

REVISED CONSTITUTION OF NEW LIFE CITY CHURCH INC.

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS it is the express purpose of God, our Heavenly Father, to call out of the world a saved people, who shall constitute the Body or Church of Jesus Christ, built and established upon the foundations of the Apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20);

WHEREAS the members of the Body, the Church of Jesus Christ, are enjoined to assemble themselves for worship, fellowship, counsel and instruction in the Word of God and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices set forth in the Word of God;

BE IT RESOLVED:-

That in recognition of the necessity to update in the area of church leadership and government, this Revised Constitution as herein set forth be adopted to replace the Constitution and Rules of Genesis Fellowship Incorporated registered on 25th January 1999.

1. NAME

1.1 The Church shall be known as "**NEW LIFE CITY CHURCH**" (hereinafter called 'the Church').

2. OBJECTS

The objects or purposes of the Church are to glorify God, our heavenly Father in our relationship to Him as His Body, and through His ministry expressed in the following purposes: -

2.1 to propagate the Christian faith and to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ as revealed through the Holy Scriptures by all means of communication, whether visual, verbal or written;

2.2 to provide for preaching, teaching and fostering the growth of the Christian faith in all places; and to license and ordain ministers; to carry on the work of evangelism; to promote missionary work in all places; to carry on the organization of churches and foster their development and local sovereignty and independence according to the Constitution and its By- Laws;

2.3 to erect and maintain church buildings, social halls, business offices, hospitals, educational and recreational facilities, child care centers, bible schools, parsonages, and such other structures as are deemed necessary, and to organize and promote such activities as deemed necessary for the purposes of the Church and with the approval of the relevant authorities for the upkeep and continuance of the said buildings and facilities;

2.4 to provide for welfare of the destitute, delinquents and emotionally troubled persons;

- 2.5 to collect, accept funds, gifts and other subscriptions; to hold in trust, use, mortgage, lease, sell or otherwise acquire or dispose of property, real or personal, in keeping with the objects or purposes of the Church;
- 2.6 to apply the property and income of the Church solely towards the promotion of the objects or purposes of the Church and no part of that property or income may be paid or otherwise distributed, directly or indirectly, to members of the Church, except in good faith in the promotion of those objects or purposes;
- 2.7 to publish, produce and promote Christian literature and music in Perth and in any part of the world;
- 2.8 to conduct Christian conventions, colloquiums, public lectures, summits, symposiums, camps, conferences, seminars and training programs for the purposes of promoting evangelism, church planting and spiritual growth; and
- 2.9 to do all things that are necessary or convenient to effect any and all of the objects or purposes of the Church.

3. POWERS OF THE CHURCH.

The Church may do all things necessary or convenient or incidental to the carrying out of its objects or purposes, and in particular, it may:

- 3.1 purchase or otherwise acquire real or personal property or any legal or equitable interest therein and to improve, manage, sell, lease, mortgage or otherwise deal with all or any of the property of the Church.
- 3.2 erect any building, to alter, rebuild and maintain any building or buildings for the time being belonging to the Church and to provide any such building with all suitable equipment and facilities.
- 3.3 borrow or raise money in any manner whatsoever, and in particular by mortgaging or charging the property of the Church or any part thereof.
- 3.4 invest any monies in such other form or forms of investment as may be determined by the Board of Elders.
- 3.5 undertake and execute any trust, debenture or guarantee which may be deemed desirable or conducive to the objects or purposes of the Church.
- 3.6 enter into contracts, arrangements and agreements with any Government, Municipal, Local or other authority or any Society or body or individual that may be conducive to the objects or purposes of the Church or any of them and to obtain from any such Government or authority

or Society or body or individual any rights, privileges or concessions and to carry out exercise and comply with such rights, privileges or concessions.

3.7 establish regional centers, branch activities and to procure the Church to be registered and recognised in any part of the world and to regulate, carry on or discontinue the same.

3.8 amalgamate and to enter into any arrangement for union of interest with any church or incorporated association with objects similar or identical to those of the Church.

3.9 make By-laws not inconsistent with this Constitution and to revoke the same.

3.10 open and operate bank accounts.

4. PRINCIPLE OF AUTONOMY

4.1 The Church holds as Scriptural and fundamental the principle of local church government by qualified pastors and leaders. These persons must qualify according to the qualifications laid down in the Scriptures (1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1:5-9).

4.2 The local church is sovereign under Christ's headship, and each local church assembly as a congregation exercises all ecclesiastical power and decisions thus made shall not be subject to change or reversal by any other ecclesiastical body. The Church is autonomous, but advice and counsel from qualified pastors and leaders of other bodies of like principles and faith may be sought.

5. FAITH

The fundamental teachings of the Church are reflected in the following clear statements of faith: (see Appendix "A")

6. CHURCH STRUCTURE

Leadership and management of the Church, in general or as hereinafter in detail set forth, shall be in the hands of the Board of Elders.

6.1 BOARD OF ELDERS

6.1.1 There shall be a Board of Elders to oversee the growth of the Church in its entirety. The Board of Elders shall consist of a minimum of three and a maximum of seven appointed Elders. The Senior Pastor shall be an Elder by virtue of his office and appointment. The Board of Elders shall elect its own chairman, vice-chairman, secretary and treasurer to be vested with various duties and responsibilities assigned to them.

6.1.2 The Board may at its discretion appoint a recording secretary or assistant treasurer who may not be an elder to assist in the execution of Board duties and responsibilities. Such roles will have no executive powers or decisions.

6.2. Selection of Elders

When, and if, any positions are to be filled on the Board of Elders, or if the Church through a simple resolution passed in an Annual General Meeting or Extra Ordinary General Meeting determines that additional Elders are needed, the Board shall initiate the following process for Board Member selection:

- 6.2.1 The existing Board of Elders will review the biblical qualifications for Elders and determine questions, which shall be posed to the candidates.
- 6.2.2 The existing Board shall appoint a Nominations Committee that will comprise 2 existing Elders, the senior pastor and 2 church members.
- 6.2.3 Each potential candidate should have a proposer and a seconder by church members.
- 6.2.4 The Nominations Committee shall review the candidates and by an unanimous decision nominate the new candidate to be appointed by the Board of Elders. The new candidate shall be urged to engage in self-appraisal and evaluation in light of the scriptural qualifications. Any person may withdraw their name at that point if they do not aspire to the position of an Elder [1 Timothy 3:1] or if he/she does not believe he/she adequately meets the qualifications. The existing Board shall interview the new candidate and their name shall be published in the church bulletin.
- 6.2.5 The congregation should be provided with teaching regarding the biblical qualifications of Elders in a scriptural role. The existing Board of Elders will share with the congregation about the appointment of the new elder and the church members shall be given 21 days to show any biblical reason why any one of the prospective Elder candidate should not be qualified to serve. Such reasons or objections shall be in writing and signed by the person who must be a church member. The contents of the letter should be treated as confidential and privileged by the Board of Elders.
- 6.2.6 After the period of 21 days, the Board of Elders shall call for a general meeting after giving a minimum of 7 days' notice in the church bulletin for the church members to give a vote of affirmation for the new Elder. This should be done by a simple majority vote.
- 6.2.7 The new Elder will be prayed for, by the laying on of hands, during a Sunday service.
- 6.2.8 In the event of a vacancy or special need the Board may refer to previous nominees or interview new candidates. They may also re-initiate the whole selection process, as they deem necessary.

6.3 Term of Board of Elders

- 6.3.1 Each term that an Elder shall serve is a period of three years and he shall be eligible for a second term. However, at the end of 2 consecutive terms, the Elder will take a sabbatical of one year before he is eligible for another new term, if appointed. This ruling is not applicable to the Senior Pastor.

6.4 Appointment of the Senior Pastor.

- 6.4.1 The Board of Elders will unanimously nominate a pastoral candidate that is to be faithful and loyal to the fundamental tenets that form the doctrinal basis of the Church. He shall be one whose life and conduct conform to the scriptural standards of Christian ministry (I Timothy 3:2-7; Titus 1:6-9; 1 Peter 5:2-3).
- 6.4.2 The Board of Elders will share with the congregation about the appointment of the new senior pastor and the church members shall be given 21 days to show any biblical reason why the prospective pastoral candidate should not be appointed to serve. Such reasons or objections shall be in writing and signed by the person who must be a church member. The contents of the letter shall remain confidential and privileged within the Board of Elders.
- 6.4.3 After the period of 21 days, the Board of Elders shall call for a general meeting after giving a minimum of 7 days' notice in the church bulletin for the church members to give a vote of affirmation for the appointment of the new senior pastor. This should be done by a simple majority vote.
- 6.4.4 The new senior pastor will be installed by the laying on of hands, during a Sunday service.

6.5 Appointment of Associate Pastors and/or Pastoral Staff

- 6.5.1 The qualifications for Associate Pastors and/or Pastors shall be the same as those pertaining to the Senior Pastor. Associate Pastors and/or Pastors shall work under the direction and supervision of the Senior Pastor.
- 6.5.2 The Board of Elders is empowered to appoint an Associate Pastor and/or Pastors.
- 6.5.3 Associate Pastors may be requested to attend the Board of Elders by the invitation of the Senior Pastor and this being ratified by at least a two-third-majority endorsement of the Board of Elders.

6.6 Church Discipline for Elders and/or Pastoral staff

6.6.1 Elders and /or Pastor may be removed from office upon scriptural grounds by an unanimous decision of the Board of Elders. Any allegations in the areas of a radical departure from the tenets of faith, immorality and financial fraud must be supported by witnesses, affidavits and other documentary evidence (1 Timothy 5:19). The Board of Elders shall be empowered to suspend or remove any Elders and/or Pastor where the whole Board is satisfied that the allegation is proven and justifies a removal or suspension from office, the said Elder and/or Pastor having been given the opportunity to be heard by the Board of Elders.

7. CHURCH FINANCES AND OPERATIONS

7.1. The Church, in its financial and property affairs, shall be governed and managed by the Board of Elders, except in the event where any amount exceeding \$500,000.00 is to be incurred for any property dealing, the unanimous agreement of the Board of Elders and not less than 75% of all members present either in person or by proxy at a general meeting called for such purpose shall have voted in favour thereof.

7.2 The Senior Pastor shall represent the Church in its dealings with outside persons. He is also ex-officio to all committees related to the Church. He may designate any of the Associate Pastors or Elders to represent him on all committees related to the Church.

7.3 The Senior Pastor in consultation with the Board of Elders shall have the authority to implement the following powers and duties:-

7.3.1 to make decisions concerning the day-to-day operations of the Church;

7.3.2 to apply to the proper authorities for permission to carry on the business of the Church wherever they are situated;

7.3.3 to appoint an attorney to execute any documents or to do any acts on behalf of the Church;

7.3.4 to manage and distribute gifts, legacies and benefits of any kind;

7.3.5 to insure, build, repair and maintain property for the purposes of the Church;

7.3.6 to employ and dismiss such staff (pastoral, administrative, clerical staff etc.) as may be required for the functioning of the Church;

7.3.7 to call for the Annual General Meeting and Extra Ordinary General Meetings of the Church;

7.4 The Chairman shall preside at the Board of Elders and general meetings.

7.5 The Vice-chairman shall assist the Chairman and in the absence of the Chairman, preside at the Board of Elders and general meetings.

7.6 The Hon. Secretary shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of the meetings of the Board of Elders, and the Annual General Meetings and all General Meetings; and carry out all such duties as pertain to this office as may be prescribed by the Board of Elders and maintain an up-to-date register of membership.

7.7 The Hon. Treasurer shall have the care and custody of all funds and securities of the Church and shall deposit the same in the name of the Church in such bank or banks as the Board of Elders may select. The Hon. Treasurer shall prepare a proper balance sheet of the business of the Church each year. The Board of Elders, by resolution, fix all matters of signatures at the time of the Hon. Treasurer taking office, which shall continue during the tenure of office, or until changed by the Board of Elders.

7.7.1 The Hon. Treasurer shall at all reasonable times exhibit the books of accounts to any member of the Board of Elders and anyone else for inspection as directed by the Chair.

8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND EXTRA ORDINARY GENERAL MEETINGS

8.1 The Annual General Meeting of the Church shall be convened not later than the 31st day of December of each year and the business of the Annual General Meeting shall be to:

8.1.1 receive and consider the reports and accounts of the Church;

8.1.2 inform the meeting of the nominations from the Board of Elders for the office of Elders, to replace any outgoing members; and

8.1.3 attend to any other business included in the Notice of the Annual General Meeting.

8.2 Other General Meetings of the Church shall be convened from time to time, which shall be known as Extra Ordinary General Meetings.

8.2.1 An Extra Ordinary General Meeting shall be convened within 21 days of a request with proper agenda signed by not less than 20% of the members being presented to the Board.

8.3.1 Notice of the Annual General Meetings and Extra Ordinary General Meetings of the Church shall be given to members of the Church by affixing a notice in the church bulletin at least fourteen (14) days before the Annual General Meeting or Extra Ordinary General Meeting.

8.3.2 No business other than as stated on the notice of General Meeting shall be transacted at a General Meeting.

8.4 MINUTES OF MEETINGS.

- 8.4.1 The Secretary shall cause proper minutes of all proceedings of all general meetings and /or Board of Elders meetings to be taken and then to be entered within 30 days after the holding of each general meeting and/or Board of Elders meeting in a minute book kept for that purpose.
- 8.4.2 All recorded minutes of meetings must be approved by the subsequent meetings of the same body and then signed by the respective chairpersons of those meetings.
- 8.4.3 When minutes have been entered and signed as correct under this rule, they shall, until the contrary is proved, be evidence that -
- (a) the general meeting to which they relate (in this sub-rule called “the meeting”) was duly convened and held;
 - (b) all proceeding recorded as having taken place at the meeting did in fact take place thereat; and
 - (c) all appointments, elections, motions or resolution purporting to have been made at the meeting have been validly made.
- 8.4.4 A quorum for Annual General Meetings and Extra Ordinary General Meetings shall be at least one third of the total membership eligible to vote (present either in person or by proxy who must be a member of the Church) but in the event of there being no quorum those present may constitute a quorum after a lapse of half an hour from the time fixed for the commencement of such meeting, except that they shall have no power to amend the Constitution.

8.5 AUDIT

- 8.5.1 The annual accounts shall be audited by a firm of public accountants appointed by the Board of Elders. In the event that the Board of Elders is unable to retain a suitable firm of public accountants for this purpose, the annual accounts shall be audited by two suitably qualified church members, who shall not be current members on the Board of Elders.
- 8.5.2 The financial year shall be from 1st July to 30th June.

9. MEMBERSHIP

Definition: Membership is basically acknowledging this Church as one's spiritual home. It is a relationship whereby commitment is called for -

- Firstly, it is a living commitment by the leadership to the Lord God, to one another as ministers and to the Church.

- Secondly, it is a commitment by the members to the Lord God, to the leadership (Hebrews 13:7, 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13) and to the Church.

9.1 Membership shall consist of those who meet the following qualifications:

9.1.1 Personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour, and a desire to obey the requirements laid down in Acts 2:36-47;

9.1.2 Agreement with the Doctrines of Faith as stated under rule 5;

9.1.3 A lifestyle that is consistent with Christian conduct-,

9.1.4 A commitment to regular attendance at the activities of the Church;

9.1.5 A commitment to regular financial support of the Church through tithes, offerings, donations etc.; and

9.1.6 Voluntary submission to the spiritual management of the Church.

9.2 Application for membership of the Church shall be made to the Board of Elders. Upon acceptance by the Board of Elders, the names of successful applicants shall be entered into the Church Membership Register by the Hon. Secretary.

9.3 Conduct contrary to the Scriptures as determined by the Senior Pastor (upon consultation with the Board of Elders) shall be sufficient grounds upon which any person may be disqualified as a member (Romans 16:17,18; 1 Corinthians 5:11-12; Galatians 2:17-18; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15; Titus 3: 9 -11). The purpose of discipline is restorative and remedial. If and when a person is separated from the Church, he or she may not be reinstated until there has been genuine repentance of the offense and reconciliation and/or restitution be made with aggrieved persons which shall be attested to by the Board of Elders.

9.4 Members above the age of eighteen (18) years shall have the right and privilege of voting at General Meetings and Annual General Meetings. Junior members will be those who are below 18 years of age. Junior members who remain active in the church will automatically be voting members when they turn 18 years of age. In case of equality of votes, the Chair shall be entitled to a second or casting vote.

9.5 Members who have been absent from the regular services of the Church for a continuous period of three (3) months or more otherwise than for reasons of physical disability or temporary absence from Perth shall be deemed inactive members and shall not be eligible to vote at the meetings of the Church. A letter or email will be sent to the non-active member to

confirm the non-active status. An inactive member may be renewed attendance at the regular services of the Church and provided he has not departed from qualifications in rule 9.1, be restored with voting rights without formal reception. An inactive member who has been inactive for more than one year without giving reason in writing may be removed from the inactive list by the Board of Elders.

9.6 The membership of a member shall be deemed to have ceased upon the occurrence of any of the following:

- 9.6.1 voluntary request for cessation of membership
- 9.6.2 request for transfer of membership to another Church
- 9.6.3 his/her demise
- 9.6.4 the church member no longer subscribing to the Statement of Faith of the Church
- 9.6.5 the member becoming flagrantly negligent in living the Christian life by reason of immorality, unchristian conduct assessed upon the Word of God, or persistent breach of the Church Covenant, PROVIDED ALWAYS he/she has been granted the right of hearing and adequate efforts have been made to bring him/her to repentance and reformation and PROVIDED FURTHER he/she is given prior notice of the Church's intention to terminate his/her membership. Then Board of Elders shall terminate the membership of such persons.

10. Church Members and Leaders' Handbook

10.1 The Board of Elders shall have power to make and adopt a set of operational procedures in the Church Members and Leaders' Handbook as long as it shall be consistent with this Constitution.

10.2 The authority to alter, amend, or repeal any operational procedures, or adopt new guidelines shall be vested in the Board of Elders.

10.3 In the event where there seems to be a conflict between the handbook and the Constitution, the Constitution shall prevail.

11. AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

11.1 This Constitution may be amended or altered (in part or in full) by a three-quarter majority of voting members present in person or by proxy at a General Meeting convened for the purpose.

12. INTERPRETATION OF CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

12.1 The Chairman (in consultation with the Board of Elders) has the power to make binding interpretation on this Constitution and By-Laws.

12.2 For the avoidance of doubt, where an unanimous agreement of the Board of Elders is required for any resolution, in reaching such an unanimous agreement, the vote of the member of the Board whose interest is the subject of the resolution shall not be considered. Similarly, where the attendance of a member of the Board is not available by reason of illness or such other reasons beyond the control of the Board, then the vote of such absent member shall not be considered in arriving at the unanimous agreement.

13. DISSOLUTION OF THE CHURCH

13.1 Dissolution of the Church will be determined by an unanimous decision of all members of the Board of Elders and with the consent of not less than three-quarter of the voting members of the Church present in person or by proxy at a General Meeting convened for the purpose.

13.2 In the event of the dissolution of the Church, the Board of Elders shall pay or make provisions for the payment of all debts and liabilities of the Church from its assets.

13.3 Upon rules 13.1 and 13.2 being met, all remaining assets of the Church, subject to the unanimous approval of the Board of Elders, shall be distributed to charitable organizations and churches having similar objects as the Church.

14. COMMON SEAL

14.1 The Church shall have a common seal on which its corporate name shall appear in legible characters.

14.2 The common seal of the Church shall not be used without the express authority of the Board of Elders and every use of that common seal shall be recorded in the minute book referred to in rule 8.4.1.

14.3 The affixing of the common seal of the Church shall be witnessed by any of two of the following persons i.e. Chairman, Vice-Chairman, the Hon. Secretary and the Hon. Treasurer.

14.4 The common seal of the Church shall be kept in the custody of the Hon. Secretary or of such other person as the Board of Elders from time to time decides.

15. REPEAL

15.1 The Constitution & Rules of GENESIS FELLOWSHIP INCORPORATED are hereby repealed.

Appendix A

New Life City Church Constitution

WHAT WE BELIEVE

PREAMBLE

New Life City Church stands firmly in the mainstream of historical Christianity. It takes the Bible as its all-sufficient source of faith and practice, and subscribes to the historic creeds of the universal church.

I. HOLY SCRIPTURES

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God,¹ by which we understand the whole Bible to be inspired in the sense that holy men of God were moved by the Holy Spirit to write the very words of Scripture.² Divine inspiration extends equally and fully to all parts of the original writings. The whole Bible in the original is, therefore, without error and, as such, is infallible, absolutely supreme and sufficient in authority in all matters of faith and practice.³ The Bible does not simply contain the Word of God, but is, in reality, the complete revelation and Word of God inspired by the Holy Spirit. Christian believers today receive spiritual illumination to enable them to understand the Scriptures,⁴ but God does not grant new revelations which are contrary or additional to inspired biblical truth.⁵

II. THE GODHEAD

The Godhead exists eternally in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are one God, having the same nature and attributes and are worthy of the same homage, confidence, and obedience.⁶

1. THE FATHER

The Father exists eternally as the Creator of heaven and earth, the Giver of the Law, to whom all things will be subjected, so that He may be all in all.⁷

2. THE SON

The Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal and only begotten Son of the Father, is true God and true man.⁸ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,⁹ and by His sinless life, miracles and teaching, gave full revelation of the Father.¹⁰ He died upon the cross, the Just for the unjust, as a substitutionary sacrifice.¹¹ He rose from the dead.¹² He is now at the right hand of the majesty on high as our great High Priest.¹³ He will come again to establish His kingdom in righteousness and peace.¹⁴

3. THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is also God, performing actions and possessing the attributes of Deity.¹⁵ His personality is shown by the fact that He has personal characteristics and that individuals may relate to Him as a person.¹⁶

III. ANGELS

1. CLASSIFICATION

Angels were created as intelligent and powerful beings to do the will of God and worship Him.¹⁷ However, Satan, the originator of sin, fell through pride and was followed by those angels who rebelled against God. These fallen angels or demons are active in opposing the purposes of God.¹⁸ Those who remained faithful continue before the throne of God and serve as ministering spirits.¹⁹

2. THE BELIEVER AND DEMONS

Demons attempt to thwart God's purposes; however, in Christ, the believer may have complete liberty from the influence of demons.²⁰ He cannot be possessed by them because his body is the temple of the Holy Spirit in which Christ dwells as Lord.²¹

¹ 2 Tim. 3:16,17 ² 2 Pet. 1:20,21 ³ Psa. 119:160a; Matt. 5:17,18 ⁴ 1 Cor. 2:12-14 ⁵ Prov. 30:5,6 ⁶ Matt. 3:16,17; 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14

⁷ Gen. 1:1; 1 Cor. 15:28 ⁸ John 1:1,14; 10:30; 17; Phil. 2:6,7; Heb. 1:8 ⁹ Luke 1:26-35 ¹⁰ John 12:49; Acts 2:22; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 7:26

¹¹ Rom. 5:6,8; 1 Cor. 15:3; 1 Pet. 3:18 ¹² Matt. 28:6; 1 Cor. 15:4,20 ¹³ Acts 1:9-11; 2:33; Heb. 8:1 ¹⁴ Matt. 25:31 ¹⁵ Acts 5:3,4 ¹⁶ John 16:13-14

¹⁷ Psa. 103:20; Rev. 5:11,12 ¹⁸ Isa. 14:12-17' Ezek. 28:11-19; Eph. 6:11,12; 1 Tim. 4:1; Jude 6 ¹⁹ Heb. 1:14 ²⁰ Heb. 2:14; 1 John 3:8; 4:1-4

²¹ Matt. 6:24; 1 Cor. 6:19,20

IV. MAN

Man was originally created in the image and likeness of God.¹ He fell through sin and, as a consequence, incurred both spiritual and physical death.² Spiritual death and the depravity of human nature have been transmitted to the entire human race³ with the exception of the Man Christ Jesus.⁴ Man can be saved only through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ.⁵

V. SALVATION

Salvation has been provided for all men through the sacrifice of Christ upon the cross.⁶ It is the only perfect redemption and substitutionary atonement for all the sins of the world, both original and actual. His atoning work has been proven by His resurrection from the dead.⁷ Those who repent and believe in Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit and receive eternal life.⁸ Furthermore, in the atonement, divine healing was provided for all believers.⁹

1. REPENTANCE AND FAITH

Man can be born again only through faith in Christ. Repentance, a vital part of believing, is a complete change of mind wrought by the Holy Spirit,¹⁰ turning a person to God from sin.

2. REGENERATION

Regeneration is a creative work of the Holy Spirit by which man is born again and receives spiritual life.¹¹

3. JUSTIFICATION

Justification is a judicial act of God by which the sinner is declared righteous solely on the basis of his acceptance of Christ as Saviour.¹²

VI. THE CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE

1. ASSURANCE

Assurance of salvation is the privilege of all who are born again by the Spirit through faith in Christ,¹³ resulting in love, gratitude and obedience toward God.¹⁴

2. SANCTIFICATION

Sanctification is dedication to God and separation from evil.¹⁵ In experience it is both instantaneous¹⁶ and progressive.¹⁷ It is produced in the life of the believer by his appropriation of the power of Christ's blood and risen life through the Person of the Holy Spirit.¹⁸ He draws the believer's attention to Christ, teaches him through the Word and produces the character of Christ within him.¹⁹ Believers who sin must repent and seek forgiveness through faith in the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ.²⁰

3. BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is an ongoing experience in which the believer yields control of himself to the Holy Spirit.²¹ Through this he comes to know Christ in a more intimate way,²² and receives power to witness and grow spiritually.²³ Believers should earnestly yield to the Holy Spirit according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ.²⁴

4. THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

The gifts of the Spirit are supernatural abilities given by God through the exercising of which believers are enabled to minister effectively and directly in particular situations.²⁵ They serve the dual function of building up the Church, and of demonstrating the presence of God within His Church.²⁶

5. DIVINE HEALING

Divine healing provided in the atonement of Christ²⁷ is the privilege of all believers. Prayer for the sick and gifts of healing are encouraged and practised.²⁸

¹ Gen. 1:26; 2:7 ² Rom. 5:12; James 1:14,15 ³ Jer. 17:9; Rom. 3:10-19,23 ⁴ Heb. 7:26 ⁵ John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Tim. 2:5,6 ⁶ Isa. 53:3-6; John 12:32,33; 1 Pet. 2:24 ⁷ Acts 2:36; Rom. 4:25; 1 Cor. 15:14,17,20; Heb. 10:12; 1 John 2:2 ⁸ Acts 20:21; 1 Pet. 1:23,25 ⁹ Isa. 53:4,5; Matt. 8:16b, 17 ¹⁰ Isa. 55:7; Acts. 17:30; Gal. 3:22,26; Eph. 2:8; 1 John 5:10-13 ¹¹ John 3:3b,5b,7; 2 Cor. 5:17,18a; 1 Pet. 1:23 ¹² Rom. 3:24; 4:3-5; 5:1-2 ¹³ John 10:27-29; Rom. 8:35-39 ¹⁴ John 14:23; Col. 3:17; 1 John 2:6 ¹⁵ 2 Cor. 6:14; 7:1 ¹⁶ John 17:17,19; Heb. 10:10,14 ¹⁷ 1 Thess. 5:23; 2 Tim. 2:19-22; 1 Pet. 1:14-16 ¹⁸ Rom. 6:11,13,14,18 ¹⁹ 1 Cor. 13; Gal. 5:22,23; 2 Pet. 1:3-4 ²⁰ 1 John 1:9; 2:1-2 ²¹ Matt. 3:11; Acts 1:5; Eph. 5:18 ²² John 16:13-15 ²³ 2 Cor. 3:18; Acts 1:8 ²⁴ Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4,8; ²⁵ Cor. 12:4-11 ²⁶ 1 Cor. 12:7; 14:12,24-25 ²⁷ Matt. 8:16,17 ²⁸ 1 Cor. 12:28-30; James 5:14

VII. THE CHURCH

1. THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

All who are born again are members of the universal church, which is the Body and Bride of Christ.¹

2. THE LOCAL CHURCH

A. Purpose

The local church is a body of believers in Christ who have joined together to function as a part of the universal church.² The local church is ordained by God and provides a context in which believers corporately worship God,³ observe the ordinances of the church, are instructed in the faith and are equipped for the evangelization of the world.⁴

(a) The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is a symbol, memorial and proclamation of the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. This ordinance of communion is to be participated in by believers until Christ's return.⁵

(b) Water Baptism

Water baptism signifies the believer's identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection and is practiced by immersion.⁶

C. Ministry

A divinely called and ordained ministry is the provision of the Lord to give leadership to the church as it fulfills its purposes.⁷

VIII. THE END OF TIME

1. THE PRESENT STATE OF THE DEAD

At death the souls of the believers pass immediately into the presence of Christ,⁸ and these remain in constant bliss until the resurrection of the glorified body. ⁹ The souls of the unbelievers remain after death conscious of condemnation¹⁰ until the final bodily resurrection and judgment of the unjust.¹¹

2. THE RAPTURE

The rapture, the blessed hope of the church, is the imminent coming of the Lord in the air to receive to Himself His own, both the living who shall be transformed, and the dead in Christ who shall be resurrected.¹² This event takes place before the wrath of God is poured out during the tribulation. Believers then will appear before the judgment seat of Christ to be judged according to faithfulness in Christian service.¹³

3. THE TRIBULATION

The tribulation will be a time of judgment on the whole earth.¹⁴ During this period the Antichrist will emerge to offer false hope to the nations.¹⁵

4. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

The return of Christ to earth in power and great glory will conclude the great tribulation with the victory at Armageddon,¹⁶ the defeat of Antichrist and the binding of Satan.¹⁷ He will introduce the millennial age,¹⁸ restore Israel to her own land, lift the curse which now rests upon the whole creation, and bring the whole world to the knowledge of God.¹⁹

5. THE FINAL JUDGMENT

There will be a final judgment in which the unbelieving dead will be raised and judged at the great white throne, according to their works.²⁰ The beast and false prophet, the devil and his angels, and whoever is not found in the Book of Life, shall be cast into the lake of fire, not to annihilation but to everlasting punishment, which is the second death.²¹

¹ 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 5:25b; Col. 1:18; 1 Tim. 3:15 ² Acts 14:23; 1 Cor. 16:19 ³ John 4:23; Acts 20:7 ⁴ Acts 1:8; 11:19-24; 2 Tim. 2:2; 1 Pet. 5:2 ⁵ Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; 11:23-26 ⁶ Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38,41; 8:36-39; Rom. 6:3-5 ⁷ Acts 6:2b-4c; 13:2-4a; 14:23; Eph. 4:8,11-13 ⁸ 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:21,23-24 ⁹ Rom. 8:22,23; 1 Cor. 15:42-44; 2 Cor. 5:1,4b ¹⁰ Luke 16:22-31; John 3:36 ¹¹ Dan. 12:2; John 5:28-29; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; Rev. 20:11-15 ¹² 1 Cor. 15:51-57; Phil. 3:20-21; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Titus 2:13 ¹³ Rom. 14:10-12; 1 Cor 3:11-15; 2 Cor. 5:9-10 ¹⁴ Matt. 24:15,21-22; 1 Thess. 5:1-3 ¹⁵ 2 Thess. 2:3-12; Rev. 13:11-18 ¹⁶ Matt. 24:27,30; Luke 17:24,26-30 ¹⁷ Rev. 16:12-16; 17:8,12-14; 19:11-20:3 ¹⁸ Psa. 2:6-12; Dan. 2:44-45; Luke 22:29-30; Rev. 3:21; 20:6 ¹⁹ Isa. 1:24-27; 2:1-4; Zech. 14:3,4,9; Rom. 8:19-23; Rev. 22:3 ²⁰ Dan. 7:9-10; John 12:48; Rom. 2:2,6,11,16; Rev. 14:9-11; 20:11-15 ²¹ Matt. 25:41b; Jude 6; Rev. 20:10,15; 21:8

6. THE ETERNAL STATE OF THE RIGHTEOUS The righteous will share the glory of God in the new heaven and the new earth for eternity.¹

IX. GUIDELINES AND PRACTICES

1. MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

Marriage is a provision of God whereby a man and a woman enter into a lifelong relationship² through a marriage ceremony which is recognized by the church and legally sanctioned by the state. Marriage establishes a "one-flesh" relationship³ which goes beyond a physical union and is more than either a temporary relationship of convenience intended to provide personal pleasure or a contract which binds two people together in a legal partnership. Marriage establishes an emotional and spiritual oneness which enables both partners to respond to the spiritual, physical and social needs of the other. ⁴ It provides the Biblical context for the procreation of children. Marriage is to be an exclusive relationship that is maintained in purity.⁵ It is intended by God to be a permanent relationship. It is a witness to the world of the relationship between Christ and His Church.⁶ Marriage requires a commitment of love, perseverance and faith. Because of its sanctity and permanence, marriage should be treated with seriousness and entered into only after counsel and prayer for God's guidance. Christians should choose wisely whom they marry and seek pre-marital counselling.⁷ As marriage is a life long commitment and a spiritual union, we recommend that it should be a union between two believers. An individual who becomes a believer after marriage should remain with his or her partner in peace, and should give witness to the gospel in the home.⁸ The Bible holds family life as a position of trust and responsibility. The home is a stabilizing force in society, a place of nurture, counsel, and safety for children.⁹ Marriage may only be broken by "porneia" which is understood as marital unfaithfulness¹⁰ involving adultery, homosexuality, or incest. While the Scriptures give evidence that the marriage vow and "one-flesh" union are broken by such acts, and therefore do recognize the breaking of the marriage relationship, the Scriptures do recommend that the most desirable option would be reconciliation.¹¹

2. DIVORCE

We believe that divorce is not God's intention. It is God's concession to the "hardness of men's hearts."¹² We, therefore, discourage divorce by all lawful means and teaching. Our objective is reconciliation and the healing of the marriage union where possible. Marital unfaithfulness should not be considered so much an occasion or opportunity for divorce but rather an opportunity for Christian grace, forgiveness, and restoration. Divorce in our society is a termination of a marriage through a legal process authorized by the State. While the Church recognizes this legal process as an appropriate means to facilitate the permanent separation of spouses, the Church restricts the idea of divorce, in the sense of dissolution of marriage, to reasons specified by the Scriptures. The weight of the Biblical record is negative and the explicit statement is made, "God hates divorce."¹³ Divorce is more than an action of the courts which breaks the legal contract between the partners in a marriage. It is also the fracture of a unique human relationship between a male and a female. Divorce has profound consequences for the children. Divorce is evidence of the sinful nature expressed in human failure. Jesus gives one explicit cause for the dissolution of marriage: "porneia" or marital unfaithfulness. Where all attempts at reconciliation have failed and a divorce has been finalized, we extend Christ's love and compassion.

3. REMARRIAGE

Remarriage is the union, legally sanctioned by the State, of a man and woman, one or both of whom have been previously married. It is regarded as acceptable by the Scriptures in the event of the death of the former spouse. It is also regarded as acceptable when there has been sexual immorality on the part of the former partner or the former partner has remarried.

4. TITHING

Tithing was divinely instituted by God under the old covenant and was compulsory upon the people who worshipped God.¹⁴ Under the new covenant we are not bound by arbitrary laws; but the principles of right and wrong, as expressed by the law, are fulfilled in the believer's life through grace. Grace should produce as much as, or more than, law demanded. Regular systematic giving is clearly taught in the New Testament. It is known as the grace of giving.¹⁵ All Christians should conscientiously and systematically give their income to God.

¹ Matt. 13:43; John 17:24; 2 Pet. 3:13; Heb. 11:10; Rev. 21:1-2,10,22-23 ² Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:6 ³ Matt. 19:5; Mal. 2:15 ⁴ Gen. 2:18, 1 Cor. 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4 ⁵ Eph. 5:3,26,27 ⁶ Eph. 5:25,31,32 ⁷ 2 Cor. 6:14,15 ⁸ 1 Cor. 7:12-14,16 ⁹ Eph. 6:4 ¹⁰ Matt. 5:32; 19:9 ¹¹ Eph. 4:32 ¹² Matt. 19:8 ¹³ Mal. 2:16 ¹⁴ Lev. 27:30-32; Mal. 3:10 ¹⁵ 2 Cor. 9:6-15