

1 **Constitution**

APPROVED
23 APR 2017

2 of the

3 **Iglesia Bautista Palabra de Vida Inc.**

4 Tampa, FL.

5 *(Approved by acclamation on April 23rd, 2017)*

6 *(Amended on May 28th, 2017)*

7
8 **Preamble**

9 By the providence of Almighty God, we have been called to
10 congregate since March 19th, 2017 under the name Iglesia Bautista
11 Palabra de Vida Inc. In order to worship God and spread the gospel
12 of His Son Jesus Christ, we, the stewards of Iglesia Bautista
13 Palabra de Vida Inc. submit this Constitution as our bylaws, to
14 be interpreted at all times to reflect the character of Jesus
15 Christ and bring Him glory, as revealed in the Holy Bible and
16 articulated in the "Confession of faith of the Iglesia Bautista
17 Palabra de Vida Inc."

18
19 **Article 1 - Name**

20 **1.1** The name of this church is Iglesia Bautista Palabra de Vida
21 Inc.

22
23 **Article 2 - Purpose**

24 **2.1** The foundation of this church is the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor.
25 3:11; Eph. 2:20), and He guides His church in all affairs through
26 the Holy Scriptures (Psalm 119; 2 Tim. 3:15-17). Therefore, the
27 purpose of this church is to glorify God through Jesus Christ, in
28 the power of the Holy Spirit and in accordance with the Holy
29 Scriptures (Isa. 43:7; Eph. 1:6, 12, 14).

30
31 **2.2** The priorities of ministry of this church flow from the vision

1 of God's glory revealed in Jesus Christ. We exist to savor this
2 vision in worship (John 4:23), strengthen the vision in nurture
3 (1 Cor. 14:26; 2 Peter 3:18), and spread the vision in evangelism,
4 missions, and loving deeds (Matt. 5:16; 28:18-20; 1 Pet. 2:9;
5 3:15).

6
7 **2.3** To remain true to the Lord and His word, this church must be
8 marked by the expository preaching of the whole counsel of God
9 (Acts 20:27; 2 Tim. 4:1-2), administering baptism (Matt. 28:19;
10 Rom. 6:1-4) and the Lord's Supper (Luke 22:19; 1 Cor. 11:17-34),
11 loving one another (John 13:34-35; 1 John 3:11-24; 4:7-12), the
12 practice of formative discipline (i.e., instruction that shapes us
13 more into Christ's likeness) (1 Thess. 5:14; 1 Tim. 5:1-2; Tit.
14 2:15) and corrective discipline carried out by a majority of the
15 congregation with the aim and hope of eventual restoration (Matt.
16 18:15- 20; 1 Cor. 5:1-5).

17
18 **2.4** In pursuing of these priorities and displaying these marks, we
19 especially aim to emphasize:

20 (1) the message of the Gospel (I Cor. 15:3-7); (2) ministries of
21 mercy to meet physical needs (Luke 10:35-37; Titus 2:14, 3:8, 14;
22 James 2:15-16); (3) helping men, women, and families mature
23 according to God's complementary design for men and women in their
24 own households (Gen. 2; Prov. 31; Eph. 5:15-6:9; Col. 3:15-4:1; I
25 Tim. 5:1-22, 6:1-2; Titus 2:1-15; I Peter 2:11- 3:9) and in the
26 church, which is the household of God (Eph. 2:19, I Tim. 3:15; I
27 Pet. 4:17); (4) multiplying Iglesia Bautista Palabra de Vida as
28 the Lord may allow by planting other churches in and around Tampa
29 Bay; and (5) sending/equipping missionaries around the world
30 (Matt. 28:18- 20; Rom. 10:15).

31

32

Article 3 - Membership

Section 1 - Qualifications

3.1.1 To qualify for membership in this church, a person must be a believer in Jesus Christ who gives evidence of regeneration, who has been baptized in obedience to Christ, following his or her regeneration, and who wholeheartedly believes in the Christian faith as revealed in the Bible. Each member must sustain the doctrines of our church and not hold any settled convictions contrary to them, in accordance with our Confession of Faith.

3.1.2 The normal process for becoming a member consists of the completion of all sessions of the Iglesia Bautista Palabra de Vida's membership class, an assessment of a person's qualification for membership in an interview with a pastor, and a vote by the entire church on the basis of that person's profession of faith.

Section 2 - Admission of Members

3.2 To be admitted into the membership of this church, applicants shall be recommended by the pastors for admission and accepted by vote of at least 51% of the members present at any regular or special meeting of the members, recognizing that members of Christ's church should strive for unity in all things (Eph. 4:1-6). From that point forward, newly elected members shall relinquish their membership in any other church and/or denomination.

Section 3 - Duties and Privileges of Membership

3.3.1 Each member will be expected to participate in and contribute to the ministry and life of the church, consistent with God's leading and with the gifts, time, and material resources that each has received from God. Only those who are members of this congregation shall be entitled to lead and/or participate in the

1 ministries of this church.

2

3 **3.3.2** It is the privilege and responsibility of members to attend
4 all members' meetings and vote on the election of officers, on
5 decisions regarding membership status, and on such other matters
6 that may be submitted to a vote.

7

8 Section 4 - On Church Discipline

9 **3.4.1** Formative discipline is inherent in the preaching, teaching,
10 and exercise of the ministries of the church. When formative
11 discipline fails due to unrepentant sin, corrective discipline is
12 then necessary. Corrective discipline is for the good of the church
13 and the member who has sinned. It is never to be entered into
14 lightly or rashly. The goal of corrective discipline is always
15 remedial, that is, the goal is always the salvation and holiness
16 and good of the one being disciplined.

17

18 **3.4.2** Any member who is consistently neglectful of his or her
19 duties or is guilty of conduct by which the name of our Lord Jesus
20 Christ may be dishonored, and so opposing the welfare of the
21 church, shall be subject to the admonition of the pastors and the
22 discipline of the church, according to the instructions of our
23 Lord in Matthew 18:15-17 and the example of the rest of Scripture.
24 Church discipline, then, should ordinarily be contemplated when
25 individual private admonition has failed. Church discipline can
26 include admonition by the pastors or congregation, removal from
27 office, and even excommunication (see Matthew 18:15-17; 2
28 Thessalonians 3:14-15; 1 Timothy 5:19-20; 1 Corinthians 5:4-5).

29

30 **3.4.3** The purpose of such discipline shall be:

- 31 1. For the repentance, reconciliation, and spiritual growth of
32 the individual disciplined (Heb. 12:1-11; Matt. 18:15-17; 1

- 1 Cor. 5:5; Gal. 6:1);
- 2 2. For the instruction in righteousness and good of other
- 3 Christians, that is, as an example to them (1 Cor. 5:11; 1
- 4 Tim. 5:20; Heb. 10:24-25);
- 5 3. For the purity of the church as a whole (1 Cor. 5:6-7; Eph.
- 6 5:27; Rev. 21:2);
- 7 4. For the good of our corporate witness to non-Christians (Matt.
- 8 5:13-16; John 13:35; Acts 5:10-14); and
- 9 5. Supremely for the glory of God by reflecting His holy
- 10 character (Deut. 5:11; John 15:8; Eph. 1:4; 1 Pet. 2:12).

11

12 **3.4.4** In the case of public sin it is preferable that a confession

13 be made at an appointed meeting of the church, so that the church

14 may freely and openly extend forgiveness. Such public confession

15 is especially necessary in the case of pastors and deacons (1 Tim.

16 5:19-20; Gal. 2:11-14).

17

18 Section 5 - Rescinding of Membership

19 **3.5** Rescinding of membership shall be recognized by the church

20 following the death, transfer to another church, or voluntary

21 resignation of any church member who is in good standing.

22 Membership may also be rescinded as an act of church discipline

23 (ordinarily, but not necessarily, at the recommendation of the

24 pastors). Finally, a brother's/sister's membership will be

25 rescinded if he/she stops attending worship services during a

26 consecutive period of no less than three (3) months (or 12

27 consecutive Sundays) and ceases to participate either in the

28 ministries or in the general life of the church. In both instances,

29 a simple majority vote of 51% of the members present at any regular

30 or special meeting will be required. We recognize that the members

31 of Christ's church should strive for unity in all things (Eph.

32 4:1-6).

Article 4 - Meetings & Gatherings

Section 1 - Worship Gatherings

4.1 Worship services shall be held each Lord's Day, and may also be held throughout the week as the church determines.

Section 2 - Members' Meetings

4.2.1 In every meeting together, members shall act in that spirit of mutual trust, openness, and loving consideration which is appropriate within the body of our Lord Jesus Christ.

4.2.2 There shall be a regular members' meeting at least every quarter, at some time apart from the Sunday morning service, and at a time acceptable to the membership. The pastors shall see that the stated meetings of the church are regularly held and that required reports are submitted to the church by the responsible members.

4.2.3 Special members' meetings may be called as requested by the pastors, or at the written request, submitted to the pastors, of one-third (1/3 or 33%) of the membership. In the event of a written request from the members, the pastors shall call a special meeting to be held within one (1) month of having received the request.

4.2.4 The pastors shall designate a moderator at all members' meetings of the church. The date, time, and purpose of any regular or special meeting shall be announced at all public services of the church at least two weeks preceding the meeting. Provided all constitutional provisions for notification have been met, a quorum shall be understood to be met by those members present at said meeting.

1 **4.2.5** Meetings shall be directed according to the system of
2 parliamentary rules known as: "Robert's Rules of Order Newly
3 Revised" now in its eleventh edition [RONR (11th ed.)]. On any
4 matter that is brought to vote, a simple majority vote (51% or
5 more) is needed for it to pass (unless this constitution specifies
6 otherwise), recognizing that the members of Christ's church should
7 strive for unity in all things (Eph. 4:1-6). Abstentions will not
8 be considered as votes cast. Only votes cast by members present at
9 the time of the meeting will be counted.

10
11 **4.2.6** Resolutions adopted by the pastors shall be reported to the
12 church at members' meetings and may be reversed by the church by
13 a majority vote of the members present.

14
15 **Article 5 - Officers**

16
17 Section 1 - Summary

18 **5.1.1** Jesus Christ is the Lord and head of this church and He rules
19 primarily through the Scriptures.

20
21 **5.1.2** The biblical officers of this church are elders and
22 deacons/deaconesses. The biblical terms "elder," "pastor,"
23 "overseer" and "bishop" are understood to refer to the same
24 biblical office. All pastors-elders-overseers-bishops possess the
25 authority and gifts of pastors, whether or not they are paid by
26 the church. In addition, our church recognizes the administrative
27 positions of secretary and treasurer, as well as paid ministerial
28 staff (who are not considered officers) as needed. All officers
29 and ministerial staff must be members of this church before
30 assuming their responsibilities.

1 Section 2 - Pastors/Elders/Overseers/Bishops

2 **5.2.1** Subject to the will of the congregation, the
3 pastors/elders/overseers/bishops shall provide broad oversight to
4 the ministry and resources of the church. In keeping with the
5 principles set forth in Acts 6:1-6; 1 Tim. 3:1-7; 5:17; Tit. 1:5-
6 9; Jas. 5:14; and 1 Pet. 5:1-4, the pastors shall seek the mind of
7 Christ through the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the word of God
8 as they undertake the work of shepherding God's flock. The pastors
9 shall teach and exhort; refute those who contradict the truth;
10 pray for the sick; care for the church's members; devote themselves
11 to prayer, to the government of the church and to ministry.

12
13 **5.2.2** The pastors shall be comprised of not less than three men
14 who satisfy the qualifications for the office of elder set forth
15 in 1 Tim. 3:1-7 and Tit. 1:6-9. Only men may serve as pastors in
16 accordance with 1 Tim. 2:12; 3:2. Most of the pastors will receive
17 no financial compensation from the church. No pastor shall hold
18 the office of deacon simultaneously.

19
20 **5.2.3** The church shall recognize men gifted and willing to serve
21 in this calling, in accordance with the constitutional provisions
22 on elections. These men shall be received as gifts of Christ to
23 His church and set apart as pastors. This recognition shall be
24 submitted to the church for reaffirmation every three years under
25 the procedure outlined in section 5.2.5 of this constitution. Upon
26 the completion of his term, that pastor shall be eligible for
27 another term if he is duly elected by the membership.

28
29 **5.2.4** Some pastors may receive pay for their labors. In
30 recommending that the congregation call a new pastor, or after a
31 new pastor has been recognized by the congregation, the pastors
32 may also recommend that the pastor be compensated on a full-, part-

1 time, or contract basis for his work (I Tim. 5:17, I Cor. 9).

2

3 **5.2.5** All pastors, whether paid or unpaid, shall be called to serve
4 three-year terms. There shall be no limit on the number of
5 consecutive three-year terms that a pastor may serve. Near the
6 conclusion of each three-year term, or at the discretion of the
7 pastors any time before the conclusion of the three-year term,
8 either the pastors or a subcommittee appointed by them, will
9 conduct a review of each pastor. The review will address that
10 pastor's biblical qualifications, character, pastoral competence,
11 and theological conviction. Based upon that review, the pastors or
12 their subcommittee may recommend that the congregation reaffirm
13 that pastor's calling. With the congregation's final approval,
14 that pastor shall commence another three-year term. Should the
15 pastors or the subcommittee instead decide not to recommend that
16 pastor to another term, the pastors will notify the congregation
17 and that pastor's service shall end at the conclusion of his term.
18 It's important to point out that such dismissal from employment
19 does not automatically result in disqualification from the
20 pastorate.

21

22 **5.2.6** If there exist two members or more with reason to believe
23 that a pastor should be dismissed, they should express their
24 concern to at least two pastors and, if need be only afterwards,
25 to the congregation. Any such action shall be done in accordance
26 with the instructions of our Lord in Matt. 18:15-17 and 1 Tim.
27 5:17-21. Any pastor may be dismissed by a 51% vote of the members
28 at any formally called members' meeting of the church; recognizing
29 that members of Christ's church should strive for unity in all
30 things (Eph. 4:1-6).

31

32

1 **5.2.7** The pastors shall take particular responsibility to oversee
2 worship services; administer the ordinances of baptism and the
3 Lord's Supper; equip the membership for the work of the ministry;
4 encourage and teach sound doctrine; admonish and correct error;
5 oversee the process of church discipline; coordinate and promote
6 the ministries of the church; mobilize the church for world
7 missions; examine and instruct prospective members; examine and
8 recommend all prospective candidates for offices and positions;
9 work together with the ministry of finances and with the deacons'
10 representative in the development and maintenance of the annual
11 budget; and oversee the work of the deacons and appointed church
12 agents and ministries. The pastors are further to ensure that all
13 who minister the word to the congregation, including outside
14 speakers, share our fundamental convictions as defined in our
15 confession of faith.

16
17 **5.2.8** The pastors may recommend the creation of paid positions for
18 assisting in the work of the ministry. A paid position may or may
19 not be occupied by a pastor. If occupied by a pastor, that person
20 must be duly recognized and appointed as such by the congregation.
21 In proposing new paid positions, the pastors shall present job
22 descriptions for each position to the membership for approval. The
23 job descriptions must identify any reporting and/or supervisory
24 relationships. The pastors will report hiring and firing decisions
25 for paid staff to the congregation.

26
27 **5.2.9** The pastors shall elect a president who shall serve as
28 chairman of the pastors' meetings. The president may also serve on
29 certain occasions as the spokesman for the pastors. The president
30 of the pastors will have no pastoral authority that is above that
31 of his colleagues. In the absence of the president, the pastors
32 shall appoint another pastor to fulfill these duties.

1 Section 3 - Deacons & Deaconesses

2 **5.3.1** The office of deacon/deaconess is described in 1 Tim. 3:8-
3 13 (cf. Acts 6:1-7). The church shall recognize, in accordance
4 with the constitutional provisions on elections, men and women who
5 are already giving of themselves in service to the church, who
6 possess gifts of ministry, and who are called to further service
7 and practical care for the church's members. The number of
8 deacons/deaconesses shall be determined by the needs of the
9 ministry and the call and qualifications of men and women in the
10 church. These men and women shall be received as gifts of Christ
11 to His church and set apart as deacons/deaconesses. This
12 recognition shall be reaffirmed by the church every two years.
13 After a deacon/deaconess has served two (2) consecutive two-year
14 terms, he or she shall not be eligible for reelection to the
15 deaconate for at least one (1) year.

16
17 **5.3.2** Deacons and deaconesses shall assist the pastors in any
18 service that shall support and promote the ministry of the word,
19 new and existing ministries of the church, and the care of the
20 members of the congregation. The deacons may organize themselves
21 in the most fitting way to accomplish their mission in the church.

22
23 **5.3.3** The deacons and deaconesses will design the norms of
24 procedure for the administration and use of the benevolence fund.
25 They will work with the treasurer and/or the sub-treasurer to
26 manage the deposits and withdrawals of said fund (See section 5,
27 paragraph 5.5.2).

28
29 **5.3.4** Deacons and deaconesses exercise a ministry of service.
30 Deacons and deaconesses may teach and preach (the men only) in
31 contexts in which they are not infringing upon the oversight duties
32 of the pastors (Acts 6-7:53; Titus 2:3).

1 Section 4 - Secretary

2 **5.4.1** It shall be the duty of the secretary to record the minutes
3 (both in writing as well as digitally) of all regular and special
4 members' meetings of the church, to preserve an accurate roll of
5 the membership, and to provide reports as requested by the pastors,
6 deacons or the church at large.

7
8 **5.4.2** The church secretary shall ensure that dated copies of the
9 most recent revision of this constitution shall always be available
10 for all church members in digital and print format (if necessary).

11
12 Section 5 - The Ministry of Finances

13 **5.5.1** The ministry of finances will consist of the treasurer, the
14 sub-treasurer and a signatory in the church's bank account. Both
15 the treasurer and the sub-treasurer will undergo the same training
16 and selection process that is required for the
17 deacons/deaconesses. The three members of the ministry of finances
18 will be nominated by the pastors and the other deacons/deaconesses.
19 The final approval of all the members of the ministry of finances
20 will fall on the membership by way of their votes during a meeting.
21 Once elected to the position, the treasurer, the sub-treasurer and
22 the signatory brother/sister will serve a two-year (2) term with
23 the option for reelection for another term immediately following
24 the conclusion of the first. After two (2) consecutive terms (or
25 4 years), each member of the ministry of finances will have to
26 retire for a period of no less than one (1) year before he/she can
27 once again be considered for the ministry of finances.

28
29 **5.5.2** The treasurer will ensure that all the funds, deeds, bonds
30 and securities of the church will be properly secured in such
31 banks, financial institutions and depositories as designated by
32 the church. The treasurer shall also ensure that a full and

1 accurate account of all receipts and disbursements are kept in
2 ledgers (both printed and digital) that will be the property of
3 the church. He/she will implement adequate controls to guarantee
4 that all funds belonging to the church are appropriately handled
5 by any officer, employee, or agent of the church. Along with the
6 signatory brother/sister, the treasurer and the sub-treasurer will
7 be the only individuals who can sign in the church's bank account
8 at any given moment. Nevertheless, only the treasurer and the sub-
9 treasurer will be able to sign checks on behalf of the church. The
10 treasurer, under the guidelines set forth by the
11 deacons/deaconesses, will also receive, maintain and disburse a
12 benevolence fund; making regular reports to the church of the total
13 of receipts and withdrawals related to it. In the absence of the
14 treasurer, or in order to assist him/her, the sub-treasurer will
15 perform all these tasks.

16

17 **5.5.3** The ministry of finances will nominate three (3) additional
18 brothers/sisters who will be in charge of counting the offerings
19 received during each service as well as during any special event
20 where offerings are also received. The final approval of these
21 brothers/sisters will fall upon the membership by way of their
22 votes during a meeting. Once finished with counting the offerings,
23 both the money as well as the offerings itemization sheet will be
24 presented to either the treasurer, the sub-treasurer or the
25 signatory brother/sister so that it may be added to the ledgers
26 and deposited in the church's bank account. At any moment, it is
27 required that no less than two (2) of these brothers/sisters be
28 present so that the counting of offerings may take place. If at
29 least two (2) of these brothers/sisters are not present, then
30 either the treasurer or the sub-treasurer will assist with counting
31 the offerings. In the event that neither any member of the ministry
32 of finances nor any of these brothers/sisters are present during

1 any worship service or any other activity where an offering would
2 be collected, then it will be asked of those present to withhold
3 their offerings until the next worship service where at least two
4 of these brothers/sisters are present. It should be noted that
5 these three brothers/sisters will be assisting the ministry of
6 finances and as such will not be a part of it.

7

8 **5.5.4** A petty cash balance of **\$100.00** will be maintained. A
9 detailed invoice or receipt detailing each expense will be required
10 before each withdrawal. Given the current lack of a physical
11 location with offices and a safe belonging to the church, the petty
12 cash balance will reside in the home of the current treasurer.

13

14 **5.5.5** The church's annual budget will be developed in accordance
15 with its purposes (see Article #2 above) and in accordance with
16 the goals that have been established for the current fiscal year.
17 The treasurer and the sub-treasurer will work in conjunction with
18 the pastors and a representative from the deacons/deaconesses to
19 develop the annual budget. If there is an impasse during the
20 development of the annual budget, then the most immediate needs
21 that directly fulfill the goals that the church has set for that
22 fiscal year will have priority over everything else. The treasurer
23 or the sub-treasurer will present the annual budget at either a
24 regular or a special meeting that will be celebrated no less than
25 thirty (30) days before the start of the fiscal year. The fiscal
26 year will start on October 1st and end on September 30th of the
27 following (calendar) year. Either the treasurer or the sub-
28 treasurer will also present a detailed account of the church's
29 finances in regular quarterly meetings (every 3 months).

30

31 **5.5.6** In the event of a non-budgeted expense greater than **\$300.00**,
32 the decision will be brought to the membership by way of either a

1 regular or a special meeting for final approval. In the event of
2 an emergency, the treasurer or the sub-treasurer will take the
3 proposal before the membership by way of a special meeting with
4 the rationale of why the expense is necessary. If said emergency
5 requires immediate payment (either at the moment of the emergency
6 of before the end of the day when the emergency takes place), both
7 the treasurer and the sub-treasurer will make the decision together
8 and then present a written and detailed explanation about the
9 expense (including all receipts and/or invoices) and its
10 circumstances to the membership at the next meeting.

11

12 **5.5.7** The treasurer will produce an accounting of all the
13 transactions that were conducted during his/her time as treasurer
14 as well as a report on the financial state of the church. This
15 will be produced annually or whenever the pastors ask for it. This
16 document will be made available to both the pastors and the rest
17 of the church. In the absence of the treasurer, or in order to
18 assist him/her, the sub-treasurer will perform all these tasks.

19

20 **5.5.8** Finally, the treasurer and the sub-treasurer will work to
21 help the church members to think biblically about the finances of
22 the local church as well as the finances of the home. Therefore,
23 the ministry of finances, along with the pastors, will coordinate
24 biblically based and practical workshops about financial
25 stewardship for the benefit of the brothers and sisters who
26 comprise the membership of this church.

27

28

Article 6 - Elections

29

Section 1 - Principles

30
31 **6.1** The process for church elections shall be interpreted and
32 carried out to fulfill the following principles:

- 1 1. Substantial prayer, both individually and corporately, shall
2 be an integral part of the election process.
- 3 2. For all paid ministry staff positions, nominations shall
4 proceed with the support of the pastors.
- 5 3. All candidates for church office shall be treated with the
6 grace, kindness, and honesty appropriate in evaluating fellow
7 members.
- 8 4. The election process shall express that spirit of mutual
9 trust, openness, and loving consideration which is
10 appropriate within the body of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 11 5. Members of Christ's church should strive for unity in all
12 things (Eph. 4:1-6)

13

14 Section 2 - Selection of Officers

15 **6.2.1** The list of names of the nominees to serve as pastors,
16 deacons, secretary, and/or treasurer shall be presented by the
17 pastors and made known to the church no less than sixty (60) days
18 before voting. Any member with reason to believe that a nominated
19 candidate is unqualified should express his or her concern to at
20 least two (2) pastors before the vote. Members intending to speak
21 in opposition to a candidate should express their objection to at
22 least two (2) pastors no less than seven (7) days before the
23 relevant members meeting at which the church will vote on that
24 candidate.

25

26 **6.2.2** The chairman of the pastors shall declare as elected those
27 persons receiving a visible majority of all votes cast for any
28 office.

29

30 **6.2.3** The persons elected shall assume their respective offices no
31 more than thirty (30) calendar days after having been elected.

32

Article 7 - Indemnification

Section 1 - Mandatory Indemnification

7.1 If a lawsuit or criminal allegation is made against a person because he or she is or was an officer, employee, or agent of the church, the church shall provide indemnification against liability and costs incurred in the legal defense against the lawsuit or claim if the pastors determine that said person acted (a) in good faith, (b) with the care that an ordinarily prudent person in a similar position would exercise under similar circumstances, and (c) in a manner the person reasonably believed to be in the best interest of the church, and the person had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful. As soon as it becomes feasible, the church shall purchase the appropriate insurance to meet these potential liabilities.

Section 2 - Permissive Indemnification

7.2 At the discretion of the pastors, the church also may indemnify any other member who (a) acted in good faith and reasonably believed that his or her conduct was in the church's best interest and (b) either believed that his or her conduct was not unlawful or failed to abide by a law that the pastors determined to be in contradiction to biblical obligations.

Section 3 - Procedure

7.3 If a quorum of the pastors is not available for an indemnification determination because of the number of pastors seeking indemnification, the requisite determination may be made by the membership or by special legal counsel appointed by the membership.

1 **Article 8 - Dispute Resolution**

2
3 **8.1** We believe that the Bible commands believers to make every
4 effort to live at peace and to resolve disputes with each other
5 whether in private or within the church (see, e.g., Matt. 18:15-
6 20; 1 Cor. 6:1-8). The church shall urge its members to resolve
7 any conflict among themselves according to biblically based
8 principles, without resorting to the civil courts.

9
10 **8.2** An important exception to this principle exists for alleged
11 criminal behavior (see Rom. 13:3- 4), not least because such
12 behavior may in some cases be required by law to be reported to
13 governmental authorities.

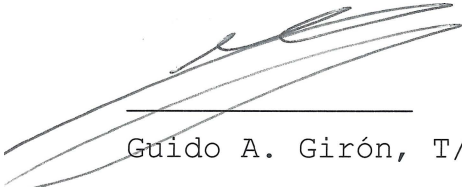
14
15 **8.3** Consistent with its call to peacemaking, the church shall
16 encourage the use of biblically based principles and the avoidance
17 of lawsuits to resolve disputes either within the church as well
18 as with those outside the church, whether Christian or pagan,
19 individuals or corporate entities. The pastors shall adopt
20 policies and procedures to effect these aspirations.

21
22 **Article 9 - Amendments**

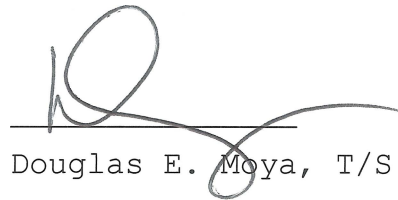
23
24 **9.1** This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3 or 67%)
25 vote of the members present and voting at a members' meeting,
26 provided the amendment had been offered in writing at the previous
27 members' meeting, and had been announced from the pulpit at church
28 services two successive Sundays prior to such vote. An exception
29 will be made for correcting spelling errors.

Endorsements

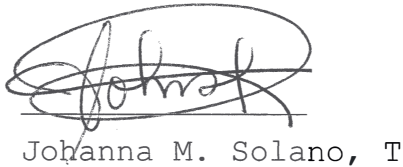
This constitution and bylaws were approved by the church by way of acclamation at the special meeting celebrated on April 23rd, 2017 in Tampa, Florida. The Trustees (T) as well as the Stewards (S) of Iglesia Bautista Palabra de Vida Inc. affix their signatures as witnesses and participants of this event. These signatures will bear witness in perpetuity of the status of this constitution and bylaws as an official and binding document of Iglesia Bautista Palabra de Vida Inc.



Guido A. Girón, T/S



Douglas E. Moya, T/S



Johanna M. Solano, T



Roberto G. Mallea, T



José Marcos Rodríguez, S



Fidas Fernández, S



Pastor Daniel Puerto, S