

Article 1 – MEMBERSHIP

Any person may apply for membership by making a public profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ before the congregation of the church followed by baptism by immersion. New Life Authentic Christian Community (New Life) also accepts application for membership from those of churches with like standards of membership as well as statement of prior conversion and baptism by immersion. A person is accepted into membership upon completion of a new member's orientation class. All members are free to participate in the ministries of the church and vote on all questions at congregational meetings. Membership may be terminated by death, transfer to another congregation, request of the member, or church discipline. Church discipline includes but is not limited to inactivity, absenteeism, ministry for self (building your own kingdom), continuous sinful conduct, and/or erroneous teaching.

Article 2 – GOVERNING STRUCTURE

New Life recognizes the Lord Jesus Christ as head of the church. He is the absolute authority in all matters of the church and is to be consulted on every issue through prayer and His word, the Bible. According to the Bible His leadership is to be carried out in the church through the leadership of the following members of the church:

Ministers: Each member of the church is called by the Lord to a particular ministry He deems necessary. They are placed in authority by their willingness to take the task of a particular ministry. They are responsible and accountable for the appropriate implementation and financial integrity of their ministry in the work of the church. This will be accomplished with the guidance of the Council of Elders and support of the Deacons.

Deacons: The Fellowship of Deacons will be appointed from the membership, through the authority found in I Timothy 3:8-13. They, as servant leaders, will be responsible and accountable for the efficient operation of the church and the support of the ministers of the church. They, in conjunction with the elders protect the freedom of ministry and guard the unity of the church.

Elders: The Council of Elders of the church will be appointed from the membership, through the authority found in Titus 1:5-9 and I Timothy 3:1-7. They, as servant leaders, will be responsible and accountable for the oversight of the church, giving vision to the church, guarding the doctrinal purity, unity and freedom of the church.

Article 3 – OFFICERS

For the purpose of representation before government and other official bodies, the Council of Elders shall act under the direction of the vote of the church in matters that financially or legally obligate the church. A Church Clerk will be appointed by the Council of Elders to record actions authorized by the church.

Article 4 – CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

The annual congregational meeting of the church shall convene during the last quarter of the year. The specific date of this meeting must be announced at least two weeks in advance. Special meetings to consider specific items of business may be called by the Council of Elders. These special called meetings must be announced with the purpose of the meeting clearly stated two weeks in advance. Voting will be done only by those members present at the annual or called meetings. A quorum shall consist of those members present and voting.

Article 5 – MINISTRIES

Each member of New Life is expected to have a personal ministry. This ministry is directed by the Lord Jesus Christ as head of the church and is voluntarily accepted by the individual member. Each ministry is accepted on an annual basis and funded through the budget of the church. With guidance of the Council of Elders and support of the Fellowship of Deacons each ministry operates within the unity of the churches stated purpose.

Article 6 – POLICY

Policy (specific operational guidelines) will be formed by joint consideration of the Council of Elders and Fellowship of Deacons. All policies will reflect the intent and design of the Constitution and Bylaws of New Life.

Article 7 – AMMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Constitution and Bylaws may be made by meeting the following requirements:

- A proposed change shall be given to the Council of Elders in writing at least one month in advance of the annual congregational meeting.
- The Fellowship of Deacons will review the proposal and conduct any research.
- The Council of Elders and Fellowship of Deacons will then consider the proposal and with consensus shall present it to the church for a vote at the annual congregational meeting.
- The amendment shall become effective upon a positive vote of 75% of the members in attendance voting.