

Constitution and Bylaws

New Life Community Church of Garden City, KS, Inc.

Constitution

Preamble

WHEREAS, it is the express purpose of God our Heavenly Father to call out of the world a saved people who shall contribute to the Body of Christ, built and established on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the Chief Cornerstone.

WHEREAS, the members of the Body of Christ are enjoined to assemble themselves together for worship, fellowship, counsel, and instruction in the Word of God and the work of the ministry and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices provided for in the New Testament, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that we recognize ourselves as a body of Christian believers working together for the common purpose of spreading the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and that under the laws of the State of Kansas we may exercise all the rights and privileges granted to religious bodies.

Article I Name

The name of this corporation shall be New Life Community Church of Garden City, KS, Inc.

Article II Purpose

The purpose of this corporation shall be:

1. To establish and oversee places of worship under the guidance of the Holy Spirit (Titus 1:5; Ps. 107:3; Acts 2:42, 46, 47; Heb. 10:25)
2. To create departments as may be necessary in order to establish places of worship, to spread the Gospel by all necessary means, and to support other religious activity as deemed necessary by the Board of Elders to further our exempt purposes (Matt. 28:19, 20)
3. To have the right to won, hold in trust, use, possess, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or dispose of such property, real or chattel, as may be needed for the prosecution of its work.
4. To license and ordain ministers of the Gospel and be their covering (1 Thess. 5:12; 2 Thess. 2:15; 3:4; Heb. 13:17)

Article III Tenets of Faith

The human phraseology employed in this statement is not inspired nor contended for, but the truth set forth is held to be essential to a full Gospel ministry. No claim is made that it contains all the truth in the Bible, only that it covers orthodox fundamental matters.

The Scriptures Inspired

The Bible is the inspired Word of God, a revelation from God to men, the infallible rule of faith and conduct, and superior to conscience and reason, but not contrary to reason (2 Tim. 3:15-17; 1 Pet. 1:23-25; Heb. 4:12)

The One True God

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent, self-revealed “I AM,” and has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association, by simultaneously existing as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Deut. 6:4; Mark 12:29; Isa. 43:10, 11; Matt. 28:19)

Man’s Fall and Redemption

Man was created good and upright, for God said, “Let us make man in our image and after our likeness.” Man, by voluntary transgression, fell, and his only hope of redemption is in Jesus Christ, the Son of God (Gen. 1:26-31; Gen. 3:17; Ro. 5:12-21).

The Salvation of Man **Conditions of Salvation**

The Grace of God, which brings salvation, has appeared to all men, through the preaching of repentance toward God and through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; man is saved by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, and being justified by grace, has become heir of God according to the hope of eternal life (Titus 2:11; 3:5-7; Ro. 10:13-15; Luke 24:47).

Evidences of Salvation

The inward evidence to the believer of his/her salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit (Ro. 8:16). The outward evidence to all men is a life of holiness (1 Thess. 4:7; 2 Tim 1:9).

Baptism in Water

The ordinance of baptism by burial with Christ should be observed as commanded in the Scriptures by all that have repented of their sins and have believed on Christ as their Savior and Lord. In doing so, they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they have also been released to walk with Him in newness of life (Matt. 28:19; Ro. 6:4).

The Lord’s Supper (Communion)

The Lord’s Supper, consisting of the elements bread and fruit of the vine, is the symbol expressing our sharing in a memorial to His suffering and death, and a prophecy of His second coming, and is enjoined to all believers “until He comes” (John 6:48, 51, 53-57; Luke 22:19, 20; 2 Pet. 1:4; 1 Cor. 11:25).

This statement of faith is not intended in any sense as a substitute for the Word of God. The Bible shall be first and final in all matters.

The Holy Scriptures

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God; that it was written by individuals who were moved by the Holy Spirit so that their writings, in the original, were supernaturally, verbally, and completely inspired, free from error, as no other writings have ever been or ever will be. The Bible (39 Old Testament and 27 New Testament Books) is a God-breathed treasure of the complete and final revelation of the will of God to man, and is the only absolute authority in all matters of faith and conduct. God has preserved His Word through the ages, so that it is completely trustworthy and eternal. See Matt. 24:35; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21.

The Godhead

We believe that there is only one true God, existing eternally in three distinct but equal persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. This uniquely Divine unity best described as a “tri-unity.” See Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19-29; 2 Cor. 13:14.

- A. God the Father** We believe in God the Father who is perfect in holiness, boundless in love, infinite in wisdom, measureless in power. We believe that He is active in the affairs of men and that He hears and answers prayers, that He elects and saves from sin all who will come to Him through Jesus Christ His Son. See Lev. 11:44; Psalm 139; Dan. 2:21; 4:17; 1 Pet. 1:2; 1 Cor. 8:6.
- B. God the Son** We believe in Jesus Christ, God the Son, pre-existent with the Father, conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, without human father, truly God and truly man, sinless in His life and nature, infallible in His teaching, providing salvation for the sins of the world by His substitutionary death on the cross. We believe in His bodily resurrection, His ascension to the Father’s right hand where He presently and continually intercedes for His people, and in His glorious and personal Second Coming. See John 8:58; 10:30-33; Col. 1:14-18; Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:23; Heb. 4:15; 7:26; Eph. 1:7; 1 John 2:2; Matt. 20:28; 2 Cor. 5:19-21; 1 Cor. 15:20; Acts 1:11; Rev. 19:11-16.
- C. God the Holy Spirit** We believe in the deity and person of the Holy Spirit. We believe He came from God to convict, to regenerate, to baptize, to indwell, to sanctify, to seal, to fill, to dispense spiritual gifts, and to comfort those who believe in Jesus Christ. See John 14:26; Acts 5:3-4; John 16:8-11; Titus 3:5; 1 Cor. 12:12-13; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; Eph. 1:13; 5:18; 1 Cor. 12:11.

The Creation

We believe the Genesis account of creation to be completely accurate and literal; all things being the result of the direct creation of God without any evolutionary process whatsoever. See Genesis 1, 2; John 1:3; Col. 1:15-18.

Satan

We believe in the reality and person of Satan, the Devil; that he was created by God as an angel, but through pride and rebellion became the enemy of the Creator; that he became the unholy prince and power of the air, and that he is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the Lake of Fire. See Isa. 14:12-14; 2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 6:11-14; Rev. 20:10.

Man

We believe that man according to the Scripture, was created a moral being in the image and likeness of God; who through an act of voluntary disobedience, fell from his original sinless state. Consequently, the entire human race, having fallen in Adam, have been found guilty, are now sinners, depraved in nature, unable to redeem themselves, void of holiness, inclined to evil, and hopeless apart from Divine grace. See Gen. 1:26-28; Gen. 3; Rom. 3:9-23; 5:12.

Salvation

We believe that the salvation of sinners, to be initiated by God, is completely by grace, through faith, plus nothing. The basis of the sinner's salvation is the finished work of Jesus Christ, who became the sinner's substitute before God, providing the only acceptable sacrifice for the sins of the whole world, and that all who by faith and repentance of sin receive Him as their personal Savior, are justified by God, and are born again by the Holy Spirit, thereby becoming the children of God. See Eph. 2:8-9; John 3:16; Heb. 9:26; 1 John 2:2; Acts 16:31; John 1:12.

Justification

We believe that justification is the means by which God declares righteous the sinner. Thus, it is God's gracious and full acquittal of every sinner who will believe on Christ. The source of justification is the grace of God, the basis of justification is the shed blood of the lord Jesus Christ, and the means of justification is through faith. See 2 Cor. 5:21; Rom. 3:24; 5:9; 5:1; Titus 3:7.

Eternal Security

We believe that all who are justified by Jesus Christ are saved forever and cannot lose their salvation. Nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. See John 3:16; 10:28-29; Rom. 8:35-39; 2 Tim. 1:12; Titus 1:2; 1 John 5:11-13.

Sanctification

We believe that sanctification is the divine setting apart of the believer unto God, accomplished in a threefold manner; first, upon redemption the believer is given a position of holiness which places him "in Christ;" second it is a continuing process by which the Holy Spirit through application of the Word of God, causes a believer to grow into his spiritual maturity; and third, the final work of sanctification takes place when the Lord returns and will ultimately be made like Him. See Rom. 8:15-17; 1 Thess. 4:3; 1 John 3:2.

The Church

We believe the local church is an organized congregation of immersed believers, observing the ordinances of the local church--baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper. We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government; free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations, and that Christ alone is the Head of the Church. We believe that each local church is the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation with other biblical groups; and that on all matters of membership, of procedure, of government, of discipline (1 Cor. 5:1-3), of benevolence, that the will of the local church is final. We also do hereby believe that the local church is to meet together for the purposes of worship, instruction in doctrine, fellowship, and the evangelization of the lost. We believe likewise that the Body of Christ is composed of those who have true faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. See Acts 2:41-42; Matt. 28:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:2; 5:1-3; Eph. 4:12; 1:22-23; Col. 1:18.

Last Things

We believe in the premillennial return of Christ, at which time He will literally and physically return to the earth to establish His throne and His kingdom for a period of one-thousand years where He will reign. We believe that a seven year period of tribulation, known as the Seventy Weeks of Daniel will precede the return of Christ to the earth, and that the Bride of Christ will be translated (raptured) into glory before the wrath of God's judgment is poured out upon the earth. The Rapture of the Church is the moment for which every member of the Church should prepare and look toward. It is the Blessed hope of every born-again believer. See Isa. 11:4-9; Rev. 19:11-20; 6; Matt. 24:3-46; 2 Thess. 2; Dan. 9:24-27; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; John 14:1-3; Titus 2:11-14; 1 Cor. 15:51-58.

The Eternal State

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all the dead, the saved or righteous to eternal life, and the unsaved or wicked to eternal condemnation and punishment. We believe that the spirit of the believer at death passes immediately into the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that the spirit of the unsaved passes immediately upon death in conscious misery and torment until the final judgment, at which time those names not written in Lamb's book of life will be cast eternally into the Lake of Fire. See John 5:28-29; Luke 16:19-26; Rev. 20:5, 6, 11-15; 2 Cor. 5:8, 10; Phil. 1:23.

Separation

We believe that in obedience to biblical commands we are to separate ourselves unto God and from all worldliness and false religious systems. See 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; 1 Thess. 1:9-10; 1 Tim. 6:3-5; Rom. 16:17; 2 John 9-11.

The Home, the Church, and Civil Government

We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: 1) the home, 2) the church, and 3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word, God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The home, the church, and the state are equal and sovereign in their respective Biblically-assigned spheres of responsibility under God. See Eph. 5:22-24; Rom. 13:1-7; Matt. 22:21; Acts 4:19, 10; 5:29; 1 Pet. 2:13-14; Heb. 13:17.

Human Sexuality

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity should be engaged in outside of a marriage between one man and one woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful uses of God's gift of sex. See GEN. 2:24; 19:5, 13; 26:8, 9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom 1:26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4.

Divorce and Remarriage

We believe that God hates divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Divorce and remarriage are regarded as adultery except on the ground of fornication or desertion. Those individuals having been divorced for a biblical reason (fornication or desertion) or those having lost a spouse to death are biblically

free to remarry. Divorced and remarried persons or divorced persons may hold positions of service in the church and be greatly used of God for His service. See Mal. 2:14-17; Matt. 19:3-12; Rom. 7:1-3; 1 Cor. 7:1-7.

Abortion

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion is murder. Just like other sin God's forgives and uses those who may have sought and had an abortion. See Job 3:16; Psa. 51:5; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44.

Resolving Conflict Between Believers

We believe that Christians are directed not to bring lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the church possesses all resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between its members. We believe the ultimate goal is to resolve the conflict and to bring glory to God by the restoration of relationships. See 1 Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31, 32.

Missions

We believe that God has given the church a Great Commission to proclaim the Gospel, and to make disciples, so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ, we must use every available means to go to our community and the world, not waiting for them to come to us. See Matt. 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:20.

Giving

We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to support his local church financially. We believe that every Christian should give offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all rights to direct the use of the tithe or offering once the gift has been made. See Gen. 14:20; Prov. 3:9, 10; Mark 12:41-43; Acts 4:34-37; 2 Cor. 8-9; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17.

Article IV Ordinances

Water Baptism

At New Life Community Church, we practice the ordinance of believer's baptism by immersion (Matthew 3:23) and receive members by believer's baptism (Acts 8: 36-37). It is not the intent of the Church to burden the conscience of the Christian by mode of baptism on the issue of re-baptizing or personal limitations which may prevent an individual from being immersed. An appeal, on mode of baptism, may be made in writing to the Church in these two cases. Each appeal will be reviewed by the Elder Board on a case-by-case basis. New Life does not recognize infant baptism as a legitimate form of baptism to candidate for membership. The examples we see in scripture are by immersion of believers. At New Life we do not hold that baptism is a requirement for salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9).

The Lord's Supper

The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed regularly by all established places of worship, as enjoined in the Scriptures (Luke 22:19, 20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26).

Article V Membership

I. Conditions (Requirements) of Membership

A. Regeneration

1. A confession of faith (see Article III Salvation)
2. Fruit of a changed life indicated by a hunger and thirst for the things of God including the Word, prayer, and fellowship with believers. It will continue to be evident in a heart which seeks God's grace of transformation. It is a call to continued progress in the faith.

B. Believer's Baptism (See Article III The Church)

II. The Process of Membership

A. General- It is the responsibility of the entire Church to both receive and dismiss members. Because of this the reception of new members will be presented to the Church at Church Family Meetings and Baptism Services. A prospective member may initiate the process through the Elders or be presented as a candidate at any time (i.e., morning services making a public profession that they wish to seek baptism or membership). However, the official recognition will normally be by the church at said meetings. The following are the normal means of becoming a prospective church member.

1. New Believer: Upon a profession of faith, a new believer will be presented to the church by the elders as a baptism candidate. At that time, the new believer will begin foundational discipleship which will present them with an overview of Spiritual growth, the meaning of Baptism, and the meaning of Church Membership. The new believer will then be presented at the next Baptism Service. All members at the service, by witnessing to and affirming this baptism, will welcome the new believer into the membership of the Church.
2. Transfer of Membership: Those who wish to become members of New Life Community Church who are members of an evangelical Church already will also present themselves to the Elders. Upon their testimony of faith, a letter of membership in good standing from the previous church, and recognition of the Baptism of the potential member, the prospect will be presented for membership at the next Church Family Meeting.
3. Those believers who have never submitted to believer's baptism are welcome to submit themselves for prospective membership in view of being baptized at the next Baptism Service.

Article VI Government

The government of this organization shall be under the Headship of Jesus Christ and under the direct leadership of the Holy Spirit. This leadership shall be exercised through the Board of Elders who the Lord has gifted and called as Elders. The qualifications, powers and selection process of the Elders will be set forth in the By-Laws.

Article VII Meetings

Church Services

In any established place of worship, the appointed Pastor will be responsible for regular church services.

Elders Meetings

The corporation year shall coincide with the calendar year beginning on January 1st and running through December 31st.

The Board of Elders will meet on a regular basis to discuss the direction and oversight of the church. The Elders will appoint one of them to be secretary, who shall keep an accurate account of the minutes that were discussed at any Elders meeting. The secretary then has to submit the minutes at the next Elders meeting for discussion and approval by the Elders. Upon approval by the majority of the Elders, the minutes shall be adopted, and all policy and procedure in them will continue to be enforced.

Waiver of Notice

Attendance of a Director at any meeting of the Board of Elders will constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting except where such Director attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting, at the beginning of the meeting, to the transaction of any business because the meeting is not lawfully called or convened.

Meetings by Remote Communications Technology

The Elders may also hold meetings by means of a remote electronic communications system, including video or telephone conferencing technology or the internet, or any combination, only if each person entitled to participate in the meeting consents to the meeting being held by means of that system, and the system provides access to the meeting in a manner or using a method by which each person participating in the meeting can communicate concurrently with each other participant. Participations in such a meeting shall constitute presence in person at such meeting, except participation for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business on the ground that the meeting is not lawfully called or convened.

Action by Unanimous Written Consent Without Meeting

Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Board of Elders under any provision of law may be taken without a meeting, if all members of the Board of Elders shall individually or collectively consent in writing to such action. Such written consent or consents shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Board. Such action by written consent shall have the same force and effect as the actions of the Elders when present at an Elders Meeting, in this Article.

Church Family Meetings

New Life Community Church will conduct Member Meetings called Church Family Meetings. At these meetings Prospective Members will be presented for official membership, Elders and Ministry Leaders will inform the congregation on ministry endeavors, needs, and opportunities, any financial business will be discussed, and all areas that require a congregational vote will be considered. These are times for the Body to grow in unity and mission. These meetings will be chaired by a joint effort of the Elder Team.

Article VIII Quorum

Two-thirds of the Elders at an official Elder meeting constitutes a quorum.

Article IX Ecclesiastical Power

I. Members will vote on the following business of the Church

A. Receiving and dismissing members

1. Receiving will take place as outlined under Membership above. The receiving of members will require a two-thirds majority vote.
2. Dismissing Members will proceed according to page seven of this document (Resolving Conflict between Believers). If the process according to Matthew 18 has been adhered to and a member is still unrepentant of sin, those who are involved in the dispute, offense, or accusation will arrange to be heard by the church and its members at the next Church Family Meeting. If the matter is urgent, then a special meeting may be called. All members will be notified within two weeks of special meeting by email and announcements in Church.
3. Dismissal of Members through unrepentance of sin requires an 80% vote.

B. Calling Pastoral Leadership

1. This includes Teaching Pastor, Staff Pastors, and Elders.
 - a) Upon unanimous recommendation of the Elder Board, a Teaching Pastor or Staff Pastor will be presented to the congregation for consideration. Thirty days will be given for the Members to ask any questions of the candidate or the elders and to present any biblically based reservations to the candidate that may exist. If, after the thirty days, there are no reservations, the candidate will be presented to the membership for a vote. The vote must be at least 80% in favor to call or appoint an Elder, lay or staff.
 - b) If there is a serious reason for the removal of Pastoral Leadership, whether staff or lay, the issue will be brought to the Elders for consideration. After careful investigation, if the issue is a failure in biblical qualifications, the Elders will immediately move to dismiss the Pastoral Leader by a unanimous vote of the Elders.

C. Purchasing Property and other Large Expenditures

1. Any purchasing of real estate or building projects which require expenditures in excess of \$100,000 will require an 80% members approval.

II. Votes will be according to the following criteria

- A. All votes will be open by raise of hand or verbal signal. There will be no secret votes within the Body of New Life Community Church. This is to promote trust and unity.
- B. All votes will be according to household. A household is defined by family unit living within a single home.
- C. All children still in their parents' care as members will fall under the parent's household no matter the age.
- D. Extended family who are not specifically dependents and are members will have a vote. This would mean a parent who is still independent yet living with their children to help in minor ways will have a vote. This includes the situation where two members are roommates and are under no familial agreement or arrangement.

Article X Standard of Living

The behavior of anyone in fellowship with this church is of common interest to the Board of Elders and membership (Gal. 6:1). This church requires every Elder and congregational member to adhere to a lifestyle that is consistent with the doctrines of this church as taught in the Holy Scriptures. Therefore, this church reserves the right to refuse service to any individual, whether member or not, that is not submitting their lifestyle to Scriptural conduct. This refusal would include services, church meetings, benefits and any use of church assets.

Article XI Homosexuality

This church is opposed to homosexuality as being an alternative lifestyle. Additionally, this church holds that a homosexual lifestyle is contrary to God's Word and purpose for humanity. The Bible instructs that it is a sin that leads to death. Moreover, this church is instructed to love those living such lifestyles, while abhorring their sin. 1 Cor. 6:9 says the following: "Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders."

Homosexual Marriage

This church will not perform homosexual marriages. It will not condone or recognize such marriages, even if the state passes laws that provide for recognition of such unions.

Members and Homosexuality

Members of the church are forbidden to practice such sin. Any member found to be in such sin and unrepentant shall be subject to dismissal.

Article XII Policy and Procedures

To establish an efficient leadership infrastructure, the Board of Elders shall be responsible to clearly articulate in clear, concise and simple language, a policy and procedures document. The purpose of this document is to create a consistent and logical framework which empowers staff and volunteers to participate in the decision-making processes that reflect the vision for the church.

Article XIII Ministry of Helps

This recognizes the ministry of helps during worship serves and shall train and equip ushers to assist the Senior Pastor in maintaining order and decency. To that regard, ushers shall:

1. Be trained in the policies and procedures of the altar ministry
2. Maintain a worshipful atmosphere in the church
3. Attend to any disruption or emergency situation during worship services.

The department head in charge of the usher's ministry shall:

1. Be trained in CPR
2. Ensure that at least one usher, or duly appointed person, trained in CPR be present in the building during all worship services
3. Designate at least one usher to keep a cell phone available to call for help in case of an emergency
4. Train all ushers on the church's altar ministry policy and procedures

Article XIV Membership Review of Church Records

Requests Made by Members

To ensure the trust of the membership and to also ensure that a public interest is being served, all church records, financial information, and all kinds of financial transactions must always be available for membership inspection and review. Any questions by any members shall be addressed to the treasurer either in writing or by scheduled appointment.

Required Provisions of the Request

The request must state the name of the member, the reason for the request and that the information shall in no way be made public or shared with any other member in a way that will jeopardize the church.

Required Fee

If requested by a member of this church, a photocopy of any financial transaction in question shall be given. The member shall pay a reasonable \$0.15 per copy (per sheet of paper).

Confidentiality

In order to keep the records of the church confidential, records shall not be released to any outside agency, person or entity unless due process has been served and a certified subpoena has been personally delivered. This includes the IRS, except under the provisions of section 7611 which shall be limited only to information deemed to be relevant to the inquiry being made. At all times the IRS will be expected to comply with all of the provisions of section 7611.

Denying a Request

The Board of Elders reserves the right to deny such a request for any of the following reasons:

1. The request is considered by the Board of Elders and deemed to be frivolous.
2. The member making the request has a history of being divisive.
3. The member does not adequately provide the required information on the request as stated in paragraph 1 of this article.
4. The person making a request is a non-member or a person whose membership was terminated.

Article XV Amendments

Amendments to the constitution may be made by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Elders.

Bylaws

Article I Order

For the purpose of conducting business, the President shall, in an orderly manner, preside over all of the affairs of the corporation.

Article II Finances

Audit

The Treasurer (Chief Financial Officer) and/or other Board of Elders appointed person shall complete an internal audit. The audit of all financial records shall be made after the close of the calendar year; prior to the end of February.

Checks and Withdrawals

1. Any check or withdrawal at or more than \$1,000.00 shall require the signatures of two officers who are also authorized signees on the bank account.
2. The signature of the Treasurer (Chief Financial Officer) must be on any check or withdrawal at or more than \$1,000.00, unless the Treasurer is unavailable, in which case the signature of two officers will still be required.

Salaries

All salaries shall be determined in the following manner:

1. A compensation committee shall be formed which will consider each candidate and create a compensation package that shall be forwarded to the Board of Elders for approval.
2. The Board of Elders shall appoint members of the committee.
3. The Board of Elders shall consider the recommendation of the compensation committee and shall vote on the package.

Only uncompensated individuals of the Board of Elders shall vote on any recommended compensation package.

All salaries shall be reviewed each year during the last meeting of the calendar year.

Article III Property Rights

All property, real or chattel, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred or conveyed in the corporation's name.

No real or chattel property of the corporation shall be sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise alienated without authorization of the Senior Pastor/President.

The Senior Pastor/President of the corporation shall certify in such conveyances, leases, or mortgages.

In the event that the corporation ceases to exist, all assets of New Life Community Church shall at the discretion of the Board of Elders be given to organizations that are exempt as described in section 501(c)[3] and/or 170(c)[2] of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. The receiving organization must be of similar purpose.

Article IV Government and Official Functions

Board of Elders

Their Powers

The Board of Elders is the senior governing board of the church and satisfies the function of a board of directors.

The Board of Elders provides spiritual oversight for the church and is responsible for all decisions regarding policy, personnel and fiscal decisions.

Each Elder shall have equal voting power and authority.

New members of the Board of Elders are appointed by a unanimous vote of the current Board of Elders, recommendation to the congregation, and 80% vote of members.

Their numbers

The Board of Elders must consist of a minimum of three [3] qualified men.

Their qualifications

All Elders must qualify by exemplifying the following in their lives. At any point, an elder may be dismissed from his office for not fulfilling even one of the qualifications by a unanimous vote of the other elders. Elders must be:

1. Above reproach (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:6-7)
2. The husband or one wife; a one-woman man (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:6-7)
3. Temperate, sober, vigilant (1 Tim. 3:2)
4. Sober-minded, prudent (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8)
5. Of good behavior; orderly, respectable (1 Tim. 3:2)
6. Hospitable (1 Tim 3:2; Titus 1:8)
7. Able to teach (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:9)
8. Not a drunk or addicted to alcohol (1 Tim. 3:3, 8; Titus 1:7)
9. Not violent; not pugnacious (1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7)
10. Patient, moderate, forbearing, gentle (1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7)

11. Not a brawler; not contentious, not quick tempered (1 Tim. 3:3; Titus 1:7)
12. Not covetous; not a lover of money; not greedy for money (1 Tim 3:3; Titus 1:7)
13. Rules his own house well; his children are faithful (1 Tim. 3:4; Titus 1:6)
14. Not a new convert (1 Tim. 3:6)
15. Well thought of, has a good reputation with outsiders (1 Tim. 3:7)
16. Not self-willed (Titus 1:7)
17. A lover of good (Titus 1:8)
18. Just, upright (Titus 1:8)
19. Holy, devout (Titus 1:8)
20. Self-controlled (Titus 1:8)

Resignation and Removals

Any Elder may resign effective upon giving written notice to the Board of Elders, unless the notice specifies a later time for the effectiveness of such resignation. Any Elder may be removed from office if he becomes physically incapacitated, spiritually unqualified, or his inability to serve is established in the minds of the remainder of the Board of Elders.

Decisions

Decisions shall be reached after prayerful consideration by majority vote in a spirit of humility with each Elder regarding one another before himself.

Officers

Description and Selection

The officers of the church shall be a President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer who will perform the noted leadership functions for the church and satisfy the associated legal corporate requirements mandated by the government. These positions may be held by members of the Board of Elders or be appointed by the Board. These officers shall be chosen by the Board of Elders and shall hold his office for a term of two [2] years.

President

The President shall be the Chairman of the Corporation and shall, subject to the control. Of the Board of Elders, have general supervision, direction, and control of the activities and officers of the Corporation. He shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Elders, which are to be conducted according to scriptural principles such as set forth in Philippians 2:2-8. He shall be an ex-officio member of all the standing committees and shall have such powers and duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Elders or the Bylaws.

Secretary

The Secretary shall keep, or cause to be kept, a book of minutes of all meetings of the members, the Board and its committees, with the time and place of holding, the names of those present and the proceedings thereof. The Secretary shall also keep, or cause to be kept, the original and a copy of the church's Articles and Bylaws as amended to date, as well as a church directory.

Treasurer

The Treasurer shall keep and maintain adequate and correct accounts of the properties and business transactions of the church. The books of account shall at all reasonable times be open to inspection by any Elder. The Treasurer shall deposit all monies and other valuables in the name and to the credit of the Corporation with such depositories as may be designated by the Board Of Elders. He shall disburse the funds of the Corporation as may be ordered by the Board of Elders, he shall render to the Board of Elders, whenever they request it, an account of all his transactions and of the financial condition of the Corporation, and shall have other such powers and perform such duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Elders. He shall be the one to make the financial report at Board meetings.

Committees and Other Positions

Committees

The Board of Elders may appoint various councils and committees from within its membership, the staff, and from the church at large. These councils and committees shall perform tasks solely in accordance with the duties and the powers specifically delegated by the Board of Elders. All councils and committees shall exist for the period specified by the Board.

Deacons

The Deacons shall consist of members possessing the qualities described in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and shall be elected by the Board of Elders for a term of one year. The Deacons shall assist in various areas of service to the church. They shall assist the Elders in shepherding of the saints, aid in the general physical and spiritual care of the church, and perform other duties as assigned by the Board of Elders. A deacon shall be a man of dignity, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not fond of sordid gain, holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience, first tested and found above reproach.

Deaconesses

The Deaconesses shall consist of members of this church and shall be elected by the Board of Elders for a term of one year. They shall assist in various areas of service to the church. They shall aid in the general physical and spiritual care of the church and perform other duties as assigned by the Board of Elders. A Deaconess shall be dignified, not a malicious gossip, sober-minded, and faithful in all things.

Article V Pastors

The Teaching Pastor

The Teaching Pastor shall be selected by unanimous Elder recommendation and 80% member vote. He shall remain in office for an indefinite period of time subject to the following reservations: The Elders reserve the right to dismiss the Teaching Pastor upon giving him one month's written notice of its intention to dismiss. The Teaching Pastor must give one month's notice if he intends to resign. The time limit of the Teaching Pastor's

resignation or dismissal is subject to a lesser time if both the Teaching Pastor and the Elders by mutual agreement provide otherwise. The Teaching Pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all councils and committees. He should meet the qualifications of an Elder and be an active member of the Board of Elders. He is also responsible to the Board of Elders. The Teaching Pastor shall arrange for and conduct all public and regular services of the church and shall be responsible for the general oversight of the spiritual welfare of the church.

Other Pastors

All additional pastoral and Church staff positions shall be created in the Annual Budget as approved by the Board of Elders. The hiring and dismissal of the Church staff shall be upon the recommendation of the Teaching Pastor with the approval of the Board of Elders. The church staff shall operate under the supervision of the Teaching Pastor. Pastoral staff will be by 80% congregational vote, while non-pastoral (support) staff are hired by the Elders.

Article VI Ordination, Licensing and Commissioning

Classes of Ministers

This ministry shall have three classes of ministers. Each class will have distinct rights and privileges; they are listed below:

Commissioned Minister: This recognition is automatically given to all believers in fellowship with this ministry. They are not authorized to perform any sacerdotal services, but primarily assist others in the Body of Christ. Individuals in this category may include, but are not limited to: teachers, worship leaders, instructors, hospital and jail visitation, ministerial assistance, and lay persons.

Licensed Minister: This recognition is given by the Board of Elders of this ministry. This recognition is for those who are somewhat seasoned in the ministry but need further experience. Many of these are individuals that have been working in their chosen vocation, but for some reason or another have never entered full-time ministry or have only been in full-time ministry for less than three [3] years. Such persons are authorized to perform in the following religious functions:

1. Conduct religious worship
2. Religious instruction
3. Administer communion
4. Provide spiritual counseling
5. Serve on the Board of Elders of a church
6. And other sacerdotal functions including
 - a. Conduct baby dedication ceremonies
 - b. Perform baptisms
 - c. Perform weddings

- d. Conduct funerals
- e. Visit the sick and shut-in
- f. Minister in prisons

However, this person is not in charge of a congregation. Limited authority is granted to run the affairs of the ministry.

Ordained Minister: This recognition is given by the Board of Elders to those persons who have an “established” or “proven” ministry. Ordained ministers are authorized to perform all functions of the Christian ministry and religious functions and must be capable of doing so. Ordained ministers are authorized to perform all religious functions:

- 1. Conduct religious worship
- 2. Religious instruction
- 3. Administer communion
- 4. Provide spiritual counseling
- 5. Ministry administration
- 6. And several other sacerdotal functions including
 - a. Conduct baby dedication ceremonies
 - b. Perform baptisms
 - c. Perform weddings
 - d. Conduct funerals
 - e. Visit the sick and shut-in
 - f. Minister in prisons

He must be capable, as determined by the Senior Pastor/President, to take charge of a congregation.

Board of Elders’ Authority

The Board of Elders of this ministry shall have authority to decide, upon the recommendation of the Teaching Pastor, who, how or if a person will be licensed by this ministry to hold any of the three classes mentioned above (Matt. 16:13-19).

Article VII Other Considerations

Anything that has not been discussed in this constitution and bylaws shall be discussed and decided upon at an official Elders meeting.

Article VIII Privacy

This church shall diligently watch to keep private all records concerning polity, doctrine, counseling and information on individuals in fellowship with this church. This church must not disclose any records that may compromise information about a member's attendance, membership status, giving and counseling records.

Article XIV Amendments

Amendments to the bylaws may be made by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Elders.

These bylaws adopted on this day make null and void all prior addendums and these bylaws supersede and replace all previous bylaws voted on prior to this day.

Signed and certified this _____ day of _____, 20____, to be effective immediately.

President of New Life Community Church of Garden City, KS, Inc.

Secretary of New Life Community Church of Garden City, KS, Inc.

Treasurer of New Life Community Church of Garden City, KS, Inc.