

**CONSTITUTIONAL
COVENANT
OF
NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP**

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PREAMBLE

Whereas God admonishes His followers to do all things decently and in order, we, the members of New LIFE Fellowship, in order to preserve and secure the principles of our faith, carry out the commandments given by Jesus Christ to His Churches, and provide for the governing of this body in an orderly manner, do now declare and establish this Constitution as the basic governing instrument of this Church, as in accordance with Holy Scripture.

ARTICLE I: NAME

Our local church family's Name is **NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP**, an independent, non-denominational, unregistered, unincorporated, freely associated church fellowship (i.e.: a FREE CHURCH).

ARTICLE II: MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of this church will be to preach and propagate the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ: to seek the salvation of all persons everywhere; **to make, grow, multiply reproducing disciples of Jesus Christ**; to provide regular opportunities for public worship; to provide regular opportunity for small group fellowship involvement; to sustain the ordinances, doctrinal principles, and ethics as set forth in the Holy Bible; and to study and practice Christian discipleship, in obedience to the teachings of the Holy Bible.

Our Mission & Ministry Process Motto states that we are to: **Reach Sinners • Build Believers • Release Leaders**. This motto is based upon the following verses in the Bible: Matthew 22:37-40, Matthew 28:18-20, 2 Timothy 2:2, Ephesians 4:11-16, and Colossians 1:28. We seek to be an inter-generational, family-integrated, disciple-making, evangelistic, missional, biblically-based, "*Jesus Christ Pleasing & Glorifying*", Holy Spirit-led local church family that is modeled after the simple relational structure of the apostolic church as seen in the New Testament documents. We seek to be used of God to make, grow, and multiply healthy, doctrinally sound, reproducing disciples of Jesus Christ, starting in the home, and working outward from the home into all segments of society, and working toward making disciples of Jesus Christ among all ethnic people groups (*nations*) around the world.

ARTICLE III: STATEMENT OF FAITH

As a New Testament Church, with Jesus Christ as her head, we acknowledge the Holy Bible as the divinely inspired Word of God and as the sole authority and basis for our faith and practice. The following is used as our articles of faith.

THE WORD OF GOD

We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the inspired Word of God, fully authoritative, infallible and inerrant in their original writings, 2 Tim. 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:20-21 and they are complete as the Revelation of God's will for salvation, and the supreme and final authority in all matters to which they speak. Deut. 6:4-9, 11:13-19, Psalm 19:7-11; 119:89-104, 1 Corinthians 10:8-12 (We approach the reading, studying, and applying of God's Word utilizing the literal-grammatical-contextual-historical method of Bible Study. 2 Timothy 2:15)

GOD

We believe in One True and Living God, Creator and Sustainer of all things, Eternally Existing in Three Persons : Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - [The Trinity - Not Three gods] ; Deuteronomy 6:4, Isaiah 44:6-8, 45:5, 1 Timothy 2:5, 1 Corinthians 8:4. Equal in every divine perfection, and that Each executes distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption. One God, one substance, one undivided Divine Being... revealed in three Persons of the Godhead. He is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Exodus 3:5-15); He is the God of the Bible, the God of Creation, the God of Nature, the God of History, the God of the Universe, the God of Time and the God of everything... past, present, and future... the **ONLY - One, True & Living God**. God is eternal (Psalm 90:2), infinite (1 Timothy 1:17), and sovereign (Psalm 93:1). God is omniscient (Psalm 139:1-6), omnipresent (Psalm 139:7-13), omnipotent (Revelation 19:6), and unchanging (Malachi 3:6). God is holy (Isaiah 6:3), just (Deuteronomy 32:4), and righteous (Exodus 9:27). God is love (1 John 4:8), gracious (Ephesians 2:8), merciful (1 Peter 1:3), and good (Romans 8:28) .

➔ Old Testament Implications: Genesis 1:26, 3:22, 11:7, Psalm 2:7-9, Psalm 110:1-7, Isaiah 9:6-7

➔ New Testament Indications: Matthew 3:16-17, John 1:1-3, 1:14-18, 10:30, Acts 5:3-4, Gal. 1:1-5, Col. 1:15-20, Heb. 1:8

GOD THE FATHER

We believe in God the Father, an infinite personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. Ex. 3:1-18, Zeph. 3:17, Mat. 5:45, John 1:12-13, Rom. 5:10-11, 1 Cor. 8:5-6, Eph. 3:14-19, 1 Tim. 4:10

JESUS CHRIST

We believe that Jesus Christ is God's eternal Son, the Eternal and Living Word of God, and He has precisely the same nature, attributes and perfections as God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. Psalm 2:7, John 3:16-17, Hebrews 1:5, John 10:30, 17:24, Colossians 1:15-20, 2:9

We believe Jesus Christ is the only unique Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary, and is fully God and fully man. He lived a perfect life without sin and died on the cross, in the place of man, as the only sufficient sacrifice. He rose from the dead, bodily, three full days later and has ascended to heaven and sits at the right hand of God, and lives to always intercede for believers in Him. We, also, believe in His personal, visible, and real, premillennial return from heaven to rule and reign here on earth to rule over all the universe and of all of the earth and over all of the heavens from Jerusalem, sitting upon the throne of David in redeemed Israel. Matthew 25:31-46; Luke 24:1-8, 44-48; Luke 1:26-38; John 1:14; Philippians 2:8; Hebrews 4:14-16; Acts 2:22-36; 1 Corinthians 15:1-5; 1 Thess. 4:13-5:11; Revelation 20:4-7; Isaiah 9:6-7

HOLY SPIRIT

We believe in the Holy Spirit, co-equal with God the Father and God the Son. We believe in His personality, and His work in regeneration, sanctification, sealing, baptizing, and preservation of the believer. His ministry is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, apply Christ's redemption which was purchased upon the cross to the believer, to implement Christ's work of redeeming the lost, and empowering the believer for godly living and service. We believe the Holy Spirit indwells all, true, "born again" believers and baptizes all believers into the Body of Christ from the moment of salvation and that He seals them until the return of Jesus Christ (i.e.: "the day of redemption"). The Holy Spirit also empowers believers to be effective and fruitful witnesses to the lost and to build up the Body of Christ utilizing spiritual gifts that He sovereignly supplies to each believer from the moment of salvation.

John 14:16-27; Rom. 8:1-39; 1 Cor. 12:7-13; 2 Cor. 2:14-3:11; 2 Thes. 2:13-14; Eph. 1:13-14; Eph. 4:30; Titus 3:4-7

MAN

We believe God, in the beginning, created man (not by any "natural" evolutionary process), male and female (i.e.: Adam and Eve), in the image of God and free from sin. [We, also, believe in the literal-historical account of Genesis chapters 1 & 2 regarding the creation of the physical universe in 6 literal (24-hour) days, as written.] We are Adam's descendants from the point of conception. Genesis 1:26-30, 5:1-3; 9:6; Psalms 8:1ff; 139:1ff.. By human choice, man became a sinner, and is therefore spiritually dead. Genesis 3, Romans 3:10-11,23 ; 5:12-19 ; 6:23, Psalm 14 . . . We also believe that those who repent of sin and trust Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are regenerated by the Holy Spirit. Isaiah 55:6-12, Romans 5:8; 10:8-15; Titus 3:4-7

SALVATION

We believe that Salvation is by God's Loving and Free Grace through faith in Jesus Christ and His finished work of redemption, alone. Eph. 2:4-10 We further believe that this salvation is Eternally Secure, Matthew 25:34, Ephesians 1:3-14 and was purchased by Christ upon the cross, Philippians 2:6-11, Colossians 1:19-23, Hebrews 12:1-2 and is received by humans through repentant and trusting faith, apart from any human merit, works or ritual. Ephesians 2:4-10; Titus 3:4-7; 1 Corinthians 12:13... We, also, believe that true and genuine salvation results in righteous living, good works, and proper evangelistic and social concern. Romans 6:1-14; Romans chapter 12 and Romans chapter 13; 2 Corinthians 5:14-22; Gal. 5:13-26; Ephesians 2:13,14; 4:1-32.

CHURCH

We believe that the Church is the Spiritual Body of which Christ is the Head. Ephesians 1:15-23, 5:23, Colossians 1:18 We believe that the true Church is composed of all persons who through saving faith in Jesus Christ have been regenerated. Acts 2:38-47; Ephesians 2:11-22; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31; Titus 3:4-7

We believe that this body expresses herself in distinct local assemblies or congregations whose members have been immersed in water baptism upon a credible confession of faith and have voluntarily associated themselves by mutual

covenant for worship, for instruction and equipping, for edification, for evangelism, for mission, and for service. Matthew 28:19-20, Ephesians 1:4-6, 4:11-16

We believe the ordinances of the local church are Believer's Baptism by Immersion and The Lord's Supper. Mat. 26:26-29; 28:19-20, Acts 2:38, 1 Cor. 11:2, 23-26 Although these ordinances were ordained by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we understand that they are symbolic in nature and do not convey or "transmit" salvation to the participant, but they are symbolic acts of obedience of the already saved, born-again follower of Jesus Christ.

We, also, believe in the autonomy and voluntary interdependence of local churches and the mutual submission of believers to each other in love. 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Romans 12:4-5; Ephesians 4:1-4, 11-16; 5:18-22

We, also, believe that God has ordained that certain men, called of God, to be shepherding-overseers (i.e. "elders"), that should lead each local church family in overall church governance, by example and by the teaching and proclamation of God's Word. Acts 20:27-32; 1 Thess. 5:12-13; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 5:17-20; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-5; Hebrews 13:7,17

SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

We believe that each local church is distinct and self-governing in function and must be a **FREE CHURCH**, free from interference by any ecclesiastical, civil, and/or political authority. We therefore maintain ourselves as a distinct, independent, autonomous, local church family that is unincorporated and unregistered, in which Jesus Christ is Lord, Sovereign, and Head. Therefore, we are not under any ecclesiastical, civil and/or political authority. We have freely and voluntarily associated ourselves to pursue biblically based gospel ministry, together, as a biblically-based distinct and autonomous local church family. Acts 6:1-6, 15:22-19, Rom. 13:1-7, 1 Cor. 5:9-6:11, 2 Cor. 2:5-11, Eph. 1:15-23; 2:19-22 We further believe that every individual human being is directly responsible to God in matters of faith and life, and that each should be free to worship God according to the dictates of one's conscience. Exodus 1:15-22, Daniel 1:8-21; 3:13-18, Romans 1:1-32

CHRISTIAN CONDUCT

We believe the supreme task of every believer is to glorify God in one's life, that one's conduct should be blameless before the world, that the believer should be a faithful steward of one's possessions, and that the believer should seek to realize for one's self the full stature of maturity in Christ. Ephesians 4:11-32; Philippians 1:27-2:15, Colossians 1:28; Titus 1:6-3:14, 1 Peter 2:12

LAST THINGS

We believe in the blessed hope (Titus 2:13), the personal and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to rapture His saints (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). We believe in the visible and bodily return of Christ to the earth with His saints to establish His promised millennial kingdom (Zechariah 14:4-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; Revelation 3:10, 19:11-16, 20:1-6). We believe in the physical resurrection of all men - the saints to everlasting joy and bliss on the New Earth, and the wicked to eternal punishment in the lake of fire (Matthew 25:46; John 5:28-29; Revelation 20:5-6, 12-13).

We believe that the souls of believers are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where they await their resurrection when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (Luke 23:43; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23, 3:21; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17). We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery until their resurrection when, with soul and body reunited, they shall appear at the Great White Throne judgment and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire to suffer everlasting punishment (Matthew 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Revelation 20:11-15).

BASIC CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

In Acts 2:42-47 we discover that the early New Testament Church met publicly and from house to house as their first pattern for meeting together. They enjoyed a simply structured fellowship under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, together. We have realized that true, biblically-based, fellowship and "building up one another" is never done effectively unless church life begins with "spiritual families". Becoming a part of our church means becoming a part of one of our Home Fellowship Cell Groups - that is what we call our "Basic Christian Community". None of our church family's Cell Groups are independent of each other within our local church family's ministry covering, but each of them is always under the guidance of our pastoral leadership team. Our vision is to develop hundreds of these Home Fellowship Cell Groups, with all of them gathering together within our regularly scheduled Public Worship Celebrations.

ARTICLE IV: CHURCH COVENANT

We covenant with God and with each other to be a local church family, under the Headship of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, according to His Holy Word. Having been led by the Holy Spirit, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, and, on the public profession of our faith, having been baptized in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into a covenant relationship with one another and with God, as one local church family in Christ.

We commit, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to serve together in Christian love: to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ through local, home and foreign missions; to strive for the advancement of the Church of Jesus Christ in knowledge, wisdom and holiness; to promote its prosperity, spirituality and principles of faith; to sustain its worship, ordinances, doctrine, and discipline; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministries and expenses of this Church. We fully support our normal membership process, as expressed in our Discovery Class, all of our Distinctives, and our other supportive membership-related and ministry-related documents (i.e. “our foundational documents”).

ARTICLE V: POLITY, GOVERNANCE, AND AFFILIATION

Our church is an independent, non-denominational, autonomous, distinct local church family and its governance is vested in her pastoral-elder leadership team (*elders*) of the body of believers who compose it. This Church is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, nor any civil and/or political authority. We consider ourselves a FREE CHURCH. We have freely gathered ourselves together and organized ourselves as a free and voluntary association of free people who follow our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, together, according to His Holy Word, the Bible, for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are an unincorporated, unregistered, free assembly of disciples of Jesus Christ. Although being autonomous, we do recognize some benefit of some cooperation and/or collaboration with other churches and church-based associations of like faith and order. And we also recognize the biblical-based importance of our support of like faith and order missionary agencies and/or organizations. Our Church, in a practical way, without creating any violation to of our doctrinal beliefs as defined in Article III of this Constitution, may choose to affiliate with other churches and/or church-based associations as our Lord leads us, by His Spirit, according to His Word.

This Church will be conservative in its view of Scripture and may seek to fellowship with and/or cooperate with those who share like views. Affiliation and cooperation with any local, state, national, or international body rests solely with this Church’s pastoral-elders in consultation with the rest of our church family, prayerfully, together. This Church will immediately withdraw affiliation and/or support from any organization which holds to, espouses, or acts upon a position contrary to the faith, practice, and views of this Church as identified in Article III, The Statement of Faith, of this Constitution, along with any of our other foundational documents.

All conflicts and/or church discipline-related issues will be handled prayerfully, seeking God’s Grace, Truth, and Wisdom, as well as biblically-based, Spirit-led resolution(s). We will follow the Bible regarding this process according to the following Scriptural passages: 1 Corinthians 5 & 6; Galatians 6:1-5; 1 Timothy 5:17-20; Acts 20:28-31; Hebrews 13:7,17; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; Matthew 18:15-17; and Luke 17:3-4. In cases in which there are no conflicts of interest, the elders will normally represent the “church” in these types of conflicts, per Matthew 18:17, unless otherwise agreed upon by the elders.

Since, New LIFE Fellowship is **not** a business, nor is it a nonprofit corporation, nor is it a 501(c)3 type of religious charity organization per the IRS, nor is it any type of corporation in any way, the stewardship of any assets and/or ownership of any property by New LIFE Fellowship will be approached from a purely biblical point of view. If, in the course of our ministry life-cycle, our church family does own any type of bank account and/or any type of assets and/or any type of property, **we will follow** all biblical and civil legal procedures that would apply specifically to a FREE CHURCH, such as ours.

MEMBERSHIP COVENANT BETWEEN “CANDIDATE” FOR MEMBERSHIP AND WITH THE CHURCH FAMILY OF NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP:

Having received Christ Jesus as my LORD and Savior and been baptized biblically, and in **AGREEMENT** with New LIFE Fellowship’s statements, constitution, strategy, structure and any of her other foundational documents, I am now led, by the Holy Spirit, to unite with the New LIFE Fellowship church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members of this church family to do the following:

1. Be an **ACTIVE, COMMITTED, VITAL, and SUPPORTIVE PARTICIPATING** member of the New LIFE Fellowship church family.
2. Seek to fulfill the ***Expectations of Membership***, as stated in the **DISCOVERY CLASS** document, by the Grace of God.
3. **I WILL PROTECT THE UNITY OF MY CHURCH**
 - By seeking to make sure that Jesus Christ is the **HEAD** of New LIFE Fellowship
 - By acting in love toward other members
 - By refusing to gossip and spread rumors
 - By biblically submitting to and following the pastoral-leadership team’s ministry leadership, vision and direction for our church family
4. **I WILL SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MY CHURCH**
 - By praying for its growth on a regular, faithful, and consistent basis
 - By inviting the unchurched to attend
 - By warmly welcoming those who visit
5. **I WILL SERVE THE MINISTRY OF MY CHURCH**
 - By willingly and passionately seeking to be equipped to serve by my pastoral-leadership team
 - By developing a servant’s heart
 - By discovering my gifts and talents and using them to the glory of God
6. **I WILL SUPPORT THE TESTIMONY OF MY CHURCH**
 - By attending one of our weekly, public Worship Celebrations faithfully, regularly, and consistently
 - By attending & participating in Body-Life Ministry in a LIFE Group faithfully, regularly, & consistently
 - By living a godly life, as an “ambassador” for Jesus Christ and of my church family
 - By giving of my time, talents, and treasures regularly toward the support of this ministry

(a covenant similar to this will be annually and publically renewed, together, as a church family)

SPECIAL NOTE:

To fully Covenant with **NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP**, you will need to go through our **DISCOVERY CLASS**. Then you will need to sign the “***Covenant***” on the last page in the **DISCOVERY CLASS** document (which is similar to “Covenant” seen above).