

Church Constitution and By-Laws

Preamble

So that all things may be done decently and in order in accordance with the accepted tenets of other churches of like precious faith, and that we more readily help each other in our Christian service, we declare and establish this constitution to which we voluntarily submit ourselves.

Article I Name and Purpose

Section 1 – Name

This congregation of believers shall be known as New Life Baptist Ministries.

Section 2 – Purpose

- A. This congregation is organized as a church, exclusively for religious, charitable, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), including, but not limited to, the establishing and maintaining of religious worship; the building, maintaining and operating of churches, parsonages, schools, chapels, radio stations, television stations, rescue missions, print shops, day-care centers, camps, nursing homes, and cemeteries, and any other ministries that the corporation may be led of God to establish. The period of duration for the corporation is perpetual.
- B. The church shall also ordain and license men to the Gospel ministry; evangelize the unsaved by the proclaiming of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; educate believers in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Holy Scripture, both in Sunday and weekday schools of Christian education; maintain missionary activities in the United States and any foreign country; and engage in any other ministry that the church may decide, from time to time, to pursue in obedience to the will of God.

Article II Statement of Faith and Covenant

(Please see document so titled)

Article III Membership

Section 1 – Qualifications for Membership

Upon decision of the officers of the church, membership shall be extended to all who have had and whose lives evidence a genuine experience of regeneration through faith in the acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior; who renounce sin; who endeavor to live a consecrated life wholly unto the Lord; who fully subscribe to the statement of faith contained herein; and who enter into the church covenant contained herein; and upon compliance with any one of the following conditions;

- (a) By baptism (immersion) as a true believer as Christ Jesus as personal Savior;
- (b) By letter of transfer from another Bible-believing church of like faith and practice, or other written statement of good standing from the prior church if the applicant has been baptized by immersion subsequent to a profession of faith;
- (c) By testimony of faith, having been baptized by immersion; or
- (d) By restoration, if having been removed from membership, upon majority vote of the congregation after confession is made before the church and satisfactory evidence of repentance.

Section 2 – Duties of a Member

On becoming a member of this church, in addition to the covenant contained in Article II, Section 3, each one further covenants to love, honor, and esteem the pastor; to pray for him; and to recognize his authority in spiritual affairs of the church; to cherish a brotherly love for all members of the church; to support the church in prayer, tithes, offerings and with other financial support as the Lord enables; and in accordance with Biblical commands to support, through a life-style walk, affirmation of the beliefs and practices of the church.

Section 3 – Privileges of Membership

This congregation functions, not as a pure democracy, but as a body under the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ and the direction of the pastor as the under-shepherd with the counsel of the board of directors. Membership in this church does not afford those individuals with any property, contract, or civil rights based on the principles of democratic government. Determination of internal affairs of this church are ecclesiastical matters and shall be determined exclusively by the church's own rules and procedures. The pastor shall oversee and/or conduct all aspects of this church. The directors/deacons shall give counsel and assistance to the pastor as requested by him. The membership of the church has certain limited areas of exercising a vote. Members may not vote to initiate any church action, but rather the vote of a member is to confirm and ratify the direction of the church as determined by the pastor.

Section 4 – Discipline of a Member

- (a) All disciplinary action shall be solely in the hands of the pastor of the church. He shall have sole authority in determining heretical deviations from the statement of faith and violations of the church covenant. If the pastor is the subject of a disciplinary matter, the issue and its determination shall be reached by the board of directors. He shall be entitled to the same steps as other church members and be subject to the same discipline.
- (b) Members are expected to demonstrate special loyalty and concern for one another. When a member becomes aware of an offense of such magnitude that it hinders spiritual growth and testimony, the individual is to go alone to the offending party and seek to restore the said party. Before going, one should first examine oneself and should then go with a spirit of humility and have the goal of restoration.
- (c) If reconciliation is not reached, the pastor is then to accompany the one seeking resolution.
- (d) If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in subsections (b) and (c) have been taken, a disciplinary committee as the church representatives biblically responsible for the putting down of murmuring, shall be formed and shall hear the matter. If the matter still remains unresolved after meeting with the discipline committee, the committee shall recommend that the members of the church each after self-examination, make an effort personally to go to the offending member and seek that member's restoration.
- (e) If the matter continues to remain unresolved after these steps have been taken, the offending member or members shall be removed from the membership of the church upon a majority vote of the members present at a meeting called for the purpose of considering the matter.
- (f) No matter may be heard by the discipline committee or the church unless the steps outlined in subsections (b) and (c) have been taken.

Section 5 – Transfer of Membership

Members not under the disciplinary process of Section 4 may request that letters of transfer be sent to another church.

Section 6 – Termination of Membership

- (a) The membership of any individual member shall be automatically terminated without notice if the member in question has not attended a regular worship service of the church in the preceding six months. Upon good cause being shown to the pastor, this provision for termination may be waived in the case of any individual member at the discretion of the pastor.
- (b) No member of this church may hold joint membership with another church. If any member unites in membership with another church that person is automatically terminated without notice from the membership of this church.
- (c) A member of the church may resign at any time, but no letter of transfer or written statement of good standing will be issued upon such resignation, except at the discretion of the pastor.