

Bylaws of Awaken Community

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this church is Awaken Community.

ARTICLE II

Exclusive 501(c)(3) Church Corporation Purpose

Awaken Community is a Minnesota church and religious corporation organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt 501(c)(3) organizations.

In covenant with God and one another, the purpose of Awaken Community is to cultivate a safe place for people to journey with Jesus, live missionally, study scripture, and celebrate the sacraments together. In so doing, we covenant to equip loving, giving, growing followers of Jesus who love God with all their hearts, their neighbors as themselves, and become a blessing to the world.

Led by our called Ministers and Staff Team, Awaken Community promotes the practice of religious beliefs and the study of religious works, conducts prayer and worship services, holds Bible classes, organizes religious discussions, fosters religious ideals, and engages in services to benefit the community.

Based in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area of Minnesota, one hundred percent of the Corporation's time and funding has been and will continue to be spent on these and related charitable activities. These activities are funded by donations. These activities further exempt purposes by permitting the church, Awaken Community, to foster, advance, and promote the spiritual and general welfare of the congregation, its members, and the community at large.

No part of the net earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth above. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the Corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE III

Confession of Faith

We believe that Jesus Christ is Savior, Lord, and the Word of God, and that the Holy Scriptures, the Old and New Testaments, are a perfect rule for faith and conduct.

ARTICLE IV

Awaken Community Partnership

The members of Awaken Community are called Partners. Those who affirm faith in Jesus, who have participated in the Partners process administered by our called Ministers and Staff Team, and who actively and annually participate in the life of Awaken Community, through attendance, sacrificial giving of talent and resources, missional living, and prayer for its vision and leaders, shall comprise the Partnership of Awaken Community.

Partnership shall be renewed on an annual basis, with the renewal process administered by our called Ministers and Staff Team. A person who wishes to withdraw from partnership or to transfer in good standing to another faith community shall communicate with a Staff Team member.

ARTICLE V

Governance of the Religious Corporation

The authority of the government of this church is vested in the Awaken Community Partnership, acting through duly called congregational meetings.

All elected volunteer leadership and officers, Staff Team members, or called Ministers specified in these Bylaws shall be Partners of the church. A called Minister may be given a public title, not limited to, but such as, Lead Pastor, Executive Pastor, or Preaching Pastor.

The Awaken Community Partnership elects a Nominating Committee, which vets Partners for nomination to the Church Board of Trustees/Directors, which is called the Pastoral Advisory Team.

The Awaken Community Partnership elects the members of the Pastoral Advisory Team, and delegates to the Pastoral Advisory Team the fiscal-year and long-term oversight of business and spiritual affairs, encompassing all areas of Awaken Community religious purposes and operations.

The Awaken Community Partnership likewise delegates to the Pastoral Advisory Team the authority to oversee the call process of Ministers/Pastors, the hiring of members of the Staff Team and other employment-related decisions, and the admittance and removal of Partners from the Awaken Community Partnership.

The Awaken Community Partnership likewise delegates to the Pastoral Advisory Team the authority to endorse, license and ordain Ministers, Chaplains, Missional Workers, Lay Leaders, Spiritual Directors, and others serving as professional clergy or in spiritual care or religious leadership.

ARTICLE VI

Church Officers of the Religious Corporation Awaken Community

The Officers of the Church shall be a Chair (President), a Vice-Chair, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. All Officers shall be volunteer members of the Pastoral Advisory Team, except that the Pastoral Advisory Team may appoint a volunteer Treasurer from among the Awaken Community Partnership who is thereby delegated with authority as an Officer of the church, and who shall issue financial reports to the Pastoral Advisory Team and to the Awaken Community Partnership and perform other duties as required by the Pastoral Advisory Team. On an annual basis, the Pastoral Advisory Team shall ensure that these four Offices are filled.

ARTICLE VII

Signatory and Agent Authority

The Officers of the church, Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer, and the Called Pastors (including Lead Pastor and Executive Pastor), are Agents of the Awaken Community Partnership, and shall have authority to sign government, Secretary of State, IRS, tax, contract, financial, lease, mortgage loan, title, employment, expense approval, ecclesiastical, personnel, legal, and any other documents in representation of and in making commitments on behalf of the church.

More specifically, for a church mortgage loan or title to a building or to land, for an Officer of Awaken Community to execute Signatory authority in these instances, the basis for their Signatory authority shall be approval of the mortgage loan or property title documented in the minutes of a duly called congregational meeting of Awaken Community Partners.

ARTICLE VIII

Congregational Meetings

With at least 10 days' notice by electronic means or in a Sunday gathering, an Annual Meeting of Awaken Community Partners shall be held to coincide as practicable with the fiscal year cycle. Election for open positions on the Nominating Committee or Pastoral Advisory Team shall be held as needed, to fill terms that run with the fiscal year. The church budget shall be submitted for action. Additional congregational meetings shall be held as needed, by 10 days' notice of the Pastoral Advisory Team. The Pastoral Advisory Team may elect to hold a congregational meeting by electronic means, providing for remote participation by the Partners.

The quorum for a congregational meeting shall be 10 (ten) percent of the current number of Partners. A 2/3's vote of the Partners present and voting at a duly called congregational meeting shall pass any matter before the Awaken Community Partnership.

ARTICLE IX

Assets of the Church

The Awaken Community Partnership of the congregation, as represented by the Pastoral Advisory Team, shall hold title to its own assets.

ARTICLE X

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is comprised of Ministers who have been called by the Awaken Community Partnership and who report to the Pastoral Advisory Team, a volunteer member of the Pastoral Advisory Team, and (2) two Partners at large.

The 2 (two) Partners at large shall serve terms of 3 (three) years, not to exceed more than 2 (two) consecutive terms. Any Committee member who has served 2 (two) consecutive terms must take a year off before potentially serving another term.

ARTICLE XI

Pastoral Advisory Team

The Pastoral Advisory Team shall be comprised of all Ministers called by the Awaken Community Partnership and reporting directly to the Pastoral Advisory Team (such as Lead Pastor or Executive Pastor), plus 6 (six) Partners serving as volunteers. Every member shall have full voting rights. The volunteer Partners are known as Elders.

Pastoral Advisory Team Partner volunteers shall be elected for a term of 3 (three) years, not to exceed more than 2 (two) consecutive terms. Any member who has served 2 (two) consecutive terms must take a year off before potentially serving another term.

Pastoral Advisory Team members shall be elected by a 2/3's vote of the Partners present and voting at a duly called congregational meeting.

Immediate family members may not serve concurrent terms on the Pastoral Advisory Team. A member of the Pastoral Advisory Team may be removed or placed on a leave of absence by a vote of 5 (five) members of the Pastoral Advisory Team. A permanently vacated position on the Pastoral Advisory Team shall be filled by the next Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE XII

Pastoral Call

Ministers/Pastors whose leadership roles place them under the direct supervision of the Pastoral Advisory Team, such as (but neither requiring nor limited to) a Lead Pastor or an Executive Pastor, shall receive a call from the Awaken Community Partnership by a 2/3's vote of present and voting Partners at a specially called congregational meeting to elect a new Minister/Pastor.

If the Minister/Pastor is proposed by the Pastoral Advisory Team to be promoted from within the current Awaken Community Staff Team, then they will be presented to a special congregational meeting of the Awaken Community Partnership for a vote, as per the above paragraph.

If there is a need to search for a minister from outside of the Awaken Community Staff Team, then a Pastoral Call process and Team shall be formed, as per Article XIII.

ARTICLE XIII

Pastoral Call Team

Should Awaken Community have an opening that necessitates a search for a Minister/Pastor who will serve Awaken Community under the direct supervision of the Pastoral Advisory Team, then the Pastoral Advisory Team (PAT) shall design a search and call process, which may include engaging a pastoral search consulting firm. The PAT shall form a Pastoral Call Team that shall include representation from our Partnership, with at least 2 (two) Elders from the PAT, any called Minister/Pastor who serves on the PAT and whose position is not being searched for, and at least 4 (four) non-staff Partners, with a total of at least 7 Pastoral Call Team members.

The Pastoral Call Team shall forward one finalist to the Awaken Community Partnership, where a 2/3's vote of present and voting Partners at a specially called congregational meeting is required to call a new Minister/Pastor.

ARTICLE XIV

Call of Program-Level Ministers/Pastors

Should the Pastoral Advisory Team (PAT) discern the need for a Minister/Pastor at the program level of the Staff Team, not limited to but such as for Kids Community, Student Ministries, Music and Arts, or Community Life, for a staff position reporting directly to a called Minister/Pastor and not to the PAT, then the call process for either the internal promotion to ministry of a current Staff Team member or the external search for a new Minister/Pastor shall be conducted the same as stated in Articles XII and XIII.

ARTICLE XV

Special Meeting Called by Petition

By petition, a majority of the Partners of Awaken Community Partnership may request the Pastoral Advisory Team to call a special meeting on an issue the Partners desire to discuss or resolve. Once the Pastoral Advisory Team has certified that the majority number has been met by listed Partners in the Awaken Community database, then the Pastoral Advisory Team shall take steps to arrange for and communicate the upcoming special meeting.

ARTICLE XVI

Amendments

Amendments in harmony with these bylaws and non-profit laws of Minnesota may be adopted by a 2/3's vote of Awaken Community Partners present and voting in an annual or special meeting of the congregation, providing the proposed amendment was communicated with 10 days' notice by electronic means or during Sunday church services, to Awaken Community Partners.