

FINAL BYLAWS APPROVED FOR MEMBERSHIP REVIEW - 12/9/2021

Review & Comment Period for Church Membership – 1/9/22 – 1/23/22



NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

BYLAWS



NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, INC.

4701 E CR 462, Wildwood, FL 34785

Office Hours: Monday-Wednesday and Friday 8:00 a.m. to Noon (Phone: 352-552-2713)

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New Life Christian Church, Inc.

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BYLAWS
New Life Christian Church, INC.
4701 E. CR 462, Wildwood, FL 34785

ARTICLE 1
OPERATIONS

Section 1.1. **FUNCTION:** All corporate powers and the business affairs of New Life Christian Church, Inc. shall be exercised by or under the authority of the Board of Directors, hereafter referred to as the Board of Elders.

Section 1.2. **CHURCH INCORPORATION:** New Life Christian Church, Inc. was formally incorporated on or about October 2, 2005, and is a Christian Church created to further the Christian purposes as described in Article 2, Matters of Faith, Doctrine, and Christian Practices, of these Bylaws.

Section 1.3. **TAX EXEMPT PURPOSES:** New Life Christian Church is organized and shall at all times be operated exclusively for religious, charitable, or educational purposes as required by the laws and regulations applicable to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

1.3.1. **Earnings:** No part of the net earnings of New Life Christian Church, Inc. shall become beneficial or advantageous to any individual according to the laws and regulations applicable to corporations that are exempt from federal income taxation.

1.3.2. **Propaganda/Legislation:** No substantial part of the activities of New Life Christian Church shall be carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation according to the laws and regulations applicable to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

1.3.3. **Political Campaigns:** New Life Christian Church shall not participate in or intervene in, including the publishing or distribution of statements of any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office according to the laws and regulations applicable to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

Section 1.4. **OFFICES:** The Registered Office of the Corporation in the State of Florida shall be at 4701 E. CR 462, Wildwood, FL 34785, County of Sumter.

Section 1.5. **REGISTERED AGENT:** New Life Christian Church, Inc. shall continuously maintain a registered agent who is an individual who resides in Florida and whose business office is identical with the registered office in Section 1.4. The registered agent shall be the Senior Minister at New Life Christian Church.

Section 1.6. **FISCAL YEAR:** New Life Christian Church's fiscal year shall begin on each January one (1) and continue through the following December thirty-first (31st).

ARTICLE 2

MATTERS OF FAITH, DOCTRINE, AND CHRISTIAN PRACTICES

Section 2.1. **THE BIBLE:** The Bible is the inspired, infallible, inerrant Word of God, and as such, is the foundational governing document of New Life Christian Church, Inc.

Section 2.2. **GOD:** There is one God existing in three persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus) and God the Holy Spirit.

Section 2.3. **JESUS:** Jesus was the fully human, fully divine, virgin born son of Mary. He lived a sinless life and died on a cross in payment for the sins of the world. He was resurrected from the dead three days after his death and currently resides at the right hand of God the Father and will return in triumph to receive his followers and judge the wicked.

Section 2.4. **HOLY SPIRIT:** The Holy Spirit is given at baptism to everyone who accepts Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. (Acts 2:38 - See Appendices Section 21.3.1.) The Spirit resides in believers, thus making every Christian a temple of God. He provides power to believers, enabling them to overcome Satan and his temptations, and encourages the believer to grow in their spiritual walk.

Section 2.5. **SALVATION:** Salvation is the free gift of God to everyone trusting Jesus. This faith is demonstrated by:

- 2.5.1. Believing in Jesus and that God raised him from the dead. – Mark 16:16; Ephesians. 2:5, 8; Romans 10:9 (See Appendices Section 21.3.2.)
- 2.5.2. Repenting (a change of thinking and action) – Acts 2:38 (See Appendices Section 21.3.3.)
- 2.5.3. Confessing Jesus is Lord – Romans 10:9 (See Appendices Section 21.3.4.)
- 2.5.4. Baptism (Immersion in water) – Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; I Peter 3:21 (See Appendices Section 21.3.5.)
- 2.5.5. Remaining faithful to Jesus – Matthew 10:22 (See Appendices Section 21.3.6.)

Section 2.6. **THE CHURCH:** The Church was established on the Day of Pentecost as a result of the Gospel being preached by the Apostles. It is God's instrument of fellowship and growth. Elders are charged with the oversight of the Church and are given the task of keeping the Church doctrinally pure and the members spiritually fed.

Section 2.7. **ETERNAL DESTINY:** There is a literal heaven and a literal hell. Those who are saved will spend eternity in a place prepared for them by God. Those not saved will spend eternity in the place of torment prepared for Satan.

Section 2.8. **MARRIAGE, GENDER AND SEXUALITY:** Because God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between a man, a woman, and Himself, New Life Christian Church will only recognize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman. Further, the Ministers and Staff of New Life Christian Church shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman. Additionally, the facilities and property of New Life Christian Church shall only host weddings between one man and one woman. (I Corinthians 6:9-10, I Timothy 1:10, and Leviticus 18:22. – See Appendices Section 21.3.7.)

We believe that any form of sexual immorality, including but not limited to, adultery, fornication, homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography, and attempting to change one's biological sex or otherwise acting upon any disagreement with one's biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God.

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a Biblical role model to New Life Christian Church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by New Life Christian Church in any capacity or serve as volunteers, abide by and adhere to this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly.

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of New Life Christian Church.

ARTICLE 3 MEMBERS

Section 3.1. **MEMBER:** Individuals consistently attending New Life Christian Church who have attained the age of eighteen (18) years of age, shall be considered members of the Corporation, hereinafter referred to as the "Church".

Section 3.2. **VOTING MEMBER:** A member who acknowledges and accepts the Lordship of Jesus Christ as stated in Article 2, is diligent in their church attendance and prayers, and has made a confession of faith with the Church membership, and/or Minister or Elder, shall be a voting member. (See Appendices Section 21.7. - Procedures for Voting Members)

Section 3.3. **MEMBER AGREEMENT:** All members shall be familiar with, seek understanding of, abide by, honor, respect, and act consistently with New Life Christian Church's Matters of Faith, Doctrine and Christian Practices as outlined in Article 2 of these Bylaws.

Section 3.4. **DISCONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP:** New Life Christian Church may discontinue a member's membership at any time, provided that:

- 3.4.1. The Board of Elders, by official action and by unanimous vote, determines that the member's life or conduct is in conflict with New Life Christian Church's Matters of Faith, Doctrine and Christian Practices and deemed a hindrance to the ministry of the Church, or;
- 3.4.2. The member has been absent from church services and has failed to otherwise support or participate in the ministries of New Life Christian Church for a period of twelve (12) consecutive months, and has been placed on the inactive list and the member has failed to timely respond within thirty (30) days of an inquiry by New Life Christian Church, or;
- 3.4.3. The member has refused to accept the responsibility of admonition, discipline, and reproof according to the Scriptures as presented by the Board of Elders and/or the Church Council, or;
- 3.4.4. Upon the member's death.

ARTICLE 4 MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH

Section 4.1. ANNUAL MEETING: The date and time of an annual meeting of the members, if any, for the transaction of business, shall be fixed by the Board of Elders. The failure to hold an annual meeting during any year shall not cause any forfeiture or dissolution of the Corporation and shall not affect otherwise valid corporate acts.

Section 4.2. SPECIAL MEMBER MEETINGS: Special meetings of the members shall be held when directed by the Board of Elders and/or when requested in writing, by no less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the voting membership.

4.2.1. To obtain the required twenty-five percent (25%) criteria of the voting membership for requesting a special meeting, voting members requesting the special meeting shall have access to the Church's electronic emailing system for the purpose of notifying Church members of their request for a special meeting stating the purpose, place, day and hour.

4.2.2. The meeting requested by the members shall be called for a date not less than ten (10) days, nor more than sixty (60) days after the request is made, unless the members requesting the meeting designate an earlier or later date. No other business, except that specified in the written statement for the meeting, shall be transacted. (See Notice Options - Section 4.4.)

Section 4.3. PLACE: Meetings of members shall be held on the Church campus of the Corporation. In the event an emergency would prohibit an on-campus meeting, the special meetings shall be held at another location within or adjacent to Sumter County Florida.

Section 4.4. NOTICE: Prior to any meeting being held, written notice stating the purpose, place, day, and hour for which the meeting is called, shall be announced. The Church Ministers and Staff should utilize as many available notification options as possible, including, but not limited to, announced from the pulpit, included in the Church newsletter and Sunday Church Bulletin, and distributed to all Church members electronically using the Church's mailing list and technology.

Section 4.5. VOTING REQUIREMENTS: Voting members of the Church (See Section 3.2.) who have been in attendance within the past twelve months and attained the age of eighteen (18) years of age shall be entitled to vote at said meeting. (See Appendices 21.7. - Procedures for Voting Members)

Section 4.6. QUORUM AND VOTING: Proxy voting shall be prohibited. Members present and entitled to vote in the amount of twenty-five percent (25%) of the current membership, shall constitute a quorum at a meeting of the Church. If a quorum is present, the affirmative vote of the majority of the members shall be the act of the members unless otherwise provided by Law, these Bylaws or the Articles of Incorporation. Voting may be done by a show of hands, voice vote, or by written or secret ballot. Results of the vote shall be announced prior to the end of the meeting. If a quorum is not reached, the vote shall be rescheduled until a quorum can be obtained. (See Appendices 21.7. - Procedures for Voting Members)

ARTICLE 5 BOARD OF ELDERS

Section 5.1. **ELDERS OVERSIGHT:** Elders shall have oversight and shepherding responsibilities for the spiritual welfare of the Church. They shall meet the scriptural criteria of their responsibility according to I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9; and I Peter 5:1-3. (See Appendices Section 21.4.1.) They must be immersed believers, members of the Church, and adhere to the doctrinal statements of Article 2.

Section 5.2. **ELDER COUNSEL:** The Board of Elders shall provide the following counsel and assistance to the people and ministries of New Life Christian Church:

- 5.2.1. Leadership, instruction, and care for the members and various ministries according to New Life Christian Church's Matters of Faith, Doctrine and Christian Practices.
- 5.2.2. Guidance of the spiritual life through ministry involvement, encouragement and fostering of spiritual growth for the pursuit of holiness.
- 5.2.3. Prayer for the sick and the lost who are within the scope of the ministries and its leadership.
- 5.2.4. Admonition, discipline, and reproof according to the Scriptures; and
- 5.2.5. Assistance to the Senior Minister in establishing and developing fiscal policy and approving a budget on an annual basis.

Section 5.3. **PRESUMPTION OF ASSENT:** An Elder of the Church who is present at a meeting of the Board of Elders at which action on any matter is taken, shall be presumed to have agreed to the action taken unless he votes against such action or abstains from voting because of an asserted conflict of interest. (See Appendices, Section 21.1.3., Conflict of Interest.)

Section 5.4. **MEETINGS:** Elders shall meet as often as necessary to consider matters pertaining to their oversight. Whenever deemed necessary, special meetings may be called by the Chairman or upon request of a majority of Elders.

5.4.1. **TELEPHONE/VIDEO MEETINGS:** The Elder Board may conduct Elder Board meetings by telephone or by video conference and/or allow the attendance of an otherwise absent member through telephone connection or video conference.

Section 5.5. **ELDER MEETING RESOLUTIONS:** No divided matter shall be voted upon until the full Board of Elders is in attendance. In the event of any voting deadlock, the matter shall not be voted on again until such time the full Board of Elders enter into prayer and fasting, uniting together, seeking God's will for the Church. Never shall division or opposing opinions take precedent over unity in Christ for the spiritual direction of the Church. If consensus cannot be reached by the Elder Board, the matter shall be tabled and removed from further action, submitting intentionally to the scripture in 1 Corinthians 14:33, *...that God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.*

Section 5.6. **ELDER OFFICERS AND DUTIES:** Elders shall elect, at their first regular meeting of each year, a Chairman, a Vice Chairman, and a Secretary. All Elder meetings shall be presided over by the Chairman of the Elders, or in his absence, by the Vice Chair. Such other officers, assistant officers, and agents, as may be deemed necessary, may be selected, or appointed by the Board of Elders from time to time. The Elder officers shall have the following duties:

- 5.6.1. **ELDER CHAIRMAN:** The Chairman shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Board of Elders, shall have general and active management of the business affairs of the Elder Board and/or Church, and shall preside at all meetings of the Elders and special meetings of the Church, and oversee the sending out of all notices of meetings. Subject to the control and direction of the Board of Elders, the Chairman may enter into any agreement and may execute and deliver any agreement, instrument, or document in the name and on behalf of the Corporation in accordance with these Bylaws and upon the approval of the Board of Elders.
- 5.6.2. **ELDER VICE CHAIR:** The Vice Chairman shall assist the Chairman in all matters directed by the Chairman and shall function in the office of the Chairman whenever the Chairman is unable to fulfill his duties or obligations.
- 5.6.3. **ELDER SECRETARY:** The Elder Secretary shall have oversight, custody of, and maintain all Church records, except the financial records, and report to the Board of Elders. The Elder Secretary shall also be responsible for recording the minutes of all meetings of the Board of Elders and special meetings of the Church and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Chairman.
- 5.6.4. **ANNUAL GOAL SETTING:** In January of each year, each Elder shall develop, for their area of oversight, annual goals for the next fiscal year. (See Appendices, Section 21.8. - New Life Christian Church Organizational Chart Document) In addition, the Elder Board shall develop, in conjunction with the Senior Minister, annual goals for the spiritual growth of the Church for the next fiscal year. (Proverbs 29:13 - *Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.*)
- 5.6.5. **ANNUAL EVALUATION:** In December of each year, each Elder shall present an annual evaluation report to the Elder Board of their goal accomplishments for the year and set new goals for the next fiscal year. In addition, the Elder Board, in conjunction with the Senior Minister, shall present an annual evaluation report of their goal accomplishments for the year and set new goals for the next fiscal year.

Section 5.7. **TERMS OF OFFICE:** Elders shall be elected for three-year (3) terms, with the option of a second (2nd) three-year (3) term, followed by a mandatory one (1) year off. If the office of any Elder is vacated between elections, the remaining Elders shall recommend a replacement to the membership as required in Section 5.9. to complete the unexpired term, except under extraordinary circumstances as outlined in Section 5.10. If the unexpired term is one (1) year or less, the appointee shall be eligible to serve two (2) full terms before observing a mandatory one (1) year off.

Section 5.8. **NUMBER OF ELDERS:** The number of Elders shall be determined by the current Board of Elders based upon the needs of the Church. The minimum number will be three (3). There is no maximum number of Elders required; however, for voting purposes, the total number of Elders shall be an odd number. In addition, the Senior Minister shall function as an Ex Officio Elder as outlined in Section 6.1. Elders shall be elected to staggered terms to ensure year-to-year continuity of leadership.

Section 5.9. **ELDER NOMINATION/SELECTION PROCESS:** The Nominating Committee shall be comprised of the Elders and Senior Minister. Potential Elders will be presented to the congregation for their approval as follows.

- 5.9.1. **QUALIFICATIONS:** The Nominating Committee shall nominate members of the Church whom they consider to be spiritually and scripturally qualified for the office of Elder and shall be a year-round resident of Florida. The Elders shall follow the procedures specifically outlined in the Bylaws Appendices - Section 21.2., before nominating potential Elders to the Church membership.
- 5.9.2. **NOMINATION TO CHURCH:** The nominated Elder(s) shall be presented and introduced during a Sunday service to the Church by the Senior Minister and/or Elders. Church members shall be given a period of thirty (30) days to present to the Senior Minister and/or Elder Chairman, any reasons for electing or not accepting the Committee's nominee(s). Feedback, positive and/or negative, provided during the thirty (30) day period, shall determine the Elders final decision for confirmation/presentation to the Church for voting. (See Appendices, Section 21.2, #10)
- 5.9.3. **ELECTION BY CHURCH:** Upon completion of the thirty (30) day waiting period, Elder(s) nominations shall be presented to the Church at the following Sunday service for vote by secret ballot. Elders must be elected by no less than seventy-five percent (75%) affirmative votes of the eligible voting members present and voting.

Section 5.10. INTERIM ELDER APPOINTMENT: In the event that an Elder(s) position must be filled due to an immediate emergency deemed necessary by the Board of Elders, the Elders and Senior Minister shall appoint interim Elder replacement substitute(s) necessary to assist the current Elders in the continuation of the Church operations, until such time the normal nominating process can be completed.

Section 5.11. NO COMPENSATION: No Elder shall receive compensation for serving on the Board of Elders, except that the Board of Elders may by official action permit Elder reimbursement for any expenses incurred in attending regular or special meetings, Elder Board approved Church conference(s) or leadership training(s), or for Elder responsibility operational expenses.

Section 5.12. REMOVAL OF ELDERS: The requirements for the removal of any Elder follows:

- 5.12.1. At a meeting of the Elders expressly for that purpose, an Elder may be recommended for removal for cause, (See Appendices Section 21.1.1.) by vote of a majority of Elders.
- 5.12.2. An Elder may also be recommended for removal for cause (See Appendices Section 21.1.1.) by written petition, signed by fifty percent (50%) of voting members of the congregation, submitted to the Board of Elders for consideration at a Special Meeting of the Church.
- 5.12.3. Any Elder approved for recommendation of removal for cause (See Appendices Section 21.1.1.) shall be presented by the Board of Elders, to the Church membership at a meeting expressly for that purpose. Elder removal for cause shall require seventy-five percent (75%) vote of eligible voting members present and voting.

Section 5.13. ELDER & OFFICER INDEMNITY: Each Elder and Officer shall be indemnified individually from civil liability for monetary damages, except to the extent covered by insurance, for any act or failure to act arising out of his service as an Elder or Officer, except where the Elder or Officer:

- 5.13.1. Is compensated for his services rendered (See Article 15.1 & Appendices 21.1.2.) beyond reimbursement for expenses;
- 5.13.2. Was not acting within the scope of his official duties;
- 5.13.3. Was not acting in good faith;
- 5.13.4. Committed gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct that resulted in the damage or injury;
- 5.13.5. Derived an improper personal financial benefit;
- 5.13.6. Incurred the liability from the operation of a motor vehicle; or
- 5.13.7. Is a defendant in an action brought due to the direct or indirect transfer of money or other property or incurrence of indebtedness by New Life Christian Church, Inc.

Section 5.14. ELDER RESIGNATION: An Elder resignation shall not be approved until a designated effective date is specified and agreed upon by the Board of Elders and the person resigning.

ARTICLE 6

MINISTERS/STAFF

Section 6.1. SENIOR MINISTER: In the spirit of unity, joint visioning for the future, and for providing spiritual leadership for New Life Christian Church, the Senior Minister shall serve as an Ex Officio Elder Board Member (See Appendices 21.1.6.). The Senior Minister shall be entitled to be a voting member, except when he abstains from voting and/or there is an asserted conflict of interest. (See Appendices, Section 21.1.3.)

Section 6.2. MINISTERS: The Elders shall have oversight of the spiritual welfare of the Ministers and Staff and the character of their doctrinal teachings. Ministers and Staff shall be an immersed believer and adhere to the doctrinal statements of Article 2. The continuing service of all Ministers is subject to the Board of Elders recommendation for approval or disapproval as outlined in Sections 6.4 and 6.8.

Section 6.3. SENIOR MINISTER AUTHORITY: The Senior Minister shall have direct supervision of all Ministers and paid Staff and shall oversee the performance and duties thereof and report any areas of exemplary performances and/or concerns to the Board of Elders.

6.3.1. GOAL SETTING: In January of each year, all Ministers and Staff shall present to the Senior Minister, their annual goals for their individual ministry areas. These goals will be used by the Senior Minister as part of his annual evaluation of all staff members in November of that year. (Proverbs 29:13 - *Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.*)

6.3.2. ANNUAL REPORT: The Senior Minister shall provide an annual report to the Elder Board in December, outlining the evaluation and goal setting results for all Ministers and Staff members.

Section 6.4. **MINISTER APPROVAL:** The Elders shall follow the requirements of Section 6.6 before recommending any Ministers to the congregation for approval or disapproval by means of a congregational vote. Approval shall be by no less than seventy-five percent (75%) affirmative votes of voting members present and voting at a congregational meeting called for that purpose.

Section 6.5. **STAFF APPROVAL:** The Elders shall be responsible for final approval of the hiring of any paid Church Staff by a majority vote of the Elder Board.

Section 6.6. **VACANCIES:** In the event of a Church Minister vacancy, the Elder Chairman shall appoint a seven (7) member search committee consisting of two (2) Elders including the Elder Chairman, two (2) Ministry Team Leaders, and three (3) Church members at large. Additionally, Ministry Staff may be consulted for advisory purposes when needed. The committee shall receive applications, interview prospective candidates, and make a recommendation of one candidate at a time to the Elders for consideration. Upon approval by the Elders, the candidate(s) shall be presented to the congregation for approval. Only one candidate may be presented to the Church at a time and shall require seventy-five percent (75%) vote of eligible voting members present and voting.

6.6.1 **RESTORATION MOVEMENT:** The founding principles of the Restoration Movement shall carry a high priority within the Job Descriptions, Job Postings, and the interview and selection processes for all New Life Christian Church Minister positions.

6.6.2 **NEPOTISM:** New Life Christian Church encourages husbands and wives uniting together in ministry service. However, no Elder, Minister, or paid Staff shall be under direct supervision of an immediate family member. (See Appendices Section 21.1.4.)

Section 6.7. **MINISTER EMPLOYMENT TERMS:** At the time of the call for the hiring of a Minister, a written statement shall be made setting forth the salary to be paid, and other conditions deemed advisable, such as housing, miscellaneous expenses, vacation arrangements, and any Individual Retirement Account (IRA) stipulations. This statement shall be notarized and made in duplicate; one copy for the church and one copy for the Minister.

Section 6.8. **MINISTERS REMOVAL:** Any Minister may be recommended for removal for cause (See Section 21.1.1.) by vote of a majority of Elders. Any recommendation for removal shall be submitted to the Church for consideration at a Special Meeting called for that purpose. A Minister shall be removed by the Church upon a seventy-five percent (75%) approval of the voting members present and voting.

Section 6.9. **MINISTER RESIGNATION:** A Ministers resignation shall not be approved until a designated effective date is specified and agreed upon by the Board of Elders and the person resigning.

Section 6.10. **STAFF REMOVAL:** At a meeting of the Elders expressly for that purpose, any Staff may be removed for cause (See Section 21.1.1.) by majority vote of the Boards of Elders, whenever; in their judgment, the best interest of the Church would be served thereby.

ARTICLE 7
MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS (DEACON/DEACONESS)

Section 7.1. **MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS (DEACONS/DEACONESSSES):** A Ministry Team Leader who is a voting member of the Church, is an immersed believer, adheres to the doctrinal statements of Article 2, and approved by the Board of Elders, shall be viewed as fulfilling the role of Deacon or Deaconess, hereafter referred to as a Ministry Team Leader.

Section 7.2. **TERMS OF OFFICE:** Ministry Team Leaders may serve until they step down, are removed for cause, are replaced, or until the Ministry Team they lead is dissolved.

Section 7.3. **MINISTRY/LEADER/PROGRAM APPROVAL:** Any new ministry, Ministry Team Leader, Study Group Leader, or any other church related programs shall be presented to the Elder Board for approval.

Section 7.4. **MINISTRY TEAM LEADER REMOVAL:** At a meeting of the Elders expressly for that purpose, any Ministry Team Leader, Study Group Leader or ministry program or activity may be removed for cause (See Appendices Section 21.1.1.) by vote of a majority of Elders, whenever; in their judgment, the best interest of the Church would be served thereby.

ARTICLE 8
TERMINATION OF SERVICES

Section 8.1. **MUTUAL AGREEMENT:** Upon sixty (60) days written notice by either party, the services of any Elder, Minister, Staff, Treasurer, Ministry Team Leader, or other Officers, Assistant Officers, or Agents, may be terminated. The time between the notice and the termination of services may be shortened by mutual agreement.

ARTICLE 9
CHURCH COUNCIL

Section 9.1. **CHURCH COUNCIL PURPOSE:** Church Council members shall be appointed by the Board of Elders whenever necessary to coordinate program planning, building utilization, Church arbitration matters, financial issues, and/or other matters affecting the broadening work of the Church as growth occurs.

9.1.1. **COUNCIL FUNCTION:** The Church Council shall not be a voting body, although expressions of interest or support may be sought or expressed. Decisions on matters discussed shall be referred either to the appropriate Ministry Team Leader, Minister, or Elders, and shall be held confidential.

9.1.2. **COUNCIL COMPOSITION:** The Chairman of the Elders shall serve as the Church Council Chairman. The Church Council shall additionally include, the Senior Minister, the Elder Secretary, and Elder appointed Ministry Teams Leaders and members of the Church at large.

ARTICLE 10

CHURCH OFFICERS

Section 10.1. **CHURCH OFFICERS APPOINTMENT:** The Board of Elders shall appoint, by majority vote, the Church Treasurer. Such other officers, assistant officers, and agents as may be deemed necessary, may be appointed by the Board of Elders from time to time. Each officer shall hold office until their successor has been duly selected or until death, resignation, or until removed as outlined in Section 10.2. below.

10.1.1. **CHURCH TREASURER:** The Treasurer shall have responsibility for Church funds and financial records, shall keep full accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements, render accounts, and prepare each year's budget proposal, in conjunction with the Financial Oversight Elder, for the annual Financial Report Meeting of the Elders. The Treasurer shall also perform duties outlined in Section 13.2., Financial Information.

Section 10.2. **CHURCH TREASURER/OFFICER(S) REMOVAL:** At a meeting of the Elders expressly for that purpose, the Treasurer, any Officer, Assistant Officer, Agent, or Staff Member selected, appointed, or hired by the Elders, may be removed for cause, by vote of a majority of Elders, whenever; in their judgment, the best interest of the Church would be served thereby. (See Section 21.1.1.)

ARTICLE 11

CONFLICT PREAMBLE

Conflict is a byproduct of human interaction and as such is something to be anticipated within our community. The goal of Articles 11 & 12 is to provide a path for satisfactory resolution to conflicts as they arise.

Christians are encouraged in Ephesians 4:1-2, - 1)...*to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2) with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,...* As such, we at New Life Christian Church seek to find peaceful and mutually agreeable solutions to conflicts as they arise. The Elders encourage the membership to follow the Lord's instruction as stated in the book of Matthew 18:15-17 - 15) *If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. 16) But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed. 17) If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.*

The Elders are available to aid in the process and will do their best to remain neutral in order to act as fair arbitrators of the issue at hand. However;

- if an issue arises that is beyond a few members and requires greater steps for resolution, or;
- if an issue arises between the parties (Congregation, Elders and/or Staff) requiring greater steps for resolution, or;
- if an issue arises of major divisive quality causing strong opposition, the Board of Elders shall follow the processes outlined in Article 12, DISPUTE MEDIATION.

ARTICLE 12

DISPUTE MEDIATION

Section 12.1. **DISPUTE RESOLUTION:** In keeping with 1 Corinthians 6:1-8, (See Appendices 21.5.1.) the following process shall be required for resolving any and all claims, disputes, causes of action, demands, and other disagreements arising from or relating to any of New Life Christian Church, Inc.'s real or personal property, any of the relationships between or among Elders, Church Ministers, Church Staff, and/or members of the Church.

12.1.1. **STEP ONE - RESOLUTION THROUGH RECONCILIATION:** Within a reasonable time, considering Ephesians 4:26-32 (See Appendices 21.5.2.), the parties shall first make one or more reasonable, good faith, and meaningful attempts to resolve any dispute by following the process described in the Bible in Matthew 18:15-22 (See Appendices 21.5.2.), to wit, the parties shall attempt to resolve the dispute between themselves, and if unsuccessful, shall then involve one or two witnesses, all the while maintaining a spirit of love and genuine concern for reconciliation according to a balanced approach guided by Biblical principles.

12.1.2. **STEP TWO - MEDIATION THROUGH FASTING AND PRAYER:** If the parties are unable to resolve any dispute after following the procedures described in 12.1.1. Step One above, the dispute shall be submitted to Christian mediation consistent with Romans 12:16-21 and Matthew 17:20-21 (See Appendices 21.5.3.). All parties shall seek God's direction through unity in faith.

12.1.3. **STEP THREE - ARBITRATION THROUGH CHURCH COUNCIL:** If the parties are unable to resolve any dispute through fasting and prayer, the dispute shall be submitted to Christian arbitration through Church Council. (See Article 9.1)

12.1.3.1. **RECOMMENDATION FOR RESOLUTION:** Once the Church Council agrees on a recommendation to resolve the matter, it shall be presented to the Elders for consideration. Only one recommendation shall be presented at a time until resolution is attained.

12.1.3.2. **APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION:** Final resolution shall be subject to approval of majority vote of the Board of Elders.

Section 12.2. **REFUSAL TO RESOLVE:** If the dispute is not resolved through these Biblical principles, the dispute shall be waived and shall forever be barred. Should the involved member(s) of the dispute fail to employ reasonable, good faith, and meaningful efforts to resolve the dispute spiritually and continue to create disruption and/or division with Leadership and/or members of the Church, they shall be submitted to the Board of Elders for discontinuation of their Church membership as outlined in Article 3, Section 3.4. Discontinuation of Membership; specifically, 3.4.3.

ARTICLE 13

BOOKS AND RECORDS

Section 13.1. **DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS:** This Church shall keep correct and complete books of financial records and shall keep minutes of the meetings of its members, Elders, and committees of the Elders. Any books, records, and minutes shall be in written form or in another form capable of being converted into written form within a reasonable time and filed

accordingly in the Church office for the duration of each fiscal year. These records shall be filed in the Registered Office of the Corporation in this state and shall be kept for at least seven (7) years and shall be subject to inspection during business hours.

13.1.1. **DIGITAL RECORDS:** Church and/or financial records generated or stored in digital form, shall be formatted in a generally accepted and recognizable format (e.g., PDF), kept in a secure, password protected location, and made available from public and private networks via applicable secure accessible methods.

Section 13.2. **FINANCIAL INFORMATION:** The Church Treasurer shall prepare a year-end report showing in reasonable detail, the financial condition of the Church as of the close of its fiscal year and no later than two (2) months after the close of each fiscal year. These reports and supporting documentation shall be stored in the Registered Office of the Corporation in this state and shall be kept for at least seven (7) years and available during business hours. In addition, the Church shall complete an annual financial audit by an independent certified public accountant, or by an internal audit committee approved by the Board of Elders. Findings shall be submitted to the Board of Elders with a management opinion that points out control weaknesses, inefficiencies and/or irregularities in the church's accounting and financial procedures.

13.2.1. **CONTRACTS:** All official contract(s)/legal agreement(s) presented for approval on behalf of the Church, shall be signed by an officer and Elder Board member having oversight and/or responsibility of the contracted area, as outlined in the New Life Church Organizational Chart Document. The Elder Board may authorize, any officer or officers, agent or agents of the Church, in addition to the Treasurer so authorized by these Bylaws, to enter into contracts or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Church. Such authority may be general or may be confined to specific instances.

13.2.2. **PAYMENTS/PREAUTHORIZATION:** All checks, drafts, or orders for the payment of money, notes, or other evidence of indebtedness issued in the name of the Church, shall be signed by an authorized signatory approved by the Elder Board. Payments exceeding the threshold outlined in the Bylaws Appendices, (see Article 21, Section 21.8.), shall require a prepurchase authorization signatory, by the Elder Board member having oversight and/or responsibility of the contracted area, as outlined in the New Life Church Organizational Chart Document.

ARTICLE 14

PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 14.1 **RULES:** The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, shall govern the business meetings, in which they are not inconsistent with the Bylaws or the special rules of order of the Church.

ARTICLE 15

NONPROFIT OPERATIONS

Section 15.1. **LIMITATIONS:** The Church shall not have or issue shares of stock. No dividend shall be paid, and no part of the income of the Corporation Church shall be distributed to its Members, Ministers, Staff, Elders, or Officers. The Church may; however, pay compensation in a reasonable amount to Members, Ministers, Staff, Officers or Elders for services rendered, as required by the member's employment with New Life Christian Church, Inc. (See Appendices 21.1.2)

Section 15.2. SEVERANCE: Upon a majority vote of the Elders, severance pay to Ministers or Staff may be recommended to the Church membership at a Special Meeting called for that purpose. Severance pay shall require seventy-five percent (75%) approval of eligible voting members present and voting. Any resigning Minister or Staff shall not be recommended for or be eligible to receive severance pay.

ARTICLE 16 **CORPORATE SEAL**

Section 16.1. SEAL: The Board of Elders shall provide a Corporate Seal which shall be in circular form and shall have inscribed thereon the following:

NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, INC.
STATE OF FLORIDA
2005

ARTICLE 17 **AMENDMENTS**

Section 17.1. BYLAW AMENDMENTS: The Board of Elders may approve by majority vote, clerical corrections, (i.e., renumbering, reordering, spelling corrections, adding additional definitions for clarity, etc.) if the corrections do not change the meaning or intent of the approved Bylaws of the Church. However, revisions to these Bylaws may only be amended by official action of the Board of Elders and shall be recommended to New Life Christian Church members for approval. All such action shall be subject to approval by seventy-five percent (75%) of the voting members present and voting at a Sunday Church service or a Special Meeting called for that purpose.

Section 17.2. PROCEDURAL RULES: The Bylaw Appendices, procedural rules and other organizational and structural documents, policies and procedures, may be amended and/or added as deemed necessary by the Board of Elders to support and clarify these Bylaws.

ARTICLE 18 **MEETING OF LAST RESORT**

Section 18.1. AD HOC CRITERIA: Article 18 is provided for the particular end or case at hand, without consideration of wider application of these Bylaws, to resolve matters that threaten the Christian life of the congregation and the eminent shutdown of the Church.

Section 18.2. CALL FOR MEETING OF LAST RESORT: Voting members of New Life Christian Church shall form an Ad Hoc Committee, to include current Ministry Team Leaders, former Elders and leaders, and members of the Church at large, to outline the reason for the call, and the date, time and place of the meeting, allowing twenty-four (24) to seventy-two (72) hours between the call and the actual meeting.

Section 18.3. LAST RESORT CAUSES: Church members are under duress and are confident the Church health and Christian life of the members are in imminent danger of the Church dissolving. The existence of the following circumstances, either individually or in combination, may be identified as causes and used to justify and support the calling of the last resort meeting.

- 18.3.1. All Elders have resigned and/or left the Church. There is no Chairman of the Elders or Elder Board remaining. The Senior Minister and any Associate Ministers have resigned and left the Church.
- 18.3.2. Death or critical health matter of Church member(s) or Leader(s) affecting Church operations.
- 18.3.3. Acts of God. (See Appendices Section 21.1.5.)
- 18.3.4. Acting against or disregarding the qualifications of an Elder or Minister as outlined in scripture. (1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-5; Eph. 4:11-16; Heb. 13:7,17; John 13:1-20; John 10:1-19; Matt. 20:20-28; Luke 22:24-27; - See Appendices Section 21.6.)
- 18.3.5. Division and divisive actions among Church leadership directly affecting Church services, ministries, Church activities and the peace and/or unity of the congregation.
- 18.3.6. Factions and divisions threatening the Christian life and unity of the congregation.
- 18.3.7. Abuse, mistreatment, exploitation and/or harmful disrespect of Elders, Ministers, Church Staff, and/or Ministry Leaders.
- 18.3.8. Financial irregularities and/or misappropriation of Church funds.
- 18.3.9. Leadership' refusal to unite in spiritual harmony and/or interfere in Church operations.
- 18.3.10. Refusal to work in unity with Church leaders and members in reconciliation efforts.
- 18.3.11. Violation of or refusal to follow New Life Christian Church, Inc. Bylaws.

Section 18.4. **LAST RESORT MEETING NOTIFICATION:** - The call for the last resort meeting shall be made by the members of the Ad Hoc Committee. They shall have access to the Church administrative database and all of its' electronic messaging systems to send email, text, and telephone messages, to inform all voting members of the congregation of New Life Christian Church of the campus building location, date, time and reason for this crucial meeting of last resort.

Section 18.5. **LAST RESORT MEETING PROCEDURES:** - The Ad Hoc Committee members shall conduct the Last Resort Meeting and control the discussion and context of it using Roberts Rules of Order to conduct the meeting.

Section 18.6. **QUORUM AND VOTING REQUIREMENTS:** - The requirements for voting and quorum outlined in Section 4.6. shall be followed. Only recommendations for final resolution, as outlined in the reason for the call of the meeting of last resort, may be presented for vote for recommendation to the Church congregation for final approval.

Section 18.7. **RECOMMENDATION FOR RESOLUTION:** - A majority vote shall be required, by the voting members present at the meeting of last resort, before a recommended resolution is presented to the Church congregation for consideration.

Section 18.8. APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS: - Final approval of the recommendation for resolution submitted by the Ad Hoc Committee to the Church congregation, shall be subject to approval by seventy-five percent (75%) of the voting members present and voting and meeting the quorum and voting requirements outlined in Section 4.6., at a special meeting called specifically for that purpose. Upon approval, the Ad Hoc Committee shall then act to restore the normal operation of New Life Christian Church, Inc. according to these Bylaws or move on with the dissolution procedures outlined in Article 19.

ARTICLE 19
DISSOLUTION

Section 19.1. DISSOLUTION PROCEDURES: - In the event of the dissolution of New Life Christian Church, Inc., the real property being sold, and after paying any debts, any proceeds shall be equally/proportionately divided between all mission ministries last supported by the Church and organized exclusively for one or more of the purposes specified in Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. In the event that no mission ministries are being supported, all proceeds shall go to Christian Financial Resources (CFR).

ARTICLE 20
APPROVAL OF BYLAWS

Section 20.1. CERTIFICATION & SEAL: - Certificate of the Secretary of New Life Christian Church, Inc.: As Chairman of New Life Christian Church, Inc. Board of Elders, I hereby certify that the foregoing Bylaws were duly approved and adopted as Bylaws of New Life Christian Church, Inc. by majority vote of the New Life Christian Church membership. The above Bylaws of New Life Christian Church, Inc. were approved and adopted by the members of the Church following the Sunday Church service held on the 6th day of February 2022, and do replace and supersede any and all previously approved Bylaw documents of the Church.

Certified Correct:

OFFICIAL CHURCH SEAL

NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, INC., Chairman

NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, INC., Secretary

NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, INC.
BYLAWS APPENDICES

ARTICLE 21

Section 21.1. - New Life Christian Church, INC. Bylaws Definitions.

- 21.1.1. **Removal For Cause:** Removal for Cause means the removal of someone by the Board of Elders and/or New Life Christian Church membership due to the member no longer representing the Matters of Faith, Doctrine, and Christian Practices outlined in Article 2 of these Bylaws; and/or refusal to follow the New Life Christian Church Bylaws, and/or willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence in the duty to exercise “due care” in the attendance and/or performance of their responsibilities, reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of the person being removed; and/or as outlined in the Bible in accordance to the teaching of the New Testament Church, and/or the direction of the Church does not require the program or services any longer.
- 21.1.2. **Services Rendered:** Services Rendered means the duties which a member performs for New Life Christian Church as required by the member's employment with the Church.
- 21.1.3. **Conflict Of Interest:** Conflict of Interest means the circumstance of a public officeholder, business executive, or the like, whose personal interests might benefit from his or her official actions or influence.
- 21.1.4. **Immediate Family:** Immediate family consists of parents, siblings, spouse, and children.
- 21.1.5. **Acts of God:** An extraordinary interruption by a natural cause (such as a flood or earthquake) of the usual course of events that experience, prescience, or care cannot reasonably foresee or prevent.
- 21.1.6. **Ex Officio:** By virtue of office or official position. He is a voting member but may abstain from voting.

Section 21.2. - Article 5, Board of Elders Nomination/Selection Process.

The following outlines the specific procedures for the appointment of New Life Christian Church Elders:

- 1. Existing Elders will constantly monitor the Church for men who demonstrate a propensity for the Eldership. The names of such men will be presented to the Board of Elders for discussion and prayer.
- 2. After consideration, the Board of Elders determine that the man under consideration should be pursued, he will be approached and asked to pray about the possibility of becoming an Elder at New Life Christian Church.

3. Following an appropriate time for prayer and contemplation, if he feels led to pursue the ministry of Elder, he would be given a questionnaire to complete and return to the Board of Elders.
4. The Board of Elders would look at the completed questionnaire and decide whether or not to continue the process.
5. If the decision is to continue, the man would be interviewed by the Board of Elders.
6. If, after the interview, everything points toward him joining the Eldership, an interview with him and his wife will take place.
7. If, after that interview, both the Board of Elders and the man believe that the process should continue, he would be invited to join the Board of Elders for their next few meetings as an observer.
8. If both he and the Board of Elders feel that he should serve as an Elder, his name will be presented to the congregation as a potential Elder.
9. The Church would be informed that they have thirty (30) days to pray and consider the individual. At any time during that thirty (30) day period any member of the Church may express to any current Elder any reason why they feel the man should not serve. If no objection is raised, at the end of the thirty (30) days, the Board of Elders would give final approval and the man would begin to serve.
10. If a question is raised during the thirty (30) day consideration period about the appropriateness of the man under consideration serving as an Elder, two current Elders will meet with the person(s) with knowledge of something in the potential Elder's life that would disqualify him. The potential Elder would be given the opportunity to respond to the reason for concern about his serving.
11. Every effort will be made to understand the situation and evaluate the charge against the man. (I Timothy 5:19 – *Do not receive an accusation against an Elder except on the basis of two or three witnesses.*)
12. The final decision will be made by the current Board of Elders.

The following Sections 21.3.1. – 21.6.1. provides specific Scripture references listed throughout the New Life Christian Church, Inc. Bylaws. All Scripture References are from the New American Standard Bible (NASB).

Section 21.3. - Article 2 – Matters of Faith, Doctrine, and Christian Practices.

21.3.1. Scripture References for Section 2.4. - Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:38 – 38) *Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*

21.3.2. Scripture References for Section 2.5.1. – Believing in Jesus.

Mark 16:16 – 16) *He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.*

Ephesians 2:5, 8 – 5) *...even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ...8) For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ...*

Romans 10:9 – 9) *...that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; ...*

21.3.3 Scripture References for Section 2.5.2. – Repenting.

Acts 2:38 – 38) *Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*

21.3.4. Scripture References for Section 2.5.3. – Confessing Jesus is Lord.

Romans 10:9 – 9) *...that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; ...*

21.3.5. Scripture References for Section 2.5.4. – Baptism (Immersion in water).

Mark 16:16 – 16) *He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.*

Acts 2:38 – 38) *Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*

1 Peter 3:21 – 21) *Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you – not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience – through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ...*

21.3.6. Scripture References for Section 2.5.5. – Remaining faithful to Jesus.

Matthew 10:22 – 22) *You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.*

21.3.7. Scripture References for Section 2.8. – Marriage, Gender and Sexuality.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 – 9) *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, 10) nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.*

1 Timothy 1:10 – 10) *...and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching, ...*

Leviticus 18:22 – 22) *You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination.*

Section 21.4. - Article 5 – Board of Elders.

21.4.1. Scripture References for Section 5.1. – Elders Oversight.

1 Timothy 3:1-7 – 1) *It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do.* 2) *An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,* 3) *not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money.* 4) *He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity* 5) *(but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?),* 6) *and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.* 7) *And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.*

Titus 1:5-9 – 5) *For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you,* 6) *namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion.* 7) *For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain,* 8) *but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled,* 9) *holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.*

1 Peter 5:1-3 – 1) *Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed,* 2) *Shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;* 3) *nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.*

Section 21.5. - Article 12 – Dispute Mediation.

21.5.1. Scripture References for Section 12.1. Dispute Resolution.

1 Corinthians 6:1-8 - *Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous and not before the saints?* 2) *Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts?* 3) *Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life?* 4) *So if you have law courts dealing with matters of this life, do you appoint them as judges who are of no account in the church?* 5) *I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not among you one wise man who will be able to decide between his brethren,* 6) *but brother goes to law with brother, and that before unbelievers?* 7) *Actually, then, it is already a defeat for you, that you have lawsuits with one another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded?* 8) *On the contrary, you yourselves wrong and defraud. You do this even to your brethren.*

21.5.2. Scripture References for Section 12.1.1. Step One - Resolution Through Reconciliation.

Ephesians 4:26-32 – 26) *Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27) and do not give the devil an opportunity. 28) He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need. 29) Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. 30) Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31) Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32) Be kind to one another, tender-hearted forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.*

Matthew 18:15-22 – 15) *“If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. 16) “But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed. 17) “If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. 18) “Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven. 19) “Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. 20) “For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst.” 21) Then Peter came and said to Him, “Lord how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” 22) Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.”*

21.5.3. Scripture References for Section 12.1.2. Step Two – Mediation Through Fasting and Prayer.

Romans 12:16-21 – 16) *Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. 17) Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. 18) If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. 19) Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. 20) But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals on his head. 21) Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

Matthew 17:20-21 – 20) *And He said to them, “Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. 21) ‘But this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.’”*

Section 21.6. - Article 18 – Meeting of Last Resort.

21.6.1. Scripture References for Section 18.3.3. – Acting against or disregarding qualifications of Elder or Minister.

1 Timothy 3:1-13 – 1) *It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. 2) An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3) not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money. 4) He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity 5) (but if a man does*

not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?), 6) and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. 7) And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. 8) Deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain, 9) but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. 10) These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach. 11) Women must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things. 12) Deacons must be husbands of only one wife, and good managers of their children and their own households. 13) For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

Titus 1:5-9 – *5) For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you, 6) namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. 7) For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, 8) but hospitable, living what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, 9) holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.*

1 Peter 5:1-5 – *1) Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, 2) Shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; 3) nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. 4) And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. 5) You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.*

Ephesians 4:11-16 – *11) And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12) for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13) until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. 14) As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15) but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, 16) from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.*

Hebrews 13:7, 17 – *7) Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith. 17) Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.*

John 13:1-20 – *1) Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. 2) During supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray Him, 3) Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all*

things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God, 4) got up from supper, and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself. 5) Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. 6) So He came to Simon Peter. He said to Him, "Lord, do You wash my feet?" 7) Jesus answered and said to him, "What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand hereafter." 8) Peter said to Him, "Never shall You wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." 9) Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, then wash not only my feet, but also my hands and my head." 10) Jesus said to him, "He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you." 11) For He knew the one who was betraying Him; for this reason He said, "Not all of you are clean." 12) So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? 13) "You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. 14) "If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15) "For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. 16) Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. 17) "If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. 18) "I do not speak of all of you. I know the ones I have chosen; but it is that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'He who eats My bread has lifted up his heel against Me.' 19) "From now on I am telling you before it comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am He. 20) "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me."

John 10:1-19 – 1) "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber. 2) "But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep. 3) "To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4) "When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5) "A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers." 6) This figure of speech Jesus spoke to them, but they did not understand what those things were which He had been saying to them. 7) So Jesus said to them again, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8) "All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. 9) "I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. 10) "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. 11) "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. 12) "He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13) "He flees because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep. 14) "I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, 15) even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. 16) "I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd. 17) "For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. 18) "No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father." 19) A division occurred again among the Jews because of these words.

Matthew 20:20-28 – 20) Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Jesus with her sons, bowing down and making a request of Him. 21) And He said to her, "What do you wish?" She said to him, "Command that in Your kingdom these two sons of mine may sit one on Your right and one on Your left. 22) But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you

able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?” They said to Him, “We are able.” 23) He said to them, “My cup you shall drink; but to sit on My right and on My left, this is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by My Father.” 24) And hearing this, the ten became indignant with the two brothers. 25) But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. 26) It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, 27) and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; 28) just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

Luke 22:24-27 – *24) And there arose also a dispute among them as to which one of them was regarded to be greatest. 25) And He said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who have authority over them are called ‘Benefactors.’” 26) “But it is not this way with you, but the one who is the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the servant. 27) “For who is greater, the one who reclines at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at the table? But I am among you as the one who serves.”*

Section 21.7. - Article 3, Procedures for Voting Members

The following outlines the specific procedures for the distribution of ballots to voting members only at special meetings:

1. Voting member requirements are outlined in Sections 3.1. and 3.2. of these Bylaws.
2. Only New Life Christian voting members may vote at Church services and/or Special Meetings or events designated for that purpose, including but not limited to, hiring or removal of Ministers and Elders or other matters requiring member voting as outlined in these Bylaws.
3. Voting members are individuals who have acknowledged and accepted the Lordship of Jesus Christ as stated in Article 2, are diligent in their Church attendance and prayers, and have made a confession of faith with a Minister or Elder.
4. Voting members shall be designated as such in the Church Shelby data information system and also designated with an asterisk (*) by their name in the hardcopy membership list printed by the Church office.
5. Voting members shall sign up in the Church foyer to be confirmed as a voting member prior to receiving a voting ballot.

Section 21.8. - Article 13 – Books & Records: Finance Policy & Procedures for 13.3.2. Payments/Preauthorization Reference Information Inserted Here.

Section 21.9 – New Life Christian Church Organizational Chart Document To Be Inserted Here.