Church Discipline Procedure – Appendix E

Confrontation, Discipline, and Restoration: Occasionally, there will arise the need to address a church member's behavior, attitude, or actions in a way that requires a more thorough treatment. In cases such as these, please follow the biblical instructions outlined below.

NOTE: If a leader needs to be confronted for immoral, illegal, or unethical practices, set these instructions aside and follow the instructions given in the *Ethical & Financial Policies* document, *Appendix D* under the Whistleblower Policy Section.

BIBLICAL CONFRONTATION ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 18:15-17

1. Members are expected to demonstrate special loyalty and concern for one another. When a member is offended by another member or leader (including elders and deacons) in word or action, that person is to follow the standard explained by Jesus Christ Himself in Matthew 18:15-17. This action begins with that member using discretion and going personally to the offending party, seeking to restore a relationship with a brother or sister. Before going, that person should first examine themselves. When going, that person should go with a spirit of humility and have the goal of restoration.
2. If reconciliation is not reached, a second church member with spiritual wisdom & discernment, without bias, is to accompany the one seeking to resolve the matter. This second step should also be preceded by self-examination, and exercised in a spirit of humility with the goal of restoration.
3. If the matter is still unresolved due to unrepentance or unforgiveness after the steps outlined above, the Deacon and/or Elder Board shall hear the matter with all parties involved. If the matter is still not resolved after this meeting, the Board hearing the matter shall, after prayer and consideration, vote on whether such member(s) who refuse to repent and change, or forgive, should be removed from the membership of Journey Church. This is complete upon a majority vote of the Deacon and/or Elder Board. If necessary, because of position or influence in the church, an announcement can be made to the body notifying them of the decision of removal and encouraging them to pray for restoration and repentance of the offending parties.
4. No matter will be heard by the Deacon and/or Elder Board (as representing the entire church in Matthew 18:17) unless the steps outlined above (1) and (2) have been taken, except in the case of a public offense.

DISCIPLINE OF A MEMBER ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 18:17 AND 1 CORINTHIANS 5

1. Because church purity is a biblical concept, there may be times when a member appears to be in violation of Bible commands for holy living, or to have departed from orthodox doctrinal beliefs (as stated in the Church's Doctrinal Statement, Appendix B). In such an event, when reported to an elder and/or deacon, the Elder and/or Deacon Board shall convene to review the facts and statements regarding this matter, which will include personal interviews with those involved to ascertain the facts.
2. The Board will have the authority in determining heretical deviations from the Statement of Faith and/or violations of the Membership Covenant. If a board member is the subject of a disciplinary matter, that

person shall recuse themselves from these meetings. That person will be entitled to the same steps as other Church members and be subject to the same discipline.

3. If the matter is still not resolved after the meeting with the Board, the Board shall, after prayer and consideration, vote on whether such member(s) who refuse to repent and change should be removed from the membership of Journey Church. This is complete upon a majority vote of that Board. If necessary, because of position or influence in the church, an announcement can be made to the body notifying them of the decision of removal and encouraging them to pray for restoration and repentance of the offending parties.
4. If an unrepentant offending party is removed from the Church membership, all contact with that person(s) from that point forward should be for the sake of restoration (except family members).

RESTORATION OF A MEMBER ACCORDING TO 2 CORINTHIANS 2:5-11

1. After formal repentance before the Elder Board (and any offended parties, as needed) for the sin(s) committed, demonstrated in satisfactory evidences through a change in lifestyle.
2. In conjunction with repentance, a private vote by the Elder Board will determine if reinstatement should be granted, and that it is in the best interests of the body for this person to be reinstated as a member. A two-thirds majority of the Elders vote is required for reinstatement.
3. In some cases, even with genuine repentance and a desire to make matters right, reinstating a person as a member might cause potential problems or division. In the case where reinstatement is not deemed in the best interests of the church, the person seeking reinstatement will not become a member but may be granted a letter of recommendation to another church of like-faith, whereby preserving the unity of the church in the opinion of the Elder Board.

The procedures provided in this section are based on *Matt. 18:15-20; Rom. 16:17-18; I Cor. 5:1-13; 2 Cor. 2:1-11; Gal. 6:1; I Thess. 5:14; 2 Thess. 3:6, 10-15; I Tim. 5:19-20; and Titus 3:10-11.*