

“The Power Place...A Family Church” Bylaws

Preamble

Recognizing that God has called His people to meet, worship and serve together in structured ways which the New Testament refers to as local churches, and that it is God’s desire that all things be done decently and in order (1 Corinthians 14:40), we, the family members of The Power Place, have set forth the following Bylaws as a basis for that structure and order.

Our paradigm for function is like that of a family. While we recognize that Bylaws are necessary for proper order, we also affirm that the attitudes of love, honor and respect are the true foundation for any healthy group of people who seek to fulfill God’s purpose.

Purpose:

The Power Place is a present day expression of the New Testament Church. Our desire is to imitate, experience and live out the reality of Christ’s presence in the way the ‘Acts’ church did. Scripture paints a picture of a church committed to five primary purposes: worship, fellowship, discipleship, evangelism and service.

These purposes are drawn from the two directives given by Jesus Himself, the Great Commandment (Mark 12:28-34) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). It is our vision and stated objective to “*Reach people away from God to be changed by His love.*” We are being changed to BE the change! Our goal is to...

Connect people with God...Because everyone needs Forgiveness!

Connect people with People...Because everyone needs a Friend!

Connect people with Their Purpose...Because everyone needs a Future!

It is our desire to call people to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ and to live out the values and realities of the book of Acts. The Power Place is a Healing Place – a Growing Place – a Transforming Place – a place to Belong & Become!

Name

The name of this organization is The Power Place...*A Family Church*, of the County of Chester, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Prerogatives

The Power Place (TPP) family shall have the right to govern itself and conduct its own affairs according to the standards of the New Testament and the values of healthy family function. Our objective, as an organization, is to follow Jesus in a unified and effective way.

These rights for self-governance shall include such matters as the calling of a Pastor, selection of the Leadership Team, discipline of Family Members and the conduct of all its services, ministries and initiatives.

It shall also have the right to purchase, acquire by gift, own, use, sell, mortgage, lease or dispose of any real estate and/or property as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purposes.

The TPP family shall have all the powers of a non-profit corporation under the Pennsylvania Non-profit Corporation Law of 1988, as amended.

Affiliation

The Power Place shall have perpetual existence and is a sovereign assembly. As such, The Power Place maintains the right to govern its own affairs. Recognizing, however, the benefits of cooperation with other like-minded churches, The Power Place family voluntarily affiliates with the General Council of the Assemblies of God, both nationally and locally. TPP willingly shares in the privileges and assumes the responsibilities enjoined by such an affiliation. TPP also reserves the right to network with other organizations of 'like mind' as it deems beneficial.

Statement of Faith (condensed version)

We are a ***casual church with a serious faith***. We may simplify the approach to ministry, but when it comes to our beliefs, there are some non-negotiable truths that ground us. These keep us moving toward God and reaching out to our world.

The Bible is God Inspired – 2 Timothy 3:16-17

The Bible is our compass for living. God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light for our path. The Old and New Testament is given by God for us to study so we can apply its principles and lessons. Scripture is the ultimate authority for life. There are no errors in God's Word.

God is the One True God and Jesus Christ is His Son – John 17:3

There is one all-powerful God that is the creator of Heaven and Earth. He loved us so much that He sent His Son so we can have a relationship with Him. Jesus Christ is fully God. He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, taught truth, died on a cross for the payment for our sins, and resurrected from the dead. His saving and healing power is available for us today.

People Sin. God Saves – Romans 6:23

We mess up and the Bible calls it sin. God created us in His own image, but we chose disobedience. We deserve death and separation from God, but by His grace through His Son Jesus we can be forgiven. By trusting Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we can experience freedom and live an amazing life.

Communion and Water Baptism – Acts 2:41-42, Romans 6:3-5

There are two ways we can remember what Jesus did for us on the cross. Communion is a memorial and a celebration. The Eucharist consists of two elements: the bread helps remind us of His body that was broken for us and the cup reminds us of His blood that was spilled for the payment for our sins. The Bible encourages us to follow Jesus' example by being immersed in water after we make a decision to follow Him. It is a public way for us to show that we are changed...an outward sign of an inner reality.

Life Change – Romans 12:1-2

God welcomes us the way we are, but change begins to happen from the inside out. He loves you just the way you are but He also loves you too much to leave you like that! We stop living for ourselves and desire to glorify God by our actions and words. God helps us change the way we act and the way we think!

The Holy Spirit – Acts 1:8

The baptism in the Holy Spirit gives us power to share the good news of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin. He gives us different gifts so we can build up the church and love others. The gifts of the Spirit used in an orderly way are a beautiful and vital part of the church.

The Church – 1 Timothy 3:14-15, Matthew 5:13-16

The Church of the living God is the pillar and foundation of the truth and has been established by Him for His purposes on earth. God has called the

Church to represent Himself in this world and to make a huge difference. Just like salt & light affects and changes whatever it comes in contact with, so we, the Church, are the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

God's Plan for the End Times – 1 Thessalonians 4:17

The Bible says that Jesus will return to the earth to bring His followers to Heaven. There will be a final judgment in which the dead will be resurrected and judged. Everyone whose name is not in the Book of Life will be separated from God for eternity in Hell. Those whose names are written in the Book of Life will be rewarded and spend eternity in Heaven with God and other followers of Christ.

Read a full statement of our beliefs by visiting www.ag.org where you will find the Statement of Fundamental Truths.

Governance

The Power Place Family will have the right to govern itself according to the principles of the Bible.

It is the intent of TPP to function less like an institution and more like a family. We recognize that families seek relational solutions to problems and not political ones; however, we also realize that leadership processes must be defined and clear. The ultimate goal of the leadership processes of The Power Place is the implementation and obedience to the specific will of Jesus defined through the Bible, the leading of the Holy Spirit, and the agreement of this community of faith.

We use the "Seven Values of Church Family Governance" as a guide as set forth in this document (see Exhibit 2).

The Power Place shall be a congregation led by a pastoral leadership team and subject to the apostolic authority of the presbytery of the PennDel Ministry Network of The Assemblies of God. This presbytery shall protect The Power Place through advice, prayer, and the accountability of its pastor. The pastoral leadership team shall be the board of directors of The Power Place, and as such, shall act as the governing authority for The Power Place by providing spiritual guidance, vision, equipping the church for ministry, setting its major policies, and exercising responsibility for its ministries and operations.

APOSTOLIC OVERSIGHT

Since the presbytery serves an apostolic role, the pastoral leadership team shall be personally accountable to them and remain submitted to their directives in relation to theology, morals, and ethics. The presbytery shall not receive any compensation for their services from The Power Place, but may be reimbursed for substantiated, out-of-pocket expenses incurred while serving The Power Place in their oversight capacity, subject to the availability of funding.

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Function: The lead pastor shall serve the dual roles as both the spiritual overseer of all other Power Place participants and ministries as well as the president of the pastoral leadership team as legal board of directors of The Power Place. Such a role also includes the leader and the chair of family meetings. The lead pastor shall have the general powers and duties of supervision and management usually vested in the pastoral office of any local church and the president of any corporation.

The pastoral leadership team shall provide spiritual guidance and corporate stability while serving as its spiritual and temporal governing body. Whereas the New Testament uses the term "elder" in every instance to describe the vocational office of a pastor ("elder" and "pastor" are interchangeable terms), and whereas the Scriptures also make it abundantly clear that the early church was pastor-led (elder-led), therefore the official leadership of The Power Place shall consist of the pastoral leadership team which is primarily authorized to fulfill the following duties and responsibilities:

Feed & Equip the Church Body

- Preach, model and teach the congregation the sound doctrine and principles of the Scriptures
- Ensure that the church family is consistently being rooted and established in the faith, growing in maturity as Christ followers, and ultimately discovering their spiritual gifts and producing spiritual fruit that remains

Protect the Church Body

- Mediate disputes in the church
- Prevent doctrinal errors from being circulated
- Exercise church discipline
- Warn the church of behavior that violates Scriptural principles
- Ensure that the bylaws herein are followed carefully
- Defend, protect, and support the integrity of the pastors

Govern the Body

- Direct all the affairs of the church to ensure that the mission is accomplished in a spirit of unity, including business & monetary decisions, the raising of funds and the disbursement of such funds
- Oversee the provision of the physical facilities needed by The Power Place, including the buying and selling of real estate and securing real estate leases
- Work in cooperation with the presbytery as a search team to assist in locating a new lead pastor, when such need arises.

Care for the Body

- Provide spiritual advice to members of the congregation
- Pray for those who are sick spiritually, mentally, physically, socially, or emotionally, and make arrangements for tangible assistance when necessary
- Ensure that the environment of church events is a safe place for adults and children, believers and seekers

At The Power Place, the church family and friends can expect that our pastors function according to the New Testament model of a spiritual father/parent/shepherd as illustrated in Ephesians 4:11-12, "*So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.*"

These functions include the creative role (apostle), corrective/directive role (prophet), evangelizing/reproducing role (evangelist), caring/shepherding role (pastor), training/feeding role (teacher), so as to equip, care for, inspire and mobilize God's people for service.

Qualifications: The lead pastor shall be someone who not only fulfills all the qualifications of pastoral leadership as described hereof, but who also shall be in good standing as an active, ordained or licensed minister with the Assemblies of God.

Members of the pastoral leadership team shall possess the character and attributes of a leader as described herein. They shall also be able to teach and use Scripture to exhort and refute others, be blameless and above reproach, not be overbearing or lord their positions over others, and have a good reputation with people inside and outside of The Power Place. Furthermore, members of the official pastoral leadership team shall be credentialed with the Assemblies of God, or diligently working toward credentials with the Assemblies of God, unless specifically exempted by the lead pastor.

Appointment and Removal: If the lead pastor is deceased while in office, incapacitated indefinitely, disciplined by the presbytery, resigns, retires, or vacates the office for any other reason, then the presbytery shall work cooperatively with the remaining pastoral leadership team to locate a new lead pastor. Both bodies, jointly functioning as one pastoral search team, shall prayerfully consider a list of eligible candidates who might possess a similar style and philosophy as The Power Place. The spouse of the lead pastor may participate in conjunction with the pastoral search team in the search for a successor unless the lead pastor has resigned, retired, or is under discipline by the presbytery. Once the team has determined its choice of candidate, then they shall present their recommendation to the church family, allowing ample opportunity to become acquainted with the candidate. Then at a duly called family meeting, confirmation of the new lead pastor by the church family shall be with a two-thirds confirmation.

Accusations and procedures for discipline regarding the lead pastor, and his subsequent removal, shall be in accordance with the Matthew 18 process and with the bylaws of the presbytery. If there is any suspicion of moral, ethical, or theological deviancy by the lead pastor, then the pastoral leadership team is obligated to contact the presbytery after having followed the Matthew 18 process to its fullest extent so that they can conduct their investigation, and if appropriate, discipline. Any member of the pastoral leadership team may be removed by the lead pastor without cause, provided all legal regulations regarding employment termination have been satisfied.

Compensation: Pastoral compensation packages will be determined in accordance with the suggested guidelines of the PennDel Ministry Network of The Assemblies of God. The Lead Pastors compensation package will be determined by the Pastor's Accountability Group.

Transition between Lead Pastors: To ensure the unity of the church by a smooth transition between lead pastor appointments, the pastoral leadership team, as defined herein, in consultation with the presbytery and the Pastor's Accountability Group, shall select an interim lead pastor during the period of time between pastoral appointments to fulfill the basic duties of the lead pastor until a new lead pastor is selected. The qualifications for the interim lead pastor shall be the same as the lead pastor. In the event that a dispute arises, the presbytery shall serve as the mediator and their counsel shall be binding. The interim lead pastor shall not cast vision or alter the philosophy of The Power Place to reflect his own personal views. The interim lead pastor shall cover the primary preaching schedule, discharge the basic pastoral care duties, and ensure that the ministries of The Power Place continue to function. The interim lead pastor shall not possess any other corporate powers granted to the lead pastor by these bylaws without the unanimous

approval of the pastoral leadership team. The interim lead pastor shall be remunerated for his service at a fair salary mutually agreed upon by the interim lead pastor and the pastoral leadership team, upon the counsel of the presbytery. During the interim period between lead pastor appointments, members of the pastoral leadership team are to continue in their positions. Should leadership or financial problems arise, the interim lead pastor shall have the authority to alter the duties, roles, and/or terms of employment of all employees and the terms of service for all volunteer leadership positions, including dismissal if necessary, but only upon the ratification of the presbytery. Any employees serving under a previous lead pastor shall tender their resignations to the new lead pastor immediately upon his appointment. The new lead pastor shall have up to six months to accept or reject said resignations. When the new lead pastor is in place, he shall have full authority to select his staff, replacing existing staff personnel if he should so choose.

Limits of Authority: Because the pastoral leadership team is responsible for all final decisions for The Power Place, they shall seek the counsel of the presbytery in important matters so as to protect the interests and the integrity of the church. The lead pastor shall preside over all decisions as long as the issue at hand does not involve a conflict of interest or personal inurement for himself. Matters regarding the lead pastor shall be deferred to the presbytery.

MEDIATION OF DISPUTES

Should irreconcilable differences arise between the lead pastor and the pastoral leadership team, which might destroy the unified, effective ministry of The Power Place, then either the lead pastor or the majority of the pastoral leadership team may request the presbytery to investigate and attempt to mediate such differences in the spirit of Familial Reconciliation.

Indemnification

Section 1: General

Except for responsibility or liability of a Pastor pursuant to any criminal statute or the liability of a Pastor for the payment of taxes pursuant to federal, state or local law, a Pastor shall not be personally liable for monetary damages for any action taken unless the Pastor breached or failed to perform the duties of his office or the breach or failure to perform constitutes self-dealing, willful misconduct or recklessness.

Section 2: Third-Party Actions

The corporation shall indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than action by or in the right of the corporation) by reason of the fact that the person is or was a representative of the corporation, against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with the action or proceeding, if such person acted in good faith and a manner the person reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interests of the corporation, and, with such care, including reasonable inquiry, skill and diligence, as a person of ordinary prudence would use under similar circumstances, and with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful. The termination of any action or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement or conviction or upon a pleas of nolo contendere or its equivalent shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner which the person reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal proceeding, that the person had reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful.

Section 3: Mandatory Indemnification

To the extent that a representative of the corporation has been successful on the merits or otherwise in the defense of any action, suit or proceeding referred to in Section 2 of this Article, or in defense of any claim, issue or matter therein, such person shall be indemnified against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection therewith.

Section 4: Supplementary Coverage

The indemnification provided by the Section 2 of this Article shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which those seeking indemnification may be entitled under the Nonprofit Corporation Law of 1988, any other provision of law, the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws or any agreement, vote of disinterested Directors and Elders or otherwise, both as the action in a person's official capacity and as to action in another capacity while holding such office, and shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be a

representative, and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of such a person.

Fiscal Definitions:

General

The Power Place Family, through its Pastoral Leadership Team, shall create and maintain such departments and sub-organizations as may be necessary and advisable for the extension of its financial work. All such departments and organizations shall be subordinate to The Power Place Family and shall contribute to the harmony and development of the whole. They shall be under the general supervision of the Lead Pastor and Accountability Group. All significant contracts should be reviewed by a competent attorney and the Pastoral Leadership Team prior to signing. The Power Place will not engage in or sponsor any political activity.

Property

All property of The Power Place Family shall be deeded to The Power Place Family and held in its incorporated name. No property valued at more than 20% of the previous year's disbursements shall be sold, leased, mortgaged or otherwise disposed of without being presented to the Family Membership at a duly called meeting and approved by at least 2/3 of the members present at the Family Membership Meeting.

Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of The Power Place Family, none of its funds or assets shall be distributed to any Pastor, Officer or any other individual. The Pastoral Leadership Team, after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities of The Power Place Family, shall dispose of all the funds and assets of the church by conveying the same to the PennDel District Council of the Assemblies of God, for the purposes of the Church, provided that the said District Council at the time qualifies as an exempt organization under section 501 © (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

These said funds shall be conveyed to the PennDel District Council of the Assemblies of God with the express intent and hope that they be reinvested in a church planting movement in the region of Philadelphia, PA or Chester County, PA in particular. In the event the PennDel District Council of the Assemblies of God is unable or unwilling to accept the transfer of all the property of this Church, then such property shall be transferred to an organization operated exclusively for religious purposes with tax-exempt status under Section 501 © (3) of the Internal Revenue Code whose purposes are nearest the purposes of The General Council of the Assemblies

of God, which transfer shall be made by the appropriate court of the county in which this church is located.

Order

In order to facilitate the conduct of business in an orderly and satisfactory manner, the Family Membership Meetings shall be governed by the accepted rules of Parliamentary Procedure in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship.

Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended by majority agreement of the Family Membership of TPP Family who are present at a duly called Family Membership Meeting.

Family Membership Meetings:

Special Family Membership Meetings may be called by the Lead Pastor when such action is necessary.

Notice:

Any Family Membership Meetings must be duly called and notice mailed or emailed to the Active Members no less than 10 days prior to the proposed Meeting.

Quorum:

A quorum exists when the active family membership is present at any duly called Family Membership Meeting.

Family Membership

Qualifications:

The Family Membership of The Power Place consists of those who have:

1. Professed faith in Jesus Christ and decided to become His disciple.
2. Signed the Family Membership Commitment as set forth herein.
3. Been baptized in water following their decision to follow Christ.
4. Demonstrated a willingness to be governed by the church & its leaders.

Rights & Responsibilities:

Family Membership is a calling to function actively as a committed part of this local body, rather than simply joining a club or merely affiliating with an organization.

Those who are actively contributing as members also have the right and responsibility to:

1. Affirm prayerfully or provide caution regarding decisions presented to them.
2. Participate prayerfully in the decision-making process regarding the filling of the vacancy of the Lead Pastor, as well as any large fiscal decision presented by the Pastoral Leadership Team.
3. Continually protect the unity of the Spirit and maintain the bond of peace.
4. Serve in Leadership. Only Active Family Members are eligible to serve in leadership capacity at The Power Place.

Categories: Active & Inactive

Active Family Membership:

Shall be open to anyone eighteen years or older who meets the qualifications for Family Membership as stated in these Bylaws. Active Family Members are those who have signed and are actively seeking to fulfill the actions stated in the Family Membership Commitment.

Inactive Members:

Shall consist of Family Members who have ceased to act in accordance with the Family Membership Commitment:

1. By being absent from church services for three consecutive months.
2. By ceasing to contribute regularly through tithes and offerings for a period of a year.
3. Or by currently being under discipline outlined in these Bylaws.

Inactive Members may still attend Family Membership Meetings but will have no voice in the meeting and no Family Member privileges until they are again placed on the Active Family Membership List by action of the Pastoral Leadership Team.

Discipline:

We believe that God has given the leadership of the church responsibility for the care and welfare both of the overall body and also for the individual soul. Our desire is to provide effective shepherd-like care for both, even in

moments of discipline. The purpose of discipline is to protect the church-at-large and to promote repentance in the person involved. Discipline is redemptive, corrective and protective in nature.

The Power Place family will follow the disciplinary procedure set forth in Matthew 18:15-20.

1. Private personal confrontation in an effort to resolve the matter privately.
2. Mediation involving one or two members of the Pastoral Leadership Team or Ministry Team Leader in an effort to resolve the matter.
3. If not resolved then immediate removal from Active Family Membership by action of the Pastoral Leadership Team.
4. Dismissed Family Members may be restored to Active Family Membership in the spirit of 2 Corinthians 2:7-8 and Galatians 6:1-2 when their attitude and lifestyle are judged to be again in accordance with the qualifications for Family Membership.

Family Membership Commitment:

The following represents the Family Membership Commitment and each new member shall sign and date their commitment by signing the **Family Membership Commitment Form**. (See Exhibit 1)