

May 19, 2024 assembly meeting

Having been asked to serve on the governance committee for the assembly meeting of the Fellowship of Huntsville Church on April 21, 2024 I realized I know very little about the current governance of FOHC.

In response to a request for a meeting of the assembly the elders in an email on 4-13-24 informed the worshipers of FOHC that they perform their duties in compliance with the bylaws of FOHC. The bylaws likely spell out the duties and responsibilities of the worshipers in the church. Believing it necessary to understand the bylaws I have made an attempt to obtain a copy of the bylaws. Unfortunately it was an unsuccessful attempt and appears likely that document will remain withheld.

I have been provided with other sample documents that explain what bylaws actually provide to the organization for understanding the duties and responsibilities of all concerned parties. Bylaws will typically address important issues such as the offices held, how people are elected , how long people will serve , and how people are removed from those offices. Bylaws also provide information on when meetings of the members are in order. Some just showing annual meeting being sufficient to handle the overall business of the organization while others suggest quarterly or even monthly meetings. Bylaws also spell out how and when members can call for special meetings. Bylaws typically would show what offices were responsible for specific duties. They discussed how committees would be appointed, how some officers would be responsible for financial reporting and how often those financial reports would be presented. Some would even be specific on how the information would be presented, or how much information would be shared with the members. Basically bylaws are written so that everybody understands their responsibilities in keeping the organization running in an orderly fashion.

Having a clear understanding of how an organization is set up and operates allows all parties to build a strong organization that can resolve issues quickly and efficiently. The bylaws are a document that should be distributed to all parties in any organization. The bylaws should be reviewed and updated as necessary. It would definitely be in the best interest of the Fellowship of Huntsville Church to take this opportunity to review and update if necessary their bylaws governing this church.

### **Resolution Submitted to the Assembly**

In order to honor our God and restore right fellowship among the body; protect all members from undue influence and abuse of authority; foster an environment conducive to the encouragement of believers to function in the body of Christ; and for our posterity, we submit the following to the entire body of the Fellowship of Huntsville Church:

**Whereas** the FOHC elder board has refused to divulge the existing Bylaws either generally or specifically upon individual request;

**Whereas** the withholding of the Bylaws appears to be a continuing action by the elder board;

**Whereas** the Bylaws will typically address important issues such as the offices held, how people are elected, how long people will serve, and how people are removed from those offices;

**Whereas** the Bylaws typically provide information on when meetings of the members are in order, whether monthly, quarterly, annual or special meetings sufficient to handle the overall business of the organization;

**Whereas** the Bylaws typically show what offices are responsible for specific duties;

**Whereas** the Bylaws typically show how committees are appointed, which members are responsible for financial reporting, how often financial and other needful reports are presented;

**Whereas** the Bylaws typically are written so that members understand their responsibilities in keeping the organization running in an orderly fashion;

**Whereas** having clear understanding of how an organization is set up and operates allows all parties to build a strong organization that can resolve issues quickly and efficiently;

**Whereas** the bylaws are a document that should be distributed to all parties in any organization;

**Whereas** it is in the best interest of Fellowship of Huntsville Church to review, update, and create new Bylaws as necessary to govern this church.

Now, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, That the duly convened Assembly of the Fellowship of Huntsville Church calls on all FOHC worshipers, including the elder board, to

I. Schedule and convene one or more assemblies, for the entire body of FOHC to review, update and create new Bylaws as necessary, to include consideration of

- A. The proper purpose, intent, use and application of Bylaws.
- B. The proper and appropriate methods to choose elders, deacons, teachers, and any other ministry leaders and to define their appropriate duties and authority.
- C. Schedule the first such assembly no later than Sunday, July 14, 2024 and make public notice of said assembly no later than Sunday, June 30, 2024.