

## **Leadership and Decision Making**

Shepherd of the Mountains is part of a denomination that “is not an ecclesiastical government, exercising legislative or coercive powers” concerning its member congregations and leaders. However, our voluntary association includes our agreement to respect and honor decisions made by the denomination regarding the understanding of the teachings of Scripture and the historical Confessions. Shepherd of the Mountains operates according to our own constitution and bylaws and articles of Incorporation which establishes an orderly way of making decisions and determines which individuals or entities in the congregation (e.g., the Pastor and Board of Directors and Elders) will have authority to act on behalf of the congregation in specific circumstances. Our Constitution and bylaws govern our decision-making and policies. A copy is available upon request.

## **Church Membership**

The membership of this Church shall be composed of individuals who are believers and followers of the Lord Jesus Christ and affirm the tenets of our faith, the primacy and authority of the scriptures, the doctrinal foundation of the Confessions, our Church Constitution, and who offer evidence, by their confession and their conduct, that they are living in accord with their affirmations and this Constitution and Bylaws, and are actively pursuing and continuing in a vital fellowship with the Lord, Jesus Christ. The Leadership Team of this Church shall have final authority in all matters of church governance, as set forth and described in the Bylaws. Membership is achieved through a public affirmation of faith, through baptism into Jesus Christ, and/or by participation in an intentional training session with the Pastor and Leaders of Shepherd of the Mountains that gives an overview of our church’s purpose,