

**BYLAWS**  
**of**  
**Riverside Church Atlanta Inc.**  
**a Georgia Nonprofit Religious Corporation**

# **Riverside Church Atlanta Inc. BYLAWS**

## **ARTICLE I**

### **Name and Principal Office**

The name of the Corporation is Riverside Church Atlanta Inc. This corporation will be further referred to in the Bylaws as the "Church". The Church maintains its principal office at 2011 Bolton Rd NW #100 Atlanta GA 30318.

## **ARTICLE II Prerogatives**

### **Section 1. Right of Autonomy**

This Church shall have the right to govern itself according to the standards of the New Testament Scriptures, "endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace,... till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:3,13).

### **Section 2. Right to Property**

This Church shall have the right to purchase or acquire by gift, bequest or otherwise, either directly or as trustee, and to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of any real estate or chattels as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purposes, all in accordance with its Bylaws or as the same may be hereafter amended.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **Affiliation**

This Church is autonomous and maintains the right to govern its own affairs, independent of any denominational control. Recognizing, however, the benefits of cooperation with other churches in world missions, fellowship, and ministries locally and abroad, this Church voluntarily affiliates with the Assemblies of God in its national, state, and local expressions.

## ARTICLE IV

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Church is to glorify God by fulfilling the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:36-40)

1. EVANGELISM/MISSIONS - To share the good news of Jesus Christ with as many people as possible in our community and throughout the world. (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, 2 Peter 3:9).
  
2. MINISTRY/SERVICE - To serve unselfishly, in Jesus' name meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those in our Church, community and in the world. (1 Peter 4:10-11, Matthew 25:34-40, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Galatians 5:13) FELLOWSHIP - To encourage, support, and pray for each other as members of the family of God. To share our lives together. (I John 1:7, Acts 2:44-47, Hebrews 10:23-25, Romans 15:5,7, John 13:34-35)
  
3. WORSHIP - To participate in public worship services together and to maintain personal daily devotions. (John 4:24)
  
4. EDUCATION - To help members develop toward full Christian maturity and train them for effective ministry. To promote personal, spiritual growth and discipleship through Bible teaching. (Ephesians 4:11-13, Matthew 18:20, Timothy 2:2)
  
5. FELLOWSHIP - To encourage, support, and pray for each other as members of the family of God. To share our lives together. (I John 1:7, Acts 2:44-47, Hebrews 10:23-25, Romans 15:5,7, John 13:34-35)

## **ARTICLE V Core Values**

1. God's word inspires and directs our lives
2. Spirit led lives bring strength & influence
3. Prayer, Preaching, and Worship is essential to the church
4. Selfless lives define us
5. Unity honors God and encourages people
6. Generosity meets the needs of others and fosters community
7. Missional living is in the sacred and the secular

## **ARTICLE VI Statement of Faith**

We, the Church, accept the Holy Scriptures as the revealed will of God, the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice, and for the purpose of maintaining general unity, adopt the Statement of Fundamental Truths of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, to wit:

### **Section 1. The Scriptures Inspired**

The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct (2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:21).

### **Section 2. The One True God**

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the Creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10, 11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22).

### **Section 3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ**

The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God; the scriptures declare:

- His virgin birth (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31-35).
- His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22).
- His miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38).
- His substitutionary work on the cross (1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21).
- His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1 Corinthians 15:4).
- His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9, 11; 2:33; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1:3).

### **Section 4. The Fall of Man**

Man was created good and upright; for God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.” However, man by voluntary transgression fell and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death, which is separation from God (Genesis 1:26, 27; 2:17; 3:6, Romans 5:12-19).

### **Section 5. The Salvation of Man**

Man’s only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

- Conditions to Salvation. Salvation is received through repentance toward
- God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7).
- The Evidence of Salvation. The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit (Romans 8:16). The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness (Ephesians 4:24; Titus 2:12).

### **Section 6. The Ordinances of the Church**

- Baptism in Water. The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47, 48; Romans 6:4).
- Holy Communion. The Lord’s Supper, consisting of the elements – bread and the fruit of the vine – is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:4); a memorial of His suffering and death (1 Corinthians 11:26); and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Corinthians 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers “till He comes!”

### **Section 7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian church. With it comes the endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4, 8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9).

## **Section 8. The Evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit**

With the baptism in the Holy Spirit come such experiences as an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), a deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Hebrews 12:28), an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work (Acts 2:42), and a more active love for Christ, for His Work and for the lost (Mark 16:20).

The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance (Acts 2:4). The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:4-10, 28), but different in purpose and use.

## **Section 9. Sanctification**

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil and of dedication unto God (Romans 12:1, 2; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:12). The Scriptures teach a life of "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14). By the power of the Holy Spirit we are able to obey the command: "Be ye holy; for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:15, 16).

Sanctification is realized in the believer by recognizing his identification with Christ in His death and resurrection, and by faith reckoning daily upon the fact of that union, and by offering every faculty continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit (Romans 6:1-11, 13; 8:1, 2, 13; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 2:12, 13; 1 Peter 1:5).

## **Section 10. The Church and Its Mission**

The Church is the body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission. Each believer, born of the spirit, is an integral part of the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven (Ephesians 1:22, 23; 2:22; Hebrews 12:23).

Since God's purpose concerning man is to seek and to save that which is lost, to be worshiped by man, and to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, the primary reason-for-being of the Assemblies of God as part of the Church is:

- To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15, 16).
- To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (1 Corinthians 12:13).
- To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 14:12).
- To be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world (Psalm 112:9,; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

The Assemblies of God exists expressly to give continuing emphasis to this reason-for-being in the New Testament apostolic pattern by teaching and encouraging believers to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. This experience:

- Enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 4:29-31; Hebrews 2:3, 4).
- Adds a necessary dimension to a worshipful relationship with God (1 Corinthians 2:10-16; 1 Corinthians 12:14).
- Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ (Galatians 5:22-26; 1 Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:11, 12; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Colossians 1:29).

### **Section 11. The Ministry**

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the threefold purpose of leading the Church in:

- Evangelization of the world (Mark 16:15-20).
- Worship of God (John 4:23, 24).
- Building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16).

### **Section 12. Divine Healing**

Divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the Atonement and is the privilege of all believers (Isaiah 53:4, 5; Matthew 8:16, 17; James 5:14-16).

### **Section 13. The Blessed Hope**

The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the church (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 15:51, 52).

### **Section 14. The Millennial Reign of Christ**

The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on the earth for one thousand years (Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 24:27, 30; Revelation 1:7; 19:11-14; 20:1-6). This millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel (Ezekiel 37:21, 22; Zephaniah 3:19, 20; Romans 11:26, 27) and the establishment of universal peace (Isaiah 11:6-9; Psalm 72:3-8; Micah 4:3,4).

### **Section 15. The Final Judgment**

There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together with the devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, will be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death (Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 19:20; 20:11-15; 21:8).

## **Section 16. The New Heavens and the New Earth**

“We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness” (2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:21, 22).

# **ARTICLE VII Membership**

## **Section 1. Ex-Officio Membership of Ministerial Staff and Spouses**

The Lead Pastor, the Pastoral Team and their spouses, by virtue of their positions, shall become and be active voting members of this church, such ex-officio church membership to terminate with termination from their respective offices.

## **Section 2. General**

Membership in this Church shall consist of all persons who have met the qualifications for membership and are listed on the membership roll.

## **Section 3. Qualifications for Membership**

- A personal commitment of faith in Jesus Christ for salvation.
- Water Baptism by immersion as a testimony of salvation.
- Evidence of a growing Christian life (Romans 6:4; 8:1-4; 13:13, 14; Ephesians 4:17-32; 5:1, 2, 15; 1 John 1:6,7).
- Completion of the Church’s membership class.
- Agrees to abide by the Membership Commitment
- Regularly supports the Church by attending and giving.

## **Section 4. Designation of Membership**

In an effort to properly reflect the membership of the Church, two rolls shall be maintained. These rolls shall be updated periodically.

1. Active Members: All members who reside within the Church’s ministry area and are currently active in the Church.

2. Inactive Members: Members who have become inactive as a result of extended absences or moving out of the Church's ministry area.

## **Section 5. Voting Rights of Membership**

Every active member shall have the right to vote on the following matters: the merger or dissolution of the Church and the resulting disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of the Church, amendments to the Bylaws of the Church, and the calling or removing of the Lead Pastor. Each member 18 years and older is entitled to one vote. Voting by proxy is limited to the discretion and direction of the Executive Advisory Team.

## **Section 6. Termination of Membership**

Members shall be removed from the Church membership rolls for the following reasons:

1. Death
2. Inactivity
3. By personal request of the member.
4. Dismissal by the E.A.T. according to the following conditions:

The member's life and conduct is not in accordance with the Qualifications for Membership (see Article 7, Section 3) in such a way that the member hinders the ministry influence of the Church in the community.

### **A. Grounds**

Discipline is an exercise of scriptural authority for which the church is responsible (Matthew 16:19; 18:15-20; Luke 17:3; John 20:23; Acts 16:4; Ephesians 5:11; 1 Timothy 5:20; 2 Timothy 4:2; Hebrews 13:17). The purpose of discipline is to promote repentance and restoration through exposing sinful behavior. It is to be redemptive in nature as well as corrective. Any member of the Church is subject to discipline on the basis of unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the Tenets of Faith of this Church, as determined in the sole discretion of the E.A.T. (Executive Advisory Team) The discipline of ministers who hold credentials with the Assemblies of God is administered by the Georgia District Council and General Council of the Assemblies of God.

### **B. Procedure**

The Church will follow the disciplinary procedure set forth in Matthew 18:15-20. This procedure consists generally of the following steps: (1) The pastor or a designated member of the E.A.T. discusses the charges with the member in an effort to resolve the matter privately; (2) if the first step does not resolve the matter, then the member shall meet with the pastor and E.A.T. or with a designated committee of the E.A.T. in an effort to resolve the matter privately; (3) if the first or second steps do not resolve the matter, a member found guilty may be dismissed from membership in the church (Matthew 18:17). This dismissal would be decided upon by the E.A.T. who may remove any member for

cause, by majority vote at any called E.A.T. meeting. However, lesser disciplinary sanctions may be imposed as appropriate, depending on the circumstances of each case.

### **Section 7. Restoration of Members**

Members dismissed by the E.A.T. shall be restored by the E.A.T. according to the spirit of 2 Corinthians 2:7-8, when their lifestyles are judged to be in accordance with the Qualifications of Membership.

## **ARTICLE VIII Membership Meetings**

### **Section 1. Place**

Meetings of the members shall be held at a building on the Church property or at a place designated by the Lead Pastor.

### **Section 2. Annual Celebration Meetings**

An Annual Membership Meeting of the active members shall be held during the first quarter of each calendar year at such time as determined by the E.A.T. The purpose of this meeting shall be to celebrate the Lord's blessing upon the Church from the previous year. Subject to Section 4 of this Article, any other proper business may be conducted at this meeting.

### **Section 3. Special Meetings**

The Lead Pastor may call special meetings at any time. In the event the Lead Pastor's office is vacant, the E.A.T. can call for a special meeting. The E.A.T. may call for a special meeting without the consent of the lead pastor in matters of indiscretion.

### **Section 4. Notice Requirements for Membership Meetings**

1. General Requirements. Whenever members are required or permitted to take any action at a meeting, notice shall be given to members no less than two (2) weeks prior to a meeting.
2. Notification of membership meetings shall be given in any of the following manners which shall be deemed to be a reasonable method of calling a membership meeting:
  - Distribution of written material to the congregation in attendance at all regular scheduled services; or Mass correspondence such as email or text.
  - Oral announcement to the congregation.
3. Notice of Certain Agenda Items. Action by the members on any of the following proposals is

valid only if the notice or waiver of notice specifies the general nature of the proposal:

- A. Calling or removing the Lead Pastor;
- B. Adopting, amending, or repealing Bylaws;
- C. Disposing of all or substantially all of the Church's assets;
- D. Adopting or amending a merger agreement; or
- E. Approving the election to dissolve the Church.

### **Section 5. Quorum**

Quorum is called when 50% of the active membership roll plus one active member is present and voting at a meeting duly noticed and called.

## **ARTICLE IX Executive Advisory Team (E.A.T.)**

### **Section 1. Qualifications**

- All members of the E.A.T. must meet all qualifications for membership (Article VII, Section 3).
- Must be a passionate & mature Christ Follower.
- Must exhibit faithfulness to God in their lifestyle.
- Must be faithful to the vision and core values of Riverside Church.
- Use their resources of time, talent, and treasure faithfully at Riverside Church.
- The Lead Pastor and the E.A.T. members will vet each candidate as to their ability to meet the qualifications.

### **Section 2. Number and Term**

The Lead Pastor and the current E.A.T. members shall appoint new E.A.T. members from nominees submitted from the Church leadership. The Church leadership is comprised of the Church Staff, E.A.T., and Team Leaders.

The authorized number of E.A.T. members shall be, until changed by amendment of the Bylaws duly adopted by the members, such number as may from time to time be authorized by resolution of the E.A.T., provided that such number shall not be less than three (3), nor more than six (6). The E.A.T. shall consist of the Lead Pastor and non-employed members as defined in Article VII.

Each E.A.T. member shall hold office until a successor has been designated and qualified or until earlier resignation or removal. The term of service shall be for three (3) years.

The E.A.T. has the right to appoint a Timothy Advisor between the ages of 18-24 annually. This role is a non voting role and established to sow into a young leader.

### **Section 3. Powers**

The E.A.T. shall have the following powers and duties:

1. General Corporate Powers. Subject to the provisions and limitations of the Georgia Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law and any limitations in the Bylaws, the activities, business, and affairs of the Church shall be conducted and all corporate powers shall be exercised by or under the direction of the E.A.T.
2. Specific Powers. Without prejudice to the general powers set forth above, and subject to same limitations, the E.A.T. shall have the power to:
  - a. Select and remove all corporate officers, except for the Lead Pastor; prescribe any powers and duties for them that are consistent with law, with the Bylaws; and
  - b. Adopt, make and use a corporate seal and alter the form of the seal; and
  - c. Borrow money and incur indebtedness on behalf of the Church and cause to be executed and delivered for the Church's purposes and in the Church's name, promissory notes and other evidences of debt and securities; and
  - d. Exercise all other powers conferred by the Georgia Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law or other applicable laws; and
  - e. Provide financial accountability and counsel for the Lead Pastor in church financial matters; and
  - f. Determine the compensation of the Lead Pastor; and
  - g. Conduct such other duties and activities as the Lead Pastor may request or designate from time to time.

## **ARTICLE X Meetings of the E.A.T.**

### **Section 1. Place of Meetings**

Regular or special meetings of the E.A.T. may be held at any place within or outside the State of Georgia that has been designated. In the absence of such designation, meetings shall be held at the principal office of the Church. Any meeting, regular or special, may be held by conference

telephone or similar communication equipment, as long as all E.A.T. members participating in the meeting can communicate with one another. All such E.A.T. members shall be deemed to be present in person at such meeting.

## **Section 2. Regular Meetings**

Regular meetings of the E.A.T. may be held without notice if the time and place of such meetings are established by resolution of the E.A.T.

## **Section 3. Special Meetings**

### **1. Authority to Call.**

Special meetings of the E.A.T. may be called for any purpose and at any time by the Lead Pastor, or by the E.A.T. at such time the E.A.T. agrees there is a need for District leadership involvement. The E.A.T. shall not hold meetings without the leadership of the Lead Pastor (or in the case of a vacancy of the Lead Pastor, the chairman of the E.A.T.), or District Officers, or without prior approval from the same.

### **2. Notice.**

- a. Manner of Giving. Notice of the time and place of special meetings shall be given to each E.A.T. member by one of the following methods: (1) by personal delivery of written notice; (2) by first class mail; (3) Email or Text Message.
- b. Time Requirements. Notices sent by first class mail shall be deposited in the United States mail at least four (4) days before the time set for the meeting. Notices given by personal delivery, telephone, fax, email or text message, should be given at least twenty- four (24) hours before the time set for the meeting.
- c. Notice Contents. The notice shall state the time and place for the meeting. However, the notice does not need to specify the place of the meeting if the special meeting is to be held at the Church's principal office. The notice must specify the purpose of the meeting.

## **Section 4. Quorum**

A majority of current E.A.T. members present at a meeting duly called and noticed shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Every action taken or decision made by a majority of the E.A.T. present at a meeting duly held at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the E.A.T., subject to the provisions of the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Law. A meeting at which a quorum is initially present may continue to transact business, notwithstanding the withdrawal of the E.A.T. members.

## **Section 5. Waiver of Notice**

Any E.A.T. member may, at any time, in writing signed by the member (including an electronically transmitted writing), waive notice of any meeting of the E.A.T., and such waiver shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of notice. A member's attendance at or participation in a meeting waives any required notice to such member unless the member at the beginning of the meeting (or promptly upon the member's arrival) objects to holding the meeting or transacting business at the meeting and does not thereafter vote for or assent to action taken at the meeting.

## **ARTICLE XI Officers**

### **Section 1. Officers**

Designation. There shall be a Lead Pastor, (also known as President of the corporation), a Secretary/Treasurer with qualifications, duties, manner of election or appointment, and terms of offices as set forth in this Article XI below.

President. The Lead Pastor shall be the President of the Corporation and Chairman of the Executive Advisory Team.

Legal Officers. The Lead Pastor, the Secretary/Treasurer shall be the designated legal officers of the Corporation.

Multiple Offices. Except for the Lead Pastor, any person may simultaneously hold more than one office.

Minimum Age and Membership. Although higher age limits may be required for designated officers, all officers shall be at least twenty-five years old and, except for the Lead Pastor.

### **Section 2. Term of Office**

The Lead Pastor shall be elected by the members at a special called membership meeting. All other officers of the Church shall be appointed by the E.A.T., and each shall serve at the pleasure of the Lead Pastor.

### **Section 3. Removal of Lead Pastor, Officers and E.A.T. Members**

1. Lead Pastor. In the event the Lead Pastor has serious charges preferred against him or his ministry has ceased to be effective, and no provision has been made for the termination of his ministry, responsibility is vested in the E.A.T. to ask for the resignation of the Lead Pastor at any of its regular business meetings or special called meeting of the E.A.T. If such resignation is refused, the Lead Pastor may only be removed, with or without cause, by a two-thirds majority

vote of the active membership present and voting at any regular or special membership meeting, and such meeting to be presided over by a District Officer.

2. Other Officers. Officers may be removed, with or without cause, by the E.A.T., at any regular or special meeting of the E.A.T. by a unanimous vote with the exception of the officer in question.

3. E.A.T.: E.A.T. members may be removed with or without cause by the E.A.T. at any regular or special meeting of the E.A.T. by a unanimous vote with the exception of the E.A.T. member in question.

#### **Section 4. Vacancies in Offices**

1. Lead Pastor. When there is a vacancy in the pastorate, the E.A.T. shall appoint from the E.A.T. an interim Chairman until the election of a Lead Pastor. The E.A.T. shall act as a nominating committee, and after interviewing candidates, and after careful and prayerful consideration, shall present one candidate at a time to the Church for consideration as Lead Pastor. The election to the office shall be by a yes or no vote (See Article 12.1.3). In case there is no election, the E.A.T. will continue interviewing candidates and present a new candidate to be voted upon in a succeeding meeting. Such meetings for election of a Lead Pastor shall be advertised as set forth in Article VIII, Section 4. The E.A.T. shall arrange for competent ministerial leadership to fill any vacancy involving the Lead Pastor's responsibilities until a permanent selection shall be made in the manner herein described.

2. Other Offices. A vacancy in any office because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification or any other cause shall be filled only in the manner prescribed in these Bylaws for regular appointments to that office. Such vacancies shall be filled as they occur.

## **ARTICLE XII Leadership and Official Functions**

### **Section 1. Lead Pastor**

#### 1. Qualifications

- The Lead Pastor shall have been saved a sufficient number of years and have had experience enough that he shall have wisdom in the handling of Church affairs.
- He shall have had sufficient education, both natural and spiritual to be sound in doctrine and apt to teach.
- He shall be of sufficient age to be mature in judgment.

- He shall be required to hold or be in pursuit of valid credentials with the Assemblies of God to be considered for the office of Lead Pastor.

## 2. Duties

- The Lead Pastor is designated in the scriptures as the head of the Church under the leadership of the Lord Jesus, and is referred to under the title “Pastor” (Eph. 4:11), “overseer” (Acts 20:28), and “shepherd” (I Peter 5:2).
- The Lead Pastor shall be chairman of the E.A.T. and preside over all Annual Celebration Meetings or special called Church membership meetings.
- The Lead Pastor shall be the general supervisor of all activities of the Church, and shall be an ex officio member of all teams and committees.

## 3. Manner of Election

- The Lead Pastor shall be elected to office by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the active membership present and voting at any regular or special Church membership meeting.

## 4. Term of Office

- The term of the Lead Pastor’s office shall be for an indefinite period; the term to expire upon thirty days’ notice given either by the resignation of the Lead Pastor or by action of the Church.

## **Section 2. Other Pastors and Employees**

All Team Pastors, Associate or Assistant Pastors, all paid Team Leaders, and Team Members, and all other Church employees shall be hired or appointed by the Lead Pastor, and compensation will be determined by the Lead Pastor. The Lead Pastor shall conduct annual performance evaluations and review the call and compensation of each employee unless otherwise he has delegated this authority and responsibility.

## **ARTICLE XIII Dissolution**

### **Section 1. Reversion**

If this Church ceases to function as an Assemblies of God Church or otherwise severs the relationship described in Article III above, or if it ceases to function as a church body by not having a regular worship service for a period of six months, or if it otherwise dissolves, then after providing for the payment of debts of the Church, the remaining assets, whether real or personal, shall not ensue to the benefit of any private person or persons, but the same shall revert to and become the property of the Georgia District Council Assemblies of God, Incorporated.

## **Section 2. Authority of Council**

The District Council shall have full authority to sell or dispose of such property and to use the proceeds derived there from for the extension of the work of the Assemblies of God within the Georgia District, under the direction of the District Presbytery.

## **Section 3. Section 501(c)(3) Purposes Only**

In the event the District Council is unable or unwilling to accept the transfer of all the property of this Church, then the remaining property shall be transferred to an organization operated exclusively for religious purposes with tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code whose purposes are nearest the purposes of the General Council, which transfer shall be made by the remaining trustees and custodians of the property or, if necessary, by the appropriate court in Fulton County, Georgia.

## **ARTICLE XIV Records and Reports**

The Church shall maintain the following records and reports:

1. Adequate and correct books and records of accounts (financial records); and
2. Written minutes of the proceedings of its members and E.A.T.; and
3. A record of the members of the Church, setting forth the members' names and addresses; and
4. Contribution statements for contributors.

All such records shall be kept at the Church's principal office.

## **ARTICLE XVI Construction and Definitions**

Unless the context requires otherwise, the general provisions, rules of construction and definitions in the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Law shall govern the construction of these Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE XVII Amendments to the Bylaws**

### **Section 1. Recommendation by E.A.T.**

The E.A.T. will recommend proposed amendments of these Bylaws to the membership unless the E.A.T. elects, because of a conflict of interest or other special circumstances, to make no recommendation. The E.A.T. may condition its submission of the proposed amendment on any basis.

## **Section 2. Notice**

The notice of the regular or special meeting at which a proposed amendment will be considered must state that the purpose or one of the purposes of the meeting is to consider the proposed amendment and must contain or be accompanied by a copy or summary of the amendment.

## **Section 3. Approval by Membership**

The voting membership must approve any amendment by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the membership present and voting at any regular or special church membership meeting as defined by quorum in the by laws.

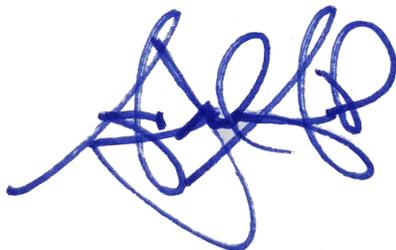
## **Section 4. Written Consent or Ballot**

The E.A.T. may determine, by a majority vote of its members, to submit the proposed amendment to the Church's voting membership for approval by written consent or written ballot. In such event, the material soliciting the approval shall contain or be accompanied by a copy or a summary of the proposed amendment.

## **CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY**

I, the undersigned, certify that I am the presently elected and acting Secretary of the Riverside Church Atlanta Inc., a Georgia Nonprofit Religious Corporation, and that the Bylaws, consisting of eighteen (18) pages, are the Bylaws of this Church as adopted by a vote of the members of the Church on.

S. Jared Snider



Executed at Atlanta, Georgia this Day

**Policies & Procedures  
of  
Riverside Church Atlanta Inc.  
a Georgia Nonprofit Religious Corporation**