

ARTICLE VI

Membership

Church membership is voluntary. It carries the privilege of identification with the local Body of Christ and acceptance of responsibility to New Life Community Church. Membership includes personal commitment to Christ, believing the Bible to be the inspired Word of God, faithfulness to worship services, financial commitment in tithes and offerings, support and respect for leadership, and a willingness to give of personal and spiritual resources.

Those who are members have the privilege of voting at church annual and special business meetings, have the potential of recognized ministry, benefit from the mutual relationship of instruction and correction, and receive the full privileges of Christian rites. This includes baby dedications, baptisms, marriages, funeral services, laying on of hands, and comfort for loss of a loved one or a personal tragedy. Church membership is available to all who attend New Life Community Church.

Section 1 – Eligibility for Membership

- A. Regular classes shall be available to acquaint newcomers and potential members with the beliefs and practices of the assembly. It is the responsibility of those who desire membership to attend said classes. Thereupon, formal application for active membership may be made with the Pastor and Elders. If approved for active membership, all applicants shall be received and prayed over in a public worship service and be given an official certificate of membership.
- B. Membership in the local church may be terminated by voluntary transfer of membership to another local church, at which time the church shall issue a letter of transfer. An unruly or rebellious member may also be expelled and his/her membership terminated according to Matt. 18:17.

Section 2 – Responsibilities of Membership

- A. Members shall uphold and defend this constitution and especially the Articles of Faith.

- B. Members shall be faithful in the worship life of the church and shall remain supportive and submissive to the leadership of the church, extending love, honor, trust and fervent prayer according to John 4:23-24 and Hebrews 13:17.
- C. Members shall be encouraged to invest their time, talents, and treasure for the building up of the local body and the advancement of God's Kingdom at large. (Matthew 6:20,21,33)
- D. Members shall be encouraged to be actively involved in fellowship groups and prayer meetings and shall cultivate a life of prayer. (Hebrews 10:24-25, 1 Tim 2:1-2)
- E. Members shall make family life a priority by building sound Christian marriages and bringing up their children in the fear and knowledge of the Lord. (Ephesians 5:22-33, 6:1-4)
- F. Members should work at all times to maintain peace and harmony in the congregation and shall live a righteous life before the world as a testimony. (Matthew 5:13-16, 23+24, 18:15, Ephesians 4:1-6)

Section 2 –Discipline of Members

The ultimate goal of all disciplinary measures, even excommunication, is to restore the erring member to a healthy relationship with the Lord and His body. A secondary purpose is to preserve the membership from the destructive influence of error and carnal behavior.

- A. Any member guilty of unscriptural conduct shall be dealt with according to Matthew 18 and no public complaint shall be preferred until this course has been pursued. Charges, when made by other members, shall be in writing, signed by the complainant, and submitted to the Pastor and Elders for consideration only after personal and private attempts at reconciliation are made. Removal from membership shall occur only after Scriptural action to “restore such a one” has failed. Upon becoming a member, one agrees to submit willingly to church discipline and order as directed in a Scriptural manner by the Pastor and Elders. Should a member no longer give evidence of their faith, thus bringing a reproach upon the name of Christ and His Body on earth, he/she shall be removed from membership.

- B. If an impenitent member has been removed, the other members of the congregation, and particularly those who are close friends and relatives, shall be careful not to undermine the action of the Board of Elders by privately sympathizing with the erring members as if they had been misjudged or mistreated. Such behavior not only allows the infection to spread but is in itself cause for church discipline. (1 Ti 5:22)
- C. A majority of the entire number of church Elders, together with the Pastor(s), shall be considered competent to deal with all cases of discipline. Additional ministers may be invited to assist in the process. The action of the Pastor and Elders shall be final in such cases.

Section 3 – Types of Members

- A. Active Members. Members in good standing shall be considered the “active membership”. They are the local, regular attendees and supporters and shall constitute the legal voting membership, provided they are at least eighteen years of age. Members who without good cause absent themselves on a regular basis for a period of six months become inactive and shall lose their privileges of contribution (either by local expression or the process of decision making) in an assembly meeting. No person’s vote may be cast except in person unless on special occasion when the Pastor and Elders may change the general rule because of circumstances. In the event a question is raised as to the right of any person or persons to vote, it shall be settled by the presiding officer with the assistance of the Elders, before the assembly proceeds to vote. Active members may receive preferential consideration when determining church policies and procedures.
- B. Junior Membership. Junior membership shall be available to youth between the time of baptism and the age of eighteen who have successfully completed a prescribed course of study which shall include the tenets of faith. Junior membership shall be transferred to Active Membership at age eighteen, subject to review and approval of the Elders.

- C. Inactive Members. Members, who without good cause, absent themselves from the assembly on a regular basis for a period of six months or more, and/or who shall be under charges of misconduct, or may be out of harmony with the assembly's teachings and ministries and/or who cease to contribute of their means to its support or who may have fallen under condemnation through sinful or worldly practices shall be considered inactive members and shall lose their privileges until restored in good standing in the assembly. The standing of the members shall be settled through the action of the Board of Elders in accordance with Scripture (Matt. 18:15-20; Eph. 4:31-32; Col. 3:12-15; Prov. 21:3; Heb. 12:12-16). After six months of being inactive, a member shall be automatically dropped from the church membership roll. The Pastor and Elders shall make the determination in all preceding cases.
- D. Attendee. All persons who regularly attend New Life Community Church and who by evidence and testimony of their faith in Jesus Christ, shall be considered Attendees for the purpose of record keeping and communication purposes. Their contribution in an assembly or special business meeting will not include voting privileges
- E. Revision of Membership Roll. The Pastor and Elders are authorized to revise the membership roll as they deem expedient, and remove from the list of active and inactive members, all names of those who may have become deceased during the year, together with the names of those who have withdrawn from the fellowship or who fallen into sin and whose lives may have become inconsistent with the teachings of God's Word and this local Church. Appeal can be made to the Pastor and Elders to be presented at a Board meeting to clarify any misunderstanding, but the decision of the Elders in the matter shall be final.

ARTICLE VII

Missions

This assembly shall be actively engaged in regular and consistent support of Missions and Missionaries around the world. Support of encouragement of Missionaries shall be an integral part of the ministry of this assembly.