

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
IN THE STREETS HANDS UP HIGH MINISTRIES  
BASTROP, TX**

**CONSTITUTION**

We, the members of IN THE STREETS HANDS UP HIGH MINISTRIES declare and establish this Constitution for the preservation and security of the principles of our faith, and that this body may be governed in an orderly manner, consistent with and under the authority of this Church and the freedom of action of this Church in its relation to other churches, we declare and establish this Constitution.

**Article I – NAME**

This body of believers, of our LORD and Savior, Jesus Christ, shall be known as IN THE STREETS HANDS UP HIGH MINISTRIES of Bastrop, TX.

**Article II – PURPOSE**

This Church is organized and maintained for the worship of God the Father, and our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ, through the direction of the Holy Spirit, for Christian fellowship, for Bible study and instruction in doctrine, and to encourage the efforts of individual members in personal spiritual growth, evangelism, missions and benevolences.

**Article III -STATEMENT OF FAITH**

The Holy Bible is the inspired Word of God and is the basis for any statement of faith. We adhere to God's teachings on the covenant of marriage between one man and one woman, the sanctity of life from conception to natural death and practices of personal sexual purity. We bond ourselves together as a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ, personally committed to sharing the good news of salvation with lost humanity.

The Scriptures: The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God and are the only sufficient, certain and authoritative rule of all saving knowledge, faith and obedience (II Timothy 3:16-17).

God: There is but one Holy God eternally existing in three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – but without division of nature, essence of being. This one Maker, Preserver and Ruler of all things. To Him all creatures owe the highest love, reverence and obedience.

Providence: God from eternity decrees or permits all things that come to pass and continually upholds, directs and governs all creatures and all events; yet to in any way to be the author or approver of sin nor to destroy the free will and responsibility of intelligent creatures.

Fall of Man: God originally created the man and woman in His image and free from sin; but, through the temptation of Satan they transgressed the command of God and fell from their original holiness and righteousness. Because of their fall, mankind is born with a nature corrupt and wholly opposed to God and his law. All are under condemnation and as soon as they are capable of moral action, become actual transgressors.

Election: God chooses to offer all persons everlasting life through Jesus Christ, His Son. This is not because of any merit in mankind but by God's everlasting mercy in Christ. Each person has the free will to accept or refuse God's offer. Only acceptance of Jesus Christ as LORD and Savior qualifies as accepting God's offer of eternal life.

The Mediator: Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, is the only divinely appointed mediator between perfect Holy God and imperfect sinful man. Having taken upon Himself human nature, yet without sin, HE perfectly fulfilled the law, suffered and died upon the cross for the salvation of sinners. He was buried and rose again the third day; ascended to His Father and is seated at His right hand making intercession for His people. He is the only Mediator and serves as Prophet, Priest and King of the Church and Sovereign of the Universe.

Repentance: When the Holy Spirit brings about God's work of justifying grace, we turn in sorrow from our original sin nature to receive regeneration of our hearts through Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit then resides within us to convict us to confession and repentance of sin in the ongoing work of sanctifying grace, so we can grow in fellowship with our Holy God. (I John 1:9-2:5).

Faith: Saving faith is the belief, on God's authority, of all that is revealed in His Word concerning Jesus Christ. Faith in Christ is the foundation of accepting God's grace and invitation for His forgiveness and eternal life.

Salvation (Justification): God completely forgives and makes new anyone who believes in Christ and His atoning work on the cross. This does not come from good works or personal merit (Ephesians 2:8-9), but only through divine grace. At the moment of salvation, when a person repents of sin and places faith in Jesus Christ as risen Savior and LORD, the Holy Spirit of God enters that person's heart for eternity and the believer begins a new life.

Sanctification: After justification, the Holy Spirit begins a process of spiritual growth and maturity in the newly regenerated heart of the believer. This sanctification is an ongoing process of walking lovingly with God through prayer and the study of His Word. Evidence of this steady transformation is pursuit of a holy lifestyle.

Glorification: The culmination of salvation and the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

Assurance of Salvation: Those whom God has saved through His Son and sanctified by His Spirit will never totally nor finally fall from His grace. We are all, however, still subject to temptation and weakness of our human nature (I John 1:6-8). Such sin grieves the Holy Spirit and impairs our communion with God. It may also bring reproach upon the Church and invite society's discipline. The Holy Spirit seeks to convict us of such sin to cause us to confess, repent and return to fellowship with God through faith in His power and grace. Willful continuation in sin invites the discipline of God, even to death of the body.

Freedom of Conscience: God alone is LORD of the conscience. God Himself has ordained the civil authorities to their office. While we are to follow God's commands as given in His Holy Word and not the doctrines of men, we are not to live contrary to the laws of the land, except when they contradict the Word of God (Daniel 3:8-18).

The Church: The LORD Jesus Christ alone is the Head of the Church, which is composed of all His true disciples, and in Him and His Word is invested all power for its government. According to His commandments, Christians are not to neglect assembling themselves together (Hebrews 10:25). Each body of believers is given His authority to administer worship, teaching, correction and ministry.

Baptism: Baptism is an ordinance of the LORD Jesus Christ whereby the believer is immersed in water in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, identifying with Jesus' death, burial and resurrection. This outward cleansing is symbolic of the inward grace of Jesus Christ, which brings forgiveness, remission of sin, fellowship with other believers and the living of a new life.

The LORD's Supper: The LORD's supper is an ordinance of Jesus Christ, to be administered with elements of the bread and cup, and to be observed by His Church until the end of the world. In its symbolic nature, it is designed to commemorate His death for our redemption and to renew our commitment to Him and His Body, the Church.

The LORD's Day: The LORD's Day is the first day of the week in recognition of our Savior's resurrection. It should be reserved for worship, spiritual devotion (both public and private), resting from worldly involvement and the up-building of spiritual and earthly family.

The Resurrection: The bodies of all people after death return to dust, but their spirits immediately return to God: the saved to rest with Him in paradise (Luke 23:43); the unsaved to be reserved in Hades to await the judgment (Luke 16:23). At the last day the bodies of all the dead, both saved and unsaved, will be raised for the judgment (I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 20:11-15).

The Judgment: God has appointed a day to judge the world according to the faith of each person in Jesus Christ. Those whose names are not found written in the Lamb's Book of Life face eternal condemnation and separation from God (Revelation 20:12-15). God has also promised to judge the fruit of every person who has received justification through the death and resurrection of Christ. Each will receive according to his/her works (I Corinthians 3:11-13, Revelation 22:12, Jeremiah 17:10).

#### **Article IV – CHARACTER**

Section 1 Policy: The government of this Church is vested in the body of believers of Christ who compose its membership to all who believe in the Trinity.

Section 2 Doctrine: This Church accepts the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as its authority in matters of faith and practice. The Holy Bible was given by inspiration of God and is the only sufficient, certain and authoritative rule of all saving knowledge, faith and obedience.

#### **Article V – COVENANT**

We do hereby voluntarily covenant with one another before God to be one body, under one Head which is Christ, jointly to exist in Church fellowship by the bonds and rules of the Gospel.

This Covenant directs us to:

Engage, by the assistance of God's grace, to walk together in brotherly love, exercise a Christian care and watchfulness over each other and to admonish and entreat one another as occasion may require (Matthew 18:15-16);

Forsake not the assembling of ourselves together, nor neglect the great duty of prayer; participate in each other's joys and with tenderness and sympathy to bear each other's sorrows. We will personally refrain from any attitude or activity that would damage our testimony or cause anyone to stumble;

Contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor and the spreading of the gospel through all nations;

Strive together for the support of a faithful evangelical ministry among us and that through life we will seek to live to the glory of "him who called (us) out of darkness into His marvelous light". (I Peter 2-9, RSV)

## **BY-LAWS**

### **Article I – MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1 General: All persons desiring to become members of this Church shall be welcomed to put forth the effort in beginning their journey and faith walk in our church:

Evidence of repentance toward God and confession of faith in Jesus Christ, applicant may be received as a candidate for believer's baptism by immersion;

Statement of faith as to the candidate's salvation experience and baptism by immersion. If the candidate has not been baptized in this manner, we will require the honor of his/her baptism by immersion.

Section 2 Duties: The LORD directs through scripture that all members be responsible in all the duties essential to the Christian life; to attend faithfully the services of this Church; to give regularly for its support and its causes; and to share in its organized work. The conduct of the members of this body shall be in accordance with the entirety of scripture. All members, without regard to age or length of membership, shall have equal rights as to voice and vote on all matters of business and Church policy. (See Article V – GENERAL – Business Meeting).

Section 3 Immediate Termination: Should any member become an offense to the Church and to its good name by reason of immoral or unchristian conduct, or by persistent breach of his/her covenant vows, the Church leadership must make every effort toward discipline, repentance, amendment and restoration (Matthew 18:15-17; I Corinthians 5:12; II Corinthians 2:5-8). The Pastor or Associate Pastor of the Church will first meet with this member. If reconciliation is not attained, the Pastor, Associate Pastor and one Board Member will meet with him/her. If a positive result is not reached, the Church member will meet with the Pastors and the entire active Board Members. At this point, if reconciliation is not possible, every member of this council must vote and by unanimous consent the offending person's membership is immediately terminated.

### **Article II – OFFICERS**

Senior Pastor

Election: A Pastor is chosen and called by the Church.

Termination: The Pastor shall be called for an indefinite term. Should the Pastor or Church desire to terminate the relationship, the party desiring such change shall give to the other written notice of at least thirty days or the Pastor shall be compensated for at least thirty days. It will take a three-fourths vote of the members present, at a duly called meeting, with minimum of fourteen days public notice given, to terminate the Pastor.

Duties: The duties of the Pastor shall be such as are prescribed in the New Testament. He shall give himself to the ministry of the Word and the leadership of the congregation. He shall have general supervision of all the activities of the Church. He shall notify the Board Members when he is out of town. He shall serve as moderator of the Church and as ex officio member of all Committees and boards, except the Pastor Selection Committee. He shall supervise the work of all personnel that the Church may employ. If the Pastor feels the work of the Church has become ineffective, it shall be his duty to confer with the Board Members to determine what steps should be taken to improve the situation, keeping in mind the best interest of Christ's Church.

Associate Pastor

Election: An Associate Pastor shall be chosen and called by the Church. This Pastor shall be called by the Church membership in a business meeting designated for that purpose. This meeting shall be given a fourteen-day notice and the Associate Pastor shall serve until the relationship is terminated.

Termination: The Associate Pastor shall be called for an indefinite term. Should the Associate Pastor or Church desire to terminate the relationship, the party desiring such change shall give to the other written notice of at least thirty days or the Associate Pastor shall be compensated for at least thirty days. It will take a three-fourths vote of the members present, at a duly called meeting, with minimum of seven days public notice given, to terminate the Associate Pastor.

Duties: The duties of the Associate Pastor are to be determined by the Pastor and Elders.

Board of Directors (Board Members): Board Members shall be recommended to the Church by the Pastor. An affirmative vote of three-fourths of the current members present shall be required to extend a call. The Pastor shall be responsible for providing, in writing, a job description of his/her responsibilities and relationship to the Church. Board Members will confer regularly to discuss and organize Church calendar and activities.

Any grievance toward a member must be directed to the Pastor before it is brought to the other members. Proper notice must be given to terminate the services of a member from the Board and would require a three-fourths vote of the members present at a duly called business meeting upon a recommendation by the Pastor.

#### Pastors/Board Members

Termination: Pastors and/or Board Members shall be terminated if not upholding Church responsibilities, or for living a life of sin, opposite to the Word of God.

#### Elders

Election: Elders are to be chosen from among resident male members of the church, twenty-one years of age or older, with on-going active attendance over the past year, who are marked by the high qualifications prescribed in the New Testament (I Timothy 3:1-12 and Titus 1:6-9). While ordained for life, they are to serve only for the term of their election.

Duties: In accordance with the meaning of the Word and the practice of the New Testament, Elders are to be servants of the Church, whose duty it shall be to serve with the Pastor in performing pastoral ministries, proclaim the gospel to believers and unbelievers, care for the Church members and other persons in the community, and assist the Pastor in leading the Church to engage in a fellowship of worship, witness, education, ministry and application.

Organization: The Board Members shall elect the officers each year. They shall organize themselves into such a manner as needed to serve effectively the Church and assist the Pastor.

#### Moderator:

The Senior Pastor shall serve as the Moderator of the Church. In the absence of the Senior Pastor, or if the business at hand is regarding the Pastor, the Co-Chair shall preside. In the absence of both, the Senior Board Member shall call the Board Members to order and a Moderator pro-tem shall be elected.

#### Treasurer

Election: The Treasurer shall be elected annually by the membership of the Church. The same person may hold this office for as many years as desired by the membership.

Duties: The Treasurer shall receive all monies and/or deposit receipts for monies collected throughout the ministries of the Church. He/she shall keep itemized accounts of all deposits and disbursements. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to render, to the Church at each regular business meeting, an itemized report of the receipts and disbursements for the preceding period. Upon rendering the annual report at the end of each fiscal year, and its acceptance and approval by the Church, the records shall be delivered by the Treasurer to the

Church Clerk who shall keep and preserve the report as a part of the permanent record of the Church. The Treasurer's report shall be audited annually by an auditing Pastoral Committee.

### **Article III – COMMITTEES**

No person shall serve as a Committee chairperson unless he/she is a member in good standing with the Church (See Church Covenant By-Laws, Article 1; Section 2). The number of persons serving on each Committee is subject to change as the need may arise. Non-members may participate in limited Church positions under the discretion of the appropriate leadership body or organization (e.g. Nominating Committee, Men's Gatherings, Women's Gatherings, etc).

Election: The Nominating Committee shall present to the Church in a regular business meeting, no later than July, a list of persons to serve for the succeeding year on all standing Committees. The number of standing Committees may be increased or decreased, as the need may require, by a three-fourths vote of the members present at a regular business meeting.

Duties: Each Committee member is to serve our LORD and Savior in whatever responsibility he/she has agreed to and shall bring honor to Him and services to the members of His Church. No Committee member shall act for the Committee without the consent of that Committee. Each person agreeing to serve will endeavor to attend all called meetings and participate in all activities of the Committee on which he/she serves.

### **Article IV – GENERAL**

#### Organizations of the Church

Any activity, by any group or organization, must be approved by the Board Members and Pastor. Upon approval the date will be placed on the Church calendar. Each organization of the Church will be expected to publicize the plans and programs for which it is responsible. Each shall work within the framework of the Church program and Church policy. No member or group of members of the Church shall, on account or behalf of Church, sell merchandise, hold an entertainment for profit, charge for activity or serve a meal to raise money, without approval of the Board Members and Pastor.

#### Additional Organizations

Any organizations added to IN THE STREETS HANDS UP HIGH MINISTRIES shall be presented to, discussed by, and approved by the Pastor and Board Members.

#### Use of Church Property

It shall be the prerogative of the Church and/or its duly appointed Board Members to determine the wisest use of the property of the Church. With the exception of the offices, all rooms in the building are multi-purpose rooms and no class or other group has exclusive use of any room, even though it may have provided special equipment and decorations. Any person, group or organization which uses any room or facility in the Church complex must return it to the condition in which it was found before they began their use or program. The room or facility must be left clean, trash removed, and any materials used shall be put in their proper place.

Whenever any Church equipment is needed for use away from Church property, permission must be secured in writing from the Pastor or Co-Chair and will be granted in accordance with policies established by the Properties Committee or other responsible Committees. Records should be kept including the item taken, the person or organization taking the item and the date it was taken and returned.

Organizations outside of the Church that desire to have access to Church facilities must make application in writing to the Church office and each application will be considered on an individual basis. Any event held on

Church property by an individual, group or organization will follow the guidelines created by the Board Members and approved by the members. Copies of these guidelines are available at the Church office.

#### Control of Organizations

In all matters of determining policy or procedure it is understood that the highest body of authority in the Church is the convening of members in a business meeting. Decisions of the Church are binding upon all members, classes, departments and other organizations within the Church. No such group shall conduct any service or meeting, nor engage in any program or activity which is in violation of the rules or purposes of the Church, or which conflicts with the regular meeting or activities of the Church and/or its other organizations. No class, organization or group shall be established without the approval of the Church.

Upon removal or death of the Pastor, [IN THE STREETS HANDS UP HIGH MINISTRIES](#) and its organizations shall be placed into the possession of another 501(c)(3), faith-based Church or Organization with same goals and vision. Also keeping same activities that currently exist (i.e. Open-Door Soup Kitchen, Men At The Cross Shelter/Home, S.A.F.E. Family Emergency Shelters). The current Board of Directors, at the time of the death or removal of the Pastor shall elect a new Pastor.

If the Board of Directors determine that the IN THE STREETS HANDS UP HIGH MINISTRIES be should be dissolved, then all assets of the IN THE STREETS HANDS UP HIGH MINISTRIES shall be placed in to the possession of another 501 (c) (3) faith-based Church or organization with the same or similar goals and vision.

#### Business Meetings

Regular scheduled business meetings for the Church shall be held on the second Sunday evening of January, April, July and October and shall be announced in the Church bulletin on the two morning services prior to the meeting.

For business to be brought to the Church by an individual or a Committee, the item must be provided to the Church office to be considered for the agenda by Thursday prior to a regular scheduled Business Meeting. The agenda shall be available to the membership on the Sunday morning of the Business Meeting.

Business meetings of the Church shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

For the purpose of business meetings, a quorum exists when five members, eighteen years of age and older, are present at any regular or called business meeting to vote on any issue or conduct any business that comes before the Church for consideration, provided that the item has been placed on the agenda. Once the quorum of five members eighteen years of age and older is met, any member of any age may vote.

Special business meetings of the Church may be called by the Pastor(s) and/or Board Members when necessary. In matters that require resolution, members are to approach the Pastor(s) and/or Board Members for counsel and guidance. If resolution is not reached, then the Board Members may be asked to consider the matter. If a Business Meeting is needed to bring resolution to the issue or problem, the Pastor(s) and/or Board Member may request that the meeting be scheduled and announced to the congregation. An announcement must be made on two consecutive Sunday mornings concerning all such special meetings. This rule is not to prevent the Church, at any service, from transacting business concerning matters of an urgent nature, which are in the best interest of the Church.

## **Article VI – AMENDMENTS**

### Adoption, Distribution, Amendments

This Constitution and By-Laws shall be presented to the Church and shall have lain on the table for no fewer than thirty days prior to a formal vote. It shall be considered adopted and in immediate effect if and when two-thirds of the members present at the duly called business meeting shall vote in favor of adoption. Notice of pending vote shall be given in the Sunday morning service no fewer than two Sunday services prior to the vote.

The adoption of this Constitution and By-Laws shall be the sole governing document of IN THE STREETS HANDS UP HIGH MINISTRIES.

Copies of these shall be provided for all members of the Church. The Church office shall distribute copies to all new members upon their reception into the Church family.

Changes in this Constitution and By-Laws may be made at any regular business meeting of the Church, provided such amendments have been presented in writing at a previous regular business meeting. Copies of the proposed amendments shall be furnished to the Board of Directors, at two consecutive Sunday morning services, for their consideration. Amendments shall be considered adopted when voted on and passed by a vote of two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors eighteen years of age or older of the Church present at the next business meeting.

List of Board of Directors:

Pastor Evangelist Roland Nava - Founder/Chairman  
Rosalinda Nava - Co-Founder/Co-Chair  
Reverend Joe Williams - Senior Director  
Amy Cervantez - Secretary  
Lynda Eichorst - Treasurer  
Pastor John Eason - Member/Advisor  
Pastor Ben Hitzfeld - Member/Advisor  
Victor Gonzalez - Member/Legal Advisor  
Vernetta Williams - Member  
Bobby Cervantez - Member  
Debbie Vega - Member