

InterFaith Alliance of the Southwest

Bylaws

Originally adopted: March 13, 2006

Amended: June 12, 2026

PREAMBLE

In our Border region a diversity of faith communities and spiritual traditions exist which give us the opportunity to learn about our unique beliefs and practices so as to foster meaningful relationships with one another.

ARTICLE 1: NAME

The name of this organization is **InterFaith Alliance of the Southwest**, hereafter referred to as **IFASW**. It is a Texas nonprofit corporation recognized as tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes.

ARTICLE 2: MISSION

The InterFaith Alliance of the Southwest, earnestly seeks to:

- ❖ Offer opportunities to promote mutual understanding and respect through education and dialogue,
- ❖ Cooperate from the perspective of our faith traditions to address the issues that impact our region, especially those that affect vulnerable populations within our community.
- ❖ Work together for a brighter and more peaceful future.
- ❖ Strengthen our commitment to be good neighbors through recognizing and affirming our spiritual and cultural richness.

ARTICLE 3: ASSOCIATIONS

IFASW functions as a board-governed nonprofit without statutory voting members; however, it does maintain associations as described below.

Faith Leaders Association

- Clergy or faith leaders of houses of worship or faith communities
- In lieu of a clergy person or faith leader, a lay representative designated by a house of worship or faith community,
- The leaders of community organizations, whose purpose is consistent with the mission and purpose of IFASW
- Retired clergy or faith leaders.

Community Associations

- Community Associations may be formed by the IFASW Council as interest arises for all who are not part of the Faith Leaders Association. Associations may be formed around age, gender and specific interest. Faith Leaders will be encouraged to participate in these Associations also.

The IFASW Council will have the authority to establish and define other categories of associations and determine policies regarding participation and non-participation.

ARTICLE 4: ANNUAL REPORTING

At the conclusion of each fiscal year, IFASW will prepare an annual report summarizing the organization's activities, accomplishments, and areas identified for growth or improvement during the preceding year. This report will be shared with all active participants and made publicly available through IFASW communication channels and social media platforms. Participants will be encouraged to offer recommendations, future ideas, and feedback to support the continued growth and improvement of IFASW.

ARTICLE 5: COUNCIL

The governing authority will be the IFASW Council. The IFASW Council will be composed, to the greatest extent possible, of representatives from diverse faith traditions and organizations. Prior to July 1 of each year, the current Council will receive nominations and select new members to fill positions vacated by members completing their terms and rotating off the Council. The new members will begin their term on July 1 of each year. The Council will consist of no fewer than five (5) and no more than ten (10) members. Each Council member will serve a two (2) year term, with two renewals possible for a maximum of six (6) consecutive years of service. The Council will implement a system for rotation. Any Council member or Officer may be removed by two-thirds vote of the remaining Council members.

Officers of the Council are President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Officers are selected by the Council from among its members and serve two (2) year terms which are renewable for no more than three (3) consecutive terms; however, an exception may be made if no one else is willing or available to serve in the position.

The Council will appoint an Executive Director who will work in close partnership with the President of the Council to support the mission, operations, and overall functioning of IFASW. The Executive Director may serve as either an employee or a long-term volunteer in an ongoing administrative capacity. Any additional staff positions, whether paid or volunteer, will operate under the supervision and guidance of the Executive Director.

The Executive Director will attend Council meetings as a collaborative partner in the organization's work, providing operational updates, administrative support, and guidance related to ongoing programs and initiatives. The Executive Director will serve under the supervision and direction of the Council and may be relieved of their duties by the Council if circumstances warrant such action and it is determined to be in the best interest of IFASW.

The Council will meet three times per year or more often if determined necessary. Meeting times will be determined by polling the current members. Special meetings may be held at any time at the Council's discretion.

The President will preside at all meetings of the Council and the Vice-President will assume the responsibilities of the President in the event of the President's absence or inability to perform her or his duties. The President will provide leadership to the Council and support implementation of Council priorities, including carrying out the IFASW's goals and policies.

The Secretary will be responsible for overseeing the taking of Minutes at all Council meetings and will make all records available to those requesting them. The Secretary will also oversee all legal issues requiring documentation.

The Treasurer will assist in the preparation of the budget once determined as needed, present a financial report at each Council meeting, and will make financial information available to the Council, participants and the public upon request. Two other Council members will be designated for signing of checks and the Council will establish a policy for all financial matters.

Quorum will consist of a majority of current Council members. Decisions will be made through consensus but if a vote is necessary each member will have one (1) vote and a simple majority of those present will be used. No proxies or absentee ballots will be permitted. The Executive Director will serve as a non-voting ex officio participant in Council meetings.

Electronic voting as defined in IFASW's electronic communication policy is permitted when a meeting with quorum is not possible or when decisions must be made by the Council members between called meetings.

In the case of a vacancy, the President may recommend a candidate, subject to approval by a majority vote of the Council. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the President before the completion of a term, the Council with a majority vote will appoint a successor to serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

ARTICLE 6: INDEMNIFICATION

To the fullest extent permitted by Texas law, IFASW will indemnify and hold harmless its Council members, officers, employees, volunteers, and agents against expenses, judgments, fines, settlements, and other liabilities reasonably incurred in connection with their service to the organization, provided such individuals acted in good faith and in a manner reasonably believed to be in the best interests of IFASW. Indemnification will not apply in cases involving willful misconduct, fraud, gross negligence, or actions prohibited by law.

ARTICLE 7: ORGANIZING TEAMS

At the discretion of the IFASW Council any number of Organizing Teams may be formed to carry out the mission, vision and goals of IFASW through events and other actions. Team members may be anyone involved and actively participating in IFASW. The Council will facilitate the work of each team.

ARTICLE 8: FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year will begin on July 1 and end on June 30.

ARTICLE 9: AMENDMENTS

The Bylaws may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) of the Council members present at a meeting where quorum is established. A copy of the amended bylaws will be shared with participants and made available publicly. Electronic voting may be utilized if a meeting is not possible in accord with IFASW's policy.

ARTICLE 10: EFFECTIVE DATE

These Bylaws will be effective immediately upon adoption.

ARTICLE 11: DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution of IFASW, any remaining assets shall be distributed by the Council to one or more nonprofit organizations with missions substantially similar to that of IFASW and that qualify as tax-exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.