

New Life Church Constitution and Bylaws

PREAMBLE –We, the members of New Life Church of Wanamingo, Minnesota hereby constitute and organize ourselves in accordance with the New Testament principles for a local church. In order to carry out more efficiently the commission of Jesus Christ to His church, we do establish the following Constitution and Bylaws to which we voluntarily submit ourselves.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I ORGANIZATION

As declared in the Articles of Incorporation and in the Certificate of Incorporation issued by the State of Minnesota on the 19th day of October 1998, the name of this organization shall be New Life Church, Inc. of Wanamingo, Minnesota, in the county of Goodhue. This church shall be affiliated with the Conservative Baptist Association of America and Conservative Baptist North Central.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be to produce fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ in obedience to the Great Commission as stated in Matthew 28:19-20. The purpose of this corporation will be specifically met by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those who are in need of a Savior, by strategically building up all believers in the faith, by properly training and utilizing Christian leaders within the church, while training certain leaders to shepherd others in the faith, and ultimately by planting other churches which are committed to carry out the above stated purpose.

ARTICLE III STATEMENT OF FAITH

This statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith, but expresses beliefs that are foundational to our faith. We, the members of New Life Church, wholeheartedly believe in the Bible as the sole authority for everyday faith and practice.

Section 1 - The Bible. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the inspired Word of God. They are inerrant in the original writings, complete as the revelation of God's will for salvation, and are the final authority concerning truth, morality and the proper conduct of mankind. For the purposes of church doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline the elders lead the church in seeking to understand the intended meaning of Scripture. (Deuteronomy 29:29; Isaiah 40:8; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Peter 5:1-3; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

Section 2 - The Trinity. We believe in one God, creator and sustainer of all things, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These three are equal in every divine perfection and they execute distinct and harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence, and redemption. (Genesis 1:1-2; Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 48:16; Matthew 3:16-17; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

Section 3 - God the Father. We believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal Spirit who is perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. We believe He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of everyone

and that He hears and answers prayer. To all who come to Him through faith in Jesus Christ, He saves from the penalty of sin and death. (Isaiah 57:15; John 4:24; John 14:28; John 17:25; Romans 6:22-23)

Section 4 - Jesus Christ. We believe that Jesus Christ is God's eternal Son and He has precisely the same nature, perfection and attributes as God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. We believe further that He is not only true God but true man, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. We also believe in His sinless life, His substitutionary atonement, His bodily resurrection from the dead, His ascension into heaven, His priestly intercession on behalf of His people and His personal, visible, premillennial return from heaven. (John 1:1-2; John 1:14; John 1:18; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 1 Peter 3:18; 1 John 2:1)

Section 5 - The Holy Spirit. We believe in the Holy Spirit, His personality, and His work in regeneration, sanctification and preservation. His ministry is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ and implement Christ's work of redeeming the lost. We also believe the Holy Spirit empowers the believer for godly living and service, distributing spiritual gifts to believers as He wills for the common good. (John 14:16-17; John 16:13-14; Romans 8:9; 1 Peter 4:10)

Section 6 - Man. We believe God created everyone, male and female, in His own image. We further believe, although Adam was originally free of sin, because of his disobedience in the garden everyone is a sinner by nature and choice and is therefore spiritually dead. We also believe that those who repent of sin and trust Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit to eternal life. We believe that human life, in whatever stage or condition, from conception to death, is particularly precious before God, and that human personhood bears an intrinsic value. We believe that marriage between one man and one woman is ordained by God, and is the only acceptable context for sexual intimacy. (Genesis 1:27; Psalm 139:13-14; Romans 5:12; Ephesians 2:1; Titus 3:5)

Section 7 - Salvation. We believe in salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. We further believe that this salvation is based upon the sovereign grace of God and was purchased by Christ on the cross. This salvation is received by man through faith in Jesus Christ, apart from any human merit, works or ritual. We believe in the eternal security of the believer. We further believe salvation results in righteous living, good works and proper social conduct and concern. (John 3:16; Romans 1:16-17; Ephesians 2:4-6; Ephesians 2:8-10; Philippians 2:12-13; 1 Peter 3:18)

Section 8 - The Church. We believe that the Church is the spiritual body of which Christ is the head. We believe that the universal Church is composed of all persons who through saving faith in Jesus Christ have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit. We also believe the universal Church is expressed in local assemblies whose members have been baptized by immersion upon a credible confession of faith in Jesus Christ. These believers associate themselves for worship, for instruction, for evangelism and for service. We believe the ordinances of the local church are believer's baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper. We also believe in cooperating with other churches of like faith and the mutual submission of believers to one another in love. We believe the biblical, historic position concerning the baptism and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and that sign gifts were primarily for the establishment of the early church, and so we do not include them in our public services, as a non-Pentecostal/non-Charismatic congregation. (Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 1 Corinthians 11:23-28; Ephesians 5:25-27; Colossians 1:18; Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 Peter 4:10-11)

Section 9 -The Last Things. We believe in the personal, bodily and premillennial return of Christ to the earth and that believers, both living and dead, will be caught up to meet him in the air. We believe in the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel, a period of Great Tribulation, the 1000-year rule of Christ on earth, the judgment of all, the creation of a new heaven and new earth, and the eternal existence in everlasting joy of the righteous in God's presence and the everlasting existence in torment of the unrighteous in hell apart from God's presence. (Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelation 20:4; Revelation 21:1-5)

Section 10 - Separation of Church and State. We believe that each local church is self-governing under the lordship of Christ and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority. We further believe that every human being is directly responsible to God in matters of faith and life. Each person should be free to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience. (Matthew 22:21; Acts 5:29; Romans 13:1)

Section 11 - Christian Conduct. We believe that the supreme task of every believer is to glorify God and that his or her conduct should be blameless before the world. Believers should be faithful stewards of their possessions and should seek to realize for themselves the full stature of maturity in Christ, and should actively participate in a local body of believers. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Ephesians 4:1; Philippians 1:9-11; Hebrews 10:23-24)

ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 – Qualifications. Membership of this church shall consist of persons who confess personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who strive for character, conduct, and reputation that is in accord with God's Word, who have obeyed the Lord and been baptized by immersion as believers, who subscribe to the above statement of faith, and who accept the Constitution and Bylaws of this church. Each applicant shall meet with the elders to ascertain that these requirements are fulfilled, and will sign a statement that they have been provided a copy of the church Constitution and Bylaws, that they have read them, and that they agree with the standards stated therein.

Section 2 – Voting. Members of the church who are 18 years of age or older have voting privileges in all business meetings of the church.

Section 3 – Responsibilities. Members are expected to participate in the ongoing life of this local church through their participation in attendance, giving, praying, and serving; and to order their personal lifestyles according to biblical standards in such a way that they honor the name of Christ. In cases where a member has not participated for twelve (12) months, written notification will be sent, after which the elders will consider recommending to the church that the person be removed from membership. In cases where a person persists in a lifestyle that is openly dishonoring to the name of Christ, they will be asked to meet with the elders, who will urge them to repent and to seek restored fellowship with the Lord. If they refuse to do so and choose to persist in the behavior which is contrary to the standards of the Bible, the elders will recommend to the church body that they be removed from membership.

ARTICLE V Government

Section 1 – Authority. The government of this church shall be congregational, with most oversight responsibilities delegated to the board of elders . The congregation at its annual and special business

meetings is the final legislative and governing body of this corporation. Authority delegated to the elders includes spiritual direction of the church, management of church employees, oversight of church committees and ministries, and general superintendence of the day-to-day operations of the church.

Section 2 – Officers. Officers of the church shall be the voting Elders, Deacons, Facility Committee members, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Clerk, and any other officers as shall be deemed necessary by the congregation. All officers shall be members of this church who demonstrate Christ-like character and conduct, with elders (including pastors) and deacons satisfying the requirements outlined in 1 Timothy 2:12, 3:1-13, and Titus 1:5-9. The elected elders shall constitute the current Board of Directors and Trustees of the church for the purposes of the Articles of Incorporation. The number of Elders, Deacons, and Facility Committee members may vary in response to the size and needs of the congregation as well as the readiness of individuals to serve in such capacity. Any board or committee with less than three (3) members will be considered non-functional.

Section 3 – Elections. The church shall elect officers to the various positions of service as specified in the Bylaws. All church officers shall be elected by simple majority by ballot of the voting members actually present at the Annual Business Meeting. Vacancies occurring during the year may be filled at any business meeting following proper previous notice to the congregation. The church moderator will be annually appointed by the Board of Elders.

Section 4 – Terms of Office. Those serving on the Board of Elders and the Deacons Committee shall be elected for three-year terms on a rotating basis. Facility Committee members shall be elected for two-year terms on a rotating basis. The maximum number of consecutive years that can be served on the Board of Elders, Deacon Committee, and Facility Committee is six (6) years. The Financial Secretary, Treasurer and Clerk are elected for one-year terms, with no restriction on the number of years that may be served consecutively.

Section 5 – Pastor(s). The Pastor(s) shall serve for an indeterminate term and shall be called by the church at a special business meeting. Notice of the special meeting and its purpose to call the Pastor(s) must be read publicly two weeks prior to the date of the meeting. A three-fourths (3/4) affirmative vote by written ballot of those members present is required to call the Pastor(s). The senior pastor is a teaching elder and meets with the elders, but is nonvoting in elder decisions.

ARTICLE VI Meetings

Section 1 – Worship Services. Regular Sunday services and other gatherings providing for fellowship, worship, prayer, praise, and preaching of the Gospel shall be conducted as deemed appropriate by the church and its elders for fulfilling its purpose as stated in Article II.

Section 2 – Annual Meetings. The Annual Business Meeting of the church shall be held during the month of January of each year at such time as may be decided by the Board of Elders. At this meeting annual budgets shall be approved, reports received, church officers and boards elected, and other necessary church business transactions as outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws considered. The Church fiscal year shall be January 1 to December 31.

Section 3 – Quarterly Reports. Three times a year, in April, July, and October, reports will be provided to members of the congregation, including financial reports, attendance reports, membership reports, and reports on Elder decisions and activities. Reports may be provided by oral, written, and/or electronic means at the discretion of the Board of Elders.

Section 4 – Special Meetings. The assembly of the church may be called by the elders at any time. Written request for a special business meeting may be made by the Chairman of the Deacons, the Chairman of the Facility Committee or five members of the church, such request being delivered to the elders. Special meetings may be called to vote on new members, to deal with pressing church business, and to replace officers who have resigned, as well as for other reasons deemed by the elders to justify a special meeting.

Section 5 – Notice. Notice of such special meetings shall be given either by announcement at two regular Sunday Services of the church previous to the date of the meeting, or by written notice mailed in time to reach all members at least one week prior to the date of the meeting. In addition, notice shall be delivered by electronic means as deemed appropriate by the elders.

ARTICLE VII Property

The properties and assets of this non-profit corporation are irrevocably dedicated to religious or charitable purposes that are in alignment with Article II of this Constitution. No part of the net earnings, properties, or assets of this corporation on dissolution or otherwise, shall inure to the benefit of any private individual, member, officer or contributor of this corporation. On liquidation or dissolution, all properties, assets and obligations shall be properly distributed by the Board of Directors of this corporation as stated in Articles X and XI of the Articles of Incorporation for New Life Church of Wanamingo.

ARTICLE VIII Amendments

Amendments to this Constitution may be introduced through a formal motion at any annual meeting or at any special meeting called and announced for such purpose. Announcement of a pending vote on any amendment to this Constitution shall be made in writing and read at a previous business meeting at least one month in advance of the pending vote, and also read publicly two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting. A printed notice of the proposed amendment shall be mailed to all members at least one month prior to meeting, and notification by electronic means as deemed appropriate by the elders shall be made one week before the scheduled meeting. The adoption of an amendment shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority of votes cast at the scheduled meeting provided a quorum of twenty (20) percent of current members is present and voting. Each amendment of the Constitution shall include the date of its adoption.

Constitution and Bylaws as adopted on January 5, 1999 and significantly revised on October 9, 2016.