BYLAWS

OF

CONVERGENCE OKC, INC.

BYLAWS

This document is the duly adopted Bylaws of Convergence OKC, Inc. within the meaning of Oklahoma Statute Annotated Title 18, § 1013.

Section 1. Organization, Purpose, and Structure of Convergence OKC, Inc.

1.1. **legal Name of Entity and Principal Office.** The name of this legal entity is Convergence OKC, Inc. ("Convergence"). Convergence will also operate as Convergence Church OKC. The principal office for the transaction of the business of the church is located at 6800 N. Bryant Oklahoma City, OK 73121. The church may also have offices at such other places both within and without the State of Oklahoma as the Central Elders from time to time may determine, or as the business of the church may require.

1.2. **Legal Organization.** Convergence OKC, Inc. is a local, independent and self-governing church located in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. It has been formed as a nonstock nonprofit corporation under the Oklahoma General Corporation Act and is governed by its Central Elders serving as the governing body of the church and also by its members, as more specifically described in this document.

1.3. **legal Purpose.**

1.3.1. Convergence exists to multiply 'Word and Spirit' disciples and churches for the promulgation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Oklahoma City and to the ends of the earth (see Appendix D: *What is a Word and Spirit Church?).*

1.3.2. Convergence is organized exclusively for religious purposes. Therefore, no part of the net receipts of or donations to Convergence shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its elders, members, trustees, officers, or other private persons except as authorized in furtherance of its religious purposes.

1.3.3. Convergence may carry out any other lawful act or purpose under the laws of the state of Oklahoma.

1.4. **Structure.** As a "church of house churches," Convergence shall be governed by a plurality of elders at both the corporate level by Central Elders and at the house church level by House Church Elders. Each elder body oversees its assigned jurisdiction, while also occasionally coming together as the "Full Council of Elders" for purposes specified in these Bylaws (see §5). Convergence is not a network of loosely affiliated churches. Rather, it operates like an extended family-uniting for corporate worship and collaborative ministry-comprised of nuclear families functioning as house churches. Convergence house churches are designed to fulfill each of the five biblical purposes of church in a manner that they see fit (§5.2.2.2), in unity with Convergence's broader objectives, as outlined in these Bylaws. See Appendix C: *Church of House Churches.*

Section 2. Doctrinal Commitments. The *Convergence Statement of Doctrinal Commitments* (attached as Appendix A), includes the following essential beliefs:

2.1. We believe in the Triune God (Matthew 28:19): God the Father (John 6:27); God the Son (John 20:28); God the Spirit (Acts 5:3-4); each Person is co-equal and co-eternal.

2.2. We believe that God created all things, both visible and invisible, out of His goodness and for His glory (Genesis 1:31; Psalm 104:24; Isaiah 43:7; Colossians 1:16; Revelation 4:11).
2.3. We believe that all people are sinners by nature and by choice (Psalm 51:5; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:23; Romans 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3).
2.4. We believe that God the Son took on humanity and will forever be fully God and fully man (John 1:1, 14; 1 Timothy 2:5).
2.5. We believe that Jesus died on the cross in our place for our sin and that He was bodily resurrected on the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:21).
2.6. We believe that man can be justified only by grace alone and through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone (Acts 16:31; Romans 4:5; Ephesians 2:8-9).
2.7. We believe that the Holy Spirit creates (Psalm 104:30), regenerates (Titus 3:5), empowers (Acts 1:8), unites (Ephesians 4:3), purifies (2 Corinthians 3:18), reveals (Acts 2:17-18), secures (Ephesians 1:13-14), and mediates God's presence or blessing (Isaiah 44:3; Romans 5:5).
2.8. We believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church (see Nicene Creed).
    2.8.1. One. Diverse peoples comprise the unified people of God (Ephesians 4:4-6).
    2.8.2. Holy. God calls the church to purity of doctrine and lifestyle (1 Peter 1:15-16).
    2.8.3. Catholic. "Catholic" means universal; the universal church spans time and space (Ephesians 1:22-23).
    2.8.4. Apostolic. Our faith is rooted in the apostolic teaching and compelled by the apostolic mission (Ephesians 2:19-22).
2.9. We believe that all 66 books of the Bible are God's inspired and authoritative Word (2 Peter 1:20-21; Psalm 119:11; 2 Timothy 3:15-17).
2.10. We believe in the sacraments of water baptism and communion (Acts 2:38-42) (see Appendix E: *Baptism Q&A* and Appendix F: *What Does Communion* Do?).
2.11. We believe in the future bodily return of the Lord Jesus, commonly called the Second Coming of Christ (Acts 1:11; Revelation 19:11-16).
2.12. We believe that God will consign unbelievers to hell and believers to eternal life (John 5:28-29; Revelation 20:11-15).
2.13. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and the renewal of creation (John 5:28-29; 1 Corinthians 15:20-23; Romans 8:18-23).
2.14. In summary, we believe what has been deemed orthodox for the last 2,000 years.

Section 3. Governance.

3.1. **Polity.** Convergence is an elder-led, deacon-served, and congregation-engaged local church of house churches. This structure is intended to reflect biblical principles for operation of the local church, with an emphasis on the leadership role of elders, the service function of deacons, and the accountability function of the congregation. Generally, as it pertains to church polity, elders lead the congregation; deacons serve the congregation; and the congregation provides accountability for elders, deacons and fellow members of the congregation.

3.1.1. Elders lead the congregation by strengthening the weak, healing the sick, binding up the wounded, bringing back the strays, seeking the lost, and guiding gently, both at the corporate and house church level (Ezekiel 34:4). Elders direct the affairs of the church (1 Timothy 5:17), pray for the church (Acts 6:4 and James 5:14), and guide the church doctrinally (Acts 6:2 and 1 Timothy 3:2). Elders are accountable to God and to the church towards these ends (1 Timothy 5:19-20, Hebrews 13:17, James 3:1, and 1 Peter 5:2-3).

3.1.2. Deacons serve the congregation in ways appointed by the elders and for the good of the congregation, both at the corporate and house church level (Acts 6:1-7).

3.1.3. The congregation holds accountable elders, deacons, and other members.

3.2. **Operation.** The ministry of Convergence shall be operated in accordance with these Bylaws and the *Convergence Statement of Doctrinal Commitments* (Appendix A).

Section 4. Membership.

4.1. **Members, Generally.** Convergence shall have members whose rights will be as specified in these Bylaws. Convergence shall be informed by its members in both its leadership *(i.e.,* Central Elders) and its efficacy. The vision and calling of Convergence cannot be carried out without engaged members. Members will hold accountable other members, including Convergence's leaders.

4.2. **Qualification for Membership.** The membership of this church shall consist of such baptized[1] persons who profess personal trust in Jesus Christ, who affirm orthodox Christian doctrine, and who are committed to honoring the Holy Spirit's calling of contributing their time, talent, treasure, and lives to God. These qualifications alone shall inform one's admission to church membership.

4.3. **Hope for members.** The hope for Convergence members is that they engage in some combination of the following opportunities:

- House church
- Worship gathering
- Corporate prayer
- Evangelistic outreach
- Ministries *(e.g.,* youth, childcare, prophecy, healing, *et cetera)*

These Convergence activities are where members can practice the "one another" commands of the New Testament such as: "be devoted to one another" (Romans 12:10), "serve one another" (Galatians 5:13), "bear one another's burdens" (Galatians 6:2), "teach and admonish one another" (Colossians 3:16), "confess your sins to one another and pray for one another" (James 5:16), and promulgate the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed (Matthew 5:16; 28:18-20). The hope is to "spur one another on" (Heb. 10:24), but with grace for unique situations and everyone's fallen humanity.

[1] While Convergence believes that baptism should occur when one makes a credible profession of faith in Jesus Christ, Convergence will not eschew the membership of anyone who was baptized as an infant. For more information, see Appendix A: *Convergence SIatement ojDoctrinal Commitments* and Appendix E: *Baptism Q&A.*

4.4. **Rights of Members.**

4.4.1. Members 18 and over have the right to vote at all appropriate elections and offer feedback at all appropriate meetings. The only exceptions to this right to vote concern members who are under church discipline or who have disengaged from Convergence for a prolonged period.

4.4.2. Subject to meeting the qualifications of the office or position of ministry, every member has the right to be considered as a candidate for positions of ministry and elected offices. Certain ministry activities and all deacon and elder positions are to be filled exclusively by Convergence members.

4.4.3. In order to maintain transparency and accountability, the budget and financial reports shall be made available at certain regularly scheduled public meetings for inspection. Additionally, these documents shall be made available to any member within a reasonable time upon request.

4.4.4. Members 18 and over have the right to nominate and vote to confirm Central Elders.

4.4.5. Members 18 and over have the right to participate in the amending of these Bylaws (and referenced appendices) or the adoption of any future bylaws.

4.4.6. Members 18 and over have the right to participate in any voting for the termination of House Church Elders and of Central Elders (including the Lead Teaching Elder) as determined at§§ 5.6.1.1 and 5.7.1.2.

4.4.7. The rights of members set forth in these Bylaws are in lieu of any rights conferred under the Oklahoma General Corporation Act (Okla. Stat. Ann. Title 18, Ch. 22}.

4.5. **Membership Process.** Any person wanting to obtain membership with Convergence shall engage their local House Church Elder(s) to begin the process [2]. If the House Church Elder (HCE) determines that the individual is eligible for membership (whether by interview, by completion of the membership class, by transfer of membership letter from another respected church, or any other manner as determined by the HCE}, the HCE shall forward the new member's vital information to the Central Elder body for recordation.

4.1. **Termination of Membership.** One's membership shall be terminated in the event of their resignation, their death, transfer to another church, disengagement from Convergence for a prolonged period, or through church discipline. See also **Section 8 - Church Discipline** and Appendix B: *Conflict, Sin, and Abuse.*

[2] If extenuating circumstances preclude any prospect from house church engagement, a Central Elder can assist in initiating the membership process.

Section 5. Elders.

5.1. **Full Council of Elders (FCE).** The FCE is composed of all Central Elders and all House Church Elders within Convergence Church OKC. All activity of Convergence – including spiritual, administrative, financial, relational, and communal – is overseen by the Central Elders and House Church Elders in accordance with their respective responsibilities under §§1.4 and 5.2. They act together as the FCE on matters assigned to the FCE by these Bylaws and referenced appendices.

5.1.1. **Central Elders (CE).** The CE body serves in a legal capacity as a board of trustees or officers, *i.e.,* the governing body, for Convergence OKC, Inc. The CE body consists of two categories: Voting CE and Non-Voting CE.

5.1.1.1. **Voting Central Elders.** The Voting CE have full plenary voting authority to conduct the affairs of Convergence, as described in this document. The Voting CE body shall aim to maintain an odd number of men, a minimum of which shall be five (5) and a maximum of which shall be seven (7).

5.1.1.2. **Non-Voting Central Elders.** The Non-Voting CE help oversee Convergence and advise Voting CE on certain matters, but they do not have voting authority.

5.1.2. **House Church Elders (HCE}.** Each HCE body oversees its respective house church.

5.2. **Authority.**

5.2.I. **Central Elders (CE}.** The CE body shall have full authority to conduct, manage, and guide the affairs of Convergence and to make rules and regulations not inconsistent with the law or these Bylaws. The Voting CE plenary governing authority is limited with regard to the following exceptions, each of which requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote (unless otherwise specified) of the appropriate body as designated below:

5.2.1.1. Adoption of the annual budget - by the Full Council of Elders (FCE)

5.2.1.2. Extraordinary expenditures not addressed in the previously-approved budget that exceed ten percent (10%) (individually or cumulatively during any annual budget cycle) of the total annual operating budget- by the FCE

5.2.1.3. Purchasing, selling, improving, disposing of, or encumbering real property - by the FCE

5.2.1.4. Amendments to these Bylaws (in accordance with the procedures set out herein) - by church members

5.2.1.5. Nomination, confirmation, and termination of Central Elders (in accordance with the procedures set out in these Bylaws)- by church members

5.2.2. **House Church Elders (HCE}.** HCE shall have authority to conduct, manage, and guide the affairs of their respective house churches, which entails the following:

5.2.2.1. **Membership.** HCE are responsible for the process of admission (per §4.2 above), maintenance (per §4.3 above), termination (per §§ 4.6 and 8), and restoration to membership of any candidate seeking such with Convergence (see§§ 4.5 and 4.6). The termination process will be overseen by the HCE, but the authority to remove membership in cases of church discipline rests with members (see Appendix B: *Conflict, Sin, and Abuse).*

5.2.2.2. **Purpose.** HCE will decide how their house church will fulfill the biblical

purposes for church: worship, service, evangelism, discipleship, and fellowship.

5.2.2.3. **Leaders.** HCE will select elders and deacons in accordance with biblical guidelines. The initial HCE in each house church will be appointed by Central Elders.

5.2.3. **Balance of Authority.** By agreeing to operate in accordance with these Bylaws, the CE exercises its authority in a manner that honors the jurisdiction of the HCE, and the HCE exercises its authority in a manner that honors the direction of Convergence as a whole as determined by the CE. On matters of governance, both the CE and HCE will seek to "outdo one another in showing honor" (Romans 12:10). They will also come together for some joint decisions as the FCE, as described in these Bylaws (see especially §7.3). On matters of ministry, the CE (along with some CD's) will come alongside HCE's for coaching, training, pastoral support, and prayer. For resolving leadership conflicts, see "Leadership Conflict Policy" in Appendix B: Conflict, Sin, and Abuse.

5.3. **Qualifications.** Elder positions will be held by men who exhibit the following qualities:

5.3.1. Every elder is willing and able to teach in alignment with the *Convergence Statement of Doctrinal Commitments* (Appendix A).

5.3.2. Every elder displays godliness in accordance with 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.

5.3.3. Every elder is known and respected by the church (1 Thess. 2:5-12; Heb. 13:7).

5.4. **Nomination.**

5.4.1. **Central Elders.**

5.4.1.1. **Notice.** Whenever there is any vacancy in the Central Elder body, the CE shall give notice through usual Convergence communication channels of its intent to fill the vacancy or vacancies.

5.4.1.2. **Submission.** Any member of Convergence 18 and over may submit the name of a person to serve as a CE. The CE body shall specify the method of submitting nominations. The nominations shall be in writing and identify both the nominee and the one nominating.

5.4.1.3. **Vetting.** Each nominee will be vetted under the oversight of the Voting Central Elders. The vetting process will evaluate the candidate's family life, stewardship, social media presence, references, fulfilment of member expectations, house church engagement, and personal ministry. Consideration will also be given to potential nepotism, cronyism, or conflict of interest concerns or optics. No sooner than thirty (30) days and no later than ninety (90) days after publication of the notice to receive CE nominations, the CE body shall present viable candidates.

5.4.1.4. **Notification and Review.** The names and a brief description of each vetted candidate shall be published through ordinary Convergence communication channels for a period of no less than thirty (30) days (herein "Candidate Review Period"). During the Candidate Review Period, the CE body will solicit comments concerning the Candidates. Any concerns regarding the qualifications of a candidate must be submitted in writing by a member.

5.4.2. **House Church Elders.** The HCE(s) subsequent to the initially appointed elder (see §5.2.2.3) in each house church will be nominated according to any process

determined by the respective house church, provided that the process used requires input from others- whether other outside FCE's or from the house church's congregation.

5.5. **Selection.**

5.5.1. **Central Elders.**

5.5.1.1. **CE Evaluation.** The Voting CE will oversee the evaluation of all candidates based on the needs of Convergence, both of its eldership and membership, according to the following criteria:

5.5.1.1.1. **Vacancies.** The CE will present no more candidates for vote than the number of vacancies available.

5.5.1.1.2. **Age.** Convergence will strive to maintain a minimum average age of fifty (SO) for the CE body.

5.5.1.1.3. **Representation.** Convergence will strive to ensure that the CE body reflects the varied demographics of our congregation. This includes socioeconomic status, education, zip code, culture, background, *etc*. Accordingly, the Voting Central Elder body shall be comprised of no more than fifty percent (50%) staff.

5.5.1.2. **CE Voting.** The Voting CE will vote on the nominees in a duly called meeting. Only candidates who receive a unanimous vote from the Voting CE will be presented to the members for a vote of confirmation.

5.5.1.3. **Member Voting.** After the Voting CE approves candidate(s), the candidate(s) will be presented to members at a duly called meeting. To be selected, a candidate must receive a favorable two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of members present and voting. The vote shall be confirmatory in nature, consisting of a simple 'yes' or 'no' decision. It will not function as a popular vote but as a ratification or denial of the proposed candidates.

5.5.1.4. **Installation.** Approved elders will be presented to the congregation for prayer, the laying on of hands, and commissioning to begin their term.

5.5.2. **House Church Elders.**

5.5.2.1. **HCE Evaluation.** The evaluation and selection process can be whatever is determined and agreed upon by each respective house church. It can be similar or unlike the CE Evaluation (§5.5.1.1 above) process, provided that it incorporates input from others-whether other outside FCE's or from the house church's congregation.

5.5.2.2. **Installation.** Approved HCE's will be presented to the congregation for prayer, the laying on of hands, and commissioning to begin their term. The installation of any HCE shall be communicated in writing to the CE body for registration with the Full Council of Elders.

5.6. **Term.**

5.6.1. **Central Elders.**

5.6.1.1. Any CE who holds his elder position by virtue of his staff position or employment with Convergence shall have a term that coincides with that role.

5.6.1.2. Notwithstanding §5.6.1.1, CE shall serve a term of three (3) years from the time of their appointment. During any CE's final year of the term, and should seventy-five percent (75%) of the Full Council of Elders determine that

it is in the best interest of Convergence, a period of no more than one year can be added to the term.

5.6.1.3. Special consideration to a truncated or extended CE term shall be given in the instance that a Lead Teaching Elder is installed.

5.6.1.4. Any candidate being considered for a subsequent CE term must have a minimum of a one-year hiatus between such appointments.

5.6.2. **House Church Elders.** Each house church will decide whether or not elders will have terms as well as the nature of those terms.

5.7. **Removal.**

5.7.1. **Central Elders.**

5.7.1.1. Any CE who voluntarily vacates their position is asked to provide as much advanced notice to the Full Council of Elders as is practicable.

5.7.1.2. A CE can only be terminated as a member of the CE body by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Voting CE body plus a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present and voting at a duly called or scheduled meeting. A CE may be determined to no longer be qualified (per §5.3 above), or as a result of sin or abuse (see Appendix B: *Conflict, Sin, and Abuse).* These votes shall not take place without due consideration of a cooling off period.

5.7.2. **Central Elders Who are Also Staff Members.**

5.7.2.1. If a CE is on staff, his termination from the CE body in accordance with §5.7.1.2. will likewise terminate his employment with Convergence.

5.7.2.2. If a CE who is on staff is terminated from his staff position, then his position on the CE board shall come up for a vote in a duly called meeting of Voting CE and members per §5.7.1.2 above.

5.7.3. **House Church Elders.** A HCE may be removed as a member of the HCE body by a simple majority vote of the HCE body and simple majority vote of house church members present and voting at duly called regular or specially called meeting. A HCE may be determined to no longer be qualified (per §5.3 above), as a result of sin or abuse (see Appendix B: *Conflict, Sin, and Abuse).* These votes shall not take place without due consideration of a cooling off period.

5.8. **Initial Appointment of CE.** At the advent of Convergence, the first three (3) Voting Central Elders shall be appointed by the then Board of Directors after a nomination from all interested parties and in the same manner as prescribed in §5.4.1.

SECTION 6. Deacons. Convergence shall create a deacon body to be filled with qualified men and women who shall act as servants of the church in the capacity defined by and at the discretion of the elders.

6.1. **The Diaconate.** All activity of Convergence including spiritual, administrative, financial, relational, and communal is served and supported by the Diaconate. This body of deacons and deaconesses (herein collectively "deacons") falls into two main categories: Central Deacons and House Church Deacons.

6.1.1. **Central Deacons {CD}.** The CD body serves as a spiritual, legal, financial, and advisory board for Convergence's Central Elders. Each individual CD also serves the members according to their gifts, callings, and appointments by CE. The CD

body is broken down into two categories: Advisory CD and Ministerial CD.

6.1.1.1. **Advisory CD.** The Advisory CD provides regular wisdom and counsel to the CE. They can be called upon to assist in decisions amongst CE in which the requisite vote is not met or other counsel is needed. They also act as intermediaries when called for (see Appendix B: *Conflict, Sin, and Abuse).*

6.1.1.2. **Ministerial CD.** The Ministerial CD serves members of Convergence according to their gifts, callings, and appointments by CE.

6.1.1.3. **Note:** Some CD will serve in both of the aforementioned capacities.

6.1.2. **House Church Deacons (HCD).** The HCD serve their respective house churches according to their gifts, callings, and appointments by House Church Elders.

6.2. **Composition.**

6.2.1. **Male and Female Deacons.** Convergence affirms both male and female deacons. See Appendix A: *Convergence Statement of Doctrinal Commitments.*

6.2.2. **Advisory Central Deacons.** The number of Advisory CD shall be set at seven (7). Additionally, the Advisory CD will be comprised of no less than fifty percent (50%) females.

6.2.3. **Representation.** Convergence will strive to ensure that the CD body reflects the varied demographics of our congregation. This includes socioeconomic status, education, zip code, culture, background, *etc.* Consideration will also be given to potential nepotism, cronyism, or conflict of interest concerns or optics.

6.3. **Qualifications.** Every deacon and deaconess will display godliness per Acts 6:3, 1 Timothy 3:8-13, and the *Convergence Statement of Doctrinal Commitments* (Appendix A).

6.4. **Appointment.**

6.4.1. **Central Deacons.**

6.4.1.1. **Advisory CD.** Advisory CD will be nominated by all interested parties, vetted by CE, and appointed by the Voting CE.

6.4.1.2. **Ministerial CD.** Ministerial CD will be appointed by the CE in accordance with their gifts, callings, and the needs of Convergence.

6.4.2. **House Church Deacons (HCD).** HCD will be appointed by their respective HCE.

6.5. **Removal.** No CD shall be involuntarily removed from office without due process (Appendix B: *Conflict, Sin, and Abuse)* and a simple majority vote from the Full Council of Elders.

Section 7. Meetings.

7.1. **Central Elders.**

7.1.1. Generally, the Voting CE body will meet monthly at a place and time they determine. Generally, these meeting will have in attendance two designees from the Advisory Central Deacon board as selected by the Voting CE.

7.1.2. Generally, the Voting CE and Non-voting CE will meet together monthly, along with Central Deacons (see §7.4 below).

7.2. **House Church Elders.** Each house church's HCE will determine the frequency and location of their meetings.

7.3. **Full Council of Elders.** The FCE body will meet no less than semi-annually. The FCE will welcome the congregation to attend and observe the meeting.

7.4. **Central Elders and Central Deacons.** Generally, the body of CE and CD will meet monthly at a place and time they determine.

7.5. **Members.** A Convergence membership meeting shall be held no less than annually.

7.6. **Special Meetings.**

7.6.1. A non-regular meeting for any of the above-referenced bodies or any individual house church congregation can be convened at the request of 30% of any one of their respective pluralities to effectuate its respective business.

7.6.2. Should a large contingent of members believe that a special members' meeting be convened, and should that retinue believe their numbers are materially at the 30% threshold required at §7.6.1 above, appropriate members of the FCE body shall be contacted by the interested party to organize the special members' meeting.

7.6.3. For all special meetings, sufficient notice shall be given to all parties of the respective body such that all interested parties have reasonable or equal opportunity to attend. No party of any above-referenced body shall be excluded from the invitation to or notice of the meeting. Therefore, special meetings should consider the opportunity for attendance by teleconference or votes by proxy.

7.6.4. If two or more witnesses have presented to any Central Elder any sin or allegation against him in accordance with Matthew 18:15-20 and 1 Timothy 5:19-20, and if said elder refuses to repent, these witnesses can call a special meeting of Convergence members through any CD (see also Deuteronomy 19:15).

7.6.5. All special meetings shall be bound by the same decorum and protocol required at its regular or scheduled meeting counterpart.

7.6.6. All special meetings called by members shall be presided over by a Voting CE. If no Voting CE is considered unbiased for the purpose of the meeting, an Advisory Central Deacon shall preside over the meeting.

7.7. **Quorum.** A simple majority of any above-referenced body will constitute a quorum for the transacting of business with the following exceptions:

7.7.1. **Central Elders** - No less than 75% of all Central Elders is required for a Central Elders meeting. If only Voting CE is to conduct business, only 75% of Voting CE is required. If only Non-voting CE is to conduct business, only 75% of Non-voting CE attendance is required. A meeting of all CE requires a 75% attendance for quorum.

7.7.2. **Members** - All members' meetings require both: 1.) 75% quorum of Central Elders; and 2.) 10% presence of all members (inclusive of CE's).

7.7.3. **Minutes** - A designated person at every Central Elder and Full Council of Elders meeting where a vote is taken shall be appointed to memorialize in minutes that quorum was determined and that the threshold affirmative vote was reached.

7.8. **Recordation.** All Voting CE meetings' audio shall be electronically recorded. These recordings shall not be destroyed or otherwise disposed of for a minimum of seven (7) years. There shall be at least two copies of each meeting's recording stored separately for security and posterity's sake. All CE's and Advisory CD's will have immediate access to the recordings. There shall be no dissemination of these recordings without permission by an Advisory CD majority vote.

Section 8. Church Discipline. All members-including leaders-are subject to discipline when warranted. Authority for discipline is vested in the church and not in individuals.

8.1. **Ecclesiastical Matters.** All disciplinary actions are considered to be ecclesiastical matters under these Bylaws in keeping with spiritual mandates of righteous living and conduct according to the Holy Bible.

8.2. **Redemptive Approach.** If any member is walking in outward, severe, and unrepentant sin, the church will take every reasonable measure to restore the person gently and redemptively in accordance with Matthew 18:12-20 and Galatians 6:1-2.

8.3. **Due Process**. Unfeigned due process will be provided to any member subject to discipline. Church discipline will be carried out by the interested parties known to each other and/or knowledgeable of the situation, and every effort will be made to ensure that the conclusions reached can be settled and accepted with confidence.

8.4. **Withdrawal of Membership.** If, at any point during the church discipline process explained by Matthew 18:15-20, the errant member withdraws their membership, the discipline process shall then cease. The church will not pursue further disciplinary actions against the former member beyond warning other house churches of the proceedings when appropriate.

8.5. **Procedure.** See Appendix B: *Conflict, Sin, and Abuse* for the following policies:

8.5.1. **Leadership Conflict Policy** (Addressing Conflict Between Leaders)

8.5.2. **Church Discipline Policy** (Addressing Sin in the Church)

8.5.3. **Whistleblower Policy** (Addressing Abuse in the Church)

Section 9. Miscellaneous Provisions.

9.1. **Indemnification of Directors and Officers.** The church may choose, to the maximum extent permitted by the Oklahoma General Corporation Act, to indemnify each of its directors, elders, deacons, and officers against expenses, judgments, fines, settlements and other amounts actually and reasonably incurred in connection with any proceeding arising by reason of the fact any such person is or was a director, agent, or officer of the church. The church may also choose to advance or reimburse to such director, agent, or officer expenses incurred in defending any such proceeding to the maximum extent permitted by law. The Central Elder body may, at its discretion, provide by resolution for such indemnification or advance of expenses except to the extent such indemnification is mandatory under the Oklahoma General Corporation Act.

9.2. **Execution of Documents.** Notwithstanding §§ 5.2.1.2 and 5.2.1.3 above, the Voting Central Elder body may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents, to enter into any contract or execute any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the church, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

9.3. **Inspection of Bylaws.** The church will keep in its principal office the original or a copy of its Articles of Incorporation and its Bylaws, as amended to date, which will be open to inspection by the members at all reasonable times during the office hours.

9.4. **Amendment of Bylaws.** These Bylaws may be amended or repealed and new bylaws adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Full Council of Elders and of the members present and voting at an appropriate church meeting, provided such amendments shall have been presented in writing at least one (1) month prior to the vote.

9.5. **Confidentiality of Records.** The following shall be deemed confidential and shall not be made available to the membership at-large: records of any individual member's donations, private notes of the elders and deacons, any information which is afforded ecclesiastical privilege, and any record of attorney-client communications. This confidentiality clause shall not be used in the same instance to the benefit of one party and the detriment of the other.

CERTIFICATE OF OFFICERS

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify:

- That I am a duly appointed officer of Convergence OKC, Inc.
- That the foregoing Bylaws of Convergence OKC, Inc. consisting of thirteen (13) pages, including the cover sheet, constitute the Bylaws of said corporation as duly adopted on the date set forth below.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have executed this certificate, effective on the 14th day of November, 2024 *anno Domini*.

Executive Direc.fo,

Michael Rowntree, Executive Director

Treasurer

Jonatan Albarrir; Treasurer