

EVANGELICAL FORMOSAN CHURCH LOCAL CHURCH BYLAWS

B0000

Last Amended by The 26th General Assembly Meeting on 2010

Notification Letter : 10GA17

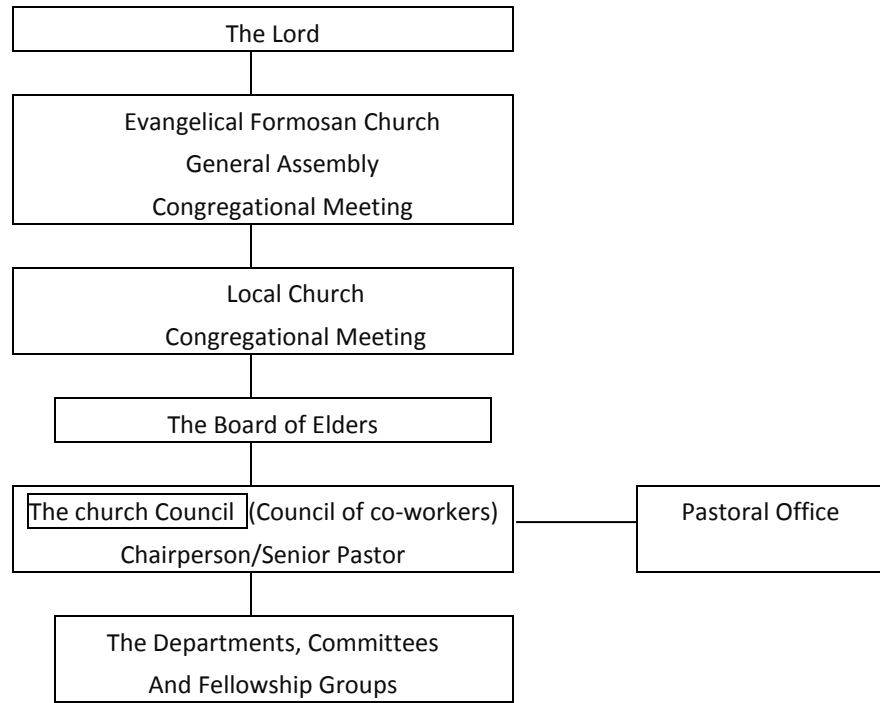
The English translation for the following bylaws is tentative and has not been proof read or certified. Therefore, the original meaning of the bylaws should be interpreted from the Chinese version.

B1000 **ARTICLE I. ORGANIZATION**

- B1100 1. NAME: The name of this church shall be called: Evangelical Formosan Church of _____ (hereafter called the Church).
- B1200 2. MISSION:
- B1220 B. To exercise the five functions of the Church: Worship, Teaching, Communion, Evangelism, and Service.
- B1300 3. AFFIRMATION OF THE FAITH: WE BELIEVE
- B1310 A. That the Bible, containing the Old and New Testaments, is the inspired and infallible Word of God, the necessary and complete revelation of His will for salvation, and is the ultimate authority for Christian faith and life.
- B1320 B. In the one true and living God, eternally existing in three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- B1330 C. That the triune God is the Creator, the Sustainer and Ruler of all Creation, but is prior to, and distinct from the Creation.
- B1340 D. That the first man, Adam, was created by God in His image, but fell from his original state by sinning against God, and hence incurred upon himself and all his posterity the guilt of sin, condemnation, and death; therefore, all humans are in need of salvation, but are totally incapable of saving themselves.
- B1350 E. That after the Fall, God, in His mercy and love, made provision for human redemption through the establishment of the covenant of grace with His people by the promise and the actual giving of the Savior Jesus Christ, whom to believe is justification and life.
- B1360 F. That Jesus Christ is the Son of God, sent by the Father, begotten by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary; that He lived a sinless and obedient life, suffered and died on the cross vicariously for the sins of those who believe in Him; that God raised Him from the dead, exalted Him both as Lord and Christ, and gave Him the Holy Spirit for His Church.
- B1370 G. That humans are saved by grace through faith in Christ in response to the Gospel preached, or otherwise presented, in the power of the Holy Spirit, through whom ransomed sinners became the sons of God and heirs of eternal life. That Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and men; through Him and only through Him the believer has access to the Father.
- B1380 H. That every believer is a new creation in Christ, and is called to walk in the Spirit, to die unto sin, and to live unto righteousness, and thereby manifest the fruit of the Spirit, conforming oneself to the image of Christ; that good works are the fruit of the Christian life, and are not ways of justification.
- B1390 I. That God alone is the Lord of our conscience, and that the believers are free from the commands of men which are contrary to, or in addition to, the Scriptures in matters of faith and conduct.
- B1391 J. That the church, consisting of all true believers, being Christ's own and indwelt by the Holy Spirit, is the Body of Christ, the invisible church; that the church is holy, universal and one in Christ; that the invisible church manifests itself in the visible church, the local congregations consisting all who profess to believe in Christ and are baptized; that as the people of God and a kingdom of priests, the church is called to grow unto the stature of the fullness of Christ and to fulfill her missionary work through the exercise of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, in worship, ordinances, fellowship, discipline, and services.
- B1392 K. In the priesthood of all believers, and the parity of the ministers and the laity.
- B1393 L. That in the last day, as the consummation of redemption, Christ will come again personally and visibly to the earth to judge the living and the dead; that there will be a bodily resurrection of the dead, of the believers through the Holy Spirit unto the inheritance of eternal life, and the unbelievers unto condemnation; and that a new heaven and a new earth will be ushered in.

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B1400 4. THE CHURCH GOVERNMENT



- B1410 A. Active members of the Church shall be responsible for church ministries. They may make suggestions to the Church Council regarding church matters.
- B1420 B. The Officers of the Church are:
 - B1421 a. The Ministers.
 - B1422 b. The Elders.
 - B1423 c. The Deacons (for dependent Churches, Co-Workers).
 - B1424 d. Committee Coordinators and Fellowship Group Chairpersons.

B2000 **ARTICLE II. CHURCH**

- B2100 1. A Church can be established, originating from:
 - B2110 A. An independent Church.
 - B2120 B. The General Assembly.
 - B2130 C. The voluntary joining of an established non-EFC group, fellowship, or church.
- B2200 2. Guidelines for Church development
 - B2210 A. Fellowship Period
 - B2211 a. Attendance Requirement: Five or more baptized adult members (three or more families).
 - B2212 b. Finances: According to needs, the mother church that established it (hereafter the Founding Unit) or the General Assembly may assist to pay for part of the costs.
 - B2213 c. Council of co-workers: The Founding Unit shall send at least three provisional co-workers to assist the new church.
 - B2214 d. Regular Sunday Service: The Founding Unit is responsible for the pulpit.
 - B2215 e. In principle, the time said Church takes to advance from Fellowship Period to Pioneer Period is at most two years.
 - B2220 B. Pioneer Period
 - B2221 a. Attendance Requirement: Ten or more baptized adult members (seven or more families).
 - B2222 b. Finances: When there are needs, the mother church or the General Assembly may assist to pay for part of the costs.
 - B2223 c. Council of co-workers: The Founding Unit shall send at least five provisional co-workers to assist the new church.
 - B2224 d. Regular Sunday Service: (if there is no resident minister) the Founding Unit is responsible for the pulpit.
 - B2225 e. In principle, the time the Church takes to advance from Pioneer Period to Organization Period should be within two years.
 - B2230 C. Organization Period
 - B2231 a. Attendance Requirement: Fifteen or more baptized adult members (ten or more families).
 - B2232 b. Finances: When needed, the Founding Unit or the General Assembly may subsidize a part of the church expense.

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- B2233 c. Council of co-workers: Five or more co-workers shall be selected from said Church's Congregational Meeting.
- B2234 d. Regular Sunday Service: If there is no resident minister, the Founding unit is responsible for the pulpit.
- B2235 e. The time said Church advances from Organization Period to its Independence Period shall not be less than six months, or more than five years.
- B2240 D. Independence Period (Independent Church)
- B2241 a. Attendance Requirement: Thirty or more baptized adult members.
- B2242 b. Finances: Independent.
- B2243 c. Church Council: council members are to be selected (elected?) from said Church's Congregational Meeting. The Church Council shall consist of at least seven elders and/or deacons.
- B2244 d. Regular Sunday Service: If there is no resident minister, the acting pastor assigned by the General Assembly is responsible for the pulpit.
- B2300 3. Guidelines for Congregational Level Change
- B2310 A. Advancement below the Organization Period
- B2311 a. When the conditions are met, with the agreement of said Church's Congregational Meeting, said Church may submit an application to its Founding Unit for approval to advance to next level.
- B2312 b. The Founding Unit must report the progress of the church it established to the General Assembly.
- B2313 c. The Founding Unit and the church shall together arrange a Special Thanksgiving Service.
- B2320 B. Advancement from Organization Period to Independence.
- B2321 a. When the conditions are met, with more than half of said Church's Congregational Meeting's approval, said Church may submit its application for advancement to the General Assembly.
- B2322 b. Approved by the Executive Committee of the General Assembly.
- B2323 c. General Assembly and the church together shall arrange a Special Thanksgiving Service.
- B2330 C. If a Church below the Organization Period cannot continue its existence, with agreement from its Founding Unit, said Church may apply for a suitable solution from the General Assembly.
- B2340 D. When an independent Church loses its qualification for independence
- B2341 a. When majority of the Congregational Meeting voted for, the church may apply to the General Assembly to have their Independent Status revoked.
- B2342 b. The General Assembly may take initiative to revoke said church's Independence Status.
- B2343 c. When said church loses its Independence Status, it is reclassified into church level below the Organization Period according to its attendance record.
- B2400 4. Both the church administration and fiscal year start from January the first to December the thirty-first of the calendar year.
- B2500 5. If a local church does not comply with EFC's Affirmation of Faith, By-laws/regulations, the Ordinances, and the decisions of the General Assembly, the General Assembly should first advise said church. If the advice is not accepted, with the approval of Executive Committee of the General Assembly, either a suitable solution shall be sought to resolve the situation, or the General Assembly shall take over said church's administration.
- B2600 6. The privileges and obligations of the local churches, and their relationship to the Evangelical Formosan Church's General Assembly are stated in the Evangelical Formosan Church General Assembly By-laws.

B3000 ARTICLE III. MEMBERS

- B3100 1. Qualification:
- B3110 A. Through profession of Faith and Believer's Baptism through EFC - Any person professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior, upon baptism or confirmation, and affirming the faith and the practice of the Church, may be received into membership.
- B3120 B. Members from Other Christian Churches - Those who have been baptized or confirmed, showing satisfactory evidence of Christian faith and character, may be received into membership by affirming the Faith and the practice of the Church.
- B3200 2. Procedure:
- B3210 A. Any person qualifying under Article III section 1 A is automatically a member of the Church.
- B3220 B. Any person qualifying under Article III section 1 B :
- B3221 a. Any qualified person may contact the pastoral office or the Secretary of the Board of Elders for membership application.
- B3222 b. The applicant has to attend an orientation class.
- B3223 c. The application shall be reviewed and approved by the Board of Elders for an applicant to be received as a member.
- B3300 3. The obligation of a member
- B3310 A. He/She shall observe the By-laws and regulations of the Church.
- B3320 B. He/She shall cultivate a true and sincere Christian love and fellowship with one another as well as to honor and esteem those whom they have elected to hold offices of the Church in accordance with the principles stated in

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- the Scriptures, such as I Thessalonians 5:12-13.
- B3330 C. He/She shall participate and support the ministry of the Church with his or her time, gifts, tithe and offerings.
- B3340 D. He/She shall attend Sunday worship fellowship and the communion services.
- B3350 E. He/She shall be present at Congregational Meetings.
- B3360 F. He/She shall lead a life of Christian faith.
- B3400 4. Classification of Membership
- B3410 A. Active Membership
- B3411 a. He/She is eighteen years-old or older.
- B3412 b. He/She attends the Church's worship services no less than seven times per quarter. (People who are on leave or with unavoidable circumstances are excluded.)
- B3413 c. The right to vote is granted three months after obtaining membership.
- B3414 d. As to qualifications of candidacy, refer to the Regulations regarding Elections.
- B3420 B. Under Age Active Membership
- B3421 a. He/She is under eighteen years old, and has already received baptism or reaffirmation of faith. (Infant Baptism does not apply)
- B3422 b. No voting right nor eligibility for candidacy.
- B3423 c. He/She may attend Congregational Meetings.
- B3430 C. Inactive Membership
- B3431 He/She attends the Church's worship meetings less than seven times per quarter. (People who are on leave or with unavoidable circumstances are excluded.)
- B3432 a. Volunteer: A person who travels or moves out of the district but would like to keep his or her membership.
- b.

B5000 ARTICLE V. CONGREGATIONAL AND REGULAR MEETINGS

- B5100 1. Congregational Meeting
- B5110 A. Summon for Meetings
- B5111 a. The Meeting shall be called at least once a year. The Chairperson of the Board of Elders is the Chairperson of the Congregational Meeting.
- B5112 b. With a majority consent of the Board of Elders, the Chairperson of the Board of Elders may call for a Provisional Congregational Meeting.
- B5113 c. With a petition signed by one-third of the Active Members, the Chairperson of the Board of Elders must call a Provisional Congregational Meeting.
- B5114 d. The date and the objective of the Meeting must be announced on the Sunday two weeks prior to the Meeting; the agenda of the Meeting must be distributed one week before the meeting.
- B5115 e. The Congregational Meeting cannot start unless more than half of the Active Members attend.
- B5116 f. Any resolutions (such as elections, adoption of annual budgets and financial reports.....) to be made in a congregation meeting, the ballots may be picked up personally by the active members in different congregations at different times if the church desires to do so. (However, the candidates, information for budget and financial reports should be announced two weeks before the scheduled congregation meeting.)
- B5117 g. The total attendance for the congregational meeting is based on the total ballots picked up by the active members.
- B5118 h. Vote count is based on the total ballots actually casted and collected.
- B5120 B. Procedure
- B5121 a. Roll Call: the Secretary of the Board of Elders shall take a roll call.
- B5122 b. Prayer: by the Chairperson or the pastor.
- B5123 c. Reports of the Board of Elders and the Church Council.
- B5124 d. Report of the Senior Pastor or minister.
- B5125 e. Church business report, discussion of motions, and voting. (Congregation Meeting is not open to unplanned motions)
- B5126 f. Elections and announcement of the results of the election.
- B5127 g. Reading and approval of minutes.
- B5128 h. Closing Prayer: by the Chairperson or the pastor.
- B5130 C. What the Congregational Meeting shall accomplish
- B5131 a. To announce annual reports of the Board of Elders and Church Council on finance, ministries, and future plans.
- B5132 b. To announce ministerial reports and future vision of the pastors.
- B5133 c. To appoint the Auditor for the next fiscal year.
- B5134 d. To confirm the church's Fiscal Ending Balance and to review next year's Budget.
- B5135 e. To elect pastors, elders, and deacons.

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- B5136 f. To pass resolutions on other church affairs.
- B3433 c. No voting right nor eligibility for candidacy.
- B3434 d. If the reason for his or her being inactive is removed, the Board of Elders may reinstate his or her membership to active status.
- B3440 D. Children Membership
- B3441 a. A child who received baptism or has been dedicated to the Lord by his or her parents.
- B3442 b. No voting right nor eligibility for candidacy.
- B3450 E. The Board of Elders shall review qualifications of membership every quarter.
- B3500 5. Termination of Membership
- B3510 A. A person who wishes to terminate his/her membership from the Church must inform the Pastoral Office or the Secretary of the Board of Elders in writing.
- B3520 B. A person who wishes to transfer his/her membership to another church must submit his/her application in writing to the current church's pastoral office or Secretary of the Board of Elders. The Board of Elders, after careful consideration, may mail said member's information to the other Church.
- B3530 C. Any member whose Christian life goes against the belief, the by-laws/regulations, or the Ordinances of the Church
- B3531 a. By a two-thirds majority vote, the Board of Elders may terminate said person's Church membership, and notify said person of this action. (According to the US parliamentary procedure, "valid votes" is defined as the sum of yeas and nays, excluding the abstained and invalid ballots. In the following articles "valid votes" shall refer to the definition above and will not be addressed further.)
- B3532 b. Said person may make appeal and refutation within two weeks in writing.
- B3533 c. The Board of Elders shall review an appeal within two weeks. The decision to uphold said person's termination shall require a two-thirds majority vote.
- B3534 d. If the decision of termination is not passed by two-thirds majority vote, the Board of Elders shall reinstate said person's membership immediately.

B4000 ARTICLE IV. THE BOARD OF ELDERS, THE CHURCH COUNCIL, AND THE COUNCIL OF CO-WORKERS

- B4100 1. The Board of Elders:
- B4110 A. Organization
- B4111 a. The Board shall consist of a minimum of five incumbent elders and a Senior Pastor.
- B4112 b. Should the number of elected elders be less than five, that is deficient to establish the Board of Elders, the duties of the Board shall be acted upon by the Church Council.
- B4113 c. The officials of the Board are the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson, the Secretary, and the Treasurer. The Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson are to be elected by the church council from the Board of Elders. The Secretary and the Treasurer are to be elected by and from Board of Elders.
- B4120 B. Duties of the Officials
- B4121 a. Chairperson:
- B4121-1 a-1. Call for the Board of Elders, church council and congregational meetings, and carries out church administrative duties.
- B4121-2 a-2. Board of Elders, Church Council and congregational meeting agenda must be discussed and agreeable with Senior Pastor first.
- B4121-3 a-3. Understand Senior Pastor's vision and share among co-workers.
- B4121-4 a-4. Lead and coordinate elders/deacons (co-workers) to follow up on meeting decisions.
- B4121-5 a-5. To work with the senior pastor to lead elders/deacons (co-workers) and to build harmonious serving team.
- B4121-6 a-6. Concern for the needs and suggestions of pastoral staff and elders/deacons (co-workers).
- B4121-7 a-7. Responsible for the budgeting of the salary and benefits of pastoral staff.
- B4121-8 a-8. Responsible for the budgeting of church departments.
- B4121-9 a-9. Other Church Council (co-worker) Chairperson's responsibilities.
- B4122 b. Vice Chairperson - In the Chairperson's absence or inability to perform his/her duties, the Vice Chairperson shall act on behalf of Chairperson. The Vice Chairperson is also the Vice Chairperson of the Church Council and the Congregational Meeting.
- B4123 c. Secretary - The Secretary shall keep Minutes of the Board, a current membership roster, and the By-laws of the Church. He or she is also the Secretary of the Congregational Meeting.
- B4124 d. The Treasurer - The Treasurer shall keep the church's accounting records. All the church income and expenses in the bank account shall be recorded in detail in this record.
- B4130 C. Qualification and Terms of members to the Board of Elders (Elders)
- B4131 a. He or she must lead a respectable life according to the teachings of the Scriptures, such as I Peter 5:1-3; I Timothy 3:1-7; and Titus 3:1-7.
- B4132 b. He/She must have finished serving at least one term as a Deacon at the Church and has been an active

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- member for at least two years; or served as an Elder or a Deacon in another Christian church for a minimum of three years, and has been an active member of this Church for a minimum of three years.
- B4133 c. The term lasts for three years. If reelected, he or she may continue to serve another term.
- B4140 D. The Duties (Ref. I Peter 5:1-3)
- B4141 a. To assume full responsibility of Church property and to decide on the use and management of the church facilities.
- B4142 b. To care for the spiritual and physical needs of church members and catechumen.
- B4143 c. To plan for church growth and to direct its implementation.
- B4144 d. To represent the church in coordination with the General Assembly
- B4145 e. To disburse and review the expenses authorized by the Church Council and the Board of Elders. To determine and administer the church's personnel honorarium.
- B4146 f. To review and approve applications for church membership. To discipline offenders.
- B4147 g. To assist pastors in the teaching, visitation, and counseling, of and for church members. To help church members follow the Church's Affirmation of Faith.
- B4148 h. To nominate candidates for the Senior Pastor. To approve or disapprove the Senior Pastor's choice in the selection of full-time personnel for the Pastoral Office.
- B4149 i. To approve or disapprove the recommended leaders for Committees and Fellowship groups.
- B4150 E. Board Meeting
- B4151 a. The Meeting shall be called at least once per quarter by the Chairperson.
- B4152 b. The Meeting may be called by a member of the Board of Elders authorized by the majority of the Board members, without the consent of the Chairperson.
- B4153 c. The summons of the Meeting must be sent to all Board members. Only if more than half of the Board members attend, may the Meeting be held.
- B4154 d. If any action request in a meeting agenda is contrary to the teaching of the Scripture, or if the pastor is not at peace, when expressed by the pastor, the request shall not be put to vote, though may be postponed until next meeting after further prayers.
- B4200 2. Church Council
- B4210 A. Organization
- B4211 a. The Council shall consist of Elders, Deacons and the Senior Pastor, or a Minister who is recognized to carry the equivalent authority as a Senior Pastor by the EEC General Assembly.
- B4212 b. The officials of the Church Council are the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson, the Secretary, and the Treasurer.
- B4213 c. All full-time ministers besides the Senior Pastor shall also be present at the Church Council. (with no right to vote)
- B4220 B. Duties
- B4221 a. Chairperson - The Chairperson of the Board of Elders shall be the chairperson. In the Chairperson's absence, the Vice Chairperson of the Board of Elders shall act on his/her behalf.
- B4222 b. Vice Chairperson - The Vice Chairperson of the Board of Elders shall be the Vice Chairperson of the Church Council.
- B4223 c. Secretary - The Secretary shall be elected from the elders and deacons. He/She shall be responsible for taking minutes and keeping records of the proceedings of the Council meetings. He or she shall forward correspondence as requested by the pastors and the Council (中文: 小會). In his or her absence, the Secretary of the Board of Elders shall perform the Duties of the Church Council Secretary.
- B4224 d. If the Board of Elders is not established, the Church Council shall elect the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer by and from all elders and deacons.
- B4230 C. Qualification and Term of a Deacon
- B4231 a. A Deacon candidate must be a person of good reputation, faithfully participating in soul-winning and other ministries of the Church, and follow the teaching of the Scripture, as in I Timothy 3:8-13.
- B4232 b. A Deacon must have been an active member for at least one year and have been baptized for at least two years.
- B4233 c. A Deacon is elected for a two-year term. If re-elected, he or she may serve two ensuing terms.
- B4240 D. Duties
- B4241 a. To plan, coordinate and execute general church business.
- B4242 b. To examine and call staff members of the pastoral office.
- B4243 c. To assign a chairperson of each committee and department of the Church.
- B4244 d. To review and approve the addition of departments, committees, or fellowship groups when such needs arise.
- B4245 e. To review and adopt the annual church budget proposed by all departments.
- B4246 f. To care for those in need, the sick, the lonely, and anyone who may be in distress.

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- B4247 g. To assume responsibilities related to the evangelism, mission, and educational programs of the Church.
- B4248 h. To develop the Church's financial resources.
- B4249 i. To be responsible for general church affairs.
- B4250 E. Vacancies
- B4251 a. In case of vacancies, if the Board so desires, they shall be filled according to the Regulations of Elections to complete the term of the office.
- B4252 b. If more than one-half of the term of the office remains, it shall be considered as a full term.
- B4260 F. Termination
- B4261 a. Any officer who ceases to be an Active Member of the Church or has not attended regular meetings for three consecutive times shall automatically be considered as resigning from his office. (People who are on leave or with unavoidable circumstances are excluded.)
- B4262 b. The Board of Elders may terminate the office of a penalized officer.
- B4263 c. Any officer may resign by submitting a written resignation to the Board of Elders. The resignation shall be announced in the Church Bulletin after obtaining consent from the Board of Elders.
- B4270 G. Meeting
- B4271 a. The Chairperson shall call meetings at least once per quarter.
- B4272 b. The Meeting may be called by a member of the Board of Elders authorized by the majority of the Church Council members, without the consent of Chairperson.
- B4273 c. The summons of the Meeting must be sent to all Council members. Only when more than half of the Council members attend, shall the Meeting start.
- B4280 H. The election of council members shall comply with Regulations of Election.
- B4300 3. Committee, Departments, and Fellowship Groups
- B4310 A. The Church Council may organize the following committees or departments:
- B4311 a. Each Church shall set up departments for Worship, Education, Evangelism, General Affairs, Christian Caring, Fellowship, Finance, and Accounting.
- B4312 b. When needed, the church may organize committees or departments for Devotion, Teaching, Transportation, Translation, Meal Service, English Ministries, Fellowship, Literature, Maintenance, Audit, Audio Recording, Video Recording, Ushers, Planning, Purchase, Family Gathering, Individual Evangelism, Public Relation, Cell Groups, Matrimony, Funeral, Music and others.
- B4320 B. The Pastoral Office may organize schools or fellowships as listed below: Adult Sunday School, Children Sunday School, Youth Fellowship, Women Fellowship, College Students Fellowship, Young Adult Fellowship, Gospel Fellowship, Caleb Fellowship, Luke Fellowship, Library, Music, and Choir.
- B4330 C. The Church Council may recommend amending committees or departments as deemed necessary.
- B4340 D. Selection of committee chairpersons and department heads
- B4341 a. All committee chairpersons and department heads shall be appointed by the Church Council and subject to approval of the Board of Elders.
- B4342 b. The Treasurer of the Board of Elders shall be the Chairperson of the Finance Committee.
- B4343 c. The Conductor of the Choir and the Superintendent of Sunday School shall be recommended by the senior pastor and subject to approval of the Board of Elders.
- B4344 d. The Leader of Choir and each fellowship shall be elected from active members of the Church in their fellowship groups. The Leaders shall be confirmed by the Board of Elders. (For leaders of Junior High Students Fellowship and High School Student Fellowship selection, please refer to Guidelines for EFC Fellowship.)
- B4400 4. Council of Co-workers (Council of committee chairpersons and department heads)
- B4410 A. Organization: It shall consist of Fellowship Group leaders, Committee chairpersons, Department head, Sunday School superintendents, Choir Conductors and Directors, and Fellowship Group counselors.
- B4420 B. Officers
- B4421 a. Chairperson: The Chairperson of the Board of Elders shall be the Chairperson of the Council of Co-workers, and shall preside over meetings.
- B4422 b. Secretary: The Secretary of the Church Council shall be the Secretary of the Council of Co-workers. He/She shall take and keep minutes of the proceedings.
- B4430 C. Duties
- B4431 a. To coordinate the work of all departments, committees and fellowship groups.
- B4432 b. To maintain a good working relationship among all leaders.
- B4433 c. To ensure the implementation of all work planned.
- B4434 d. To reflect opinions for improvement.
- B4440 D. Meeting
- B4441 a. The Chairperson of the Board of Elders shall call the meeting at least once every half year. The announcement shall be made on Sunday.

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- B5131 a. To announce annual reports of the Board of Elders and Church Council on finance, ministries, and future plans.
- B5132 b. To announce ministerial reports and future vision of the pastors.
- B5133 c. To appoint the Auditor for the next fiscal year.
- B5134 d. To confirm the church's Fiscal Ending Balance and to review next year's Budget.
- B5135 e. To elect pastors, elders, and deacons.
- B5136 f. To pass resolutions on other church affairs.
- B5200 2. Public Meeting
- B5210 A. The regular meetings of the church include Sunday Worship, Sunday School, Prayer Meetings, and Ordinances.
- B5220 B. The Board of Elders or the Church Council may decide to hold other special meetings.
- B5300 3. Qualification for the Conductor of the Ordinances or Ceremony.
- B5310 A. The presider of Sunday Worship must be accepted by the Board of Elders or Church Council.
- B5320 B. The Senior Pastor (or the pastor assigned by GA) shall be fully responsible for the arrangement of the Sunday Worship speaker. If necessary, the speaker may be anyone deemed acceptable by the pastoral office.
- B5330 C. The Senior Pastor (or the pastor assigned by GA) shall have the full responsibility of arranging a qualified person to conduct the Ordinance (Baptism or Holy Communion) or ceremony (such as Confirmation of Faith or Child Dedication). If necessary, the Senior Pastor (or the pastor assigned by GA) may appoint an ordained minister to officiate.
- B5340 D. The officiant of a wedding or funeral proceeding shall be assigned by the pastoral office.

B6000 ARTICLE VI. THE PASTORAL OFFICE

- B6100 1. Organization:
- B6110 A. The Senior Pastor or a minister who carries the equivalent authority of a Senior Pastor recognized by GA.
- B6120 B. Ministers and directors of special ministries, such as Education, Counseling, Music, Fellowship, Caring, and Evangelism.
- B6130 C. Counselors of Fellowship Groups
- B6140 D. Secretary
- B6200 2. Duties

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- B6210 A. Senior Pastor
- B6211 a. Shall teach according to the Truth of the Scripture, evangelize, develop members' spirituality, and to pastor the church with love.
- B6212 b. Follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, work with GA, and to lead the church in vision and direction.
- B6213 c. Seek God's will in prayers with co-workers of Church Council (Council of Co-workers) to plan the ministries and development of the church.
- B6214 d. Is responsible for planning and developing church pastoral, teaching, and preaching ministries.
- B6215 e. Discover, prepare, and develop church elders, deacons, and co-workers and build harmonious serving team.
- B6216 f. Concern for elder, deacon, co-workers, and members' spiritual growth and maturity.
- B6217 g. Preside over sacraments and wedding, funeral, and other ceremonies and celebrations.
- B6218 h. When no senior pastor is present, the duties will be carried out by acting senior pastor, resident pastor, or interim pastor.
- B6219 i. And other duties of a pastor.
- B6220 B. Full-time minister
- B6221 a. A full-time minister is directly accountable to the senior pastor in church ministries.
- B6222 b. To develop and to direct the minister's special ministries in coordination with the related committees and departments.
- B6223 c. To attend the Congregational Meeting. To be present at Church Council Meetings.
- B6230 C. The Fellowship Group counselors and the secretary are directly accountable to the Senior Pastor in their ministries.
- B6240 D. A full-time personnel of pastoral office may not work on other jobs without the consent of the Church Council.
- B6300 3. To appoint a Senior Pastor (ref. "APPOINTMENT OF REPLACEMENT IN THE ABSENCE OF SENIOR PASTOR")
- B6310 A. Recommendation
- B6311 a. Local church to form a Pastor Searching Committee (may be the Board of Elders or members assigned by the Church Council).
- B6312 b. The Searching Committee first presents a list of potential candidates to the EFCGA's Pastor Searching Supervising Committee (consists of EFCGA's Secretary General, Pastor-in-Charge, Moderator and the subject Regional Pastor) for review. Thereafter the Pastor Searching Committee may start to contact and interview the candidates, or invite the candidates to be guest speakers.
- B6313 c. The Pastor Searching Committee presents their candidate recommendation to the Church Council for approval.
- B6314 d. The approved candidate submits his (or her) application to the EFC Ministerial Association. The Personnel Committee shall commission the Ministerial Association to conduct the initial screening and recommendation. The Personnel Committee will review and make the final approval.
- B6315 e. Senior Pastor's appointment must be approved by the local church's Congregational Meeting.
- B6320 B. Voting
- B6321 a. A GA delegate shall oversee the voting of Congregational Meeting.
- B6322 b. The vote shall be conducted anonymously.
- B6323 c. The Congregational Meeting requires the attendance of more than half of its active members.
- B6324 d. To be elected, the candidate needs to have a two-thirds majority vote.
- B6330 C. Term
- B6331 a. The first term is two years.
- B6332 b. Beginning second term, each term will be five years until retirement.
- B6340 D. Renewal
- B6341 a. The Board of Elders shall evaluate with the senior pastor regarding past year's performance. Those without Board of Elders, the Church Council or Council of Co-worker shall do so.
- B6342 b. The Board of Elders should confirm decision three months before the end of the term.
- B6343 c. The Board of Elders shall submit the renewal proposal to the Church Council.
- B6344 d. The Church Council shall pass with majority votes and notify GA of the result.
- B6350 E. Resignation and Termination
- B6351 a. The Senior Pastor must submit his/her resignation to the Board of Elders in writing sixty days prior to leaving the office.
- B6352 b. In case of disputes, the Board of Elders may recommend termination with a two-thirds majority vote.
- B6353 c. The Board of Elders shall notify the GA Personnel Committee within two weeks.
- B6354 d. The GA shall send a delegate to the local church to mediate and call a special Church Council Meeting within one month.
- B6355 e. The Senior Pastor shall remain in office if there is less than a two-thirds majority of attending council members agreeing on termination.

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- B6356 f. If at least a two-thirds majority of attending council members agree on termination, a special Congregational Meeting shall be called within three weeks.
- B6357 g. Said Congregational Meeting shall proceed as described by 3B (B6320).
- B6358 h. The termination shall take effect immediately, with the Church paying three months of current honorarium.
- B6400 4. Employment of staff in the Pastoral Office
- B6410 A. Recommendation
- B6411 a. Shall be made by the Senior Pastor and approved by the Board of Elders.
- B6412 b. In the case of a full-time pastor, the GA Personnel Committee must be notified of the recommendation, and accept the candidate as an EFC Minister before the employment can be made.
- B6420 B. Voting: Shall be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present at the Church Council Meeting.
- B6430 C. Term
- B6431 a. All terms are two years (including the first term). Term of employment shall not be changed due to the promotion of ordination. **【 26 】**
- B6440 D. Renewal
- B6441 a. The Senior Pastor shall notify the Church Council of the renewal three months prior to the expiration of the term.
- B6442 b. Term renewal needs the approval of a two-thirds majority vote of the Church Council.
- B6450 E. Resignation and discontinue of employment
- B6451 a. The staff/minister who wishes to resign shall submit his/her resignation in writing to the Senior Pastor sixty days prior to leaving the office.
- B6452 b. In case of disputes, if the Senior Pastor agrees, the employment shall be discontinued.
- B6453 c. If the Senior Pastor disagrees, but a two-thirds majority of the Church Council agrees, the employment shall be discontinued.
- B6454 d. The dissolution of employment shall be effective immediately, with the Church paying one month of current salary/honorarium.

B7000 ARTICLE VII. DISCIPLINE

- B7100 1. Regulations of Discipline are created to uphold the faith and order of the Church.
- B7200 2. Members, Deacons, Elders, and Ministers shall be disciplined if they violate the teachings of Scriptures, the Affirmation of Faith, or the By-laws/Regulations of the Church.
- B7300 3. Discipline Unit.
- B7310 A. Discipline of members, elders, and deacons
- B7311 a. The Board of Elders shall implement.
- B7312 b. The Board of Elders may constitute a Discipline Committee to implement.
- B7320 B. Discipline of ministers
- B7321 a. The EB of the GA shall implement.
- B7322 b. The EB of the GA may constitute a Discipline Committee to implement.
- B7330 C. If there is a severe dispute among the local churches, the GA shall take the initiative to settle the dispute.
- B7400 4. Procedure
- B7410 A. Grievance
- B7411 a. In case of grievances among church members, the procedure set forth in the eighteenth chapter of Matthew shall be followed.
- B7412 b. Charges, when thus made, shall be submitted to the Discipline Committee in writing.
- B7413 c. In case of any grievances occur among Church officials that cannot be settled by the Board of Elders, the matter shall be taken to the Executive Board of the Evangelical Formosan Church GA for resolution.
- B7420 B. Fault and Violation
- B7421 a. The Discipline Committee shall enjoin the faultier or violator to mend his or her way.
- B7422 b. If said offender does not accept the dissuasion, the Discipline Committee shall report its finding to the Board of Elders. If said offender is a minister, the Committee shall report its finding to the EB of GA for disciplinary actions.
- B7423 c. Depending on the severity of the violation, possible disciplinary actions include abstaining from Holy Communion, revoking membership, suspension or termination.
- B7424 d. The disciplinary action requires a two-thirds majority vote to carry.
- B7430 C. Appeal
- B7431 a. If said offender wishes to appeal, he/she should submit a written appeal and refutation within two weeks.
- B7432 b. The Disciplinary Authority shall reexamine the appeal within two weeks. The disciplinary action requires a two-third majority vote to uphold.

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B7433 c. The resolution on said appeal is final.

B8000 ARTICLE VIII. REVISIONS AND AMENDMENTS OF REGULATIONS

B8100 1. The proposer

B8110 A. The local church

B8111 a. With a petition signed by two-fifths of its active members, the proposed amendment shall be submitted to the Church Council for consideration.

B8112 b. The Church Council may submit its own proposal with a two-thirds majority of agreement.

B8120 B. All departments of the GA

B8130 C. All subsidiary organizations of the GA

B8200 2. Procedure

B8210 A. Each proposing unit shall submit its written draft to the GA Executive Board. The Department of Bylaws shall examine the draft and deliberate in the EB.

B8220 B. After careful deliberation, the Executive Board shall either pass or revise the proposed amendment with a two-thirds majority vote.

B8230 C. EFCGA Executive Board shall send the approved amendment proposals to the local churches before the end of year, so that the church councils may have an opportunity to discuss and express their opinions through their delegates in the EFC General Assembly Meeting.

B8240 D. By a two-thirds majority vote of the EFC General Assembly Meeting, the amendments become effective immediately.

B8300 3. Dates of amendments made

B8310 A. The above By-laws were first voted and approved on November 15th, 1972, by 36 active members of EFCLA, and took effect on the 1st day of February, 1973.

B8320 B. These By-laws were twice amended on January 15th, 1976 and January 21st, 1979, and were also approved and accepted officially by the Congregational Meeting.

B8330 C. Following the establishment of the Evangelical Formosan Church General Assembly in October, 1982, new amendments of these By-laws were proposed by the Executive Board of the General Assembly to be reviewed by the local churches. The amendments were passed and accepted in the EFC General Assembly Meeting on January 21st, 1984 and took effect on March 21st, 1984.

B8340 D. The By-laws were amended again, and were approved by the Executive Board of the General Assembly on December 14th, 1991. After review by the local churches, the By-laws were revised, confirmed, and passed on January 10th, 1992, by the EFC General Assembly Meeting, and took effect on February 11th, 1992. The By-laws were partially revised on November 23rd, 1996 and January 30th, 1998.

Note:1. The numbers in the mark “【】” means that the rules in this file has been updated on 【xth Executive Board Meeting -of the xth General Assembly】