. Each such ministerial staff member shall serve until the relationship is terminated by his/her written request, or action of the elders. All ministerial staff shall be members of CrossPointe.

Section 2. Non-Ministerial Staff.

Non-ministerial staff may be hired as the elders and Church Council determine the need. Employment, supervision, and termination of services shall be determined by the elders with the advice of the Church Council in accordance with CrossPointe Employee Manual.

Section 3. Employees.

Employees shall be biblically and morally qualified according to the role they are to fulfill as determined by the elders.

ARTICLE XII. TRUSTEES

Section 1. Duties of Trustees.

The title to all CrossPointe real property shall be held in the name of the trustees. The trustees shall, upon the direction of the duly made decisions of the CrossPointe members in accordance with these bylaws, perform the nominal functions of acquiring title to, transferring title to, mortgaging, leasing or other transferring interests in the real property of CrossPointe for whom they perform such service as trustees.

Whenever signatures of trustees are required, at least two (2) trustees must sign. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no real property owned by CrossPointe shall be sold, mortgaged, leased, or transferred, and no interest in real property shall be acquired, by the trustees unless approved a majority vote of the CrossPointe members present and voting at an annual or quarterly meeting, or at any special meeting called for that purpose.

Section 2. Election of Trustees.

The Church Council shall nominate each trustee, who shall be affirmed by a majority vote of the CrossPointe members present and voting at the annual meeting if possible. The term of a trustee shall be for three (3) years, or less if necessary for a three-year rotation, and one trustee shall be elected each year at the annual meeting for a three (3) year rotation cycle.

ARTICLE XIII. WORSHIP SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Section 1. Worship Services.

CrossPointe shall meet regularly for prayer, preaching, instruction, evangelism, and for worship. Worship services will be conducted under the direction of the elders or their designees. Worship services will be open to CrossPointe members and non-members alike, except that any persons who disrupt such services by words or conduct or by affirming or preaching any gospel other than that delivered by Christ and the Apostles shall be removed by command of any elder, deacon, or person conducting said service. Worship services shall be held as recommended by the elders and conducted as stated above.

Section 2. Annual Meeting.

An annual meeting for business of all CrossPointe members shall be held at least once every calendar year, preferably in November, at such date and time as the Church Council shall decide. Notice of the annual meeting must be given thirty (30) days in advance in CrossPointe bulletin, church video screen or by email to CrossPointe members, which shall set forth the purpose for the meeting. The Church Council shall conduct all meetings described herein and its Moderator shall officiate the same.

Section 3. Quarterly Meetings.

CrossPointe members shall attempt to meet once each quarter during the months of February, May, August and November. The November meeting may, if the Church Council so directs, constitute the annual meeting. A notice of quarterly meetings must be given two weeks in advance in CrossPointe bulletin, church video screen or by email to

CrossPointe members. Each team leader, the treasurer, and the elders shall report activities since the last quarterly meeting. A CrossPointe member may request a matter or matters to be placed on the agenda for any quarterly or annual meeting by filing a written request to this effect at least two weeks prior thereto with the CrossPointe church office. The requested matter or matters will be scheduled for the next ensuing quarterly or annual meeting, if deemed appropriate by the Church Council, and may be postponed by vote of the Church Council where the Church Council believes further study is needed. Such further study may be assigned by the Church Council to a team or other body, which shall report at the next quarterly or annual meeting.

Section 4. Special Meetings.

Special meetings may be called at any time by the elders with the advice of the Church Council, or the Church Council with the approval of the elders. They shall provide at least a two-week notice as outlined above stating the purpose or purposes, date and location. Any CrossPointe member may make a request to an elder, or Church Council member to call a special meeting.

Section 5. Quorum.

A quorum for all meetings of CrossPointe members enumerated in these by-laws without which no decisions requiring a vote shall take place, shall consist of at least twenty-five (25) CrossPointe members. If a quorum is not present, and essential business requiring voting is needed, the meeting will be postponed as often as needed until a quorum shall be present.

Section 6. Spiritual Preparation.

CrossPointe members are encouraged to prayerfully study one or more passages of Scripture regarding our hearts, words and conduct toward one another prior to each meeting. Such passages include: John 13:1-35; Romans 12:1-21; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Galatians 5:13-6:8; Ephesians 4:1-5:21; Philippians 1:27-2:18; Colossians 3:1-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-20; 2 Timothy 2:22-26; and 1 Peter 3:8-12.

Section 7. Unity.

The elders shall oversee all meetings and the conduct of all CrossPointe members. The elders have the authority and shall exercise control of any meeting at any point if the unity and love of the CrossPointe members is in jeopardy in their estimation. The lead teaching elder or his appointee shall take the lead in such action and publicly ask for the majority approval of the other elders present. Appropriate scripture (such as those listed in Section 6), words of reconciliation and prayer are to be employed until harmony is restored. This authority of the elders supersedes any rules of order being employed as well as the meeting's agenda. However, this authority does not permit the alteration of any decision duly made by the CPF members prior to the elders' intervention in the business meeting.

ARTICLE XIV. CHURCH FINANCES

Section 1. Stewardship Team and Treasurer.

The Stewardship Team, which includes the Treasurer, is responsible to oversee all fiscal matters of CrossPointe including collections, deposits, banking, expenditures, accounting, reporting, budget formulation, and providing financial advice to CrossPointe, the elders and the Church Council. The Policy and Procedures Manual has a detailed description of responsibilities for the Stewardship Team and the Treasurer, as well as membership qualifications for this team.

Section 2. Budget.

An annual budget shall be proposed each year. The Stewardship Team (organized in accordance with Article IX, Section 1B) will meet with all teams and shall submit income and expense projections for the following calendar year to the Church Council no later than the end of the first week of October of each year. A proposed budget draft shall be submitted to the elders and the Church Council for consideration and approval. The proposed written budget, once approved by the elders and the Church Council, shall be made available to the CrossPointe membership in the lobby or church office no later than two (2) weeks in advance of the next annual meeting and there be presented for approval by a majority vote of the CrossPointe members at such annual meeting.

Section 3. Tithes & Offerings.

CrossPointe members are encouraged to tithe as the entry level method of supporting God's work and continue to consider biblical principles such as justice, mercy and faithfulness to guide further giving. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others." (Matthew 23:23) See also Acts 2:42-47; Acts 4:32-37; and 2 Corinthians 8-9.

Section 4. Accounting Procedures.

All funds for any and all purposes shall be properly recorded on the books of CrossPointe. A system of accounting that will adequately provide for the handling of all funds shall be established by the Stewardship Team.

All funds given for a specific purpose shall be known as "designated funds" and shall be accounted for separately in such manner as the Stewardship Team shall select. While it is the intent of CrossPointe to use all "designated funds" for the specific purposes and projects designated, the final authority for the use of all gifts to CrossPointe rests with vote of the CrossPointe membership. Designated funds may be moved to another fund by the majority vote of CrossPointe members present and voting at an annual, quarterly or special meeting. Designated funds may be designated only to organizations that are qualified as IRC Section 501(c)(3) organizations, or to existing accounts and/or ministries of CrossPointe which have been approved by the elders with the advice of the Church Council to receive designated funds. Funds not properly designated will be returned to the donor if possible.

Section 5. Budgeted Expenditures.

The elders, team leaders, and others authorized by the elders and Church Council and having general oversight of a church approved budget item, are hereby authorized to expend funds for items previously approved in their respective

budgets. Such duly authorized persons shall verify the availability of sufficient funds prior to committing to spend such budgeted expenditures and purchases. The process for approval and distribution shall be outlined in the Policies and Procedures Manual.

Section 6. Unbudgeted Expenditures.

The Church Council is authorized to approve the payment of unbudgeted expenditures not exceeding two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) per calendar quarter, as outlined in the Policies and Procedures Manual. Payment of any unbudgeted expenditure in any quarter that will bring the total amount paid in such quarter to an amount in excess of \$2,500.00 must be previously approved by a majority vote of CrossPointe members present and voting at a meeting duly called for such purpose.

Section 7. Fiscal Year.

The fiscal year will be the calendar year. CrossPointe Treasurer shall provide financial statements as required in Article X, Section 1(C) of these Bylaws, and at such other times as may be requested by a majority vote of CrossPointe members at any meeting of CrossPointe members called for such purpose.

ARTICLE XV. MARRIAGE

CrossPointe affirms God's law that marriage is a lifelong exclusive covenant between one man and one woman according to each person's biological and anatomical gender at birth, to the exclusion of same sex and transgender relationships. (See Genesis 1:26-28; Genesis 2:18-25; Exodus 20:14, 17; Leviticus 18:20-23; Leviticus 20:10-16; Deuteronomy 22:5; Matthew 19:3-12; Romans 1:18-31; 1 Corinthians 5-6; 1 Timothy 1:8-11; and Jude 7.)

The elders of CrossPointe are to perform weddings only for persons who:

1. are pursuing heterosexual marriage according to their biological and anatomical gender at birth,
2. complete premarital counseling as determined by the elders,
3. are equally yoked (2 Corinthians 6:14f), and
4. were formerly unmarried by law or custom, were a widow or widower (Romans 7:1-6), were divorced for reasons of infidelity (Matthew 19:1-12), or desertion (1 Corinthians 7:10-16.)

Elders have the authority, and responsibility, to refuse to marry anyone who, in their assessment, do not meet these standards and are to be available to explain these standards to anyone concerned.

CrossPointe property is to be used only for marriage ceremonies compliant with Article XV of these bylaws above.

ARTICLE XVI. CHURCH POLICIES & PROCEDURES MANUAL

The elders and the Church Council shall adopt and maintain a Church Policies and Procedures Manual. The manual shall be kept and made available to CrossPointe members upon reasonable request. The elders and the Church Council shall review the manual periodically and make such changes thereto deemed appropriate. Both the elders and the Church Council must approve changes by a majority vote of each group for the change to be adopted. CrossPointe members may propose additions, deletions or changes to the manual by submitting the same in writing to CrossPointe office. Upon receipt of a proposed change, the elders and the Church Council shall place discussion of the same on the agenda for the next regular meeting of the council and may request the proposer to be present at such meeting.

ARTICLE XVII. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Individual Amendments

Suggestions for amending these bylaws may be made by any CrossPointe member or members and submitted in writing to the elders and Church Council. The CrossPointe member(s) making the suggested amendment may be invited to explain the suggestion at a Church Council meeting. If approved by a majority vote of the elders with the advice of the Church Council, the suggested amendment will be presented to the congregation for consideration and a vote at a regularly scheduled business meeting or a special meeting called for that purpose with thirty (30) days' notice or as provided for above. The amendment will be made available to the CrossPointe membership at least thirty (30) days prior to the vote by notice in the CrossPointe bulletin, the video screen or by email to CrossPointe members. A 75% affirmation by the CrossPointe members present and voting is necessary for adoption.

Section 2. Omnibus Amendments

If the elders and Church Council conclude that a major editing of the entire bylaws is necessary, they shall form a Bylaws Editing Team. This team shall include the elders and additional CPF members. An attempt will be made to have the number of non-elders on the team equal or greater than the number of elders. The congregation will be asked to submit nominations for this team to the elders and the Church Council. A majority vote of the CrossPointe membership present and voting at a meeting called for the purpose of approving the Bylaws Editing Team members is required for membership on the team. Amendments suggested by the Bylaws Editing Team will be submitted to the Church Council for a majority vote of affirmation, and if approved, then presented to CrossPointe membership, following the same procedure as for individual amendments above.

ARTICLE XVIII. DISSOLUTION

CrossPointe may only be dissolved as a corporate entity by the vote of seventy-five percent (75%) of its members present and voting at a special meeting called for this purpose. The elders with the advice of the Church Council shall draft and adopt by a majority of those elders present and voting, a resolution recommending dissolution and submit it to CrossPointe members at a special meeting called for such purpose with thirty (30) days advance written notice of the location, time and date of such meeting and its purpose. Notification shall be in writing: mailed to each CrossPointe member; emailed to each CrossPointe member; and, if such a publication exists, published in the CrossPointe bulletin each Sunday between the drafting of such resolution and the meeting. A vote approving dissolution must have a quorum and affirmation by 75% of those CrossPointe members present and voting at the special meeting. In the event of dissolution, the assets of CrossPointe shall revert to First Baptist Church, Bradenton, Florida, or if such church does not exist, to the then-acting Trustees of the Manatee Southern Baptist Association, or if such association does not exist, to the then-acting Trustees of the Florida Baptist Convention.

All scripture in this document is from the NASV.