

# **BYLAWS**

**OHANA CHURCH OF HILO, HI. INC.**

## **ARTICLE I. NAME AND PRINCIPLE OFFICE**

The name of this corporation is Ohana Church of Hilo, Hi Inc. This Corporation will be further referred to in the bylaws as the "Church". The Church office is presently located at:

C/O: Ohana Church  
1967 Kinoole St.  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

The Church shall have full power and authority to change the principle office from one location to another.

## **ARTICLE II. PURPOSE**

In response to the greatness of God, the mission of Ohana Church is to love people to the beauty of Christ.

## **ARTICLE III. STATEMENT OF FAITH**

We affirm the Holy Bible as the inspired, infallible, inerrant Word of God, and as the only basis for our beliefs and practice. Although it is not binding this Church accepts "The Baptist Faith and Message," a 2000 affirmation of basic Christian beliefs, as a general statement of our faith.

## **ARTICLE IV. AFFIRMATION**

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 expanding God's kingdom, this Church voluntarily affiliates with the Southern Baptist Convention in its national, state and local expressions.

## **ARTICLE V. CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1: Membership**

The membership of the church shall consist of persons who profess their faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord, having given public testimony to their Christian faith through believer's baptism by immersion as set forth in the New Testament. All candidates will be required to complete the membership process, affirm the church covenant by signature, affirm the church's core beliefs, and be in sympathy with the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement. For these Bylaws, membership is defined as covenant members who have met the above requirements, and the terms "covenant members," "members" and "membership"

are used interchangeably herein.

### **Section 2: Termination of Membership**

Membership shall be terminated in the following ways: (1) proof of membership in another church, (2) exclusion of the member by action of this church, (3) death of the member, or (4) as a result of a non-disciplinary meeting with an elder. A member who is inactive in the church for one year may be considered for termination of membership.

### **Section 3: Discipline and Restoration**

Members of the church are expected to conduct their lives in accordance with biblical standards of holiness as they grow to become more like Christ. When a member knowingly, blatantly and publicly ignores the direct commands and prohibitions of Scripture, principles of discipline and restoration will be applied. These principles are found in passages such as Matthew 7:1-5, 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; Galatians 6:1-2; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15. The elders, who will determine whether or not a matter should be brought before the covenant membership for action, will handle corrective discipline.

## **ARTICLE VI. ELDERS**

### **Section 1: Responsibilities and Qualifications**

As used in Scripture, the term “elder” is synonymous with “pastor” and “overseer.” The elders will be responsible for the oversight of the church and its ministries. They will meet regularly for prayer, personal accountability, and the fulfillment of their ministry responsibilities. The elders are responsible for leading the church to function as a New Testament church. The elders shall be covenant members of the church.

Elders will be men of prayer and the Word. Their qualifications are defined by specific Scripture passages in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, Ephesians 4:11-12, 1 Timothy 5:17, and 1 Peter 5:1-4. If at any time an elder is not fulfilling his role, fails to meet the biblical qualifications, or no longer desires to serve, the other elders along with the covenant members will evaluate the situation. If necessary, the elders will recommend steps to be taken and ask the membership for affirmation. The membership may provide input about an elder’s lifestyle and performance according to biblical qualifications at any time in accordance with 1 Timothy 5:19-20.

The elders shall serve as Directors of the Corporation. When signatures of the Directors of the Corporation are needed to transact business, the signatures of at least two active elders reflecting the unity of the elders shall represent the Corporation. Prior affirmation of the membership will be obtained where necessary according to Article XI Section 3.

### **Section 2: Selection**

Should the need for additional elders arise, there will be an active search initiated by the elders for men who meet the biblical qualifications. The elders will examine each candidate to determine if they meet the biblical qualifications. The number of candidates presented to the membership for affirmation will depend upon the needs of the church. There is neither a preset number of elders, nor a preset term of service. Compensation for elders shall be determined by the active elders, in accordance with Article XI Section 1.

## **ARTICLE VII. DEACONS**

### **Section 1: Responsibilities and Qualifications**

As used in Scripture, the term deacon means minister or servant. The deacons, under the leadership of the elders, will serve in areas where ministering to the needs of the church is of primary importance. Deacons will be believers of spiritual maturity and wisdom, who demonstrate a servant spirit. Their qualifications are defined by specific Scripture passages in Acts 6:1-7 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13. If at any time a deacon is not fulfilling his or her role, fails to meet the biblical qualifications, or no longer desires to serve, the elders will evaluate the situation. If necessary, the elders will recommend steps to be taken and ask the membership for affirmation.

### **Section 2: Selection**

As the need for deacons arises, there will be an active search initiated by the elders for men and women who meet the biblical qualifications and who have been active members for a minimum of one year. The covenant membership may also recommend names of potential candidates. The elders will examine each candidate to determine if they meet the biblical qualifications and present them to the membership for affirmation. There is neither a preset number of deacons, nor a preset term of service.

## **ARTICLE VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

### **Section 1: Administrative Staff**

The administrative staff shall consist of those employees who assist the elders. The administrative staff shall be under the direction of the elders. Compensation for administrative staff shall be determined by the active elders, in accordance with Article VI, Section 1.

### **Section 2: Membership**

All administrative staff personnel shall be covenant members of the church as defined in Article V.

## **ARTICLE IX. MINISTRY TEAMS**

### **Section 1: Responsibility**

Selected ministries of the church will be carried out by ministry teams that allow members to exercise their spiritual gifts. The ministry teams will be coordinated by the elders and empowered by the church to fulfill their mission.

### **Section 2: Ministry Team Members**

The elders will assign an elder for oversight of each ministry team and select a team leader (this includes growth groups). The team leader and assigned elder will bring recommendations for team members to the elders for approval. There will be no preset term for team members, but the team leader and/or assigned elder can recommend rotation or sabbatical years for team members. The ministry team may then enlist members to help assist carrying out their mission. Elders can at any point remove a team leader from their area of responsibility or a ministry team as a ministry of the church.

Budget and cost expenditures for each ministry team shall be determined by the appointed elder of oversight, along with the aid of the ministry team leader.

## **ARTICLE X. CHURCH SERVICES AND ORDINANCES**

### **Section 1: Worship Services**

The church shall meet for worship each Sunday or at other times as authorized by the elders.

### **Section 2: Baptism**

Baptism shall be of believers by immersion in water. An elder will oversee the administration of this ordinance.

### **Section 3: Lord's Supper**

The church shall observe the Lord's Supper regularly. An elder will oversee the administration of this ordinance.

## **ARTICLE XI. COVENANT MEMBER MEETINGS**

### **Section 1: Stewardship Meeting**

The church shall hold an annual meeting for the purpose of discussing and affirming the proposed annual financial ministry plan. The elders shall develop and present the annual financial ministry plan.

### **Section 2: Special Covenant Member Meetings**

The elders may call additional meetings to consider matters of a special nature or

significance, including matters of discipline. Proper communication of the matter will be disseminated to the church body in order to allow ample time for intercessory prayer, the membership to ask questions, provide feedback, and express confidence and support for decisions recommended by the elders. An elder will lead the meeting.

### **Section 3: Affirmation by the Membership**

Affirmation shall be a 2/3 vote by the covenant membership present at the meeting and not by proxy. Voting members shall be those covenant members of 16 years old or older. The membership will be asked to affirm the recommendations of the elders for the following items:

- Annual financial ministry plan
- Capital purchases, building or indebtedness activities where the value exceeds 10 percent of the annual financial ministry plan
- Deacon selection
- Calling or dismissing elders
- Changes to the church Bylaws
- Other items the elders believe to be of significance
- Important Exclusion of a member by action of the church

### **Section 4: Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of church covenant member meetings shall be maintained indefinitely.

## **ARTICLE XII. DESIGNATED FUNDS**

From time to time the church, at the discretion of the elders, may establish various designated funds to accomplish specific purposes. Contributions to these established funds shall be used for the intended purposes. Contributions marked with any other designation will not create a financial obligation to use the contribution for a particular purpose, but will be deemed as advisory rather than mandatory in nature.

## **ARTICLE XIII. OTHER ITEMS**

All other items not specifically covered by these Bylaws will be governed by the policies and procedures of the church.

## **ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENTS**

Recommendation for amendments to the Bylaws may be brought to the elders by the covenant membership. After prayerful consideration by the elders, amendments to the Bylaws may be presented at a special called covenant member meeting provided each proposed amendment has been presented to the membership in

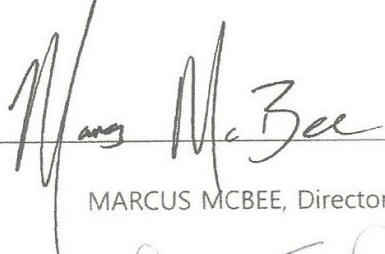
writing at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting. Amendments to the Bylaws shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of church members present and voting, and not by proxy.

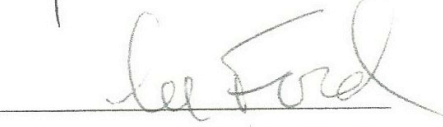
### AMENDMENT I

In response to Hawaii legalizing same sex marriage, the church reaffirms it's biblical conviction on Elders of Ohana Church performing biblical marriage ceremonies only between a man and a woman and not a same sex couple. This will also consist of having mandatory premarital Christian counseling performed by the officiating Elder of the wedding or assigned to a professional Christian marriage counselor by an OC Elder.

Dated as of AUGUST \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

  
ZEKE TOMASELLI, Director

  
MARCUS MCBEE, Director

  
LEE FORD, Director

### CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY

I, the undersigned, hereby certify:

1. That I am duly elected, qualified and acting Secretary of OHANA CHURCH OF HILO, HI, INC., a Hawaii nonprofit corporation; and
2. That the foregoing Bylaws of said corporation were duly adopted as the Bylaws thereof by Unanimous Written Consent of the Board of Directors of said corporation as of \*\*{\_\_\_\_\_}\*\* and that the same do now constitute the Bylaws of said corporation.

Executed at HILO, HI, on AUGUST \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

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LAYNE TOMASELLI, Secretary