



The **Mission of Steadfast Bible Fellowship**

We exist to see Jesus transform lives through His Word, Prayer and Loving Relationships.

Transformation is at the core of Galatians 4:19, Romans 8:29, 2 Corinthians 3:18 - to be “transformed into the image of Christ.” It involves the mind (the way we think), the heart (the center of our spiritual life) and the will (the center of our desires, intents and purpose for life). Therefore, transformation involves the renewing of the:

- Mind (Ephesians 4:23; Romans 12:2)
- Heart (1 Peter 1:22, 3:15)
- Will (Philippians 2:13)



The Constitution of Steadfast Bible Fellowship

Recitals

The Elders of Steadfast Bible Fellowship (SBF), agree to the following Constitution for the body of SBF.

I. Name

The legal name of this organization shall be “Steadfast Bible Fellowship”.

II. Purpose And Doctrine

A. Purpose: We exist to see Jesus transform lives through His Word, Prayer, and Loving Relationships.

B. Doctrine: See SECTION ONE, “Articles of Faith.”

III. Servant Leadership

A. Leadership Standards: (Life Group Leaders, Ministry Team Leaders, Staff and Elders)

1. *A commitment to walk in the light.* 1 John 1:5-7. This is a commitment to walk in the light is a commitment to walk in the Word, prayer and in accountability before God and others. It is welcoming and submitting to genuine accountability from a few others and choosing to live in the light.
2. *A commitment to live as a witness.* Luke 19:10. This is a commitment to sharing the Gospel with one's life and with one's mouth.
3. *A commitment to participate in the ministry that God is doing at SBF.* Acts 2:42, 26. Ephesians 4:15-16. This is a commitment to faithful service and regular attendance to worship services and leadership meetings.
4. *A commitment to giving generously.* 2 Corinthians 9:6-7. This is a commitment to giving generously, sacrificially & worshipfully the resources to which God has entrusted to us.
5. *A commitment to proactively engage in the Pathways of Spiritual Growth at Steadfast and to encourage others to do so as well.*

B. If at anytime the elders observe unbiblical behavior from any leader that would be detrimental to them personally, their family or the church body, the elders will:

1. Go to the servant leader and discuss the matter with them.
2. Ask the leader to step down from their leadership role, if necessary.

IV. Lead Pastor

A. Calling a Lead Pastor

1. The elders shall determine a process by which a Lead Pastor is called.

2. The elders will examine the prospect concerning his life, doctrine, experience and agreement with the Constitution of SBF.
3. The elders shall extend to the prospect an invitation to visit the church, meet with the elders, and preach.
4. Upon an unanimous affirmative vote of the elders, the candidate shall be presented to the congregation.

B. Duties

1. The Lead Pastor shall provide spiritual leadership to the church and shall perform all duties usually associated with that office.
2. The Lead Pastor is a voting member of the elder board.
3. He shall be the chairman of the elders, or he may delegate this responsibility to a current elder.
4. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and other organized groups within the church.

V. Ordination and Licensure

- A. SBF shall have the authority to ordain men, license men or commission men and women to the Gospel ministry according to the procedures established by the elders of SBF.

1. Ordination

- i. The ordination examination will be conducted in four areas: personal life and character, Bible knowledge and doctrinal position, church history and church government, and the Constitution of SBF.
- ii. When the examination is completed, the recommenders shall be in one of three categories with an explanation as to why the category was chosen:
 - a) Denial – the candidate is not yet qualified for ordination.
 - b) Approval with conditions – the candidate is presently not qualified, but could qualify if certain conditions were met.
 - c) Approval – the candidate appears qualified.
- iii. The elders will arrange for the public ordination of the candidate and shall provide the certificate of ordination.
- iv. If a person moves to another ministry their ordination remains intact, unless there is a reason for revocation. (see 'B' below)

2. Licensure

- i. A license for ministry may be conferred upon any man living a life in adherence to the leadership standards as outlined by SBF. He must show faithfulness in Christian service and give testimony of being called of God to serve. It shall be an endorsement of the character of the one licensed.

- ii. The elders of SBF shall approve the candidate upon unanimous vote and provide the certificate of license. The official document will be kept on file with SBF's official board minutes.
 - iii. The license shall not exceed three years before renewal is required.
 - iv. If a person moves their licensure expires unless it is granted by an unanimous vote from the elders.
3. Commissioning
- i. A commissioning into ministry may be conferred upon any man or woman living a life in adherence to the leadership standards as outlined by SBF. He or she must show faithfulness in Christian service and give testimony of being called of God to serve. It shall be an endorsement of the character of the one commissioned.
 - ii. The elders of SBF shall approve the candidate upon unanimous vote and provide a letter of commissioning. The official document will be kept on file with SBF's official board minutes.
 - iii. The commissioning shall not exceed three years before renewal is required.
 - iv. If a person moves their commissioning expires unless it is granted by an unanimous vote from the elders.
- B. Revocation - An ordination, license, or commissioning may be revoked or canceled by the elders of SBF in the event of heresy, immorality, misconduct, or failure to maintain a good testimony.

VI. Additional Staff

- A. Associate pastors, assistant pastors, youth pastors, secretarial staff, custodians, etc. can be added at the discretion of the elders.
- B. All staff shall agree to work under the authority of the Constitution of SBF and agree to quietly resign if they are unwilling to submit to the authority of the elders.

VII. Official Board

- A. The elders shall be the Board of Directors for SBF.
- B. Organized Church (1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9)
 - 1. An organized church is one that has elders from SBF.
 - 2. The elders are composed of at least three male leaders of SBF in addition to the pastor.
 - i. In the case of death or serious illness of an existing elder, it is allowable to temporarily function with three elders.
 - 3. A quorum shall exist when two-thirds of the members of the elders are present.
 - 4. Decisions will be by the majority vote of those present unless previously stipulated by the elders. Each elder has one vote.

5. An elder shall serve until his death, resignation, end of his term, or removal by an unanimous vote from the other elders due to sinful behavior or failure to walk in accordance with the Leadership Standards as outlined above.
6. The elder board shall grow by the elders choosing additional elders from within SBF.
7. For temporary purposes an elder may be requested to serve as an elder at SBF from another SBF church.
8. The elders in fulfillment to their role to God's Word will willingly hear the needs and concerns of the flock both individually and corporately and will share matters necessary to further building up the body or warning the body of potential matters that could cause disunity.

C. Process of bringing on new elders (See SECTION TWO)

D. Elder Function & Terms

1. The responsibility of the elder team according to Scripture is to give themselves to the Word, Prayer, Shepherding and Managing the Flock.
2. A goal of the elder team is to maximize one another's strengths and make one another's weaknesses irrelevant.
3. It is up to the lead pastor to develop the direction for the ministry (he may seek counsel from others in the process) and present it to the elders. The elders then review the plan, refine the plan, and then approve the plan. The lead pastor then reports to the elders as to how that direction is being carried out or appoints someone to oversee the progress of the plan.
4. The lead pastor is accountable to the elders. The elders are responsible for supporting and protecting the Lead Pastor as well as helping clarify vision.
5. Each elder will be in an accountability relationship with another elder and will rotate who that is with every year.
6. Each Elder will be asked to sign the "Leadership Commitment For Elders" document on a yearly basis. That document can be seen below (See SECTION THREE).
 - i. These agreements must be included in the Elders Meeting Minutes.
 - ii. Elders are to agree to serve for a 2 year term.
 - a) At the end of the 2 years the elder will agree to examine their life and resign if there is anything in their life that might hinder the testimony of the church or if they cannot commit to the Leadership Commitment for Elders (see SECTION THREE) or they just need to devote their time to other commitments at that time (the elder needs to seriously consider if they are ready to commit to another 2 year term).
 - b) The elders must also agree to ask three other elders if it is wise to serve another 2 year term.

- c) If there is unanimous agreement among the elders for a specific elder to serve another 2 year term, the elder will affirm this decision by signing the Leadership Commitment for Elders (see SECTION THREE).

VIII. Corporate Church Officers

- A. A President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary will be appointed to serve until such time as they resign or are removed.
- B. The Secretary of the corporation shall be the church clerk. He shall keep a record of all church business and any official board or church meetings. He shall be responsible for any correspondence associated with his office.
- C. Treasurer(s)
 - 1. The Treasurer(s) shall be appointed by the official board to oversee the disbursement of funds for regular church expenses. The elders shall approve major expenditures.
 - 2. The Treasurer(s) will keep the official board acquainted with financial records of the church and be prepared for an audit when requested by the board.
 - 3. The Treasurer(s) shall annually see that a report is prepared for the elders.
- D. An officer shall serve until his appointment is completed, resignation, or removal by the official board in the event of unbiblical behavior.

IX. Officers, Boards, Committees, Departments, and Bylaws

Elders will determine what additional committees are necessary for the furtherance of the Gospel and the purpose/vision of SBF stated above.

X. Church Discipline

The purpose of church discipline is the restoration of the sinning attender to Christ and the church body.

- A. Discipline of Attenders
 - 1. Biblically, believers are responsible before God to examine themselves. (1 Cor. 11:31)
 - 2. If they fail to examine themselves, the local church has this responsibility. (1 Cor. 11:32)
 - 3. In disciplinary actions it is imperative that we be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading and follow scriptural guidelines.
 - 4. Church discipline is for specific sins, not for differences in opinion. (1 Cor 5:1; 11-13; 2 Thess. 3:13,14; 1 Tim 5:19-21)
- B. Restoration (Matt. 18:15-20)
 - 1. The one who is aware of the offense is to be the first one to prayerfully confront the sinning attender.
 - 2. If the sinning attender refuses to repent, the first person is to take one or two witnesses for a second meeting.
 - 3. If the matter remains unresolved, it is to be brought to the elders.

4. If the errant attender still refuses to repent, the elders may bring the matter to the attention of the regular attenders of the church.
5. The specific sin does not need to be mentioned unless decided otherwise by the elders.
6. At any time when a sinning attender repents, he should immediately be restored to fellowship and lovingly affirmed by those involved.

XI. Church Property

- A. Use - All church properties are to be held by SBF and used for the furtherance of the Gospel and the purpose/vision of SBF stated above.
- B. Titles - All titles to church property real or personal shall be held by the local incorporated church, subject to the "Constitution of Steadfast Bible Fellowship."

XII. Interpretation

- A. Matters of clarification and interpretation of this Constitution shall be done by the elders of SBF.
- B. All interpretations shall be recorded in the official minutes of the elders.

XIII. Amendments

This Constitution and/or its attached Sections may be amended upon a unanimous vote of the elders of SBF.

XIV. Prior Constitutions

This "Constitution of Steadfast Bible Fellowship" supersedes and replaces all prior constitutions.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

of STEADFAST BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

GOD

The LORD is our God, the LORD is one. Deuteronomy 6:4b

God is the only living and true God, the sovereign creator and ruler of the universe.

God exists in perfect unity within Himself as three distinct persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Father is God. The Son is God. The Spirit is God. The three persons of the Godhead are eternally and equally one God in essence and yet distinctly different in function (Ephesians 1:3-14).

- God the Father chooses and predestines; at salvation adopts us into His family; and loves us and cares for us as our heavenly Father. Such intimacy with the Father is manifested in prayer and the high privilege of addressing Him as *Abba*.
- God the Son is the eternal Son, who, through the virgin birth, added to His deity humanity, and, as the Godman, lived a sinless life, died a substitutionary death, redeemed us from sin and now offers us eternal salvation. Jesus Christ was fully human so that he could be our substitute for sin and fully God so that He could be our perfect substitute. His death, burial and resurrection are the content of the Gospel (1 Corinthians 15:1-11) and His promise to return is the blessed hope of the church (Titus 2:13).
- God the Spirit is a gift from the Father to those who place their faith in Jesus. The Spirit baptizes us into membership in the church and is the pledge that Jesus will return for us. The Spirit makes His home in those who place their faith in Jesus (1 Cor. 6:19-20). He teaches us, brings to our remembrance the things Jesus has said to us in His word, convicts us of sin, and empowers us with gifts that are to be used for building up the body of the church. The Spirit is not an irrational, unreliable force that comes or goes according to our emotions. He is personal, indwells us and cannot be taken away from us. Since the Spirit is God, He cannot be manipulated for our own glory or selfish reasons; Jesus said the Holy Spirit “will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you” (John 16:14).

This Matters Because... God always was, always is, and will always be in perfect control of His universe. It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves. Our view of God is the most

important thing about us. The Lord is our God, and the Lord is one. Since He is the only living and true God, He is the only God worthy of our worship and affection.

Since Jesus is God incarnate in human flesh, He was able to live a perfect life unstained by the curse of sin.

Since the Spirit is God, we can rely on His supernatural power living inside us to act exactly according to God, His character, His commands and His goals for us.

We have a model of love and selflessness within God that we try, by His grace, to emulate in our relationships within the church. Since God is united, we strive to be united.

SCRIPTURE

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

God inspired different authors, in their distinct personalities, to write the books of the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:19-21). God directed the process that gave us the 66 books of the Bible, therefore in their original form they are without error. Those applying themselves to study its literal, historical, and grammatical context can understand and apply God's Word to their lives and grow in relationship with God (1 Peter 2:1-3).

This Matters Because... we are prone to define truth based only on our own limited experiences, biased opinions, and selfish desires. Our belief about the Scriptures compels us to preach the Bible as truth (John 17:17), to encourage people to read it regularly (Acts 17:11), and submit to its authority as we all grow to maturity in Jesus Christ. We base our leadership, our lives, and our ministry on what God teaches in it.

CREATION

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1

It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; therefore, our lives and our bodies are not our own, but His. Since we believe God has created us, we are to glorify Him in everything we do, and not just please ourselves.

1 Corinthians 10:31

God created the heavens, the earth, and all things in them in six days and rested on the seventh day.

God formed man out of dust and breathed life into his form, making him a spiritual being. God formed woman out of the body of man. God created man and woman in His image to reflect His image to the world.

This Matters Because... since we are both physical and spiritual beings created in God's image, we are accountable to Him and have the responsibility to represent our Creator to the world. Human beings are not products of random chance but are of infinite value and worth to God.

THE FALL

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned. Romans 5:12

Man (Adam) rebelled against God and imputed that sin to the rest of the human race. Our rejection of God's authority curses every aspect of our lives and condemns us to a life without God (Genesis 3; Romans 8:18-22) and an eternity separated from Him in Hell.

This Matters Because... apart from God, we are not merely sick with sin, we are dead in sin. Understanding our sin and its devastating consequences is essential to knowing our need for forgiveness and reconciliation to our Creator.

THE GOSPEL

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8-9

The Gospel, the great news, is that God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, has demonstrated His love for us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. He lived a perfect life, died the sacrificial death that we deserve, and was then raised from the dead. The penalty for sin is paid.

Man's response is either acceptance or rejection of this gift. By our faith, God applies Christ's finished work to our lives and we are thereby reconciled to God. But the good news is not only that God forgives our sins, but He also declares us righteous. By faith He offers us a new way of life through faith in Jesus and through the power of the Holy Spirit working in us. If anyone is in Christ, he or she is a new creation. The old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.

Therefore, accepting this Gospel is not just a decision we make once and forget about, it results in a daily commitment to keep trusting God.

This Matters Because... our sins are so wicked that even our best works are like filthy rags compared with God's standards. We cannot earn our way to God through good works, church attendance, or moral behavior. Instead, we must place our trust in the Son of God, Jesus of Nazareth, who lived the life we could not live, died the death we should have died, and was raised so that we could be raised with Him.

SALVATION

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

In His grace and mercy, God promised that a descendant of Adam and Eve would provide a way for fallen human beings to be rescued from the curse of sin and death.

This Matters Because... God's response to our sin is not to destroy us but to graciously promise to save us from our sin. Despite our attempts to improve or reach perfection, even our best works are as filthy rags compared to the holiness of God. Through Jesus, God displays His unmerited favor, His grace, towards us. By grace through faith in Jesus and His finished work is the only path to salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9).

We sense a moral Law within us (Romans 2:14-16); this Law was revealed in the Ten Commandments God gave to Israel. Though we know this Law - either from the moral Law within us or through the Ten Commandments - we are incapable of perfectly keeping it.

Since we are unable to keep God's moral Law perfectly, we are guilty before a holy, just God, who cannot ignore sin. However, God is not only infinitely holy and just, He is perfectly merciful and loving, and was pleased to allow His Son, Jesus Christ, to bear the guilt of human sin on the cross. As the Apostle Paul described it, "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

Thus, God has become both the just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 3:21-26).

The salvation God offers us has three dimensions:

- *Justification* - is a legal declaration by God, a verdict of acquittal, excluding all possibility of condemnation. Because of the forensic nature of justification, God also declare us righteous. The righteousness of Jesus Christ is "added to our account" so that His righteousness becomes our righteousness. [Romans 6:1-14]

- *Sanctification* - is the process through which the Father transforms us into the image of His Son through the Holy Spirit. [Romans 6:22; Philippians 2:12-13; Galatians 4:19; Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18]
- *Glorification* - the act by God of giving us perfect resurrection bodies, united with our souls, which will live forever in fellowship with Him. [1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:50-53]

This Matters Because... Salvation is not just about asking God for forgiveness from our sins. Repenting and receiving forgiveness are the first steps on a journey that require us to trust God at every step. Understanding the difference between justification (an event) and sanctification (a process) helps us understand that the trials and sufferings we experience are part of God's refining process. Through justification we have been saved from the **penalty** of sin; through sanctification we are being saved from the **power** of sin; and through glorification we will be forever saved from the **presence** of sin.

CHURCH

Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.

1 Corinthians 12:27

The church is an assembly of diverse people united by faith in Jesus Christ and called to proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light. The members of the church are like living stones God uses to build a spiritual house to inhabit.

Jesus is the Head of the church, which means He is the source of life, guidance, and authority.

Jesus commanded His disciples to remember His sacrificial death through the Lord's Supper. In the breaking of bread we remember how His body was broken for us and in the drinking of the cup we remember how His blood was shed for us.

Jesus also commanded us to baptize disciples in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We baptize by immersion in water to symbolize the cleansing Jesus gives us from sin. In going under water, we picture our death with Christ, and in coming out of the water, we picture being raised to new life in Christ. It is a public identification with Jesus Christ.

This Matters Because... the church is not merely a building or a program - as important as those things are. Since the church is a living body of individual believers, we are to "consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near."

FUTURE

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. *Philippians 3:20*

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared. But we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as He is. *1 John 3:2*

Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words. *1 Thessalonians 4:17*

The future is secure in God's hands, and is moving steadily toward the return of Jesus to the earth. Though no one can know when this return will take place, we are certain that God will keep His promises, and that the believer will live with Jesus forever. Some of the most prominent of God's promises about the future include the bodily resurrection of believers, the final defeat of Satan, the destruction of evil, the restoration and salvation of God's people, Israel, and a new heaven and a new earth.

This Matters Because... it is the believer's strongest hope in the middle of a sin-stained, broken world. Though the world continues to unravel we can stand undaunted because we know how the story ends, and we can encourage others to do the same. In short, the return of Christ is the anchor for our hope. While it often seems that God has abandoned His people and that evil is winning, we cling to the promised return of Jesus and the subsequent restoration of all things.

THE BATTLE

Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. *Ephesians 6:11*

Satan was created by God and given great beauty and power, but he chose to try and usurp God's authority. In pride, he rebelled against God and tried to take His place as the ruler of heaven. God stopped this rebellion and Satan fell from heaven with a host of angelic beings and now "prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." *1 Peter 5:8-9; Isaiah 14:10-14; Ezekiel 28:1-19*

Satan is the accuser of Christians, seeking any opportunity to "steal, kill, and destroy" the people of God. *John 10:10; Revelation 12:9-11*

This Matters Because... we cannot forget that "our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the

spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.” People are not the enemy; Satan is the enemy (Ephesians 6:10-20).

While Satan is a powerful enemy, He is an enemy Christ has already defeated through His death and resurrection. Therefore, we must not despair at his attacks nor should we dismiss them as inconsequential. Instead, we can stand firm in Christ, using His spiritual armor.

PROCESS OF APPOINTING ELDERS

at STEADFAST BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

1. A potential elder will be prayerfully identified by the current elders.
 - a. We will seek (as we grow) to have at least an equal number of lay elders to staff elders
 - b. It is recommended that the elder team have no more than 9 people on it and it is ideal to keep that number at 7 or less.
2. The identification of a potential elder takes place when one elder submits the potential elder's name at an elders' meeting. After the submission of the potential elder is made the elders will take time to discuss whether or not to pursue the man.
 - a. Discussion items will include:
 - i. Whether or not the potential elder exhibits the biblical standards of eldership as outlined in 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1, & 1 Peter 5.
 - ii. Whether or not the potential elder has been fully engaged in the pathways for spiritual growth and has gone through the leadership training process.
 - iii. Whether or not the potential elder has demonstrated the characteristics mentioned in "i" and "ii" above for a period of time.
 - iv. Whether or not the potential elder is equipped and has the time to serve in this capacity.
 - v. We believe team chemistry is critical in bringing on new elders. Will this individual add to or take away from team chemistry?
3. If, after discussions, the elders are in agreement to pursue the potential elder they may proceed in a manner mentioned below; however, if the elders are uncertain, they will commit to praying about the matter until the next elders meeting.
4. The lead pastor will set up a meeting with the elder candidate (and possibly his wife) to consider and pray about whether or not God would have them potentially serve in this capacity and whether or not they would be willing to go through the process of elder's training. [Note: this is simply asking them to pray and consider starting the training process of being an elder, at this point the candidate is NOT an elder]
 - a. The candidate will have up to a month to make their decision.
 - b. The candidate is instructed to contact the Lead Pastor as to whether or not he and his wife are feeling called to this role and are willing to begin training.
 - c. If the elder candidate and his wife are feeling led to begin training, the Lead Pastor will schedule specific times to meet with the candidate for training (as the candidate has

already gone through the Leaders Training at Steadfast, the training will be with the Lead Pastor as they will go through Gene Getz's book "Elders and Leaders" (the candidate is to read through it with his wife).

5. Once the elder candidate has finished the elder's training, the Lead Pastor will meet with him and his wife. In that meeting, the Lead Pastor will ask probing questions in areas such as:
 - a. Their marriage
 - b. Pornography
 - c. Financial stewardship and giving
 - d. Unity in their commitment to Steadfast
6. If the Lead Pastor, along with the elder candidate and his wife, still feel comfortable moving forward at this point there will be a meeting scheduled with all current elders and their wives.
7. If after the meeting, the elders and their wives all sense God's leading forward in this process, the decision as to whether or not to bring the elder candidate will be put to a vote by the elders. The decision to bring the man on as an elder must be unanimous.
 - a. If the vote is unanimous, the potential elder will be presented to the congregation and the congregation will have two weeks to inform any of the current elders if they have observed that the potential candidate does not exemplify the qualities of an elder as outlined in 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1, and 1 Peter 5. If after two weeks no concerns are raised the potential elder will be affirmed as an elder at SBF. He and his wife will be brought before the church and the current elders and their spouses will pray for them as they begin to serve the Lord in this new role.
 - b. If concerns are raised by someone in the congregation, the elders will address the matter with those that raised the concerns as well as with the potential elder and his wife. The elders will then discuss the matter and determine whether or not to continue moving forward with the potential elder.
 - c. If the elder vote is divided at any time, the Lead Pastor will inform the candidate of the elders decision not to move forward.

LEADERSHIP COMMITMENT FOR ELDERS

of STEADFAST BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Knowing that God has spoken clearly in His Word concerning the character and responsibility of an Elder (1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1), I do solemnly commit myself to God and to the Elders of Steadfast Bible Fellowship Church to do the following:

1. I will seek to maintain a close, intimate walk with the Lord by regularly investing time alone with Him in His Word and in prayer.
2. I will be a diligent student of God's Word.
3. I will endeavor to walk continually in the Spirit.
4. I will commit to emotional and sexual purity, and, if married, faithfulness to my spouse. I also commit to faithfully maintaining a strong marriage and a strong family through godly servant leadership, sacrificial love and unconditional devotion.
5. I will commit to personal integrity in all I do and to keep myself above reproach in all areas of my life.
6. I will pray regularly for those who serve with me as Elders, for the pastors of the church I serve, and for the pastor's staff.
7. I will pray regularly for the ministry of the church.
8. I will give generously of my income to the work of the Lord through this church.
9. I will faithfully attend all Elder's meetings, unless I am hindered from doing so by a compelling reason such as illness or necessary travel. When unable to attend, I will notify the lead pastor in advance, if possible, of the reason for my absence.
10. I will commit to strict confidentiality in all areas of my service at Steadfast, especially as it relates to confidential information shared during the monthly Elder's meetings.
11. I will prepare for each Elder meeting by doing my homework and by submitting myself anew and afresh to the Holy Spirit.
12. I will faithfully attend Sunday morning worship services.
13. I will commit to building into the lives of people through the ministry of the Word and prayer on a regular basis.

14. By the power of the Holy Spirit, I will refrain from expressing negative attitudes through criticism and complaint. Instead, I will be positive and encouraging, endeavoring to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
15. I will maintain an open and teachable attitude.
16. I will commit to accountability before God and before the Elders of Steadfast Bible Fellowship Church and agree to meet with one other elder on a yearly basis for the purpose of accountability, encouragement, and prayer.
17. I will continue to walk in agreement with the Steadfast Statement of Faith and all the policies of Steadfast Bible Fellowship.

I have studied these statements of commitment and have prayed over them, and I believe God would have me serve as an elder according to these standards.

Signature

Date

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER STEADFAST CHURCHES

I. The Name “Steadfast Bible Fellowship”

The church name, “Steadfast Bible Fellowship” is a stewardship issue. It is a legally protected name in the state of Nebraska. Therefore, a “Steadfast Bible Fellowship” church affirms two important distinctives:

- A. The Statement of Faith of Steadfast Bible Fellowship (see SECTION ONE),
- B. The Constitution of Steadfast Bible Fellowship.

Should a Steadfast church plant choose to modify, change or revise either document, the Elders of Steadfast Bible Fellowship Omaha must review and approve such modifications, changes or revisions. Should a Steadfast church plant select another name for its church, adherence to these two distinctives will no longer apply.

II. Elders of a Steadfast Bible Fellowship Church Plant

Existing elders of other Steadfast churches will serve as the Elders of the Steadfast church plant and will select new Elders for the church plant until the required number of Elders is appointed. Once the required number of Elders is appointed, the church plant will commence with its own Elders.