

BYLAWS 2023

PARK PLACE CHURCH OF GOD, INC.

Anderson, Indiana

Revision Approved by the Servant Leadership Board (5/30/2023)
Approved by the Congregation (6/11/2023)

**BYLAWS
PARK PLACE CHURCH OF GOD, INC.**

**ARTICLE I
IDENTIFICATION**

Section 1 - Name. The name of the corporation is Park Place Church of God, Inc.

Section 2 - Principal Office. The principal office of the corporation is located at 501 College Drive, Anderson, Indiana.

Section 3 – Church Heritage. The corporation is a congregation of Christian people. Its identity and vision come from the Bible, the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and its Church of God (Anderson) heritage, each highlighting divine gifting and direction. The faith community is understood to be a living organism more than an organizational establishment.

Section 4 - Seal. The corporation shall have a seal, an imprinted copy of which shall be made available with the minutes of the corporation.

Section 5 - Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the corporation shall be July 1 to June 30.

**ARTICLE II
MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. The membership of the Park Place Church of God, Inc., shall be restricted to those who meet the following conditions:

- a. They shall be sixteen (16) years of age or older.
- b. They shall have worshiped regularly with the Park Place congregation for a period of at least six months immediately preceding any meeting at which they exercise rights of membership.
- c. They shall have lived during these six months in harmony with the accepted standards of the Park Place Church of God, Anderson, Indiana.

Section 2. All persons shall be regarded as members of this corporation upon their own declaration of eligibility as defined in Section 1, which declaration shall be by means of registration with the corporate Secretary. Each member shall be required to register annually. The list of registered members shall be made available prior to each regular meeting. All

members who are registered three weeks prior to said meeting shall be eligible to vote, except that the right of any person to membership may be challenged by any other member, in which event the right of membership shall be determined by a majority vote of the members in attendance at such meeting. Such challenger must set forth the particular reason for the challenge.

Section 3. An exception to Article II, Sections 1 and 2, pertains to congregationally called members of the Park Place Church of God pastoral staff. Such pastoral leaders shall become members of the corporation upon the acceptance of their call to serve.

Section 4. The rules governing membership herein stated shall apply only to membership in the corporation and shall not be considered as affecting in any way the standing of individuals in the church understood as the Body of Christ (all of God's people).

ARTICLE III **MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERS**

Section 1 - Place of Meetings. The manner and place of meetings of the corporation and its membership will be determined by the Servant Leadership Board, with input from the lead pastor, and communicated to the corporation at least 14 days prior to the date of the meeting.

Section 2 - Congregational Meetings.

Recognizing the role of the congregation in discerning the will of God in major decisions of the church, the following items shall require a vote of the congregation in a duly called meeting of the Corporation: Calling of a pastoral staff member, purchase or sale of real estate property or buildings, incurring of debt on behalf of the Corporation, approval of the annual general operating budget, election of corporate officers, ratification of Servant Leadership Board, alteration, amendment, or repeal of the Church Bylaws. Special meetings shall be scheduled by the request of the Servant Leadership Board, the Lead Pastor, or upon a written request signed by fifty (50) members of the Corporation. Notification for the special meeting must state the business to be considered and be announced at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting.

Section 3 - Quorum and Acts of Membership. Those members in attendance, registered and eligible to participate, shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business at any regular or special meetings of the Corporation. The act of a majority of the members present and voting shall be the act of the corporate membership unless a greater number is required by law, the Articles of Incorporation, or these Bylaws.

Section 4 - The voting membership of the Park Place Church of God, Inc. shall be restricted to those who meet the following conditions:

- a. They shall be sixteen (16) years of age or older.

- b. They shall have worshiped regularly with the Park Place congregation for a period of at least six months immediately preceding any meeting at which they exercise the rights of voting membership.
- c. They shall have lived during these six months in harmony with the accepted standards of the Park Place Church of God, Anderson, Indiana.

Section 5 - All persons shall be regarded as voting members of this Corporation upon their own declaration of eligibility as defined in Section 4, which declaration shall be by means of registration with the Corporation Secretary. Each member shall be required to register annually. The list of registered voting members shall be made available seven (7) days prior to each regular meeting. All members who are registered 7 days prior to said meeting shall be eligible to vote, except that the right of any person to voting membership may be questioned by any other voting member, in which event the questioner must set forth the particular reason for the concern, in writing, to the pastoral staff with the option to appeal the decision of the Staff Ministry Team to the Servant Leadership Board. The decision of the Servant Leadership Board is final.

Section 6 - An exception to Article II, Sections 2 and 3, pertains to congregationally called members of the Park Place Church of God pastoral staff. Such pastoral leaders shall become voting members of the Corporation upon the acceptance of their call to serve.

Section 7 The rules governing voting membership herein stated shall apply only to voting membership in the Corporation and shall not be considered as affecting in any way the standing of individuals in the church understood as the Body of Christ (all of God's people).

ARTICLE IV **ABSENTEE BALLOTING**

Members of the Corporation may vote at any regular or special meetings by absentee ballot in whatever manner available, subject to the following conditions:

Section 1 - Members who are registered and meet the criteria for membership as prescribed in Article II of these Bylaws shall be eligible to vote by absentee ballot when circumstances prevent their attendance. Section 1 (b) of Article II shall not apply to those members, who by reason of health or other circumstance are unable to comply with such attendance requirement. Absentee votes shall be considered invalid on those occasions when the subject matter of voting is materially altered or modified during the meeting.

Section 2 - Any qualified member who is not able to be present at a regular or special meeting may request an absentee ballot.

Section 3 -To be considered valid, all absentee ballots must be dated and signed and must be in the church office at least by noon of the day immediately prior to the regular or special meeting. Absentee ballots shall not be considered in determining whether a quorum exists at any such meeting.

Section 4 - The necessary quorum for any business meeting shall be those members present, in-person or virtually.

ARTICLE V **OFFICERS**

Section 1 - Officers.

a. **President.** The president of the Corporation shall act as chair of all meetings of the Servant Leadership Board and of the Corporation. The president shall have authority to sign all conveyances of real estate, releases of mortgage, powers of attorney, and all other legal documents when ordered by the Corporation or the Servant Leadership Board and when attested to by the corporate secretary. The president shall have the authority to sign checks and notes in the absence or inability of the corporate treasurer, subject to the requirements set forth in Section 1 (d) below.

b. **Vice-President.** The vice-president of the Corporation shall also act as the vice-chair of the Servant Leadership Board and serves as corporation parliamentarian in corporate meetings. In the absence or inability of the president to perform all the duties of the president, the vice-president shall assume such duties. In corporate meetings where the vice-president must assume leadership, the role of parliamentarian moves to the Secretary.

b. **Secretary.** The secretary of the Corporation shall keep an orderly record of the proceedings of the Corporation. This record shall be carefully preserved and remain the property of the Corporation. The secretary shall act as the secretary of the Servant Leadership Board. The secretary's minutes of Corporation meetings shall be read and approved by a committee of three members of the Corporation appointed by the president and then made available to the Corporation's membership. The secretary's minutes of each meeting of the Servant Leadership Board shall be approved by the Board in each subsequent meeting and then made available to the Corporation's membership.

c. **Treasurer.** The treasurer of the Corporation shall provide oversight of the processes of receiving, receipting, and depositing the funds of the church in whatever bank or banks may be recommended by the Servant Leadership Board. The deposit account(s) of the Corporation, wherever kept, shall be in the name of the corporation only. The treasurer shall cause all vouchers and orders paid by him/her to be properly preserved as

part of the records of the Corporation and shall furnish the president with a detailed statement of receipts and disbursements of the Corporation's monies when requested to do so. The treasurer's records shall at all times be open to inspection by any officer of the Corporation and by any/all members of the Servant Leadership Board. The treasurer shall consult regularly with the business administrator and report at least quarterly to the Servant Leadership Board. To protect the assets of the Corporation, the treasurer, and staff members who handle the monies of the Corporation shall be bonded by an appropriate company selected by the Servant Leadership Board.

d. **Nomination, Election, and Terms of Office.** A nominating committee named by the Servant Leadership Board from outside its own membership and the Staff Ministry Team shall name one or more Corporation member(s) for the expiring term of each corporate officer. Each nomination shall be received and approved by the Servant Leadership Board before the Board carries the nomination(s) to an annual meeting of the Corporation. Each officer shall serve terms of four years after being elected by an affirmative vote of seventy-five percent (75%) or more of the Corporation members voting at an annual meeting. No elected officer may serve more than two consecutive terms.

ARTICLE VI

SERVANT LEADERSHIP BOARD

Section 1 – Purpose. The Servant Leadership Board (SLB) is the primary governance body of the Corporation. It guides and empowers congregational life in light of the heritage, mission, vision, fiscal responsibility, and legal obligations of the Corporation.

Section 2 – Roles. The following are the standard roles of the Servant Leadership Board.

1. Be responsible to the corporation as a whole.
2. Keep alive and clear the historic mission, distinct values, current vision, and future direction of the Park Place Corporation.
3. Ensure that all operational policies are consistent with the mission, values, and vision of the Corporation.
4. Hold in trust all assets of the Corporation in accordance with the laws of Indiana.
5. It is the responsibility of the Servant Leadership Board (SLB) to ensure that there is an internal audit by a committee each year and that every fourth year an external consultant conduct/review the audit.
6. Appoint a by-laws committee and other committees to function as needed.
7. Establish a process for calling the Lead Pastor, set that pastor's compensation package and leave policy, and present the candidate's name to the congregation for a corporate decision.
8. Appoint a nominating committee comprised of at least three persons, all from outside the membership of the Servant Leadership Board and Staff Ministry Team. The Board will identify one of these persons as the proposed Committee chair. This committee

- will determine nominations for presentation to the Corporation when vacancies occur in the Board's membership, including the four corporate officers.
9. Regularly review the leadership actions and needs of the Lead Pastor and provide accountability to agreed upon mission and vision goals.
 10. Affirm the calling of members of the Staff Ministry Team, as recommended by the Lead Pastor, and forward such candidates to the corporation for a two-third affirmation. In the event of the resignation of the Lead Pastor, resignations of the Staff Ministry Team are not required.
 11. Ensure appropriate processes of discipline and restoration of any employee unfaithful to the Corporation's trust and approve the dismissal of any unrestored employee when recommended by the Lead Pastor.
 12. Approve and present to the Corporation for adoption at its annual budget meeting all ministry budgets developed under the supervision of the Lead Pastor in consultation with the members of the Staff Ministry Team and the treasurer of the corporation.
 13. Establish a means to fulfill any particular needs not otherwise addressed in these bylaws, such as stewardship and mission inspiration, encouragement, and planning.
 14. Join with the Lead Pastor in convening vision and growth groups for ministry equipping and for strategic congregational thinking, planning, and goal setting.
 15. Periodically initiate a process for reviewing the Design-for-Ministry document that is congregationally approved. The intent is to ensure that the Design always reflects the wisdom gained from its implementation in changing circumstances.

Section 3 – Membership and Terms of Office. The membership of the Servant Leadership Board consists of nine (9) members of the corporation, namely:

- a. The four corporate officers (president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary) are elected by the Corporation following nomination by a committee named by the Servant Leadership Board for this purpose. These corporate officers also serve as the respective officers of the Servant Leadership Board.
- b. The Lead Pastor, called by the congregation.
- c. Four members at large, each ratified by the Corporation following nomination by a committee named by the Servant Leadership Board for this purpose.

All members (except the Lead Pastor) serve four-year terms. No elected officer may serve more than two consecutive terms. The Lead Pastor, by virtue of office, is a member and serves as long as that office is held. The officer members are elected by an affirmative vote of two-thirds or more of members voting at the corporation's annual meeting. The at-large members are ratified by an affirmative vote of two-thirds or more of members voting at the corporation's annual meeting.

In case a vacancy occurs in the Servant Leadership Board's membership between normal election/ratification periods, the Board's chair may appoint a Corporation member to serve, but

only until the next regular meeting of the Corporation.

ARTICLE VII **THE LEAD PASTOR**

Section 1 – Purpose. The Lead Pastor is the corporation’s chief teacher and communicator of biblical truth and corporate vision.

Section 2 – Roles. The following are the standard roles of the Lead Pastor.

1. Ensure that all ministries are consistent with the mission, values, and vision of the Park Place Corporation.
2. Provide the Corporation with ongoing spiritual vision, biblical proclamation, and overall leadership.
3. Provide regular reports to the Servant Leadership Board and through that Board to the Corporation as a whole.
4. Recruit members of the Staff Ministry Team, with affirmation from the Servant Leadership Board and then two-third affirmation of the Corporation as a whole; dismiss members of the Staff Ministry Team, subject to the approval of the Servant Leadership Board.
5. Lead the Staff Ministry Team, providing guidance and regular accountability to the vision and mission of Park Place Church of God.
6. Oversee the development of all ministry budgets of the Corporation, presenting them to the Servant Leadership Board for review prior to presentation to the Corporation for approval by two-thirds or more affirmative vote.
7. Establish periodic personal and professional goals for himself/herself and present the results of related, goal-oriented efforts at achievement for evaluation by the Servant Leadership Board.

Section 3 – Calling and Tenure. The Servant Leadership Board establishes and supervises the process of search and selection of a candidate for the role of Lead Pastor. The Lead Pastor must hold ministerial credentials in good standing, issued by an assembly of the Church of God (Anderson). Once a candidate is approved by the Board, it sets the proposed compensation package and leave policy, gains the willingness of the candidate to serve, and then presents the candidate to a meeting of the Corporation. The Corporation, in a regular or special business meeting, must formally call the candidate by a two-third or more affirmative vote.

The tenure of the Lead Pastor has no limit other than the continued willingness of the Lead Pastor to serve and the approval of the Servant Leadership Board for such continued service. Accountability of the Lead Pastor to the Corporation as a whole is through the Servant Leadership Board which may terminate the tenure of the Lead Pastor upon its judgment of sufficient cause.

ARTICLE VIII
THE STAFF MINISTRY TEAM

Section 1 – Purpose. The Staff Ministry Team works to build and lead a passionate and spiritually healthy congregation actively engaged in ministry. It enlists and coordinates multiple ministry teams potentially involving all congregational members. Through these teams, people come to know and use their spiritual gifts in an atmosphere of mutual trust and empowerment.

Section 2 – Membership. The Staff Ministry Team is comprised of the Pastoral Team and designated staff members. These members are recruited by the Lead Pastor and presented to and affirmed by the Servant Leadership Board. Associate Pastoral Staff must then be affirmed by the Corporation with required positive votes of two-thirds or more.

Section 3 – Roles. The following are the standard roles of the Staff Ministry Team.

1. Recruit and supervise a range of congregational ministry teams.
2. Provide coordination for all ministry teams carrying out congregational ministries.
3. Equip and guide lay leaders in carrying out their specific areas of ministry.
4. Receive proposals for equipping ministry teams and determine the need, viability, and staffing of any proposed new ministry or team.
5. Under the supervision of the Lead Pastor, participate in the formation of proposed ministry budgets.
6. Be accountable to the Lead Pastor, in part by establishing periodic ministry-related goals and presenting the results of goal-oriented efforts for evaluation by the Lead Pastor.

ARTICLE IX
MINISTRY TEAMS

Section 1 – Formation and Purpose. Ministry teams will be gathered by recruitment of the Staff Ministry Team and at the initiative of congregational members who feel gifted and volunteer for particular ministry tasks.

Ministry teams are resourced, empowered, and supervised by the Staff Ministry Team as a whole, with each team responsible to the most appropriate member of the Staff Ministry Team. Teams will discern, set, and meet group goals in light of the mission of the congregation, the guidance of the Staff Ministry Team, and in response to goals the congregation may establish from time to time.

Section 2 – Qualifications of Members. Team members will model servant-leadership, exhibit a growing relationship with Jesus Christ, and maintain a constructive relationship with the congregation and other team members.

Section 3 – Tenure. Some ministry teams will exist for extended periods of time because of the ongoing importance of the functions being served (for example, the Children’s Center and the Community Center, key outreach functions of the corporation). Other teams will exist for only a season until their particular needs are met. Determination of tenure lies with the appropriate member of the Staff Ministry Team and then also the Staff Ministry Team as a whole.

ARTICLE X
THE CHILDREN'S CENTER

Section 1 – Purpose. The Children's Center is an educational and outreach ministry associated with Park Place Church of God and operated in the Park Place facilities. It has its own director, staff, and advisory body, the Children's Center Leadership Team. The Center is responsible to the congregation through the Staff Ministry Team and the Servant Leadership Board.

Section 2 – The Director. The Director of the Children's Center is responsible for supervising all policies, personnel, and operations of the Center. The Lead Pastor, in consultation with the Center’s Leadership Team, will nominate the Director and carry the candidate’s name to the Servant Leadership Board for affirmation.

Section 3 - The Children's Center Leadership Team. The Children’s Center Leadership Team is responsible for working with the Center’s Director by advising the Director on all matters central to the Center’s mission and otherwise assisting the Director as mutually agreed. Its members shall be recruited by the Director and affirmed by the Servant Leadership Board. The number of members shall range from seven (7) to twelve (12), with the majority always coming from the membership of the Park Place Church congregation. There is no term limit.

ARTICLE XI
THE COMMUNITY CENTER

Section 1 – Purpose. The mission of the Park Place Community Center is to be a ministry of Park Place Church of God in partnership with other community stakeholders providing a safe and loving environment for all persons to engage services and programs designed to enhance individual and community growth in body, mind, and spirit. The Community Center is responsible to the congregation through the Staff Ministry Team and the Servant Leadership Board.

Section 2 – The Director. The Director of the Community Center is responsible for supervising all policies, personnel, and operations of the Center. The Lead Pastor, in consultation with the Center’s staff and advisory group, will nominate the Director and carry the candidate’s name to the Servant Leadership Board for affirmation.

Section 3 – The Community Center Leadership Team. The Community Center Leadership Team is responsible for working with the Center’s Director by advising the Director on all matters central to the Center’s mission and otherwise assisting the Director as mutually agreed. Its members shall be recruited by the Director and affirmed by the Servant Leadership Board. The number of members is determined by the Director, with the majority always coming from the membership of the Park Place Church congregation. There is no term limit.

ARTICLE XII
TERMINATION

Section 1 - Termination of Officers or Members of the Servant Leadership Board. Any officer of this Corporation or any member of the Servant Leadership Board may be terminated from office by a majority vote of the members present and voting at any regular or special meeting of the corporation.

Section 2 - Termination of the Lead Pastor or Other Members of the Staff Ministry Team. Any member of the Staff Ministry Team may be terminated from his/her position of employment through the process detailed in Article VII, Sections 2.4 and 3.

Section 3 - Notice Regarding Termination Meeting. Notice of the time of the Corporation meeting for termination shall be given at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting. When one has been terminated from an office or staff position, the legal authority and leadership responsibilities of that individual cease at once.

ARTICLE XIII
RESTRICTION ON USE OF FACILITIES

The Park Place Corporation reserves the right to restrict the use of all properties owned from any event or program judged by the Servant Leadership Board to be at odds with the mission or teachings of the congregation and/or the Church of God movement (Anderson) as represented formally by the actions of the movement’s General Assembly in North America.

ARTICLE XIV
CONDITIONAL DEEDING OF ALL PROPERTIES

The General Assembly of the Church of God movement (Anderson) acted in June, 2012, to direct congregations of the movement to name as beneficiaries the appropriate state assembly of the Church of God in the event of corporate dissolution. This Park Place Corporation intends to be in accord with this directive.

Should the Park Place Church corporation dissolve as a Corporation for any reason, the following shall occur. After the satisfaction of any debts of the Corporation, the remaining assets, including all real properties, shall become the sole ownership of Indiana Ministries of the Church of God, Inc. (Fishers, Indiana). In addition to this bylaw, the Park Place Corporation will execute and maintain an alteration of its property deed to ensure that the fact of this beneficiary designation is legally binding.

ARTICLE XV INDEMNIFICATION

Officers of the Corporation and his/her executors, administrators, and estate shall be indemnified and saved harmless, out of the funds of the corporation, from and against:

All costs, charges, damages, and expenses whatsoever that the Corporate Officer sustains or incurs in or about any action, suit, or proceeding which is brought, commenced, or prosecuted against him or her, or in respect of any act, deed, or matter of thing whatsoever, made, done, or permitted by him or her, in or about the execution, in good faith, of the duties of his or her office or in respect of any such liability.

All other costs, charges, damages, and expenses which the Corporate Officer sustains or incurs in or about or in relation to the affairs thereof, except such cost, charges, or expenses as are occasioned by the Corporate Officer's own willful neglect or default. Park Place Church of God shall carry such sufficient indemnification insurance as is currently available and can be reasonably afforded by Park Place Church of God.

ARTICLE XVI AMENDMENTS TO THESE BYLAWS

These Bylaws may be amended, altered, or changed by a two-thirds (66%) vote of the membership of the corporation present and voting at any regular or special meeting of the corporation, provided that a copy of the proposed amendment, alteration, or change, and notice that action will be taken thereon, shall first be made public at least two weeks prior to the business meeting at which such proposed amendment shall be acted upon.

THE END