

NewLife Community Church
CONSTITUTION

Lloydminster, SK
June 2005

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NewLife CONSTITUTION

All Scripture quoted from the New International Version

ARTICLE 1 IDENTITY

The name of this church shall be known as NewLife Community Church (NLCC) and it is affiliated with the Alberta Baptist Association of the North American Baptist Conference. The church is located at 2611 50 Ave. Lloydminster, SK S9V 2A8. We are registered with the government as "NewLife Ministries, Inc."

ARTICLE 2 STATEMENT OF FAITH

NewLife Community Church endorses and accepts the Statement of Beliefs of the North American Baptist Conference.

ARTICLE 3 FIVEFOLD PURPOSE

- 3.1 ENGAGE** our community by meeting needs with the love of Christ.
- 3.2 EVANGELIZE** those who do not know Christ personally.
- 3.3 EDIFY** believers through discipleship and fellowship.
- 3.4 EXALT** God through appropriate worship and lifestyle.
- 3.5 EQUIP** believers for gift-centered ministry.

Note:

The purpose of NewLife Community Church shall be carried out without purpose of gain for its members, and any profits or other accretions to it shall be used for promoting its purpose.

ARTICLE 4 PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY

- All people matter to God.
- Everyone should have the privilege of hearing God's Word in a relevant way.
- It is important to respect the process from being a seeker to becoming a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ.
- Every believer is a witness in his or her faith and walk with Christ.
- Every believer is a minister, gifted by God for the benefit of the local body.
- The privileges and responsibilities of the Church are clearly prescribed in Scripture and therefore do not change.
- The methods by which these privileges and responsibilities are carried out can and should change to best meet peoples changing needs.

ARTICLE 5 MEMBERSHIP

5.1 Purpose of Membership

"All the believers were together and had everything in common. Everyday they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts." Acts 2:44,46

The New Testament presents a picture of definable groups of people who, once committed to the Lord, identified themselves with and committed themselves to a particular local body. In order to implement the principles of accountability and commitment to the local body of Christ, as defined in the New Testament and practiced in the early churches, NLCC recognizes the need for formal membership.

5.2 Criteria for Membership

NLCC membership shall be open to anyone twelve years of age or older who has personally accepted Christ as Savior and Lord, who has received baptism as a believer, and who desires to be committed to NLCC as a local body of believers.

Any individual under eighteen years of age who lives at home and desires to become a member of NLCC must receive the written consent of their parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s). Voting age of members is eighteen years of age.

Those seeking membership agree to the following covenant:

5.2.1 I will protect the unity of my church

- By acting in love toward others
- By refusing to gossip
- By forgiving offenses
- By following the leaders

5.2.2 I will share the responsibility of my church

- By praying for its growth
- By inviting the unchurched to attend
- By warmly welcoming those who visit
- By encouraging the believers

5.2.3 I will serve the ministry of my church

- By developing a servant's heart
- By discovering my gifts and talents
- By being equipped to serve
- By giving my time freely in service

5.2.4 I will support the testimony of my church

- By attending faithfully
- By living a godly life
- By tithing regularly
- By staying accountable

5.3 Procedure for Admission to Membership

Candidates for membership will follow the procedures as detailed in the Policy & Procedures Manual or as directed by the Elders.

5.4 Procedure for Termination of Membership

Membership will be terminated on the basis of one of the following:

5.4.1 Upon written request by the member.

1. Upon failure to renew an annual statement of commitment within 15 months of the previous commitment.

5.4.3 Upon formal request by the Elders based on any one of the following:

a. A member who has failed to meet the criteria for membership.

b. A member who has been living in a state of unrepentant immorality, unbiblical relationship patterns, or any other conduct that is showing disregard for the Body of Christ.

ARTICLE 6 GOVERNMENT

6.1 Form of Government

Christ is the head of the church. However, as churches were established in the faith, and when more than one person became qualified, Elders were appointed. To the Elders was given the ultimate responsibility for the oversight of that particular church body, and the shepherding of its members.

In response to the Biblical pattern of leadership, members of the body are taught in Scripture to lovingly support their leaders and to submit to their leadership. Unless otherwise stated, all areas of authority and administrative responsibility shall rest in the hands of the Lead Pastor and elected Elders.

6.2 Voting Requirements of the Membership

Upon the Elder's recommendation, the vote of the membership shall determine the following:

6.2.1 A quorum of 25% of the voting membership with a simple majority is required to conduct:

a. The election and/or dismissal of an Elder with the exception of interim positions when required.

b. Approval of the annual budget and any non-budgeted increases in excess of 5% of the total annual budget.

c. Constitution revision.

d. The assuming of any financial loan or mortgage made against the properties, the purchase and/or sale of real estate and/or the building of any structure over 5% of the annual budget.

1. A quorum of 50 % of the voting membership with a $\frac{3}{4}$ affirmative vote is required to conduct the calling and/or dismissal of the Lead Pastor.

ARTICLE 7 MINISTRY PERSONNEL

All ministry personnel will be required to meet the qualifications of an Elder, regardless of their specific area of ministry. They fulfill a position of leadership and will serve as role models for other believers. Therefore, spiritual qualifications and walk are of the utmost importance.

The Elders shall be responsible for the overall watch and care of paid ministry personnel, including staff selection and dismissal, and the recommendation of a Lead Pastor position when necessary.

ARTICLE 8 ELDERS BOARD

8.1 Biblical Qualifications of an Elder

8.1.1 1 Timothy 3:2-7, 11

a. Verse 2

- Blameless, above reproach (also in Titus 1:6,7)
- Husband of one wife (also in Titus 1:6)
- Temperate (also in Titus 1:7)
- Self-controlled (also in Titus 1:8)
- Respectable
- Hospitable (also in Titus 1:8)
- Able to teach

b. Verse 3

- Not given to drunkenness (also in Titus 1:7)
- Not violent but gentle (also in Titus 1:7)
- Not quarrelsome
- Not a lover of money (also in Titus 1:7)

c. Verse 4

- Must manage his own family well
- Children must obey with proper respect (also in Titus 1:6)

d. Verse 6

- Not a new believer

e. Verse 7

- Must have a good reputation/testimony among those who are outside the church

f. Verse 11

- Wife worthy of respect, not a malicious talker but temperate & trustworthy in everything

8.1.2 Titus 1:6-9

a. Verse 7

- Not pursuing dishonest gain
- Not over-bearing

b. Verse 8

- Loves what is good
- Upright, holy
- Disciplined

c. Verse 9

- Must hold firmly to God's Word

8.1.3 1 Peter 5:1-3

a. Verse 2

- Willing and eager to serve

8.2 Biblical Roles of an Elder

8.2.1 Shepherd the Flock

Serving in their area of giftedness and in all humility, the elders are to guide, and protect the members of the body, seeking to meet their needs and assist in any way possible and warning against harmful influences. (*Acts 20:28, 1 Peter 5:1-3, Eph. 4:11-13*)

1. Lead Through Example

Elders are to provide a Scriptural role model and are to set a pattern before the flock of a rightly ordered life with a single purpose, to glorify God. (*1 Peter 5:3, Acts 20:28*)

2. Refute Those Who Contradict Truth

Elders are to confront those who are teaching what they should not teach or who are continuing in a pattern of behavior contradictory to biblical truth. Thus they are to keep closing potential entrances for Satan, so that the truth of Christ will remain credible to both the congregation and the community. (*Acts 20:29-31, Titus 1:9*)

3. Oversee the Church of God

Elders are to oversee the health and life of the church with the assistance of other godly leaders. They must be people who can “rule well”. (*1 Tim. 3:5*)

4. Prayer

Elders are to pray for the spiritual and physical well being of the congregation. (*James 5:14*)

8.3 Organizational Structure

8.3.1 An Elder position will be a three-year term. The existing Elders Board can recommend to the membership the number of Elders serving at any one time on the Board.

1. The Elders Board will include the Lead Pastor and may or may not include ministry personnel as deemed necessary by the Elders however none of the paid staff will have voting privileges.

8.3.3 A quorum of the Elders Board shall be 2/3 with a 2/3 vote required for action except for the calling and/or dismissal of the Lead Pastor, Associate Pastor, Ministerial Staff or Elder, in which case, at least 3/4 affirmative vote will be required of the entire Elders board.

8.3.4 If at any time during the ministry year there is a vacancy on the Elders Board, the Elders have the right to select an appropriate candidate to finish out the ministry year. This person will be eligible for a full term of office at the next election.

8.4 The Election of an Elder

8.4.1 Elders will be elected at a Annual Meeting of the membership as called by the Elders Board.

1. Nominations from the membership for an Elder position must be submitted in writing to the Elders Board one month prior to a Congregational Meeting.

8.4.3 Elections will be by secret ballot vote. The Moderator will appoint two members from the floor to tally the ballots and report the results.

ARTICLE 9 OFFICERS of the CORPORATION

The principle officers of this church and the Corporation will be as follows:

9.1 Moderator

This person shall serve as chairperson of the elders as well as president of the corporation.

9.1.1 Responsibilities shall include:

- a. Determine the agenda for Elders meetings with the assistance of the Lead Pastor.
- b. Determine the agenda for and chairing congregational & membership meetings, in consultation with the Elders.
- c. Provide counsel by serving in an ex-officio capacity (without vote) when called upon by the ministry teams or requested by the Elders to do so.

9.1.2 Qualifications:

- a. Must demonstrate leadership ability and commitment to the overall vision and ministry of the church.
- b. Must be a member of the church for at least one year and have attended for two years.

9.2 Vice-Moderator

This person shall serve as the Vice-President of the Corporation, and in the absence of the Moderator will assume their responsibilities as listed above.

9.3 Treasurer

The Church Treasurer will act as the Financial Officer of the Corporation. However, the Elders are responsible to appoint an Accountant and/or Auditor to review the financial records annually.

ARTICLE 10 AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Constitution must be submitted in writing to the Elders Board for their consideration a month prior to the Congregational Meeting at which it will be presented. The suggested revisions will then be presented to the members of the body for their consideration, and ultimately for ratification by secret ballot.

Any amendments being considered must be posted two Sundays prior to the vote.

ARTICLE 11 MISCELLANEOUS

11.1 Membership Meeting

There will be a minimum of one membership meeting annually. The date, time and agenda of the meeting are to be posted at least two Sundays in advance.

11.2 Special Business Meetings

The Lead Pastor, the Moderator and/or the Elders may call a special business meeting. It may also be called by a signed petition of 25% of the membership, which states the reason for the meeting. The date, time and agenda of the meeting are to be posted at least two Sundays in advance.

11.3 Membership Attendance at Elders Board

Elders meetings are open to the membership to voice concerns and/or comments. However, prior arrangements must be made with the Moderator and/or Lead Pastor. In the case of Elder's Executive Sessions, the meetings shall remain closed.

11.4 Dissolution of Corporation

In the event of the dissolution of this corporation, all properties and assets will be distributed to the Alberta Baptist Association of the North American Baptist Conference.

11.5 Robert's Rules of Order

All questions not clearly defined in this Constitution shall be settled by the customary rules governing deliberative bodies as given in Robert's Rules of Order.