

# **NEW LIFE COMMUNITY**

## **Constitution and By-Laws**

Adopted September 13, 2003

7197 Craft Road  
Olive Branch, Mississippi 38654  
(662) 893-2722

# **NEW LIFE COMMUNITY Constitution and By-Laws**

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	<b>PAGE</b>
<b>Preamble</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Article I – Name</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Article II – Purpose</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Article III – Beliefs</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Article IV – Government</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Article V – Membership</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Article VI – Ministries, Committees, and Auxiliaries</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Article VII – Annual Accounting Period</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Article VIII – Amendment of the Constitution and Bylaws</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Article IX – Dissolution of the Corporation</b>	<b>10</b>

# **NEW LIFE COMMUNITY**

## **Constitution and By-Laws**

### **PREAMBLE**

WHEREAS, It is the express purpose of God, our heavenly Father, to call out of the world a saved people, who shall constitute the Body or Church of Jesus Christ, built and established upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone; and

WHEREAS, The members of the body, the Church of Jesus Christ, are enjoined to assemble themselves together for worship, fellowship, counsel and instruction in the Word of God and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and ministries as set forth in the New Testament;

BE IT RESOLVED, That we recognize ourselves as a body of Christian believers according to the Scriptural plan for the local assembly, in order that we may worship God as a united body and do hereby adopt these Articles of Constitution and By-Laws and agree to be governed by them.

### **ARTICLE I – NAME**

The name of this corporation is “New Life Community”; a non-profit organization (hereinafter spoken of as the Congregation) as incorporated under the Laws of the State of Mississippi, and its duration shall be perpetual.

### **ARTICLE II – PURPOSE**

This non-profit corporation is organized and operated exclusively for the religious purposes of a church within the meaning of Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, of the United States of America. In furtherance of it’s nonprofit, tax-exempt purposes, the corporation shall have the following powers and authority: to advance the kingdom of God through funding and execution of evangelism, programs for outreach, disciple making, worship, preaching, education, equipping, community service, charitable acts and programs, planting new congregations, and world missions in, around, and beyond Olive Branch, Mississippi. However, the corporation shall not be empowered, and is prohibited from engaging in any activity that is not allowed pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, of the United States of America.

## **ARTICLE III – BELIEFS**

The Congregation is committed to the historic Christian faith as summarized in the following statements:

- A. We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God and inerrant in the original writings.
- B. We believe there is one God, infinite in His perfections and eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- C. We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father and in His personal return in power and glory.
- D. We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit, repentance towards God, and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are essential.
- E. We believe in the holy ordinance of water baptism after conversion, by immersion, which signifies the believer's death, burial, and resurrection into new life in Christ Jesus.
- F. We believe in the present ministry, baptism, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, by Whom the Christian is enabled to live a godly life and empowered for service.
- G. We believe in the establishment, increase, universal extent, and ultimate triumph of the kingdom of God.
- H. We believe in the unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.
- I. We believe that the ascended Christ has given gifts to the church, (i.e. apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers) and that these gifts in present operation are necessary for the equipping of Christians unto service and for the maturity of the church unto fullness in Christ.
- J. We believe Christian disciples should be joined together as a spiritual family in local congregations for corporate worship, training, evangelism, service to one another in love, discipleship, and effective influence in the community.
- K. We believe local congregations of disciples are to be governed by elders in conjunction with apostolic oversight and ministry.
- L. We believe in the holy covenant of marriage which may only be between one man and one woman. Homosexual conduct is therefore specifically considered to be sinful and grounds for church discipline.
- M. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, in physical and spiritual eternal fellowship with God for the saved, and in eternal damnation and punishment for the lost.

## ARTICLE IV – GOVERNMENT

### A. The Headship of Christ

The government of the Congregation shall be founded upon the apostle and high priest of our confession, Jesus Christ. Everyone in authority shall seek His mind and will, through His Spirit and the Word of God in all actions and decisions.

### B. Government by Elders and Apostles

The Congregation shall be governed by elders along with the apostle(s) with whom the Congregation is in relationship. The recognized apostle(s) of the Congregation shall be part of the eldership. The elders and apostles who serve under Christ in governing the Congregation shall lead with humility as well as appreciation for and appropriate consideration of the collective wisdom and faith of the Congregation especially in the process of making major decisions.

### C. Governing Apostle

#### 1. Recognition of the Office:

- a. There are many apostles, and the church shall be free to benefit from their various ministries from time to time. However, as in a large family where there may be many individuals who care for the family and are dearly loved and respected, there is one, who, as the father, carries a unique role of responsibility and authority toward his part of that family. In the same way, we acknowledge that God has provided a specific man, an apostle, to carry that distinct responsibility and godly authority as a means of God expressing an aspect of His fatherhood towards the church.
- b. Accordingly, the governing apostle shall be defined as that apostolic minister recognized by the elders as being the man that God has appointed to uniquely carry a line of spiritual government and oversight to this congregation.

#### 2. Terms of the Office: Any change in the apostolic line of government shall be with the involvement, counsel and release of the governing apostle except in the case of the death of the governing apostle or his scriptural disqualification from ministry.

- a. In the absence of a governing apostle, the Board of Directors shall prayerfully seek to establish covering and apostolic relationship.
- b. Until such relationship with a new governing apostle is recognized, the Board of Directors shall function with the authority of that office as necessary.

#### 3. Powers of the Office: The governing apostle shall have powers to determine the size of the Board of Directors (not to be less than three), shall appoint the Chairman of the Board, and shall designate those elders who will serve as members of the Board.

### D. Elders

1. Appointment of the Office: Elders shall be appointed when necessary by the governing apostle in consultation with the elders of this and other local, affiliated congregations.
2. Qualifications of the Office: Elders shall be qualified by the unchanging standards of Scripture.

3. Duties of the Office: The function of elders is to equip, encourage, and direct the affairs of the church. Elders shall insure that the integrity of doctrine, practice and purity of the church be in accordance with the unchanging standards of Christ as set forth in Scripture. Elders shall insure faithfulness to the apostolic doctrinal foundations on which the church is established. Elders shall have all authority necessary to effectively execute these duties.
4. Term of the Office: The term of eldership is perpetual excepting the following:
  - a. He tenders his resignation to the apostle(s) and the body of affiliated local elders.
  - b. He ceases to function as an elder of the Congregation.
  - c. The apostle(s) and elder(s) of this and other affiliated local congregations deem it best for the welfare of the Congregation that he be removed or replaced.
  - d. He is found to be disqualified on Scriptural grounds and thereby removed from office by the apostle(s) and other elder(s)
5. Powers of the Office:
  - a. Power to appoint Deacons: The elders shall appoint deacons to serve as necessary and shall do so with the leading of the Holy Spirit and prayer. Deacons must qualify by the unchanging standards of Scripture.
  - b. Corporate Powers: The elders shall have the authority to conduct all church corporate business. The elders will have responsibility for the day to day conduct of business including but not limited to the following:
    - 1) To, along with other governing elders, select and remove all other officers, agents, and employees of the corporation, prescribe such powers and duties for them as may not be inconsistent with law, the Articles of Incorporation or the by-laws, fix their compensation, and require from them faithful service.
    - 2) To conduct, manage, and control the business affairs of the corporation, and to make rules and regulations not inconsistent with law, the Articles of Incorporation, or the By-laws.
    - 3) To, with a written corporate resolution from the officers of the corporation, borrow money, and incur indebtedness for the purpose of the corporation and for that purpose to execute and deliver, in the corporate name, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, deeds of trust, mortgages, pledges, or other evidence of debt and securities.
  - c. Other Powers: All other governmental powers and responsibilities not named shall rest with the elder(s) or those upon whom they have bestowed authority to act on their behalf.

E. Board of Directors

1. The Board of Directors shall consist of certain designated elders and/or apostles.
2. The governing apostle shall appoint the Chairman and members of the Board, and the governing apostle shall determine their terms of service.

3. The Board shall be headed by the Chairman of the Board, and shall include a Vice-Chairman.
4. The Board of Directors as the governing body of elders shall have the power to appoint Officers of the Corporation, including the President, Vice President, and any such offices, as they deem necessary.
5. The Board of Directors shall hold an annual meeting for the purpose of organization, appointment of officers and the transaction of other business.

F. Corporate Officers

1. Definition: Officers of the Corporation are those officers, be they men or women, elders or non-elders, who are appointed by the Board of Directors to serve the Board by, but not limited to the following activities:
  - a. Conducting the business of the corporation on behalf of the Board of Directors,
  - b. Serving as stewards over the financial integrity of the corporation,
  - c. Keeping records of the corporation,
  - d. Giving periodic accounts of the finances, business and general condition of the corporation to the Board of Directors,
  - e. And such other powers and duties as may be prescribed to them from time to time by the Board of Directors.
2. Appointment of Officers:
  - a. The Board of Directors shall appoint all Officers of the Corporation and shall determine their terms of service.
  - b. Elders that are members of the Board shall not be excluded from also serving as Officers of the Corporation.
  - c. Officers of the corporation shall be a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer, and such other officers as the Board of Directors may appoint. One person, other than the president or the vice-president, may hold more than one of these offices.
  - d. A vacancy in any office because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or otherwise shall be filled by appointment of the Board of Directors.
3. Description of Offices:
  - a. President: The President shall have general supervision of the affairs of the corporation within the scope defined by the Board of Directors.
    - 1) He shall preside at all meetings of the Officers of the Corporation, and shall have such other powers and duties as may be prescribed from time to time by the Board of Directors.
    - 2) It shall be the duty of the President to compile an annual report of the corporation within 90 days of the close of each fiscal year.
      - (a) The Annual Report shall be available to the Board of Directors and to members of the Congregation in good standing who so request a copy.
      - (b) The Annual Report shall include:

- i. Financial statements that report the assets, liabilities, receipts, and disbursements of the Congregation,
    - ii. A list of the Board of Directors and Officers of the Corporation,
    - iii. An updated Membership Roll for the Congregation,
    - iv. A list of elders, deacons and the governing apostle. Any changes in the line of government, either of elders or of the governing apostle, shall be noted in the report,
    - v. Any changes to the Constitution and By-Laws.
  - b. Vice-President: In the absence or disability of the president, the vice-president shall perform all the duties of the president and in so acting shall have all the powers of the president. The vice-president shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed from time to time by the Board of Directors.
  - c. Secretary: The secretary shall be keep and maintain a full and complete record of all proceedings of the officers of the corporation, and shall discharge such other duties of the office as prescribed by the president and/or the Board of Directors.
  - d. Treasurer: The treasurer shall receive and safely keep all funds of the corporation and deposit them in the bank or banks that may be designated by the Board of Directors. Those funds shall be paid out only on checks of the corporation signed by the president, vice-president, secretary or treasurer, or by such officers as may be designated by the Board of Directors.
4. Annual Meeting: The Officers of the Corporation shall at minimum hold a regular annual meeting for the purpose of organization, review and the transaction of other business.

#### G. Indemnification of Directors and Officers

The corporation may, to the maximum extent permitted by law, indemnify each of its' directors and officers against expenses, judgments, fines, settlements and other amounts actually and reasonably incurred in connection with any proceeding arising by reason of the fact any such person is or was a director or officer of the corporation and shall advance to such director or officer expenses incurred in defending any such proceeding to the maximum extent permitted by such law.

#### H. Trustees

The Officers shall constitute the trustees of the corporation.

#### I. Paid Ministry Staff and Employees

1. Job Description: The President shall define the duties of paid ministry staff and employees.
2. Their Appointment: The president shall appoint and the Board of Directors shall approve of paid ministry staff and other congregation employees.
3. Compensation: The compensation of ministry staff and congregation employees shall be specified by the President and must be ratified by the Board of Directors prior to the commencement of employment.



4. Termination: The President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall have the power to terminate any staff member.

## **ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP**

### **A. Qualifications**

New Life Community, as a part of God’s greater church, recognizes as members of this congregation those who...

1. Have repented from their sins and confessed faith in the vicarious death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
2. Have acknowledged Jesus Christ alone as Lord and Savior.
3. Have confessed their faith through water baptism by immersion after conversion.
4. Voluntarily submit to the spiritual oversight and direction of the elders and apostolic leadership of this congregation.
5. Commit to faithfully attend, joyfully participate, and financially support the ministry and life of the congregation.
6. Believe that God has joined them to this congregation as their spiritual family, this belief being mutually shared and communicated by the leadership of the congregation.

**B. Membership Roll:** The corporate officers will periodically update the active membership rolls in accordance with its’ requirements for membership.

**C. Access to Information:** Upon request, the officers of the Corporation shall make available a copy of the annual report or any other non-confidential financial records of the Congregation to any member in good standing.

### **D. Discipline of Members**

1. Conduct contrary to Scripture, as determined by the eldership, shall be sufficient grounds for church discipline.
2. The steps for discipline and any reinstatement of members shall be consistent with the instructions given in the New Testament.

## **ARTICLE VI – MINISTRIES, COMMITTEES and AUXILIARIES**

Any organization, group or club whose participants are primarily from the Congregation and engage in activities normally considered to be church activities shall be considered an auxiliary of the Congregation and shall be subject to the Constitution and By-laws of the Congregation. An auxiliary organization shall exist only with the approval of and in submission to the Elders.

## **ARTICLE VII – ANNUAL ACCOUNTING PERIOD**

The annual accounting period for this corporation shall begin on the first day of January and shall end on the last day of December.

## **ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

The Constitution and By-laws may be amended or repealed by the unanimous vote of the members of the Board of Directors subject to ratification by a simple majority vote of the members in good standing of the Congregation. Any such changes to the Constitution and By-Laws shall be included in the Annual Report.

## **ARTICLE IX – DISSOLUTION OF THE CORPORATION**

### **A. Dissolution**

Dissolution of the corporation will be determined by a unanimous decision of the Board of Directors and ratified by a simple majority vote of the membership of the Congregation.

### **B. Payment of Debts and Distribution of Remaining Assets**

In the event of the dissolution of the corporation, the Board of Directors shall pay all liabilities from the assets of the corporation. Any remaining assets shall be distributed to other like Religious or charitable institution(s) in compliance with section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.