

Bylaws of the Gathering

Latest Revision: November 6th, 2022 at Annual Partners' Meeting

Purpose

“The Gathering” is an international family of believers who are connecting with God, caring for each other, and reaching Chiang Mai for Christ, beginning with our neighbors.

Partnership

- A. Partnership means that while living in the Chiang Mai area, a person is identifying with The Gathering in its worship, ministries, and outreach. Partnership may be held, here, along with formal membership in a church in another country.
- B. Partners in “The Gathering” shall consist of those who:
 - 1. Have confessed Jesus Christ as their only Lord and Savior and have been baptized.
 - 2. Support the statement of beliefs of “The Gathering”.
 - 3. Commit to attend, participate, and contribute on a regular basis.
 - 4. Make a request for partnership to the Elder Team.
- C. Partners are eligible to:
 - 1. Vote on the call of a new pastor.
 - 2. Vote on the selection of Elder Team members.
 - 3. Participate in business meetings of the congregation.
- D. Partnership may be terminated by:
 - 1. Request
 - 2. Permanent departure from the Chiang Mai area.
 - 3. Action of the Elder Team, when necessary.

Elder Team

- A. The purpose of the Elder Team is to listen, pray, and set the vision and direction for the Church. It shall be the responsibility of the Elder Team to oversee the day-to-day operation of the church.
- B. The Elder Team (ET) shall consist of six (6) to ten (10) persons. They may serve a maximum term of four (4) years, after which they must be off the ET for at least one year before becoming eligible for re-appointment. The pastor is a member of the ET, serving without term limits.
- C. When there is a vacancy, the partners may make nominations for Elder Team positions. The ET shall prayerfully consider all names and then present a slate to the partners for their approval. Qualifications for service shall be based on I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:7-9
- D. Persons on the Elder Team can be removed by:

1. Leaving the area for a period of six (6) months or more.
2. Resignation.
3. Majority vote of the Elder Team.

Pastor

A. The Pastor will be expected to:

1. Preach regularly.
2. Give leadership to the ET and congregation.
3. Work with the ET to set vision for the congregation.
4. Give pastoral care to the congregation.
5. The pastor is a member of the ET, serving without term limits.

B. The Pastor will be called by at least a 2/3 vote of the partners. A Pastor Search Committee, made up of partners in good standing, in cooperation with the Elder Team, will prayerfully consider the candidates and then present one man to the partners for a vote. The Pastor may be removed by:

1. Resignation.
2. Majority vote of the Elder Team.

Committees

Committees, made up of partners in good standing, shall be appointed by the Elder Team, as needed.

Meetings

The Annual Meeting of the partners shall be held in September, October, or November of each year. Announcement of the date, time, and place shall be made in at least two Sunday Worship Services prior to the meeting. Special business meetings, with two Sundays' notice, can be called by the Elder Team. Voting will be limited to partners who are 16 years of age and older.

Amendments

These bylaws and statements of belief can be changed at the Annual Meeting by a 2/3 majority of the partners voting. The proposed changes must be clearly stated in the advanced notice, 30 days prior to the meeting.