

# New Life Landmark Missionary Baptist Church Bylaws

These represent the beliefs and guidelines of church governance as adopted by the members of New Life Landmark Missionary Baptist Church referred to throughout this document as “New Life” and “the church”.

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

## Church Beliefs

### **I. The Inerrancy and Inspiration of Scriptures**

We believe in the infallible, verbal inspiration of the whole Bible and that the Bible is the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice. We believe that the Old and New Testament’s as preserved in the 1611 Authorized King James Version remain as the test by which all other truth is measured. The scriptures are God-breathed and are the final authority for faith and life. *Psalms 119:160, 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

### **II. Salvation**

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by repenting of his sin and placing his personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. Upon placing personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, such an experience consummates the New Birth and is transformed or regenerated by God’s Spirit and becomes a true child of God. This Salvation, (or New Birth), cannot be obtained by any good works or deeds of men. We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God’s power and are thus secure in Christ forever. *Luke 13:3; John 1:12; John 3:36; John 10:27-29; Acts 4:12; 16:31; Eph. 1:7; 2:8-10; 1 Peter 1:18-19, John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1, 38-39; 1 Cor. 1:4-8; 1 Peter 1: 4-5*

### **III. The Trinity**

We believe in the personal triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, equal in divine perfection. *Matthew 28:19-20*

### **IV. Baptism**

We believe that scriptural baptism is the immersion of penitent believers in water, administered by the authority of a New Testament church in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and represents the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. *Matthew 28:19, Romans 6:4*

### **V. The Second Advent of Christ**

We believe in that “blessed hope,” the personal, imminent return of Christ Who will rapture His Church prior to the seven-year tribulation period. At the end of the Tribulation, Christ will personally and visibly return, with His saints, to establish His earthly Kingdom where He will rule for a thousand years which makes His Second Coming premillennial. *John 14:3; Acts 1:11-12; 1 Thess. 1:10; 1 Thess. 3:18; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Rev. 19:11-16; 20:1-6*

### **VI. Creation**

We believe in the Genesis account of Creation *Genesis 1; 2*

### **VII. Christian’s relationship to civil government**

We believe in freedom of worship without interference from the government and affirm our belief in civil obedience, unless the laws and regulations of civil government run contrary to the Holy Scriptures. *Romans 13: 1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-15*

## VIII. Divorce and Remarriage

We believe that God hates divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Divorce and remarriage is regarded as adultery except on the grounds of fornication. Although divorced and remarried persons or divorced persons may hold positions of service in the Church and be greatly used of God for Christian service, they may not be, with the exceptions of biblical divorce or prior to salvation, considered for the offices of pastor or deacon. *Malachi 2:14-17; Matthew 19:3-12; Romans 7:1-3; 1 Corinthians 7:15; 1 Timothy. 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6*

## IX. Missions

We believe that God has given the Church a Great Commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. *Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:20*

## X. Lawsuits between believers

We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the Church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the Church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company if the claim is pursued without malice or slander. *1 Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32*

## XI. The purpose of the Church

We believe that Jesus Christ established His church during His ministry on earth and that it is always a local, visible assembly of scripturally baptized believers in covenant relationship to carry out the Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ, and each church is an independent, self-governing body, and no other ecclesiastical body may exercise authority over it. We believe that Jesus Christ gave the Great Commission to the New Testament churches only, and that He promised the perpetuity of His churches. We believe the Holy Spirit is the divine Administrator for Jesus Christ in His churches. *Matt. 4:18-22; Matt. 16:18; Matt. 28:19, 20; Mark 1:14-20; John 1:35-51; Eph. 3:21; Luke 24:49; John 14:16, 17; Acts 1:4, 5, 8; Acts 2:1-4*

## Church Governance

### I. Membership

- **Current Membership-** A current membership list will be comprised and attached to these bylaws
- **Membership Status-**A member will remain in good standing until he/she has joined with another congregation or has been absent from fellowship for a period of 6 months. Exceptions will be made for those persons serving in the military, are considered shut-ins for medical reasons, college students, missionaries or evangelists.
- **Join-**Prospective members may join by profession of faith and baptism or by personal statement.

### II. Membership Rights

Members have no contract, property or civil legal rights in the property or other ministry affairs of the church. This provision is important for churches seeking to maintain their tax-exempt status. Section

501(c)(3) of the federal tax code provides that no part of the net earnings of a tax-exempt organization may inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual.

### **III. Church Officer and Elections**

Elections will be held annually during the regularly scheduled business meeting in the month of August. The new officers will take position the first Sunday in the Month of September. The Church recognizes the following church officers and duties:

- **Treasurer-** receive and deposit all church offerings and donations, pay bills for church, oversee expenditures of the church, balance all church accounts and budgets, prepare financial reports, write payroll checks, has signature authority on all bank accounts
- **Assistant Treasurer-** has all rights of treasurer, fulfills duties when treasurer, is unavailable
- **Secretary-** take minutes of meetings, keep records of baptisms, keep records of membership/attendance, sign legal documents as needed for church
- **Assistant Secretary-**all duties of secretary when unavailable
- **Youth Director-** May be Ordained Minister- Oversees Youth Program K-12, Works under the direction of Pastor

### **IV. Financial Matters**

In matters of finance, the treasurer and assistant treasurer are recognized officers of the church and have the support and trust of the membership to carry out the financial matters of the church. The treasurer/assistant treasurer also has the right to designate purchasing responsibilities to others as need be.

### **V. Ordination and Position**

The Church recognizes the following ordained positions in the church. These positions have specific duties within the church to serve the members of the church and to further the kingdom of God. The qualifications for these positions can be found in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. The church also recognizes that all positions may not be filled always. Qualified men must be present in the congregation to fulfill these positions.

- **Pastor-**ordained minister of the gospel, shepherd of the flock
- **Associate Pastor-** ordained minister of the gospel, assistant to the Pastor, oversees curriculum for the church
- **Elders-** Ordained teachers and preachers, can fulfill the pulpit
- **Deacons-** Ordained servants; As of adoption, the church recognizes 2 (two) ordained deacons: Larry Cantrell and Paul Wells

### **VI. Meetings (Scheduling)**

- Regular Meeting are scheduled on a quarterly basis beginning October 2020. Meetings will be held the first Wednesday after the first Sunday of the month. January, April, July, October (Adopted August 2020)
- Special Meetings will be scheduled with at least a week (7 day) notice.

### **VII. Meetings (Quorum)**

For votes to take place at any meeting the following persons must be present:

- Pastor or his designee
- Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer

- Secretary or Assistant Secretary
- At Least 1 Elder/Deacon

## VIII. Meetings (Order, preside, etc.)

Meetings will be led by the pastor or his designee. Meetings will be informal in nature but respect to all attendees will be shown

## IX. Amendments

Amendments should be proposed to ordained positions and will be evaluated for benefit to the entirety of the congregation. The amendment will then be brought before majority vote at the next scheduled business meeting after being published for review at least a week (7 days) before meeting.

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- The Lord's Supper is a memorial ordinance, restricted to the members of the church observing the ordinance
- We believe that the Lord's Supper is to be observed by only those who have been saved by Jesus Christ and is to be observed only after a solemn self-examination; that the elements of this ordinance, unleavened bread and unfermented grape juice, represent the broken body and shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ respectively.

## 1 Corinthians 11:17–34

<sup>17</sup> Now in this that I declare *unto you* I praise *you* not, that ye come together not for the better, but for the worse. <sup>18</sup> For first of all, when ye come together in the church, <sup>19</sup> I hear that there be <sup>19</sup> divisions among you; and I partly believe it. <sup>19</sup> For <sup>19</sup> there must be also <sup>19</sup> heresies among you, <sup>19</sup> that they which are <sup>19</sup> approved may be made manifest among you. <sup>20</sup> When ye come together therefore into one place, <sup>20</sup> this is not to eat <sup>20</sup> the Lord's supper. <sup>21</sup> For in eating every one <sup>21</sup> taketh before *other* his own supper: and one is hungry, and <sup>21</sup> another is drunken. <sup>22</sup> What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye <sup>22</sup> the church of God, and <sup>22</sup> shame <sup>22</sup> them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise *you* not. <sup>23</sup> For <sup>23</sup> I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, <sup>23</sup> That the Lord Jesus the *same* night in which he was betrayed took bread: <sup>24</sup> And when he had given thanks, he <sup>24</sup> brake *it*, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is <sup>24</sup> broken for you: this do <sup>24</sup> in <sup>24</sup> remembrance <sup>24</sup> of me. <sup>25</sup> After the same manner also *he took* the cup, <sup>25</sup> when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink *it*, in remembrance of me. <sup>26</sup> For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, <sup>26</sup> ye do shew the Lord's death <sup>26</sup> till he come. <sup>27</sup> Wherefore <sup>27</sup> whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink *this* cup of the Lord, <sup>27</sup> unworthily, shall be <sup>27</sup> guilty of <sup>27</sup> the body and blood of the Lord. <sup>28</sup> But <sup>28</sup> let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of *that* bread, and drink of *that* cup. <sup>29</sup> For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh <sup>29</sup> damnation to himself, not <sup>29</sup> discerning the Lord's body. <sup>30</sup> For this cause many *are* weak and <sup>30</sup> sickly among you, and many <sup>30</sup> sleep. <sup>31</sup> For <sup>31</sup> if we would <sup>31</sup> judge ourselves, we should not be judged. <sup>32</sup> But when we are judged, <sup>32</sup> we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world. <sup>33</sup> Wherefore, my brethren, when ye

come together to eat, tarry one for another. <sup>34</sup> And <sup>f</sup>if any man hunger, let him <sup>g</sup>eat at home; that <sup>h</sup>ye come not together unto <sup>l</sup>condemnation. And the rest <sup>i</sup>will I set in order <sup>k</sup>when I come.

Moderator

Paul Wells

Secretary

Deloris Skelton