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ARTICLE I

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Active Membership

Active membership is comprised of those members who:

- (a) Have complied with the membership application requirements (per Article I, Section 4); and
- (b) Are regularly participating in and contributing to the life of this local church.

The Council of Elders in its sole discretion will be the final decisionmaker on whether a person qualifies for active membership and voting privileges.

Section 2. Inactive Membership

Inactive membership is comprised of those members who have been determined by the Council of Elders in its sole discretion as not meeting the requirements for active membership during a period of time deemed appropriate to warrant them inactive but not under conditions that would make them a candidate for formal church discipline.

Section 3. Voting Privileges

Active membership in this church entitles each member the right to vote at all regularly scheduled or special meetings of the church body on those matters that the Council of Elders chooses to submit to the church membership for affirmation. Voting privileges are restricted to active members who are not under any disciplinary action and who have passed their twelfth (12) birthday.

Section 4. Application for Membership

The membership of Green Run Baptist Church shall consist of those persons who have met all the following:

- (a) Have confessed Jesus Christ to be their personal Lord and Savior;
- (b) Completed the Foundation class(es) in the *Life Building Plan*;
- (c) Attended a pre-membership meeting with the Council of Elders;
- (d) Signed the church covenant;
- (e) Have been baptized by immersion after their profession of faith, either at Green Run or a church of like faith; and
- (f) Have been presented for church membership in a special or regularly scheduled business meeting upon recommendation of the Council of Elders and received by members present by majority vote.

Section 5. Denial of Membership

If, upon review of the application process, the Council of Elders determines that the applicant does not meet the requirements for membership, that membership may be denied or postponed until the requirements are satisfactorily met.

Section 6. Termination of Membership

Termination of membership at GRBC shall be by any of the following actions:

- (a) Death of the member;
- (b) Transfer of letter to a church of like faith;
- (c) Dropped from church roll for inactive status (per Article I, Section 8); or
- (d) Church discipline (per Article I, Section 7).

Section 7. Church Discipline

The threefold purpose of church discipline is (1) to glorify God by maintaining purity in the local church (1 Corinthians 5:6), (2) to edify believers by deterring sin (1 Timothy 5:20), and (3) to promote the spiritual welfare of the believer by calling them to return to a biblical standard of doctrine and conduct (Galatians 6:1).

- (a) The discipline of members shall be a responsibility of the congregation in conjunction with the Council of Elders in the event that a member is engaged in false doctrine or conduct that violates Scripture. The member may be subject to formal church discipline, including the exclusion from fellowship and/or membership in the church according to Matthew 18:15-18; Galatians 6:1-5; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13 and the Guidelines for Church Discipline passed by the Council of Elders. Before such action is taken:
 - (1) Reasonable written notice which includes a short explanation of the charges against the member shall be given, after which the member will be brought before the Council of Elders for a thorough investigation in accord with the procedures prescribed by Scripture, including Matthew 18:15-18 and 1 Timothy 5:19. If there is found to be sufficient evidence of the member's heresy or misconduct, that they have been appropriately confronted in love, and if they have refused to repent, then
 - (2) The Elders shall inform the church at a specially scheduled worship meeting in order that the church may call the individual to repentance. If the individual demonstrates

- repentance, then notice to that effect shall be given at a specially scheduled worship meeting. If, however, the individual does not repent in response to the church, then
- (3) The member shall be publicly excluded from the fellowship and/or membership of the church at a specially scheduled worship meeting by majority vote of those members present. If the individual, after such exclusion, heeds the warning, demonstrates repentance, and requests reinstatement before the Council of Elders, then they shall be publicly restored to all the rights, duties, privileges, and responsibilities of fellowship and/or membership.
 - (b) The members of this church, and all other professing Christians who regularly attend or fellowship with this church, agree that there shall be no appeal to any court or arbiter because of the dismissal or the necessary public statements to the congregation at any stage of church discipline. Members for which the formal discipline process has begun by receiving notice of the allegations and hearing above mentioned or who are under formal discipline by the church, as defined in the previous paragraphs, forfeit and waive the right to resign from this church. Resignations from membership are possible only by members who are in good standing and who are not under any disciplinary investigation or action.

Section 8. Miscellaneous Membership Matters

Separate and apart from the process of church discipline, but subject to the discretion and approval of the Elders:

- (a) a member, non-member regular attender, or other individual may be notified that he or she is not to be present upon church premises for such a period of time as is deemed necessary for the safety and well-being of others on church premises. Such required absence may, but need not, be concurrent with church discipline of that person.
- (b) those members who have failed to meet the requirements of active membership (Article I, Section 1) and have remained inactive (Article I, Section 2) for a period deemed appropriate to warrant them inactive but not under conditions that would make them a candidate for formal church discipline shall be subject to the following process:
 - (1) A letter will be sent from the Elders to the inactive member encouraging the individual to become actively involved in the church.
 - (2) The inactive member will be given six (6) months to become active.
 - (3) If there is no response or the member refuses to meet the requirements for active membership the name of the member will be brought before the church upon the discretion of the Council of Elders at a regularly scheduled business meeting and, pending a majority vote, shall be dropped from the church roll.
 - (4) The former member will be duly notified of their termination as a member of GRBC.
 - (5) Any terminated member wishing to be reinstated to membership status shall make their request before the Council of Elders and, upon the recommendation of the Elders, be reinstated to active membership (Article I, Section 1).

ARTICLE II

ELDERS (Board of Directors)

Section 1. Powers

The leadership of the Church shall be entrusted to the Council of Elders who shall also serve as the Board of Directors and are responsible for governing the church, shepherding the flock, and having oversight of the spiritual affairs of the body (I Timothy 5:17). The Elders shall be equal in authority but may be specialized in function.

Section 2. Organization

The Council of Elders shall be composed of at least five (5) men, with the number of Elders at any time determined by the needs of the ministry and by the call and qualification of men in the church. The Council of Elders shall consist of both paid Pastoral Staff and Lay Elders where the number of Pastoral Staff does not exceed the number of Lay Elders actively serving on the Council. The Council shall annually select its Chairman and Vice-Chairman from among its Lay Elders and the Secretary and Treasurer from among all the active Elders.

Section 3. Nomination, Selection, and Tenure of Office

Recommendations to fill the office of Elder shall be requested once a year from all church members. A selection team consisting of no less than five (5) Elders shall be appointed by the Council of Elders, who will designate a chairman of the team. This team shall review all nominations and determine each nominee's qualifications. A proposed slate of nominees prepared by the nominating team shall then be submitted to the Council of Elders. The Council shall then approve, disapprove, or add to the list of nominees in accordance with the needs of the ministry and the call and qualifications of each nominee.

The Secretary shall publicly post the nominees observed, trained, and approved by the Council of Elders at least two weeks prior to the August business meeting. At this meeting, the slate of nominees shall be presented to the members to affirm the decision of the Elders with written ballot by at least two-thirds majority vote of those members present. If the slate of nominees is affirmed, the newly elected Elders shall assume office immediately.

Each Elder shall come before the members each year at the August business meeting for reaffirmation with written ballot by at least two-thirds majority of those members present. An Elder shall serve indefinitely unless he resigns, is removed by the Council of Elders or by a lack of reaffirmation by the members (per Article II, Section 8).

Section 4. Meetings

- (a) Place of Meetings: Any meeting by the Council of Elders may be held at any location deemed appropriate by the majority of the Council.
- (b) Regular Meetings: Regular meetings of the Council of Elders shall be held without call or notice on the second Sunday of each month, unless otherwise modified by the Council. Regular meetings shall be open to active members in good standing.
- (c) Special Meetings: Special meetings of the Council of Elders may be called at any time by order of the Chairman or Vice-Chairman or the Secretary of the Council of Elders or by a majority of the members of the Council of Elders.
- (d) The Council of Elders may also meet by means of a conference telephone call or similar communications equipment, provided all persons entitled to participate in the meeting received proper notice of the telephone meeting, and provided all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other at the same time. A member participating in a conference telephone meeting is deemed present in person at the meeting. The Chairman of the meeting may establish reasonable rules as to conducting business at any meeting by telephone.

Section 5. Quorum

A quorum for meetings of the Elders is defined as at least one-half of the Lay Elders plus at least one-half of the Pastoral Staff, except for matters on which only Lay Elders are entitled to vote in which case a majority of the Lay Elders shall constitute a quorum. Whenever the matter to be considered concerns calling or removing an Elder, a quorum shall consist of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Council.

Section 6. Qualifications

Each member of the Council of Elders must be an active member of this church and possess the qualifications described in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. He shall be:

Above reproach (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6-7)

Husband of one wife (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6)

Temperate (1 Timothy 3:2)

Self-Controlled (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8)

Respectable (1 Timothy 3:2)

Hospitable (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8)

Able to teach (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9)

Not given to drunkenness (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7)

Not violent (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7)

Gentle (1 Timothy 3:3)

Not quarrelsome (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7)

Not a lover of money (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7)

Manage his own family well (1 Timothy 3:4; Titus 1:7)

Not be a recent convert (1 Timothy 3:6)

Have a good reputation among unbelievers (1 Timothy 3:7)

Section 7. Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the Elders shall include but not be limited to: serving on the Board of Directors, instructing prospective members through the Foundation classes, conducting pre-membership meetings, presenting new members to the church, overseeing the process of church discipline, examining prospective candidates for offices in the church, scheduling and moderating business meetings, providing for reporting and recording of official church business, overseeing the work of the Deacons and appointed church agents and teams, providing financial oversight and direction for the church, conducting worship services, administering the ordinances of the Gospel, equipping the membership of the church for the work of the ministry, teaching the whole counsel of God both formally and informally, correcting error, overseeing, coordinating and promoting the ministries of the church, and mobilizing the church for world mission.

Section 8. Removal of Elders

Any Elder may be removed from office if he is found to be unable to carry out the duties of an Elder or spiritually unqualified (according to pertinent Scripture, including 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9), at the August business meeting through lack of reaffirmation (per Article II, Section 3) or at any special or regular meeting of the Council of Elders by unanimous vote after thorough investigation by the Elders (or a duly appointed team of the Elders, per Article II, Section 10), in accord with the procedures prescribed by pertinent Scripture, including Matthew 18:15-18 and 1 Timothy 5:19. When an Elder is removed because of sin that is deemed sufficient to disqualify him from shepherding and subject him to church discipline, the removal shall be accompanied by a public rebuke from the Elders before the church and the congregation at a regularly scheduled worship service as prescribed in 1 Timothy 5:20 and Article I, Section 7 of the Bylaws.

Section 9. Termination of Call of Pastoral Staff

The termination of the call of any paid Pastoral staff member may be brought about by:

(a) Resignation

(b) Discipline- When a grievance exists against a Pastor, either due to conduct in violation of Scripture or the teaching of false doctrine, such grievance may be brought before the Council of Elders by any two active members in good standing. If the Council, after thorough investigation and consideration, believes the grievance to be true and substantial, then the vocational call of the individual may be terminated at any business meeting upon the recommendation of the Council of Elders when supported with written ballot by a three-

fourths majority of those members present and voting with at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the active membership of the church present at such meeting. Public notification of such meeting and its purpose shall be given no less than two weeks prior to the meeting.

- (c) Lack of Reaffirmation- If a member of the pastoral staff fails to be reaffirmed to the office of Elder at the August business meeting, a special business meeting shall be called to consider the question of terminating the vocational call of the individual. Termination shall be with written ballot by a three-fourths majority of those members present and voting with at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the active membership of the church present at such meeting. Public notification of such meeting and its purpose shall be given no less than two weeks prior to the meeting.

Section 10. Special Teams

Special teams may be appointed at the discretion of the Council of Elders and shall be composed of two or more Elders for purposes specifically delegated by the Council.

Section 11. Decisions of the Council of Elders

Decisions shall be reached after prayerful consideration by unanimous vote in a spirit of humility, with each Elder seeking that which most glorifies God and regarding one another before himself.

ARTICLE III

PAID STAFF MEMBERS

Section 1. Pastoral and Ministerial Staff

Pastoral staff members are the ordained Pastoral Elders of the church. The ministerial staff is comprised of non-ordained members of the church. Both pastoral and ministerial staff are supported financially by the church in return for their vocational labors.

- (a) All pastoral and ministerial staff shall be called upon recommendation by the Council of Elders when supported with written ballot by a two-thirds majority of those members present and voting with at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the active membership of the church present at any regular or special business meeting.
- (b) The pastoral and ministerial staff shall perform the duties determined by the Council of Elders and approved by the congregation.
- (c) The church's call of a pastoral staff member is a call to the eldership of the church. Therefore, pastoral staff members shall be members of the Council of Elders and have all the biblical qualifications of an Elder.

Section 2. Support Staff

Support staff shall consist of all employees of the church other than pastoral and ministerial staff.

- (a) All monies for the employment of support staff must be approved by the members at a regular or special business meeting.
- (b) The Council of Elders shall be responsible for determining the duties of, hiring and firing such personnel.

Section 3. Termination of Employment

- (a) The call of any paid pastoral staff member may be terminated per Article II, Section 9.
- (b) The termination of the call of any paid ministerial staff member may be terminated upon recommendation of the Council of Elders when supported with written ballot by a three-fourths majority of those members present and voting with at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the active membership of the church present at such meeting. Public notification of such meeting and its purpose shall be given no less than two weeks prior to the meeting.

- (c) The employment of support staff shall be terminated by decision of the Council of Elders. The church shall be notified of such termination at a regularly scheduled business meeting.

ARTICLE IV

DEACONS

Section 1. Organization, Selection, and Tenure of Office

- (a) The Deacons shall consist of members who meet the qualifications described in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and shall be nominated annually by members of the church. The Council of Elders in conjunction with the active Deacons will compile and confirm the nominees who have met the Biblical qualifications of Deacon and have completed the required training and submit the names to the members for affirmation with written ballot by at least two-thirds majority of those members present at the August business meeting.
- (b) The number of Deacons shall be determined by the needs of the ministry and by the call and qualification of members in the church.
- (c) The Deacons shall organize themselves however they determine best to achieve the mission of the church. The Elders or the Deacons may designate any specific Deacon or group of Deacons to specialize in some particular Deaconal function. Meetings of the Deacons shall be held as needed to best fulfill the responsibilities of the Deacons.
- (d) Each Deacon shall come before the members each year at the August business meeting for reaffirmation with written ballot by at least two-thirds majority of those members present. A Deacon shall serve indefinitely unless he resigns, is removed by the Council of Elders or by a lack of reaffirmation by the members.

Section 2. Responsibilities

The Deacons shall advise and be ready to assist the Elders in any service that shall support and promote the ministry of the Word, new and existing ministries of the church, and the care for the members of the congregation. Specific responsibilities may include:

- (a) Administering a fund to assist those who have need;
- (b) The greeting and welcoming ministries of the church;
- (c) Assisting in administering the ordinances of the Gospel;
- (d) Assisting at fellowship gatherings of the church;
- (e) Caring for and maintaining church properties.

Section 3. Removal of a Deacon

Any Deacon may be removed from office if they are found to be unable to carry out the duties of a Deacon or spiritually unqualified (according to pertinent Scripture, including 1 Timothy 3:8-13), at the August business meeting through lack of reaffirmation (per Article IV, Section 1) or at any special or regular meeting of the Council of Elders by unanimous vote after thorough investigation by the Elders (or a duly appointed team of the Elders, per Article II, Section 10), in accord with the procedures prescribed by pertinent Scripture, including Matthew 18:15-18. If a Deacon is removed because of sin and is unrepentant of that sin, then the removal shall be accompanied by church discipline (per Article I, Section 7).

ARTICLE V

CHURCH OFFICERS

Section 1. Council of Elders

The officers of the Council of Elders shall be a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The officers shall be appointed annually by the Council of Elders and shall hold his

office until he shall resign, be removed, or become otherwise disqualified to serve (per Article II, Sections 3 and 8), or until his successor shall be elected and qualified.

- (a) The Chairman- He shall be appointed from among the Lay Elders and shall, subject to the control of the Council of Elders, preside at all special and regular business meetings and all meetings of the Council of Elders. He shall be an ex officio member of all administrative and ministry teams.
- (b) Vice-Chairman- In the absence or the disability of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman shall perform all the duties of the Chairman, and when so acting shall have all the powers of, and be subject to all the restrictions upon, the Chairman. The Vice-Chairman shall be appointed from among the Lay Elders and shall have such other duties as from time to time may be prescribed for him by the Council of Elders.
- (c) Secretary- He shall keep, or cause to be kept, a book of minutes of all meetings of the Council of Elders and its special teams, with the time and place of holding, whether regular or special, the names of those present at the meetings, and the proceedings thereof. The Secretary shall give, or cause to be given, notice of all meetings of the Council of Elders and any special teams thereof as required (per Article II, Section 4). The Secretary shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as prescribed by the Council.
- (d) Treasurer- He shall be appointed from among the Elders and shall ensure the stewardship of the physical and financial resources of the Church. The Treasurer shall keep and maintain, or cause to be kept and maintained, adequate and correct accounts of the properties and business transactions of the church. He shall prepare, or cause to be prepared, the annual operating budget of the church and shall authorize all budgeted expenditures for the church. He shall deposit, or cause to be deposited, all monies and other valuables in the name and to the credit of the church. The actions of the Treasurer shall be open to inspection by the Council of Elders and a duly appointed finance team (per Article VII, Section 1), and reports shall be made to the members at all regularly scheduled business meetings.

Section 2. Other Officers

- (a) Trustees- The trustees shall consist of at least three active members recommended by the Council of Elders and supported by two-thirds majority of those members present and voting during the August business meeting. The trustees shall hold in trust the property of the church, but shall have no authority to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, transfer, or distribute any property of the church without the approval of the Council of Elders and the support of the members by two-thirds majority of those present and voting at any regular or special business meeting and approved by the appropriate legal authorities. They shall serve indefinitely until they resign or are removed by recommendation of the Council of Elders and supported with written ballot by two-thirds majority of members present and voting at any regular or special business meeting.
- (b) Church Clerk- The clerk shall keep, or cause to be kept, a record of all actions of the church. They shall record, or cause to be recorded, the minutes from all business meetings and submit them to the Secretary of the Council of Elders. The clerk shall also keep the rolls of active and inactive members approved by the Council of Elders, appropriate accounting records, and the church's articles, constitution and bylaws currently in effect. An active member may be entitled to inspect, at a reasonable time and location specified by the Council of Elders, any of the church records described above, provided the Council of Elders finds that the active member has a proper purpose and is acting in good faith. The Council of Elders may limit or restrict access to any records that contain confidential information about a particular person or persons. The clerk shall be recommended by the Council of Elders and supported by two-thirds majority of those members present and voting during the August business meeting. They shall serve indefinitely until they resign or are removed by recommendation of the Council of Elders and supported by two-thirds majority of members present and voting at any regular or special business meeting.

ARTICLE VI

PASTOR-TEACHER

Section 1. Election

The Pastor-Teacher shall be selected by the Council of Elders and confirmed by the members of the church at a regular or special business meeting with written ballot by three-fourths majority of those members voting with at least twenty-five percent (25%) of active members present.

Section 2. Duties

The Pastor-Teacher shall be an ex officio member of all administrative and ministry teams, and he shall be responsible to the Council of Elders. The Pastor-Teacher shall arrange for and conduct all public and regular services of the church and shall be responsible for general oversight of the spiritual welfare of the church. In the absence of the Pastor-Teacher, the Council of Elders (or a duly appointed team of the Council, per Article V, Section 10, at the sole discretion of the Council), shall be responsible to arrange for the public and regular services of the church.

Section 3. Termination

Termination shall be done by written secret ballot and consistent with other termination requirements outlined for other Pastoral Staff in Article III, Section 3.

ARTICLE VII

ADMINISTRATIVE AND MINISTRY TEAMS

Section 1. Administrative Teams

These teams are appointed by the Council of Elders and confirmed by the members of the church at any regular or special business meeting. These teams shall exist to assist the Council in the oversight of the business affairs of the church. The members of such teams shall be active members of the church and shall serve for a length of time determined by the Council to accomplish their specific purpose.

Section 2. Ministry Teams

These teams are appointed by the Council of Elders and exist to assist the Elders and Deacons in the ministry needs of the church. The members of such teams shall be active members of the church and shall serve indefinitely unless they resign or are removed (per Article I, Section 7).

ARTICLE VIII

CHURCH FINANCES

Section 1. Financial Planning

The financial planning of the church shall be carried out through the medium of annual budgets for performing the various functions and ministries of the church. Annual budgets shall be adopted by the church upon recommendation of the Council of Elders, in conjunction with the Treasurer and church finance team (per Article V, Section 1), at the August business meeting. The fiscal year shall run from September 1 through August 31. Matters involving staff compensation shall be the responsibility of the lay members of the Council of Elders.

Section 2. Finance Team

The finance team shall be appointed (per Article VII, Section 1) to assist in the business affairs of the church by providing wise counsel and accountability to the Treasurer and the Council of Elders. Their duties shall include assisting the Treasurer in preparing the annual operating

budget of the church, reviewing all financial activities of the church and the Treasurer, approving all unbudgeted expenditures, and performing all other such duties as deemed necessary by the Council of Elders.

Section 3. Financial Secretary

The financial secretary shall be a paid employee of the church (per Article III, Section 2) and shall assist the Treasurer by keeping an accurate record of all giving, preparing and distributing quarterly and yearly contribution records, receiving, preserving and disbursing all monies upon approval of the Treasurer, keeping an itemized list of all receipts and disbursements, paying the bills of the church, and submitting the church's financial books for an annual audit.

Section 4. Accounts

Financial receipts from all sources shall be accounted for by the Finance Secretary according to the purposes for which contributions are designated. The Treasurer shall disperse these funds promptly according to the financial program of the church as detailed in the annual budget or other approved designations. All monies for missions shall be remitted in accordance with the Mission budget of the church or otherwise designated.

Section 5. Fundraising

All ministries of this church should be supported by the tithes and offerings of the congregation. Therefore, no method of special fund raising shall be permitted that is in conflict with this ideal.

Section 6. Indebtedness

No amount of indebtedness shall be incurred by the church that is in conflict with the financial principles found in Scripture.

ARTICLE IX

MEETINGS

Section 1. Worship Meetings

Regular public worship meetings shall be held on the Lord's Day each week. The Lord's Supper shall be celebrated regularly at such times as the Council of Elders may determine. Additional worship meetings may be held as deemed necessary by the Council of Elders and the needs of the church.

Section 2. Business Meetings

- (a) Annual Meeting- the annual business meeting shall be held during the month of August each year for the purpose of calling and reaffirming Elders, Deacons, and other church officers, approving proposed budgets, communicating the vision and goals of the church as prayerfully established by the Elders, and other business deemed necessary by the Council of Elders.
- (b) Quarterly Meetings- The quarterly business meetings of the church shall be held on the third Sunday of the months of November, February, May, and August, with the August business meeting serving as the annual meeting.
- (c) Special Meetings- The Council of Elders, or any ten (10) members in good standing, may call for a special meeting of the church. Notice of the meeting shall be given no less than two weeks prior to the meeting with the specific purpose of the meeting being clearly stated in the notice.
- (d) Quorum- Any number of members shall constitute a quorum at any regular or special business meeting with a majority of those members present and voting being necessary to carry the vote. This quorum shall apply unless specifically defined in other sections of this Constitution.

- (e) The Chairman of the Council of Elders shall preside over all regular and special business meetings (per Article V, Section 1) consistent with the Rules of Order as established by the Council of Elders for all such meetings.

ARTICLE X

SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

Any claim or dispute arising between or among members, pastors or staff shall be settled by mediation and, if necessary, legally binding arbitration in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for Christian Conciliation. Judgment upon an arbitration decision may be entered in any court otherwise having jurisdiction. Members, pastors and staff shall understand that these methods shall be the sole remedy for any controversy or claim arising within the church or against the church and expressly waive their right to file a lawsuit in any civil court against one another for such disputes, except to enforce an arbitration decision. In that case, judgment upon an arbitration award may be entered by any court having competent jurisdiction, in conformity with the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

ARTICLE XI

AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Constitution and Bylaws may be introduced through written motion to the Council of Elders by any member in good standing. Upon the discretion of the Elders, a special business meeting may be called for the purpose of discussion only, and an additional business meeting may be called for the purpose of a vote no less than two weeks after the initial meeting, at which time an affirmative vote of the majority of the active membership, or a two-thirds majority of those members present and voting shall be required for acceptance with ten percent (10%) of the active membership present. Notice of the proposed change or amendment must be given on at least two Sundays prior to the vote.