

Defenders

Of the Christian Faith Movement Inc.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS



Founded in 1945

Drs. José and Gloria Hernandez
Founders

Revised in July 2025

BACK TO THE BIBLE

Defenders of the Christian Faith Movement

Board of Directors

Job M. Ramos, Bishop
Nancy Lopez, Assistant Bishop
Kathy Morales, Executive Secretary
Andres Romero, Treasurer
Rick Rodriguez, Secretary of Acts
Carlos Acosta, Trustee
Guadalupe Ledesma, Trustee
Roberto Mejia, Trustee
Edgar Montufar, Trustee

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Preamble

We, the members of Defenders of the Christian Faith Movement Inc., moved by the firm and deep conviction that it is the will of Christ for believers in Him to be effectively united in their efforts for the expansion of His Kingdom, and aware that this Defenders of the Christian Faith Movement has grown remarkably, have organized ourselves with the following Creed, Constitution, and Bylaws. We hereby declare that we are united by our internal and personal faith in Jesus Christ as our Divine Savior and Lord, and upon this faith our churches, ministries, and organizations are founded.

Creed

(Fundamental Doctrines)

1. The Sacred Scriptures

WE BELIEVE in the supernatural inspiration of the Sacred Scriptures, as it appears in the sixty-six books of the Bible. It is the Word of God, the only rule of faith and conduct. (2 Tim. 3:16; John 5:39)

2. The One, True, and Eternal God

WE BELIEVE in the existence of God, a Unique Being, Supreme, Holy, Eternal, Creator of the Universe. He transcends all creation and, in turn, is omnipresent in every part of it. (Gen 1:1; Mt 6:8-9)

3. The Divine Trinity

WE BELIEVE in the Divine Trinity, revealing itself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They are three persons in the same essence, power, and eternity. They relate to one another while also being distinguished from each other. (Mt 3:16-17; 28:19)

4. Jesus Christ the Son of God

WE BELIEVE in Jesus Christ, the second person of the Divine Trinity, His virgin birth, sinless life, His miracles, crucifixion, the vicarious sacrifice, the resurrection and the ascension. He took on humanity, died and rose to save us. (Matt. 1:18; John 1:1-14; 3:16; Luke 24:13-51)

5. The Holy Spirit

WE BELIEVE in the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Divine Trinity. He dwells in the believer and guides him to all truth and all justice. (Acts 1:8; 2:4; 13:2)

6. The Creation

WE BELIEVE that the existence of all things, visible and invisible, is the result of God's creative work. (Gen 1:1; 1:31; 2:12; Ps 19:1; Ps 24:1; Heb 11:3)

7. The Man

WE BELIEVE that man was created in the image and likeness of God and in perfect communion with his Creator. **WE BELIEVE** that he was granted attributes of holiness, wisdom, free will, and natural affections. **WE ALSO BELIEVE** that man is the crown of creation and the object of God's special care. (Gen 1:26-28; Ps 8:5-8)

8. The Fall and the Redemption of Man

WE BELIEVE that man fell due to his transgression, by his own free and voluntary decision. **WE BELIEVE** that the only means of redemption is accepting the redemptive plan provided by God in the person of Jesus Christ. (Gen. 3:15; John 3:14; Rom. 10:9-10)

9. Salvation

WE BELIEVE that man is saved through the public acceptance of Jesus Christ as his Savior. **WE BELIEVE** that this salvation is by grace through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross of Calvary (Eph. 2:8); that he is justified by faith in Christ (Ro. 5:1); and is an heir to eternal life (Jn 3:16; Tit 3:7). **WE BELIEVE** that the salvation obtained by believing in Christ is immediate (Luke 19:9; John 5:24) and that it is essential to remain in Him to preserve it (Matt 24:13; Heb 2:1-2).

10. Baptism in Water

WE BELIEVE in the ordinance of water baptism by immersion in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (Matt. 28:19).

11. The Lord's Supper

WE BELIEVE in the ordinance of practicing the Lord's Supper. It consists of bread and juice from the vine, which symbolize the body and blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It serves as a remembrance of His suffering, death, and a prophecy of His second coming (Matt 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:13-20; 1 Cor 11:23-26). **WE BELIEVE** that participants must be baptized believers in water and in full communion with the church.

12. The baptism with the Holy Spirit

WE BELIEVE that every believer has the privilege of receiving the Father's promise concerning baptism with the Holy Spirit. It is a supernatural experience subsequent to the new birth. Every believer should long for it. It empowers them to live a life of holiness and effective service in the work of the Lord. (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8; 2:4; 8:14-17).

13. The Sanctification

WE BELIEVE that it is necessary to live a life of holiness, without which no one will see the Lord (Heb 12:14; 1 Thess. 4:3). Sanctification is obtained through the death of Christ. (Heb 2:11; 10:14; 13:12; 1 Cor 1:30). After conversion, the Holy Spirit continues to perfect God's work in the believer, equipping them for a life of holiness. (John 17:16-19; 1 Thess 5:22-24). Sanctification is a clear separation from the world to a way of life worthy of a holy God.

14. The Divine Healing

WE BELIEVE in the biblical promise regarding Divine Healing and that the Church receives authority from the Lord Jesus Christ to heal the sick in the name of Jesus. (Ps. 103:3; Isa. 53:4-5; Mark 16:18; James 5:14).

15. The Second Coming of Christ

WE BELIEVE in the second coming of Christ (Acts 1:11) with the following events: **WE BELIEVE** in the rapture or translation of the Church and that this event will occur before the great tribulation (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17). **WE BELIEVE** in the second manifestation of Christ in bodily and visible form and that He will establish His millennial Kingdom on earth (Matt 24:30; Acts 1:11; Rev 1:7; 5:10; 11:15; 20:1-7; Dan 7:14; 1 Cor 15:25). **WE BELIEVE** in the Final Judgment with reward of Eternal Life for the righteous and eternal punishment for the unjust (2 Peter 3:7).

16. Marriage

WE BELIEVE in the act of marriage as established by God from the beginning. **WE BELIEVE** that the only relationship that should exist between a couple is through marriage, and that marriage should take place only between a man and a woman. Human beings are born male and female because that is how God created them from the beginning. (Gen 1:27; 2:21-25)

We totally reject any homosexual relationship and declare it to be against nature (Rom 1:26 and 27). Homosexuality is not a lifestyle but a sinful condition for those who practice it and depraved for humanity.

CONSTITUTION



Revised July 2025

BACK TO THE BIBLE

Article I

This organization will be known by the name: "Defenders of the Christian Faith Movement Inc."

Article II

Purpose: To fulfill the Great Commission by bringing the message of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to every person, in every place possible. To launch and oversee churches, ministries and organizations that will be established throughout America. To sponsor institutions such as summer camps, seminars and other activities and institutions that may arise in the future and that the Board of Directors approves.

Mission: Empower the churches, ministries and affiliated organizations by equipping their Layworkers, Pastors and Ordained Ministers to win and train the next generation of believers.

Vision: As Defenders, we will choose to invest the necessary resources to ensure that every church is supported in its efforts to expand the Gospel; every pastor is prepared to lead the Flock; and every member is motivated to plant new churches, ministries, and organizations.

Core Values:

1. Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. Invest in the next generation of believers.
3. Plant churches, ministries, and organizations.
4. Strengthen the fellowship among all believers.
5. Seek the face of God and the guidance of His Spirit.

Article III

Constituents: Defenders of the Christian Faith Movement Inc. will be composed of all the churches, ministries, and organizations that currently make up the Movement and that have given their approval to this Constitution. New churches, ministries, and organizations established according to the conditions stipulated by this organization may join and become part of the Movement once they have been approved by the Board of Directors and officially received by the Assembly. Once received by the Assembly, the Board of Directors will issue the Certificates of Affiliation, which will be issued by the International Board of Directors.

NOTE: This Movement recognizes as potential members churches, ministries and organizations, missions, extension biblical schools, home Bible study groups, evangelistic ministries, musical ministries, and Christian education ministries – whether they are incorporated or in the process of development – including their respective workers who meet the requirements of our Bylaws.

Article IV

Administration: The Board of Directors will guide the direction of this organization. This Board of Directors shall consist of at least six Ordained Ministers and no more than three Laypersons. An Ordained Minister is understood to be any person who has been duly recognized by our organization as such. A Layperson is understood to be a Layworker or a Licensed Preacher from our organization.

Article V

Funds: Each affiliated organization will send this organization on a monthly basis an amount equivalent to 10% of the tithes it receives from its members for general support and expenses. Each Layworker and Licensed Preacher (not pastoring) will send \$75.00 annually, and each Ordained Minister and Senior Pastor will send \$100.00 annually before June 30th as a credential fee. In turn, this organization acknowledges the responsibility to send 10% of the tithes received to the International Movement of Defender of the Christian Faith Churches.

Article VI

Biennial Assembly: A Biennial Assembly will be held starting in the year 2003, which will be known as: “Biennial Convention of the Defenders of the Christian Faith Movement Inc.” This event will take place at a location chosen by the Board of Directors and will occur on dates that the Board deems appropriate, as long as it is between July 1 and August 30th.

Article VII

Extraordinary Assembly: An Extraordinary Assembly will be held, which may be conducted virtually. This assembly will be convened whenever the Board of Directors deems it appropriate.

Article VIII

The churches, ministries and affiliated organizations: The churches, ministries, and affiliated organizations are those that are united with our Movement and that fulfill their obligations to the Movement according to this Constitution, the Bylaws, and the specifications set forth by the Board of Directors. In the case of a request for affiliation with our Movement, the Ministerial Committee will guide and supervise the internal process of that church or ministry and will inform the Board of Directors whether it performs its functions in accordance with our Creed, Constitution, and Bylaws. The Board of Directors will decide whether the affiliation should be approved, and once approved, it will be presented to the Assembly to fulfill the official reception. The Board of Directors will request the Certificates of Affiliation, which will be issued by the International Board of Directors.

Any church or ministry established under the Creed and the statutes of the Constitution and Bylaws of this organization must identify its affiliation with the Defenders of the Christian Faith Movement Inc. in its corporate name and all official legal documents. Any affiliated organization must identify

the church or offices with a sign that identifies it with the name Defenders of the Christian Faith Movement Inc.

Article IX

The organizations affiliated with the Movement in their services, functions, and local plans are autonomous as long as they comply with all the statutes of our Creed, Constitution, and Bylaws. The Board of Directors will intervene in these matters only when the affiliated organizations request it or when it concerns an unincorporated mission, according to Article IV of the Bylaws. It is understood that every affiliated church will be sovereign in choosing its worship services, community work, local church leaders, and activities, as long as they do not conflict with the Purpose, Mission, Vision, and Core Values of this organization. The Board of Directors will have the right to intervene in any other matter that it deems necessary to fulfill its supervisory role regarding the functioning of the church. Each church or ministry will amend its Constitution and Bylaws to declare that at least one member of the Board of Directors of this Movement will have the authority to serve as an agent of the organization or as the general administrator in situations where the leadership of the organization is incapacitated to do so due to illness or death.

The churches, ministries, and affiliated organizations, in their sovereignty, will have the authority to establish new churches, ministries, or organizations that will be formally named "Missions" before requesting their direct affiliation with the Movement. The affiliated organizations will be responsible for reporting to the Board of Directors the full name of the Mission and the Layworkers who will be in charge of it within the first 30 days of its establishment.

Regarding the appointment of pastors, the congregation may present its candidate to the Board of Directors for their appointment and installation, with the understanding that the Board of Directors may present its own candidates and will make the decision on who will be appointed as pastor, always with the consent of the majority of the members in full communion. No candidate may be presented for the pastoral position unless they hold an active credential from the Movement at the time of their candidacy, understanding that the candidate must comply with the requirements stipulated in Article XVII of the Bylaws. Should a sudden vacancy arise in the pastoral position, the National Board of Directors of this organization will appoint a credentialed individual as the interim pastor of the congregation.

Each church or ministry will submit to the Executive Secretary an updated copy of its Constitution and Bylaws, a copy of its active incorporation, and a certified copy of its annual financial statement for each year.

Article X

Ministerial Committee: The Ministerial Committee will be composed of the Bishop, another member of the Board of Directors assigned by the Board, and the nearest Regional Presbyter to the location where the applicant for affiliation or ordination resides. When it pertains to the affiliation of a church, this committee will guide the church through the affiliation process and will inform the Board of Directors in writing if the church is operating in accordance with our Creed, Constitution, and Bylaws. When it pertains to the ordination of a candidate, this committee will conduct a thorough investigation (including a background check) of the candidate for ordination and will submit a written report to the Board of Directors within three months of receiving the application. The Board of Directors will request credentials from the International Board of Directors for any application for ordination to the full ministry and any request for pastoral credentials that has been approved.

Article XI

Legal Entity: This Movement was founded in 1944 and obtained legal entity upon its incorporation on March 23, 1945, in the city of Albany, New York, number 4487, in accordance with the laws of said state. No individual shall enter into any agreement or contract on behalf of the Movement. Only the Executive Committee shall have this authority. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Bishop or their designee, the Executive Secretary or their designee, and the Treasurer or their designee.

Article XII

Properties: The properties and real estate of an incorporated church affiliated with the Movement are entirely owned by the Church and will be managed and regulated in accordance with the governing body or directive form of the affiliated church. The properties, equipment, and real estate of an unincorporated church classified as a Mission will belong to the Mission in question, but the sale, purchase, exchange, or any form of transfer affecting the properties and assets will be supervised and approved by the Board of Directors of this Movement. All types of transactions that an incorporated or unincorporated church conducts with its properties and real estate must be reported to the Board of Directors prior to carrying out such transactions so that the matter can be studied by the Board of Directors to provide advice and maximize benefits for the church in question in the transaction to be carried out. No incorporated and/or unincorporated church or mission may purchase property in the name of one or more individuals without prior approval from the Board of Directors. If this is the only possible way to purchase a property, the title should be registered in the names of the individuals and the Movement to ensure the protection of the property. As soon as it is possible to transfer the property to the name of the local church, these individuals and the Executive Committee of the Movement will immediately, without reservation, sign the title transfer. When a church ceases to function as a church, the properties acquired in the name of that church will be transferred and will become the property of the Movement. All properties acquired by this

organization will be titled in the name of Defenders of the Christian Faith Movement Inc.

Article XIII

National Ministries: This organization recognizes the National Ministries of Men, Women, Youth, Children, Education, Church Planting, Missions, Communications, and Music. These ministries will establish bylaws to govern themselves, and these bylaws will be in harmony with this Constitution and Bylaws, to which they will be subject. They will send a contribution equivalent to 5% of their general income to this organization. Anyone presiding over or directing a National Ministry must possess credentials from this organization; if they do not have them at the time of their appointment, they must request their credential within the first 30 days of their term. They will submit an annual report to the Board of Directors and to the Biennial Assembly that will include activities, progress, and financial information.

Article XIV

Moral aspect regarding marriage: This organization recognizes only the marital union between a man and a genetically born woman, in accordance with the teachings of the Sacred Scriptures. (See Gen 2:24; 1 Cor 7:22-23) This organization upholds our right to freedom of religion protected by the Constitution of the United States of America. It also upholds the right to freedom of expression granted by the Constitution. Understanding the constitutional right of this organization to limit government interference, no state or national law that approves marriage between two persons of the same sex will be complied with. This organization rejects the legality of ceremonial marital unions or any civil or ecclesiastical documents between same-sex couples. (See Deut. 23:17; Rom. 1:18-27; Luke 17:28-29.) Every church and organization affiliated with our organization must include an exact copy of this Article in its Constitution.

Article XV

Language: The masculine gender used in this document will refer to both men and women.

Article XVI

Amendments: This Constitution may be amended by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the voters in a Biennial Assembly or in an Extraordinary Assembly, provided that the proposed amendment or amendments have been submitted for the consideration of the Ordained Ministers, Licensed Preachers, and active Layworkers in the Movement, as well as the delegates sent by the churches, ministries, and organizations through the Executive Secretary of the Board of Directors, at least three months prior to the Biennial Assembly or Extraordinary Assembly. The use of email will be accepted as a means of distribution. Any approved amendment shall take effect immediately after its approval.

BYLAWS



Revised July 2025

BACK TO THE BIBLE

Article I

Ecclesiastic year: The ecclesiastic year shall be from July 1st to June 30th of the following year.

Article II

Title: This organization will be known as: Defenders of the Christian Faith Movement Inc.

Article III

Members: All organizations currently within the Movement that have accepted these Bylaws, as well as new organizations established according to the conditions stipulated in the Constitution, shall be members of this organization.

Any organization with legal entity that wishes to affiliate must undergo the following affiliation process:

- a. submit in writing its desire to affiliate, including signatures of members and a copy of its Constitution and Bylaws;
- b. hold a membership meeting under the supervision of the Ministerial Committee and be approved by the Board of Directors (Constitution, Article VII) and receive a Certificate of Affiliation from the International Board of Directors.

It will be understood that any affiliated organization may lose its status with the Movement if it does not fulfill its responsibilities described in the Constitution (Articles V, VII, VIII).

Article IV

Disaffiliation The disaffiliation process will be as follows:

1. Before holding any type of meeting with the congregation to discuss any matters regarding disaffiliation or the possibility thereof, the pastor and the local board must contact the Regional Presbyter, who in turn will communicate with the Board of Directors.
2. The Board of Directors will appoint two representatives from the Board who will meet with the congregation to understand their position regarding disaffiliation and seek reconciliation between the pastor or the local board and the Board of Directors of this organization.
3. If the congregation confirms the position of the pastor and the local board, these two representatives will witness the signing of a written petition signed by two-thirds of the members of the congregation.
4. The Board of Directors will notify the International Board of Directors to revoke the previously issued Certificate of Affiliation.
5. If the signatures of two-thirds of the congregation members are not obtained in favor of disaffiliation, these two representatives will present the possibility of a pastoral change to the church. They will seek to achieve a simple majority (more than half), and if successful, they

will proceed to remove the current pastor from their position and formalize a new board for the transition.

6. If the signatures of two-thirds are obtained to complete the disaffiliation process, these two representatives will collect the amount of \$3,500.00 to cover expenses incurred by the Board of Directors. However, if these two representatives find that the pastor and/or the local board held a meeting with the congregation to present disaffiliation before they were present, this amount will increase to a total of \$7,500.00.
7. If any of these points are not completed, the Board of Directors will understand that the disaffiliation has not been completed and, therefore, the church must continue to fulfill its regulatory responsibilities.
8. In the event that the congregation wishes to resume its status with the Movement after completing the disaffiliation process, the church must go through the affiliation process again as described in Article IV of the Bylaws.

Article V

Administration: A Board of Directors will oversee the direction of this organization and will consist of a Bishop, an Assistant Bishop, an Executive Secretary, a Secretary of Acts, a Treasurer, and four Trustees. The positions of Bishop and Assistant Bishop will be held exclusively by Ordained Ministers in full ministry.

Electoral Process: The electoral process for the members of the Board of Directors will be as follows:

1. The Board of Directors will assign a Nominating Committee 180 days prior to the National Convention.
2. The Board of Directors shall send a communication to the Pastors, Ministers, and Layworkers, requesting that all candidacies be submitted to the Nominating Committee.
3. The established period for nominations will close 60 days before the National Convention.
4. Each candidate must obtain certification of their candidacy no less than 45 days before the National Convention. This certification will be provided by the National Treasurer if the candidate is a senior pastor, or by their pastor if they are a Layworker or Minister not serving as a senior pastor.
5. All certified candidates must submit a short biography and a passport photo to be included on the ballot. Any candidate who does not provide this information forfeits their right to nomination. Any candidate nominating themselves for the presidency must present their vision and work plan.
6. All nominations will be circulated to all Pastors, Ministers, and Layworkers at least 30 days before the National Convention.

7. Each church will be responsible for submitting to our Executive Secretary a list of the names of its delegates no less than 30 days before the National Convention.
8. Floor nominations will not be allowed for anyone who has not been previously certified. Therefore, only individuals who submitted their candidacy for a position and were not elected may be nominated for a new position. If there are not enough candidates during the elections, the Assembly will have the authority to present candidates, provided they can be certified by the National Treasurer.
9. The Nominating Committee will be responsible for distributing ballots for each position separately. The result of one position will be awaited before proceeding to the next.
10. While all candidacies submitted for the position of Trustee will be accepted, the Nominating Committee will be responsible for advising the Assembly on the number of Ordained Ministers and Laypersons that may be elected to comply with our Bylaws.
11. If there is any vacant position during the elections due to a lack of candidates, the newly elected Board will have the authority to appoint a qualified individual to that position.
12. If any error is made by the Board of Directors and/or the Nominating Committee during this process, the Nominating Committee has the right to rectify any action that directly or indirectly affected the candidacy of any individual.
13. The elected Board of Directors will officially begin their duties on October 1 of the same year. All outgoing members of the Board of Directors will cooperate with the incoming Board for an efficient transition.
14. Every pastor of a church and/or members of a ministry affiliated with the Movement who have not been active, involved, or participating in the activities of the Movement for the last 5 years will not be able to run for any position on the Board of Directors.
15. Every pastor, church, and/or members of a ministry who were disaffiliated from the Defenders of the Christian Faith Movement and have re-affiliated will not be able to run for any position on the Board of Directors until 10 years after their return.

Article VI

Quorum Board of Directors: Five or more members of the Board of Directors shall constitute quorum.

Article VII

Requirements and Duties of the Board of Directors Officers:

Section 1.0 The Bishop and Its Requirements

Section 1.1 Must be an Ordained Minister.

Section 1.2 Must have served as a pastor of a church affiliated with Defenders of the Christian Faith Movement Inc. for no less than five (5) years.

Section 1.3 Must be at least 35 years of age on the date of election.

Section 1.4 Must be bilingual in Spanish and English.

Section 1.5 May perform their duties while pastoring their church or managing a ministry or secular employment.

Section 1.6 Preferably a graduate of a College, University, or Seminary acknowledged by this organization.

Section 1.7 Must have been part of the Board of Directors.

Section 1.8 Must have the recommendation of their pastor, if it applicable.

Section 1.9 Certification from the National and/or Local Treasurer of compliance with regulatory provisions of finances during the last two (2) years.

Section 2.0 The Assistant Bishop and Its Requirements

Section 2.1 The position of Assistant Bishop will require the same qualifications as the Bishop, with the exception of Section 1.5.

Section 3.0 The Executive Secretary and Its Requirements

Section 3.1 Must have served in a pastoral position in a church affiliated with Defenders of the Christian Faith Movement Inc. for no less than five (5) consecutive years, or as a Layworker of the Movement for no less than ten (10) consecutive years at the time of nomination.

Section 3.2 Be at least 30 years old as of the date of the election.

Section 3.3 Bilingual in Spanish and English.

Section 3.4 Have the recommendation of their pastor, if applicable.

Section 3.5 Have knowledge of secretarial work and clerical procedures.

Section 3.6 Certification from the National and/or Local Treasurer confirming compliance with regulatory financial provisions over the last two (2) years.

Section 4.0 The Treasurer and Its Requirements

Section 4.1 Have served in a pastoral position in a church affiliated with Defenders of the Christian Faith Movement Inc. for no less than five (5) consecutive years, or as a Layworker of the Movement for no less than ten (10) consecutive years at the time of nomination.

Section 4.2 Preferably graduated from a College, University, or Seminary; or an Associate Degree (two years of College or Seminary) that included accounting and/or management.

Section 4.3 Have knowledge of accounting and computers; familiarity with federal requirements for non-profit organizations 501(c)(3).

Section 4.4 Bilingual in Spanish and English.

Section 4.5 Have the recommendation of their pastor, if it applies

Section 4.6 Certification from the National and/or Local Treasurer confirming compliance with the regulatory financial provisions over the last two (2) years.

Section 5.0 The Secretary of Acts and Its Requirements

Section 5.1 Possess credentials as a Layperson of the Movement.

Section 5.2 Have basic knowledge of computer.

Section 5.3 Bilingual in Spanish and English.

Section 5.4 Have the recommendation of their pastor, if it applies.

Section 5.5 Certification by the National and/or Local Treasurer confirming compliance with the regulatory financial provisions over the last two (2) years.

Section 6.0 The Trustees and Their Requirements

Section 6.1 Possess credentials as a Layperson of the Movement.

Section 6.2 Bilingual in Spanish and English.

Section 6.3 Have the recommendation of their pastor, if it applies.

Section 6.4 Certification by the National and/or Local Treasurer confirming compliance with the regulatory financial provisions over the last two (2) years.

Section 7.0 Duties of the Board of Directors

Section 7.1 Address the work of churches, ministries, and organizations in general in harmony with the Purpose, Mission, and Vision of this organization.

Section 7.2 Prepare reports for the Biennial Assembly, review the work done during the year, and prepare the budget for the following year within 90 days of the start of the year.

Section 7.3 It must meet every three months in a regular meeting and as often as deemed necessary to hold extraordinary meetings at the request of a simple majority of the members of the Board of Directors.

Section 7.4 They will study, approve, and supervise all appointments for vacant pastoral positions and will install pastors in churches, ministries, and organizations.

Section 7.5 Will receive written complaints and task the ministerial committee to investigate. Will have the authority to appoint or remove any pastor where their ethics or morality is questioned Will have the power to suspend or revoke the credentials of any layperson where their ethics or morality is questioned.

Section 7.6 The Board of Directors, with the recommendation of the local pastors, will appoint and approve the candidates for layworkers and ministers of the Movement.

Section 7.7 The Board of Directors will appoint its own advisors.

Section 7.8 Shall appoint and supervise the Regional Presbyters.

Section 7.9 The Board of Directors will inform all its actions in writing to the Convention. It will also appoint a temporary Nominating Committee at its last regular meeting prior to each election Convention. The Committee will cease to exist upon the Assembly hearing its recommendations.

Section 7.10 The Board of Directors shall have power to appoint as many committees as it deems necessary in order to study and promote the interests of the organization.

Section 7.11 Will develop and implement an annual work plan to achieve the Purpose, Mission and Vision of the organization.

Section 7.12 It will evaluate and approve all candidates for ordination to the full ministry. This ordination will be carried out by the Bishop of the International Board of Directors or their representative solely during the Biennial Convention.

Section 7.13 Will prepare the program for the Biennial Convention.

Section 7.14 Will present new churches, ministries and organizations to be received by the Assembly.

Section 7.15 It will request the International Board of Directors to issue Certificates of Affiliation for the churches, ministries, and organizations once they are approved.

Article VIII

Section 1.0 Duties of the Bishop of the Board of Directors:

Section 1.1 Preside over all meetings.

Section 1.2 Represent the organization in all events where it needs to be represented.

Section 1.3 Will execute all agreements of the Board of Directors and the Biennial Convention.

Section 1.4 Will make provisional appointments to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors with the consensus of the Board of Directors."

Section 1.5 Will sign all Minutes. Will convoke all the meetings.

Section 1.6 Sign credentials. Authorize disbursements from the National Treasurer. Will send 10% of his/her income directly to the International Movement of Churches Defending the Christian Faith.

Article IX

Duties of the Assistant Bishop: He/She will substitute for the Bishop, when necessary. He/She will carry out any task assigned to him by the Bishop or the Board of Directors. He/She will supervise all functions of the Regional Presbyters and will report in writing to the Board of Directors regarding their functions.

Article X

Duties of the Executive Secretary: He/She will keep a record of all official agreements of the Board of Directors. Will keep a copy of all official responses provided. He/She will file all correspondence and make it available to the Board of Directors as many times as necessary. He/She will maintain a record of all churches, ministries, and organizations, Ordained Ministers, Licensed Preachers, and Layworkers active and inactive. He/She will sign and issue national credentials.

Article XI

Duties of the Treasurer: He/She will perform the functions of his/her position by safeguarding funds sent by the affiliated organizations. He/She will act as an authorized auditor to certify the economic status to the Board of Directors and will make disbursements only after proper authorization has been granted by the Bishop and with the signatures of both or according to the resolution adopted regarding disbursement authorizations. He/She will submit a quarterly report of all transactions to the Board of Directors. He/She will provide a written report to the Assembly.

Article XII

Duties of the Secretary of Acts: He/she will prepare minutes of all matters discussed in meetings and the Assembly and agreements made. He/she will carry out any tasks assigned to him/her by the Bishop or the Board of Directors.

Article XIII

Duties of the Trustees: They will carry out any assignment that the Bishop and the Board of Directors gives them, such as substituting for any officer in their absence.

Article XIV

Power of the Board of Directors: The Board of Directors shall have power on behalf of the Movement to cancel any mortgage, judgment, promissory note, or other evidence of debts in the manner provided by law; as well as to buy and sell properties that exclusively belong to the Movement, provided that it is approved by the Biennial Assembly for that sole purpose.

The Board of Directors will have full authority to establish different regions across America to facilitate supervision work and appoint Presbyters in each Region in order to promote the interests of the organization.

The Board of Directors may intervene in any church and/or ministry that does not comply with any portion of the Creed, the Constitution, and/or Bylaws, or whose actions are not in line with the Purpose, Mission, Vision, and Core Values of this organization.

Article XV

Regional Presbyter: Every Region must have a Presbyter appointed by the Board of Directors, taking into account the recommendation of the Ordained Ministers, Pastors and Layworkers of the Region.

Duties of the Regional Presbyter:

- Ensure communication and relationships between churches, ministries and organizations, missions and organizations in your region and the Board of Directors.
- Promote the unity and growth of the Movement throughout the Region.
- Supervise the ongoing work of the Layworkers in your Region through the reports required by the Board of Directors.
- Receive quarterly reports directly from the Layworkers and subsequently send them to the Executive Secretary.
- Implement, under the supervision of the Board of Directors, the necessary processes and programs for the ministerial development of the Layworkers in their Region.
- Promote the continuous education of Pastors, Layworkers, and leaders of churches, ministries, and organizations focused on the growth of churches, ministries, and organizations, as well as the development of new missions.
- Submit a quarterly report, in writing, to the Assistant Bishop of the Board of Directors.
- Establish and supervise regional ministries which must work under the direction of the National Ministries.
- Should not intervene in problems or in any type of counseling without the consent and authorization of the Board of Directors.

Article XVI

Ministerial Committee: The Ministerial Committee shall be composed of the Bishop, a member of the Board, and the corresponding Regional Presbyter. The functions of this Committee will be: to conduct investigations of the applicants for ordination, to submit a report of their investigation along with their recommendation to the Board of Directors, and to investigate complaints filed against any Layperson, in accordance with the procedure established in Article XVII.

Article XVII

Section 1.0: Ministerial Code of Ethics:

Section 1.1 The Ministerial Body must maintain a high degree of conduct and discipline regarding its moral and spiritual life.

Section 1.2 The Board of Directors is the only body authorized to deal with matters concerning the conduct of a minister.

Section 1.3 Any member of the Ministerial Body who fails to adhere to the disciplinary norms will be processed impartially in regards to:

Section 1.3.1 Moral conduct.

Section 1.3.2 Doctrinal separation of the fundamental truths of faith established in our Creed.

Section 1.3.3 To abide by our Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 1.4 The procedure to be followed in the event of a complaint being filed against any Layperson will be:

Section 1.4.1 All complaints against any person included in the ministerial ranks shall be submitted in writing by the complainant. If there is a complaint from the church where the credentialed person ministers, it will be referred through the Local Board of the church to the Regional Presbyter and/or Board of Directors. If there is no Local Board in the church, the complaint must be referred directly to the Regional Presbyter and/or Board of Directors.

Section 1.4.2 All complaints will be addressed before the Board of Directors, which will examine the situation and, if deemed necessary, summon the respondent for a hearing and may refer the case to the Ministerial Committee for recommendations.

Section 1.4.3 The Board of Directors may expand the investigation and summon the hearings it deems necessary.

Section 1.5 Regardless of the procedure described above, the Board of Directors shall have the authority to file and address complaints against any credentialed individual they deem necessary.

Section 1.6 When a minister is found guilty of violating the rules of administration of churches, ministries, and organizations, or the standards of moral conduct, the Board of Directors shall have the discretion to impose the following sanctions:

Section 1.6.1 When the offense relates to violations of the doctrinal separation of the fundamental truths of faith established in our Creed and/or adherence to our Constitution and Bylaws, the Board will admonish and firmly request the accused to comply with the rules of our Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 1.6.2 When there is a recurrence of the aforementioned violations, the Board will issue a decision regarding this.

Section 1.6.3 When the offense found relates to violations of moral conduct, the Board of Directors will issue a warning and work with all affected parties, providing a defined time for restoration.

Section 1.7 Regardless of the process described above, the Board of Directors shall have the discretion to impose anything from a reprimand to a temporary or permanent suspension of ministerial duties on any individual who holds credentials from the Movement and does not adhere to the aforementioned disciplinary standards.

Section 2.0 Ministerial Levels

Section 2.1 Defenders of the Christian Faith Movement Inc., summarizes the ministries defined by the Word of God as: Pastor, Evangelist, and Missionary.

Section 2.2 To operate officially in any of these ministries, ministerial ranks are established in the following classifications: Layworker, Licensed Preacher, and Ordained Minister.

Section 2.3 This movement acknowledges the Ministry of Women in these classifications.

Section 3.0 Requirements to obtain credentials:

Section 3.1 Layworker:

Section 3.1.1 Have been an active member of the same church within this organization for a minimum period of two (2) years or be considered a leader or pastor of a Mission reported to the Board of Directors.

Section 3.1.2 Be performing outstanding work in the church, subject to evaluation by the pastor, and to have aspirations for a national or international ministry as a pastor, missionary, or evangelist."

Section 3.1.3 Be a graduate of a seminary or bible institute recognized by DOCE (Department of Christian Education) or have been certified in all self-paced courses offered by DOCE.

Section 3.1.4 Have the recommendation of your pastor.

Section 3.1.5 Submit a written application to the Board of Directors.

Section 3.1.6 Have an interview with the Regional Presbyter where plans for ministerial development in the Region will be established.

Section 3.1.7 Receive approval from the Board of Directors, including the review of criminal background checks.

Section 3.2 Licensed Preacher:

Section 3.2.1 Having served the ministry at the level of Layworker successfully for a minimum period of two (2) years and conducting ministerial work in the region to which one belongs or pastoring an affiliated church or mission.

Section 3.2.2 Having graduated from all the courses required by DOCE (Department of Christian Education) for the licensed preacher credential or having equivalent courses from a seminary or Bible institute recognized by DOCE according to the education requirements for a licensed preacher.

Section 3.2.3 Submit a written application to the Board of Directors of the Defenders of the Christian Faith Movement Inc.

Section 3.2.4 Receive approval from the Board of Directors, including a background check review.

NOTE: In the classifications of Layworker and Licensed Preacher, the Board of Directors will have the authority to validate the experience and work of the candidate in this or other evangelical movements, and based on the merits of the candidate, grant them the credential that the Board of Directors deems appropriate.

Section 3.3 Ordained Minister:

Section 3.3.1 Having successfully served in ministry as a Pastor, Evangelist, or Missionary at the level of Licensed Preacher for a minimum period of two (2) years and being active in that capacity. However, the Board of Directors will have the authority to waive this requirement when the candidate has held credentials from the Movement for a term of no less than ten (10) years and has performed functions associated with regional or national ministry.

Section 3.3.2 Having successfully completed all advanced courses by DOCE (Department of Christian Education) or having equivalent courses from a seminary or biblical institute recognized by DOCE according to the educational requirements for Ordained Minister.

Section 3.3.3 Submit a written request to the Board of Directors.

Section 3.3.4 Receive approval from the Board of Directors including a criminal background check.

NOTE: The Board of Directors shall have the authority to issue an Ordained Minister credential to any person transferring to Defenders of the Christian Faith Movement Inc., provided that the prior ordination of the applicant is confirmed in writing.

Section 4.0 Ordination Process to Full Ministry:

Section 4.1 Every candidate for ordination must submit a written request for ordination to the Board of Directors.

Section 4.2 The candidate must have a written recommendation from the Presbyter of their Region.

Section 4.3 If the candidate is a pastor, the church will submit the request with a list of names and the corresponding signatures of more than half of the church members taken at an Assembly.

Section 4.4 If the candidate is an evangelist or missionary, they must accompany the request with a written recommendation from at least five (5) pastors in the rank of Ordained Minister within the Movement, one of whom must be their pastor.

Section 4.5 If the candidate is a Co-Pastor of a church within the Movement, they will follow the procedure for the ordination of a pastor, and in addition, it will be required that the church has a minimum of one hundred (100) members in full communion and the written recommendation from their pastor.

Section 4.6 Every aspirant to Ordained Minister status will undergo the following procedure for acceptance by the Board of Directors:

Section 4.6.1 The Board of Directors will submit the received request to the Ministerial Committee for evaluation.

Section 4.6.2 The Ministerial Committee will carry out a thorough investigation upon receiving the request. If there are any negative rumors, these must be submitted in writing to the Committee.

Section 4.6.3 The Ministerial Committee will send a written report to the Board with the relevant recommendations after conducting their investigation.

Section 4.6.4 The Board of Directors will refer the request for approval to the International Board of Directors, evaluate everything submitted (including a criminal background check), and will approve or deny the request Bylaws.

Section 4.6.5 If approved, the International Board of Directors will conduct the ordination ceremony and issue the Ordination Certificate and credential once the request is approved.

Section 5.0 To join the Ministerial Body of the Defenders of the Christian Faith Movement Inc., an independent minister or one from another organization must meet the following requirements:

Section 5.1 Have resigned from their previous organization before applying for admission.

Section 5.2 Join and belong to a church within the Movement for a reasonable period of no less than one year or serve in a church, ministry, organization, or mission that is in the process of affiliating with the Movement.

Section 5.3 Meet the requirements for Ordained Minister as stipulated in this article. The Board of Directors reserves the right to classify them into one of the established ministerial grades.

Section 5.4 Obtain a recommendation from the Ministerial Committee, which will subject them to a thorough investigation lasting a minimum of three (3) months and no longer than one year.

Section 5.5 In cases where the applying minister oversees one or more churches, ministries, and organizations seeking to join the Movement, the provisions of Article III of the Bylaws will be followed.

Note regarding Divorce and Re-marriage: All applicants for credentials shall be subject to scrutiny by the Ministerial Committee, which will investigate the reasons or causes that led to the applicant's divorce and will submit recommendations for approval or disapproval of the applicant to the Board of Directors.

Section 6.0 Functions of each classification:

Note: This Movement reserves the right to recognize and support Ministers at Large. These credentialed Workers must pay tithes directly to the Movement, submit quarterly reports, participate in regional activities, and report to the regional Presbyters. An up-to-date contract with the Movement and any other organization they are working with must be filed with the Executive Secretary.

Section 6.1 Layworker:

Section 6.1.1 Will perform all functions proper to the Christian ministry, according to 1 Timothy 4:6-16, with the exception of dedication of children, baptizing, celebrating the Lord's Supper, and officiating weddings in accordance with existing laws.

Section 6.2 Licensed Preacher:

Section 6.2.1 Will perform all functions proper to the ministry, according to 1 Timothy 4:6-16, with the exception of officiating weddings, provided that when not serving in a pastoral role, the exercise of their functions is subject to the authorization of their pastor.

Section 6.3 Ordained Minister:

Section 6.3.1 Will perform all of the following functions: dedication of children, baptizing, celebrating the Lord's Supper, officiating weddings in accordance with the procedures required by existing laws that do not violate our Creed and Article XIII of the Constitution, and any other function related to the Christian ministry.

Section 7.0 General Dispositions:

Section 7.1 Any person holding credentials from the Movement will be a member of a church, ministry, and organization within it and will be subject to their Pastor. The Board of Directors shall have the authority, whenever deemed necessary, to waive this provision, provided that the credentialed individual continues to work for the organization at the national or regional level, and upon receiving a written request from the credentialed person explaining their reasons for being a member of a church not affiliated with the Movement.

Section 7.2 Any person holding credentials from the Movement may work with another religious organization only with prior written authorization from the Board of Directors, provided that such religious organization does not oppose the Creed of our organization.

Section 7.3 No person may exercise pastoral functions in a church of the Movement unless they hold active credentials issued by the Board of Directors.

Section 7.4 Any person holding credentials from the Movement will be required to attend the Biennial Convention.

Section 7.5 Two consecutive unexcused absences from the Biennial Convention will be grounds for revoking the credentials of any credentialed individual.

Section 7.6 Any credentialed individual not pastoring must be available to fulfill ministry assignments as the Board of Directors deems necessary.

Section 7.7 Any credentialed person will submit a written report to the Board of Directors in the recommended format. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in the revocation of their credentials.

Article XVIII

Biennial Convention: The Biennial Convention will be composed of all Ordained Ministers, Licensed Preachers, and active Layworkers in the Movement, as well as the delegates sent by the churches, ministries, and organizations. There will be one delegate for the first 10 active members of a church and one additional delegate for every 6 additional active members. An "active" member is defined as any person who has paid their credential fees for the year preceding the Convention.

NOTE: If there are 16 members, two delegates may represent the church; however, if there are 15 members, only one delegate will be allowed to represent the church.

Article XIX

Extraordinary Assembly: The Extraordinary Assembly shall consist of all Ordained Ministers, Licensed Preachers, and Layworkers active in the Movement, and of the delegates sent by the churches, ministries, and organizations. There will be one delegate for the first 10 active members of the church and one for every 6 additional members. "Active" shall refer to any person who has paid their membership fee up to date by the time of the Extraordinary Assembly.

NOTE: If there are 16 members, two delegates may represent the church; but if there are 15 members, only one delegate can represent their church.

Article XX

Appointments: The Assembly will be responsible for electing all members of the Board of Directors during the Biennial Convention. All appointments to the Board of Directors will be for a term of four (4) years. This process will be supervised by the International Board of Directors.

Article XXI

Quorum: A quorum for the Assembly shall consist of more than half of the registered voters at the Biennial or Extraordinary Convention, as applicable.

Article XXII

Joint Jurisdiction: The Constitution and the Bylaws of this Movement will jointly govern this organization, and no other agreement contrary to both documents shall be put into effect without the proper procedure provided for amendments to said Constitution and Bylaws. (See, Article XXIII)

Article XXIII

Seal: The seal will feature a helmet, sword, and cross in the center, with the name of the Movement encircling it. The Executive Secretary will be responsible for its custody. Any organization affiliated with Defenders of the Christian Faith Movement Inc. must include the name "Defenders of the Christian Faith Movement Inc." and the seal approved by this Board in all its communications, official documents, and signage.

Article XXIV

Amendments: The Bylaws may be amended by a vote of two-thirds of the registered voters at the Biennial and Extraordinary Convention, provided that the proposed amendment or amendments have been submitted for consideration to the churches, ministries, and organizations through the Executive Secretary of the Board of Directors at least three months prior to the Biennial Convention. Any approved amendment will take effect immediately after its approval. Article XXV

Parliamentary Procedure: To facilitate the work of the Movement and to avoid any confusion during its deliberations, the Movement shall be governed by parliamentary rules in all its procedures, while upholding the spirit of love and Christian fellowship.

All sessions of the Movement shall begin with a prayer.

Article XXVI

Validity: This Constitution and Bylaws shall take effect immediately upon their approval by the Assembly.

*The official Bylaws are in Spanish with an English translation. The masculine term refers to both men and women.