

BY-LAWS
of
WEST VALLEY MISSIONARY CHURCH

ARTICLE I - NAME

NAME

This Church shall be known as: the ***West Valley Missionary Church of Yakima, Washington 98908.***

ARTICLE II - AFFILIATION

AFFILIATION

This Church is a member of the Missionary Church, Northwest District, Inc., 11107 Wide Hollow Road, Yakima, WA 98908 and as such is also a member of the Missionary Church, Inc., a denomination, with headquarters at PO Box 9127, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46899-9127 and as such shares the privileges, benefits and responsibilities of that affiliation.

ARTICLE III - STATEMENT OF FAITH

STATEMENT OF FAITH

A complete Statement of Faith including other matters related to doctrine and practice may be found in the Constitution of the Missionary church, hereinafter referred to as "The Constitution".

ARTICLE IV – PURPOSE AND VALUES

The Great Commandment: Matthew 22:36-40 (NIV) - “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’

This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

The Great Commission: Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV) – “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

PURPOSE

The purpose of the West Valley Missionary Church is to: “As a community of believers, West Valley Missionary Church exists to help people meet, know and serve Jesus Christ.”

VALUES

1. Vision – Our church is committed to working together in a God-given direction.
2. Authority of Scripture – Our church is committed to lives and

ministries that live out the inspired Word of God.

3. Discipleship – Our church is committed to Christ's command to be disciples who make disciples.
4. Prayer – Our church is committed to making prayer a priority in our personal lives and ministries.
5. Fellowship (Community) – Our church is committed to building loving, caring relationships.
6. Family Ministry – Our church is committed to helping marriages and families be loving, lasting and Christ-centered.
7. Leadership Development – Our church is committed to the intentional development of Spirit-filled, servant leaders who use their gifts.

Article IV.8 - Bylaw Provision Marriage, Intimacy and Appropriate Behavior

The West Valley Missionary Church (WVMC) operates upon a strongly-held belief that the marriage relationship has been established by God as a solemn union between a man and a woman. (Genesis 2:24; Ephesians 5:31). WVMC further holds that, in accordance with Scripture, sexual intimacy and sexual activity is appropriate only within the marriage relationship, between husband and wife. (I Corinthians 6:9; I Corinthians 7:2; Hebrews 13:4)

Accordingly, the following activity is viewed by the WVMC as inappropriate and contrary to Scripture:

- 1) Any marriage or civil union that is not between a man and a woman; and/or
- 2) Any sexual intimacy or sexual act between individuals who are not married to one another; and/or
- 3) Any intimate display of affection undertaken by individuals who are not: (a) married to one another; or (b) in an appropriate dating relationship with one another; and/or
- 4) Any intimate display of affection undertaken by individuals of the same gender; and/or
- 5) Any activity or behavior demonstrating an inconsistent or inaccurate view of an individual's gender at birth; and/or
- 6) Any activity or behavior constituting sexual exploitation, sexual abuse, sexual voyeurism or sexual perversion; and /or
- 7) Any other activity, teaching or behavior that is contrary to a biblical view of marriage, appropriate intimacy and appropriate behavior as outlined herein.

All individual church members and attenders involved in teaching, leading or representing the West Valley Missionary Church through operations, activities and events are expected to uphold the WVMC perspective on marriage, intimacy and behavior as set forth in this provision. Individuals and organizations who desire to use the WVMC facilities must also act in accordance with this provision.

ARTICLE V - MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERS

Section 1 - Members are persons who give a clear testimony to and evidence of saving faith in Christ; have been subsequently baptized by immersion and have been examined and publicly received by a local Missionary Church. Candidates who as believers have been baptized in another manner may be admitted to membership if they are willing to be immersed as the Lord may lead.

APPLICATION

Section 2 - Applicants for membership shall attend a membership class and make application through the Elder Board using such forms as may be prepared and available for that purpose. Application shall be reviewed and applicants interviewed by the Pastor and Elder Board.

QUALIFICATIONS

Section 3 - Qualifications for membership shall be in agreement with those set forth in Article XIII .B.2 of the Constitution.

DISCIPLINE

Section 4 - The Discipline of the Church shall be carried out as in agreement with Article XIII .B.3 of the Constitution.

TERMINATION

Section 5 - Members in good standing, moving from one locality to another where there is a Missionary Church, shall at their request, be given letters of transfer to that Church. In case of a Pastor and family moving from one Missionary Church to another, they shall automatically transfer to the new church of which he becomes a member. Persons moving to a locality where there is no Missionary Church may, at their request, be given letters of recommendation to a church of their choice, or they may request to become a member of the Northwest District and be placed on its roster. In no case will open letters of transfer be given. A member failing to share in the fellowship and responsibilities of our Church for a period of one year without just cause will, after due personal counsel, forfeit his/her membership.

ARTICLE VI - CHURCH BUSINESS MEETINGS

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 - Only active members of this Church who are sixteen (16) years of age or over and who are in good standing shall be eligible to vote in the Church Business Meetings.

FISCAL YEAR

Section 2 - The Fiscal Year shall be the calendar year.

BUSINESS MEETING

Section 3 - The Annual Business Meeting, unless otherwise specified by the Elder Board, shall be held the second (2nd) Sunday of November. Special meetings may be called by the District Superintendent or the Elder Board. Public announcement of these meetings shall be made in the Sunday morning worship service of the two (2) Sundays immediately preceding the meeting date.

QUORUM and ELIGIBILITY

Section 4 - A Quorum shall be twenty-five percent (25%) of all eligible voting members. No provision shall be made for absentee or proxy voting.

CHAIRMAN and SECRETARY

Section 5 – The Elder Board representative shall serve as the chairman and the secretary of the church shall record minutes of the business meeting.

ARTICLE VII - SENIOR PASTOR

SELECTION

Section 1 - The Senior Pastor shall be chosen from among ministers recognized and approved by the Missionary Church. The District Superintendent shall present a list of approved, available pastors. The Elder Board, exclusive of the Pastor, shall present to the Church the name of the candidate they consider advisable. The first call of a pastor is to be for a term of two years with at least a seventy-five percent (75%) favorable vote required. After that time a call for two (2) to five (5) years may be given.

EVALUATION

Section 2 - Annually, during the month of January, the Pastor shall be evaluated by the Elder Board. Evaluation sheets shall be distributed to Elder Board members in November and returned in December.

TENURE

Section 3 - The Pastor or the Elder Board may request a vote of the congregation. Voting shall be announced two (2) Sundays in advance. An acceptable vote shall be no less than seventy-five percent (75%) of the vote cast at such a meeting. However, if a favorable vote of less than seventy-five percent (75%) is taken, the Elder Board shall request consultation with the District Superintendent and the Pastor.

DUTIES

Section 4 - The Pastor shall be an example to the flock of God by keeping himself free from all worldly entanglements and above reproach in all matters of conduct and finance. It shall be his duty to preach the Word; To exercise prayerful and diligent oversight of the Church; Watching for the souls thereof as one that must give account; Seek earnestly the salvation of the lost, that in all things he may be approved unto God; It shall be his prerogative, with the

approval of the Elder Board, to arrange for all special meetings and to engage the necessary help for the same.

GOALS

Section 5 - The Pastor, Elder Board and Ministry Leadership Team shall meet annually in the fall, at a retreat setting, to review the past year's goals and accomplishments and to project mutual goals and direction for the coming year.

MINISTRY STAFF

Section 6 - Full or part-time staff may be hired provided the person has been approved as a minister in the Missionary Church or has been approved by the District Executive Board for the ministry position.

ARTICLE VIII – THE ELDER BOARD

MEMBERSHIP

The Elder Board of West Valley Missionary Church shall have a minimum of 3 individuals, a majority of whom shall be other than employees, staff and/or those related by blood or marriage.

**MEMBERSHIP
SELECTION**

The selection of elders shall be made prayerfully in view of the scriptural guidelines found in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. Each year prior to the annual business meeting, the congregation shall be informed that the Elder Board will accept names of suggested nominees for the Elder Board ballot. The Elder Board will then review and screen all names in view of the spiritual qualifications for an elder.

Members of West Valley Missionary Church are selected for membership to the Elder Board based upon the following:

- a. Commitment to a growing relationship to Jesus Christ
- b. Commitment to tithing 10% of their income
- c. Outstanding character
- d. Regular church attendance
- e. Actively involved in ministry

Once nominated, necessary inquiry is made with the Church Treasurer to insure that they are committed to good stewardship.

Those suggested individuals, after approval by the Elder Board, will be contacted for their approval to have their name posted as a possible nominee. The approved list of names will be posted publicly for 30 days. If any member/attender has a concern about an individual serving as an elder, they may express their concern to any member of the Elder Board.

The Elder Board will then consider this information as they prepare a final ballot. The congregation will then elect an elder from this ballot

at the annual business meeting.

TERM

Each Elder shall serve a 6 year term and can serve two consecutive terms. These shall be staggered terms with one-third of the elders rotating on and off every two years. In the case a member cannot complete their term, the board will select a replacement.

DUTIES

The duties of the Elder Board of West Valley Missionary Church include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Providing Spiritual health to West Valley Missionary Church.
- b. Hiring the Lead Pastor of West Valley Missionary Church.
- c. Hiring subsequent staff as needed
- d. Review of monthly financial statements.
- e. Review of the annual budget.
- f. Review of all salary increases.
- g. Review and maintain the membership list of the church
- h. Approval of the purchase and/or sale of all real property by West Valley Missionary Church.
- i. Review the disciple making efforts as shared through the Ministry Leadership Team
- j. Approve the plans for church planting

VOTING

The Elder Board West Valley Missionary Church shall make all decisions on behalf of the Church. The Elder Board shall make decisions based on consensus. On the rare occasion when consensus cannot be reached, the Elder Board shall vote, such case, majority rule shall prevail unless otherwise noted in the bylaws.

DISCIPLINE AND REMOVAL

The Board of Elders shall be mutually accountable to each other for their respective conduct in areas of ministry and influence. In the event that disciplinary action is required, it should be according to 1 Timothy 5:19-20 and Matthew 18:15-17. If the Elders consider one of their members to be lacking in his commitment, competency or in his character as an Elder, he may be released by a vote of the Board of Elders from his office (1 Timothy 5:19-20).

ARTICLE IX – THE MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TEAM

TEAM MEMBERS

Section 1 - The Ministry Leadership Team of the church shall consist of:

- a. Senior Pastor – Chairman
- b. Children’s Pastor
- c. Youth Pastor
- d. Church Secretary
- e. An elder board representative
- f. Treasurer (*)

- g. Christian Education Director (*)
- h. Worship Chairman (*)
- i. Head Deacon (*)
- j. Missions Chairman (*)
- k. Building and Grounds Chairman (*)
- l. Custodian (*)
- m. Men's Ministry Director (*)
- n. Women's Ministry Director (*)
- o. Women's Ministry Subcommittee Leaders (as needed)
- p. Senior Adult Ministry (*)
- q. Kitchen Ministry (*)
- r. Prayer Ministry (*)

SELECTION AND TERM

The Elder Board will recruit, vet and select the various leaders for the positions identified in the list above by (*). They shall present those ministry leader names to the church members at the annual membership meeting for ratification.

DUTIES

The duties of the Ministry Leadership Team include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Spend time together in God's Word and in prayer
- b. Participate in leadership training
- c. Review disciple making efforts of the ministries of the church
- d. Coordinate calendar events
- e. Discuss prominent issues in the church as they arise
- f. Closely oversee the income and expenditures of the church (including make financial requests and submitting future budgets)

VACANCIES

A vacancy in a Ministry Leadership position shall be filled by the appointment by the Elder Board and such appointee shall hold office until the calendar year is completed.

DEACON MINISTRY

In the case of the church's deacon ministry, the Elder Board will recruit, vet and prepare a list of potential deacons. The approved list of names will be posted publicly for 30 days. If any member/attender has a concern about an individual serving as a deacon, they may express their concern to any member of the Elder Board.

The Elder Board will then consider this information as they prepare a final listing. The congregation will then ratify the entire list of deacons at the annual business meeting.

DEACON MINISTRY DUTIES

The duties of the Deacon include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Preparing and serving communion as well as clean up

- afterwards.
- b. Promotion of and assisting in baptism services
 - c. Creating and maintaining collection ministries that help meet the needs of those in our church body and our community (i.e. – food pantry, clothes collection for local missions, school supplies, etc.)
 - d. Keeping a watchful eye on the needs of our church body – helping people to meet needs of others.
 - e. Assist the pastor by creating and maintaining a system that identifies a person’s giftedness, passion and abilities.
 - f. Assist the church body by helping ministry volunteers to find a place to serve.
 - g. Dispersing benevolent funds as needed.
 - h. Visiting and praying for those in the hospital.
 - i. Anointing and praying for those who are in need.

ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS

AMMENDMENTS **Section 1** - These By-Laws may be amended by a two-third (2/3) majority vote at any Church Business meeting providing announcement has been made in advance of the vote and a copy of any proposed changes shall be posted.

ARTICLE XI - DISSOLUTION

DISSOLUTION **Section 1** - In the event of the dissolution of the West Valley Missionary Church the assets of the church will become the property of the Missionary Church, Inc., a non-profit organization.

ADOPTED September 26, 2010

AMENDED November 13, 2011 & December 6, 2020