

## **Bylaws Of The Church At Rocky Peak (New Proposed)**

### **ARTICLE I. IDENTITY**

The name of the church is *The Church At Rocky Peak*. The offices, mailing address and ministry facilities are located at 22601 Santa Susana Pass Road, Chatsworth, California 91311.

### **ARTICLE II. PURPOSE**

The Church at Rocky Peak exists *to unleash a movement of passionate Christ-followers* who are pursuing God, loving people, serving sacrificially, and sharing Christ.

#### **SECTION 1. Pursuing God**

Passionate Christ-followers make knowing, loving, and pleasing God their top priority in life by listening and following the teaching of the Word and the leading of the Spirit in their lives. (*Deut. 6:4-5; Matt. 22:36-40; John 14:15-16; Col. 1:9-10; 2 Cor. 5:9-10, 15; Gal. 5:16-26; Eph. 5:8-10; Phil. 3:10-15*)

#### **SECTION 2. Loving People**

Passionate Christ-followers are learning to love others as Christ has loved us, and how to do relationships in a whole new way—the Jesus way. (*Lev. 19:18; Matt. 22:36-40; John 13:34-35; Acts 2:42-47; Rom. 13:8-10; Eph. 5:1-2; 1 John 2:2-11, 3:11-18*)

#### **SECTION 3. Serving Sacrificially**

Passionate Christ-followers invest their time, gifts, and resources to serve others sacrificially and advance the Kingdom of God. (*Matt. 5:13-16; Mark 10:42-45; John 13:1-17; Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12; Gal. 5:1; Eph. 4:11-16; 1 Pet. 4:10-11*)

#### **SECTION 4. Sharing Christ**

Passionate Christ-followers represent Jesus wherever they go and are always looking for opportunities to help others take their next step toward following Christ. (*Matt. 5:13-16, 28:18-20; Acts 1:8, 2:42-47, 8:4; Col. 4:5-6; 1 Pet. 3:15-16*)

## **ARTICLE III. BELIEFS**

The church's teaching and lifestyle is based upon the following foundational truths:

### **Section 1. God**

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, perfect, and eternal, who lives a loving unity of three equally divine and eternal Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. He is infinitely brilliant, powerful, creative, and good, a God who loves beauty and order. Out of his limitless knowledge and sovereign power, he has chosen from eternity to rescue and redeem a people for Himself and to make all creation new for His glory. (*Gen. 1:1-31, 14:19; Ex. 34:5-7; Lev. 11:45; Ecc. 3:11; Is. 6:3, 33:17, 40:21-31; Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 17:24; Rom. 11:33-36; 1 Cor. 8:6, 12:4-6; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 1:3-14; 1 Tim. 1:17; Titus 2:11-14; Rev. 4:11, 21-22*)

### **Section 2. The Word**

We believe that God has spoken in the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority for all of life. The Word reveals the path of life and the truth that sets us free. (*Deut. 6:6-9, 8:1-6; Ps. 19:7-8, 119; Matt. 4:4, 5:18-19; Luke 24:44-45; John 8:31-32, 10:35, 15:3, 17:17; Rom. 1:2, 3:2, 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:11, 15:3-4; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; Heb. 1:1, 4:12; 2 Pet. 1:20-21, 3:15-16*)

### **Section 3. The Human Race**

We believe God created our first parents, Adam and Eve, in his image—to be like him, to experience relationship with him, and to rule over creation for him. However, when they rebelled and followed Satan, the result was death at every level: spiritual, psychological, moral, social, and physical. On top of this, all creation became subject to bondage and decay.

Because of our union with Adam, every human being is a sinner by nature and choice, alienated from God and under his judgment. Only through God's saving work in Christ and the supernatural work of the Spirit can we be rescued, reconciled, renewed, and transformed. (*Gen. 1:27-28, 3:1-19; John 8:44; Rom. 1:18-32, 3:9-26, 5:1-19, 8:1-22; 2 Cor. 3:3-6 & 16-18; Gal. 5:16-26; Eph. 2:1-10, 4:17-19; Col. 1:13-14; 1 John 3:8, 5:19-20*)

### **Section 4. Human Sexuality**

We believe every person is created in the image of God, wonderfully and immutably, as male or female. These two distinct and complementary sexes together reflect the image and nature of God. Sexual intimacy is designed only for a man and a woman who are committed to one another in the covenant of marriage. All sexual relationships outside of this marriage relationship are both contrary to God's will and ultimately destructive for both the individuals and human society. This relationship of marriage is also a unique reflection of Christ's

relationship with His church. (*Gen. 1:26-27, 2:18-24; Matt. 19:3-9; Mark 7:20-23; Rom. 1:18-27; 1 Cor. 6:9-11, 6:18-20, 7:2-5; Eph. 5:21-33; 1 Thess. 4:3-8; 1 Tim. 1:8-10; Heb. 13:4*)

## **Section 5. Jesus Christ**

We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person with two natures. Jesus—Israel's promised Messiah—was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father where he now rules over all creation and serves as our High Priest and Advocate. Jesus came to give us new life, life to the full—to show us how to live, love, and thrive. (*Gen. 3:15, 12:1-3; 1 Chron. 17:10-14; Is. 11:1-3, 52:13-53:12; Matt. 1:1-25; Luke 1:28-35; John 1:1, 14, 18, 5:16-18, 10:10, 10:30-33, 14:6-11; Luke 23-24; Acts 1:9-11, 2:22-36; 1 Cor. 15:3-19; 2 Cor. 5:18-21; Col. 1:15-20, 2:9, 3:1-4; Heb. 4:15; 1 Pet. 1:18, 2:24; 1 John 2:1-2*)

## **Section 6. The Work of Christ**

We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation. United with Christ in his death and resurrection, we now have the power to put to death old actions, attitudes, and emotions—and rise with him to the new lives we were created to live. When Christ died, he stripped Satan and his demonic forces of their power and authority over the lives of Christ-followers. (*Rom. 3:21-26, 5:1-21, 6:1-23; 2 Cor. 5:16-21; Eph. 2:1-10, 4:17-5:14; Col. 2:9-15; Titus 3:4-17; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; 1 John 2:1-2, 3:7-10, 5:18-20*)

## **Section 7. The Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is fully God and that his work is to manifest the presence of God in the world and especially in the church. He hovered over the waters at the beginning of creation, and he continues to renew it with his power and presence. The Holy Spirit indwells, fills, reveals, guides, equips, gifts, and empowers believers to follow Jesus, to be transformed to be like Him, and to live a life of love worthy of their high calling. The Holy Spirit glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ, convicts the world of its sin and opens our eyes to see who Christ is. He regenerates sinners, and through Him we are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. As a result, we are a new creation in Christ and have the power to rise with him to a new life. (*Gen. 1:2; Ex. 31:1-5, 35:30-35; Ps. 104:30, 139:7; Is. 44:3, 63:10-11; Ez. 35:25-27; Joel 2:28-29; Matt. 28:18-20; John 3:5-8, 7:38-39, 14:15-26, 16:7-11, 13-15, 20:21-22; Acts 1:4-5, 2:1-4, 5:3-4; Rom. 7:8:1-16; 1 Cor. 2:12, 14, 3:16-17, 6:19-20; 2 Cor. 3:1-6, 16-18, 13:14; Gal. 5:16-26; Eph. 1:13-14, 17-23, 3:16-18; 1 Thess. 7:7-8; 2 Tim. 1.7; Titus 3:4-7; Rev. 2:7*)

## **Section 8. The Church**

We believe that the true church is comprised of all who have been saved by God's grace through faith in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus prescribed two ordinances, baptism, and the Lord's Supper, which visibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ceremonies confirm, strengthen, and nourish the believer. (*Matt. 16:13-18, 28:18-20; Luke 22:13-22; Acts 2:1-47; 1 Cor. 11:23-26, 12:1-31; Eph. 2:1-22, 4:11-16, 5:23-32; Heb. 10:24-25; 1 Pet. 2:9-10; Rev. 1:5-6, 1:18-2:1*)

## **Section 9. The Christian Life**

We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him above all else and to live out a life of love by pursuing God, loving others, serving sacrificially, and sharing Christ. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil and advance the Kingdom of God while growing in righteousness. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always living out the gospel in word and deed. (*Matt. 5:13-16, 7:21-27, 22:36-40, 28:9-10; Luke 10:25-37, 14:25-27; John 14:13-27, 15:1-8, 16:7-10, 9-15, 13-14; Acts 1:8; Rom. 6:1-14, 8:1-13, 10:8-10; 1 Cor. 6:9-11, 15:1-2; 2 Cor. 5:15-2; Gal. 5:16-26; Eph. 4:11-16, 5:1-2, 6:10-18; Phil. 1:6, 2:12-13; Col. 3:17; 1 Pet. 1:22-25; 1 John 2:1-6, 3:14-18; Rev. 12:10-11*)

## **Section 10. Christ's Return**

We believe in the personal, bodily, and glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, requires constant expectancy and motivates Christ-followers to righteous living, sacrificial service, and passionate mission. (*Matt. 24-25; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:8-11; 1 Cor. 15:21-28; Phil. 3:20-21; Col. 3:1-4; 1 Pet. 1:3-7; 1 John 3:1-3; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 2 Thess. 1:5-10; Titus 2:13; Rev. 1:7, 19:1-21*)

## **Section 11. Human Response and Eternal Destiny**

We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to repent and believe the gospel by turning to Him and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to eternal separation from God and conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heavens and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace. Amen. (*Matt. 5:22, 29, 30, 23:33, 25:30-48; Luke 12:5, 24:45-47; John 6:44, 14:1-3; Acts 2:36-38; Rom. 10:9-10; 1 Cor. 15: 20-28, 45-55; 2 Cor. 5:1-10; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 2 Thess. 1:6-10; 2 Pet. 3:10-13; Rev. 20:11-15, 21-22*)

## **ARTICLE IV. AUTHORITY**

### **SECTION 1. JESUS CHRIST**

Jesus Christ is the head of the Church. (*Eph. 1:22, 5:23; Col. 1:18*)

### **SECTION 2. GOD'S WORD**

The Bible, God's written, inspired Word, is the expressed will of the Lord Jesus Christ. (*Ps. 1:1-3, 19:6-11; Matt. 5:17-18; John 10:34-35; Acts 17:11; 1 Tim. 4:13; 2 Tim. 3:16-17*)

### **SECTION 3. ELDERS**

The Elders are the men chosen by the Holy Spirit through the church to lovingly shepherd, oversee, and direct the church as described in Scripture. The elders, as servant-leaders, are the highest human authority over the church. (*Acts 14:23, 20:17-34; 1 Tim. 3:1-7, 5:17-21; Titus 1:5-9; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 5:1-4*)

### **SECTION 4. PARTNERS (Members)**

Partners of The Church at Rocky Peak are believers in Jesus Christ who have been baptized after conversion and who have been approved for membership by the elders. They are responsible for approving the elders and for living out the vision, values and doctrine of the church. (*John 3:16; Acts 2:41-47; 1 Cor. 3:16; Gal. 3:26-28; Eph. 2:1-22, 5:23; Phil. 2:1-11; 1 Tim. 3:14-15; Heb. 10:24-25; 1 Pet. 2:9-10; Rev. 5:9-10*)

### **SECTION 5. ASSOCIATION**

This church is a part of the world-wide body of Christ and stands in the mainstream of orthodox evangelical churches. This body is an independent, local church and is not associated or subordinate to any denomination. (*John 17:11-23; 2 Cor. 6:14-17; Phil. 1:18*)

### **SECTION 6. GOVERNMENT**

The church is incorporated and chartered under the laws of the State of California. The commands of God's Word supersede all human government. (*Ex. 1:15-22; Dan. 3:1-20, 6:1-28; Acts 5:29; Rom. 13:1-7*)

## **ARTICLE V. PARTNERSHIP**

### **SECTION 1. QUALIFICATIONS**

1. One who has confessed Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and Lord. (*Rom. 10:9-10*)
2. One who has been baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit after conversion. (*Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:37-41, 8:12, 8:26-40, 9:1-19, 10:47-48, 18:8, 19:5, 16:22-34; Rom. 6:1-4; 1 Pet. 3:17-22*)
3. One who has chosen to join this local church in accordance with its vision, values, and doctrine. (*Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:1-31; 1 Pet. 4:10-11; Heb. 10:24-25*)
4. One who has been accepted into partnership by the elders.

### **SECTION 2. RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Partners commit themselves to live out the vision, values, and doctrine of Rocky Peak and to invest their time, gifts, and resources to fulfill the church's vision. (*Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:1-31, 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Eph. 4:11-16; 1 Pet. 4:10-11*)
2. Partners approve the elders and agree to submit to the elders' leadership. (*1 Tim. 3:1-7, 5:17-21; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 5:1-5*)

### **SECTION 3. REMOVAL**

1. A partner may be removed from membership for lack of participation in the church for an extended period, for advocating divisive or unorthodox doctrinal teaching, or for refusing to turn from clear-cut sin despite the leadership's attempts to restore the partner. (*Matt. 18:15-17; 1 Cor. 5:1-13; Gal. 6:1; Titus 3:10-11; 2 John 7-10*)
2. Any request by a partner to remove his or her membership will be granted.

## **ARTICLE VI. ELDERS**

### **SECTION 1. QUALIFICATIONS**

1. All Elders must meet the biblical qualifications for elders. (*1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9; 1 Pet. 5:1-3*)

2. All elders are nominated by the Elder Board and approved by the partners of the church. (*Acts 6:1-7, 14:23; Titus 1:5*)

## **SECTION 2. RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. The elders have complete oversight over all matters of the church's teaching, ministries, policies, finances, operations, and goals. (*1 Tim. 5:17-21*)
2. The elders will approve the senior church staff. (*Acts 20:28; 1 Tim. 3:4-5*)
3. The elders shall lovingly lead as examples, not lording over the body. (*1 Pet. 5:1-3*)

## **SECTION 3. REMOVAL**

Any elder who no longer fulfills the biblical qualifications for an elder will be removed by the elders and this decision will be communicated to their circle of influence in the church as determined by the elders. (*Acts 20:28-31; 1 Tim. 3:1-7, 5:17-21*)

## **ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS**

### **SECTION 1. CHURCH SERVICES**

The elders shall oversee the number, time, place, order, and length of the weekend worship services, giving preference to Sunday, the day of Jesus' resurrection. (*Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2*)

### **SECTION 2. CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS MEETINGS**

The elders will call congregational business meetings for the purpose of approving elders and/or any other reason. (*Acts 6:1-7, 15:6, 22*)

## **ARTICLE VIII. PROPERTY**

### **SECTION 1. USE**

All meetings, gatherings, events, and activities conducted on the campus of the church shall be consistent with its vision and values and beliefs. (*Col. 3:17; Eph. 5:8-11*)

## **SECTION 2. SALE and PURCHASE**

The church property and facilities shall be sold and purchased by the directors of the corporation (the elders). Consistent with government requirements, upon the liquidation, dissolution or abandonment of the corporation, the property, facilities, and funds will not inure to the benefit of any private individual, but rather to a fund, foundation or corporation organized and operated for like charitable purposes. (*Acts 4:34-37; 1 Tim. 5:17-21*)

## **ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS**

The bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the partners of the church present at any church business meeting. (*Acts 15:22*)