

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS



CONSTITUTION
AND
BYLAWS

For
WORD OF LIFE MINISTRIES OF LOUISVILLE, INC.

REVISED:
August 4, 2014

INDEX

Name	Page(s)	1-2
Vision.....	(“)	1-2
Purpose	(“)	1-2
Offices (Church).....	(“)	2
Affiliation.....	(“)	2
Amendments & Revisions.....	(“)	24-28
Board of Deacons.....	(“)	14-16
Board of Elders.....	(“)	10-11
Books & Records.....	(“)	21-22
Dissolution.....	(“)	23
Final Ruling Authority.....	(“)	23
Finances.....	(“)	20-21
Governmental Conformity.....	(“)	23
Liability.....	(“)	21
Licensing & Ordinations.....	(“)	19
Meetings.....	(“)	22
Nondiscrimination.....	(“)	22
Officers.....	(“)	12-14
Partnership.....	(“)	7-10
Pastor Information.....	(“)	17-19
Property.....	(“)	20-21
Rental and Use of Church Facility.....	(“)	21
Seal.....	(“)	25
Staff (Additional).....	(“)	16-17
Tenets of Faith.....	(“)	2-7

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS FOR
WORD OF LIFE MINISTRIES
OF LOUISVILLE, INC.

PREAMBLE

According to scripture, God has already given the ‘Purpose’ for his church. It is to Evangelize, Worship, Partner, Disciple, and Minister. This is the structure the church must operate within. It is the goal of this body to function in Unity and Harmony, and to fulfill the purpose God has for it.

As the decision to support the ‘Purpose’ is made, God ordains men and women to receive the Vision of the Church - and then through its leadership, these individuals are set in positions to help minister to the body through the various scriptural gifts of ministry. It is through these Gifts of ministry that God is able to fully minister to this body. (1) As a body grows in number, it is neither scriptural nor humanly possible for its leaders to minister effectively to every person in the ministry. (2) This is how God arranges it so that various individual in the body will be able to minister to each other.

The Vision that flows through this church is outlined as follows:

(1) ‘TO KNOW....’

- a. Jesus as Lord, Savior, Master, Friend**
- b. Intimacy with the Father and the Holy Spirit.**
- c. ‘HOW TO’- Grow and Mature Spiritually**
 - Grow and Mature in our Soul**
 - Rule over the physical**
 - Be baptized in and walk in the Spirit**
 - ‘Measure & Receive’ all the Blessings and Promises of God.**
 - Live in Freedom in all areas of life**
 - Enter into a life of Service and Ministry for Jesus Christ**
 - Be a Reproductive Christian**

(2) To establish I John 1:1-3 in the church, so that everyone may have the opportunity to Hear, See, Gaze At, and Touch what is proclaimed concerning the Word of Life.

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched - this we proclaim concerning the Word of Life. The Life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and Heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us; and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.” I John 1:1-3

It is the purpose of Word of Life Ministries to provide a place for Worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father; to provide Christian Fellowship; and to assume our share of responsibility and the privilege of promoting the gospel of Jesus Christ by all available means, both at home and in the foreign lands. We, whose names appear upon the roster, do not recognize and understand this Purpose; as well as, recognize ourselves as affiliated with the Association of Faith Churches and Ministries; and declare that we hereby adopt the following articles of church order and submit ourselves to be governed by the same.

ARTICLE I

OFFICES

The principle office of the corporation, hereinafter referred to as the “Church”, shall be located at the address set forth in the Articles of Incorporation. The Church may have such other offices, either within or without the State of Incorporation, as the Board of Elders may determine from time to time.

ARTICLE II

NAME

The Name of this corporation shall be Word of Life Ministries of Louisville, Inc. For the remainder of this document, it will be referred to as Word of Life Ministries, or the Church. It’s incorporation is through and is affiliated with the Association of Faith Churches and Ministries whose headquarters is located in Willmar, Minnesota.

ARTICLE III

TENETS OF FAITH AND DOCTRINE

This Church (Word of Life Ministries) accepts the Scripture as the revealed will of God, the All Sufficient Rule of Faith and practice, and for the purpose of maintaining general unity, adopts these Statements of Fundamental Truths and Doctrine.

Section 1. The Scriptures Inspired.

**The Bible is the inspired Word of God, a revelation from God to man, the infallible rule of Faith and conduct, and is superior to conscience and reason, but not contrary to reason.
(II Timothy 3:15-17; I Peter 1:23-24; Hebrews 4:12)**

Section 2. The One True God-Head.

The triune God-head is comprised of 3 separate and distinct personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit - who are eternally self-existent, self-revealed and function as one entity. Jesus Christ, who is God manifested in the flesh, is the second member of the God-head; co-equal and co-eternal with the father and the Holy Spirit.

Section 3. Man, His Fall and Redemption.

**Man was created good and upright. For God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness.” But man, by voluntary transgression, fell and his only hope of redemption is in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
(Genesis 1:26-31; Genesis 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-21)**

Section 4. The Salvation of Man.

- a. Man’s only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. On the cross, Jesus Christ became sin and sickness providing both salvation and divine healing for all mankind; (Psalm 103:3) being justified freely by His Grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. For by Grace we are saved through faith. “The Word is near You, in your mouth and in your heart -- that is, the Word of Faith which we are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved. For with the heart man believes, resulting in salvation.”
(Romans 3:24; Ephesians 2:8; Romans 10:8-10)**
- b. The evidences of Salvation. The inward evidence to the believer of his salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit. (Romans 8:16). The outward evidence to all men is a life of Righteousness and true holiness. “And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.”
(I John 3:23)**
- c. Faith and Works. Salvation is by faith in Jesus Christ and not by human works; However, our works will determine the rewards in eternity.
(Acts 16:3; Romans 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-7; Romans 14:10-12, II Corinthians 5:10)**

Section 5. Baptism in Water

**The ordinance of baptism by a burial with Christ should be observed as commanded in the Scriptures by all who have really repented, and in their hearts, have truly believed on Christ as Savior and Lord. In so doing, they declare to the world that they have died with Jesus and That they have also been raised with Him to walk in the newness of life.
(Matthew 29:19; Acts 10:47; Acts 10:48; Romans 6:4)**

Section 6. The Lord's Supper.

“And when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, ‘This is my body which is for you; do this in remembrance of me. In the same way he also took the cup after supper saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. Let a man examine himself and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.’ ”
(I Corinthians 11:24, 25, 28)

Section 7. The Promise of the Father.

All Believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the Promise of the Father, the Baptism in the Holy Ghost and Fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian church. With it comes the Endowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry.
(Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-8; I Corinthians 12:1-31) This wonderful experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth.”
(Acts 2:38; Acts 10:44-46; Acts 11:14-16; Acts 15:7-9)

Section 8. The Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

The full consummation of the Baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is evidenced by the Initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, and by the subsequent manifestation of spiritual power in public testimony and service.
(Acts 1:8; Acts 2:4; Acts 10:44-46; Acts 19:2, 6)

Section 9. The Church.

The Church is the body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her Great Commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit is, is an integral part of the general assembly and Church of the firstborn, which are written in Heaven.
(Ephesians 1:22; Ephesians 2:19-22; Hebrews 12:23)

Section 10. Sanctification.

The Bible teaches that without holiness, no man can see the Lord. We believe in Sanctification as a definite yet progressive work of grace, commencing at the time of regeneration and continuing until the consummation of salvation.
(Hebrews 12:14; I Thessalonians 5:23; II Peter 3:18; II Corinthians 3:18; Philippians 3:12-14; John 17:17; Romans 15:16; I Peter 1:2)

Section 11. Divine Healing

Divine Healing is provided for in the redemption of Christ and it is the privilege of every believer today. Divine Healing is an integral part of the gospel.

(Mark 16:18; James 5:14-20; I Peter 2:24; Matthew 8:17; Isaiah 53:4-5)

Section 12. Total Prosperity.

a. Spiritual - John 3:3, 11; I Corinthians 5:17-21; Romans 10:9-10

b. Mental - II Timothy 1:7; Romans 12:2; Isaiah 26:3

c. Physical - Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:17; I Peter 2:24

d. Financial - III John 1:2; Malachi 3:10-11; Luke 6:38; II Corinthians 9:6-10; Deut. 28:1-14

e. Social - Proverbs 3:4; Luke 2:52; Acts 2:47

Section 13. Blessed Hope

Jesus is coming again to gather all His Saints to Heaven.

(I Corinthians 15:51-52; I Thessalonians 4:16-17; II Thessalonians 2:1)

Section 14. The Lake Of Fire.

Those who have not accepted the redemptive work of Jesus Christ will suffer eternal separation from the God-head. The devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, and anyone whose name was not found written in the Book of Life shall be consigned to Everlasting punishment in the lake of fire which burns with brimstone. This is the 2nd Death, the lake of fire.

(Revelation 19:20; Revelation 20:10-15)

Section 15. The Millennial Reign of Jesus.

The return of our Lord Jesus Christ with His Saints from Heaven to rule and reign for one thousand years on earth as the scripture promised.

(Romans 11:25-27; II Thessalonians 1:7; Revelation 19:11-16; 20:1-7)

After this there shall be a New Heaven and a New Earth. (Revelation 21)

Section 16. Human Sexuality.

We believe that God instituted monogamous marriage between male and female as the foundation of the family, the basic structure of human society (Genesis 2:24). God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of the context of marriage between a man and a woman. (Genesis 19:5; 26:8-11; 5:1; 6:9; I Thess. 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4). Hence, sexual activities such as, but not limited to adultery, fornication, incest, homosexuality, pedophilia, and bestiality are inconsistent with the teachings of the bible, the Church, and a Christian life. (Lev. 18:22; Lev. 20:13)

We stand fast on the scriptures in Romans 1:25-27, I Corinthians 6:9-11, and I Timothy 1:9-10 and believe the homosexuality is as sin. We determine to show compassion to all, with however, no compromise.

Accordingly, neither this organization, its churches or its members shall conduct any marriages between persons of the same sex and shall not condone, support, or facilitate any activities that conflict with this tenet of faith.

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a. Definition of Marriage

We believe the original definition of marriage came from God

Genesis 2:24 – “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”

We believe Jesus Christ upheld this definition of marriage

Matthew 19:4 "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female',⁵ and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? 6 So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

We believe the Early Church upheld this standard of marriage between male and female

Ephesians 5:31 – “For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

We believe the Bible in its entirety condemns any form of sexual activity outside of the biblical definition of marriage

Hebrews 13:4 – “Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

b. Defined Sexual relationships strictly forbidden by God

Adultery = Sexual union between male & female while married to another. Exodus 20:14
Proverbs 6:32, Matthew 5:28

Fornication = Sexual union between individuals prior to marriage 1 Corinthians 6:9

Homosexuality = Sexual union between males 1 Corinthians 6:9 Romans 1:27

Lesbianism = Sexual union between females Romans 1:26, 27

Bestiality = Sexual union between human beings and animals Leviticus 18:23

Incest = Sexual union between members of same biological family Leviticus 18:6-17

(Continued...)

c. We believe same sex unions are forbidden by God in any context

Romans 1:26 – “Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. 27 In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.”

Why?

1. Society could not sustain itself with same sex unions dominating society.
2. The natural needs of children is best served by the healthy role modelling of a father and mother in a healthy loving relationship covenant as designed by God, this has been proven to give children security, significance, and confidence for civilizations and centuries past.
3. Marriage of this nature is typified by God to demonstrate HIS relationship with HIS church typified as bride and bridegroom. *Ephesians 5:32 – “This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.”*

We reserve the right for our staff or approved wedding officiate to only perform marriages where the union would conform to the scriptural definition of marriage

We reserve the right for our facility to be used only in facilitating marriages that conform to our beliefs and practices about marriage as defined by scripture.

ARTICLE IV

COVENANT PARTNERSHIP

Section 1. Partnership Eligibility.

- a. **Partnership in this Church shall be open to all of those who have evidence of a genuine experience of regeneration (the new birth), (Romans 10:9-10; John 3:7; John 3:16), and who voluntarily subscribe to its tenets of faith and agree to be governed by its Constitution and By-Laws.**
- b. **Anyone applying for partnership will be required to take a prescribed study course which will cover: why we exist, Church Government and Structure; Church Finances, And the abbreviated first lap around the bases.**
- c. **To be eligible for partnership, each individual will need a working knowledge of the above subjects; as well as agree with the scriptural position on each one.**
- d. **A person needs to attend Word of Life for 6 months before they can officially apply for and be received as Covenant partners.**

Section 2. Partnership Role Additions and Revisions

- a. Any person interested in becoming a partner of the congregation of the Church shall submit a written and signed application, on a form approved by the Board of Elders. Each application shall be considered by the Board of Elders at its regular meeting or at any special meeting of the Board; and either approved, disapproved, or tabled. Applicants whose applications are so approved shall become active partners of the congregation of the Church. Additional members will only be added after the eligibility requirements have been met. A 2/3 vote of the Board of Elders is required for partnership approval.
- b. Revision of the official partnership role may be done in order to disqualify any partner And have their name removed from the role. Grounds for such action is as prescribed In Section 6-c. Any revisory action will require a 2/3 affirmative vote by the Board of Elders. Any partner of the congregation may resign by filing a written resignation with the Board of Elders. Partnership in the congregation of the Church is not transferable nor assignable.
- c. The partnership role is reviewed annually. Any partner who has not attended any of the services, or special functions during the previous 12 month period will be removed from partnership due to lack of participation.

The only exception to this is if the partner has communicated with the pastors and pre-arranged an exception due to a unique situation or circumstance.

Section 3. Partnership Participation.

- a. Partners are encouraged to express their feelings, opinions, and advice to the Pastors and Board Members, (their representatives) at all times.
- b. All voting on any issue by the partners will be on an advisory capacity to the Pastor and the Board of Elders. Partners will vote in this capacity whenever a vote is called for by the Board of Elders.
- c. The partners' advice and input will always be carefully considered; however, the final authority on all decisions will rest with the Board of Elders. The Board of Elders will take all responsibility for the outcome of every decision made.

Section 4. Ministering at Word of Life

- a. The Flow of Authority and the Appointment of Department Heads is explained in the Covenant Partner Training Course. Before a person is allowed to minister at Word of Life, these two area's must be understood and agreed to.
- b. Before anyone is allowed to minister in any form, they must first receive approval from a Department Leader and the Department's Administrator. This applies to all Volunteers as well as Team Members.

- c. **Covenant Partnership is required before anyone can become a Team Member in any Department.**
- d. **Before anyone can serve as a Department Head, or Team Member, they must receive the proper training and have signed the designated Qualification Forms.**
- e. **Any person having a medical or psychological condition of any kind that could cause harm or violate another person in any way, must receive permission from the Departmental Administrator before being allowed to serve. *Word of Life reserves the right to allow or dis-allow ministry and/or service within the organization according to what the leadership deems necessary to preserve the safety for all the people.***

Section 5. Regular Religious Services.

The members of the congregation shall meet for regular religious services. The day of the week and time for each regular religious service shall be established by the Board of Elders.

Section 6. Schools and Seminars

Instruction in the Word of God shall be provided at schools and seminars for partners of the congregation. Private Christian education for the body may also be provided.

Section 7. Code of Discipline

- a. **The partners of the congregation of the Church shall give consent to its forms of Government, together with the past policies, and to the policy of fundamental unity and agreement, alike in doctrine, conduct and action and shall conform to the scriptural injunctions that there be no division in the body. They shall be subject to the Board of Elders as the Word of God plainly teaches, that the principle of Christian fellowship may be kept inviolate and perpetuated, recognizing its fundamental importance.**
- b. **Insomuch as no Christian institution can comply with the plain teaching of Scripture unless unity and harmony predominate within its circle, no partner of the Congregation may use means to incite or engender strife, but shall work in harmony with the other members of the congregation, the Boards of Elders and Deacons, and the Church's officers, as did the early Church. (Acts 2:4) If there is cause for dissatisfaction, it shall be called to attention of the Pastor or another member of the Board of Elders. At their discretion, necessary adjustment shall be made. (Acts 6:1-7; Matthew 18:15-18)**
- c. **The responsibility of administering discipline in the Church is that of the Board of Elders. Some grounds for exercising discipline, suspension of or expulsion from partnership in the congregation are as follows:**

Any partner of the congregation who shall without reasonable cause willfully absent himself from the regular services for a period of twelve (12) consecutive months, shall be temporarily removed from active partnership in the congregation. The Board of Elders may inquire, under appropriate circumstances, whether the temporarily removed partner is desirous of continuing partnership in the congregation.

Unscriptural conduct, failure to maintain partnership requirements, or doctrinal departure from the tenets of faith, shall be considered sufficient grounds upon which any person may be disqualified as a member. Such discipline shall be prayerfully Administered according to scriptures - by the Board of Elders.

(Matthew 18:15-17; Romans 16:17; I Corinthians 5:9-13; Galatians 1; II Thessalonians 3:6; I Timothy 4:1-5; II Timothy 3:1-9; Titus 1:5-16; 3:10-11; James 5; I Peter 4; Jude)

- d. The Board of Elders shall be empowered to place on the inactive list those who have disqualified themselves as provided for in these by-laws. The Board of Elders shall also have the authority to restore to active partnership in the congregation those, who in the opinion of the Board of Elders are not at fault and those who, although at fault, have through repentance - equalities for partnership in the congregation. The Board of Elders shall recognize on the part of those who have been placed on the inactive list. It shall proceed carefully to press for final decision in each case. The of the Board of Elders shall be final.

ARTICLE V

BOARD OF ELDERS

Section 1. General Powers.

- a. The affairs of the Church shall be managed by the Board of Elders who members shall have fiduciary obligation to the Church.
- b. This Board is the primary decision making body of the Church. It shall oversee all the spiritual and physical aspects of the ministry of this church. Together, with the Pastor, this Board shall administer the business and work of the Church; both spiritual and physical. The Board of Elders shall examine all application for partnership. It will also be at the Pastor's disposal to act in conjunction with the Board in resolving any Church problems – whether individual or corporate.

Section 2. Number, Term, and Qualification

The number of Elders shall be no less than three (3) and shall have no maximum number. Their term of membership shall be for an indefinite period. Those set forth in the Articles of Incorporation shall comprise the original Board of Elders. Any member of the Board of Elders must also be a partner of the congregation of the Church.

Section 3. Regular Meetings

A regular meeting of the Board of Elders shall be held each year. Additional regular meetings shall be held at the principle office of the Church in the absence of any designation in the resolution.

Section 4. Special Meetings

Special meetings of the Board of Elders may be called by or at the request of any two (2) Elders, or at the request of the Pastor; and shall be held at the principle office of the Church or at such other place as the Elders may determine.

Section 5. Notice.

Notice of the annual, regular, or any special meeting of the Board of Elders may be given by oral notice to each Elder.

Section 6. Quorum.

A majority of the Board of Elders shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board; but if less than majority are present, the chairman shall adjourn the meeting.

Section 7. Board Decisions.

The act of a majority of the Elders present at the meeting at which a quorum is present shall Be the act of the Board of Elders. These decisions will carry precedence over any other committee, department, board, etc. -- The Board of Elders' decisions are final.

Section 8. Vacancies, Additions, and Removal.

Any vacancy occurring in the Board of Elders and any Eldership to be filled by any reason Of an increase in the number of Elders, shall be filled by the Pastor with the advice and Consent of a majority of the present Board of Elders. Elders shall be removed by the Pastor -President with the advice and consent of the majority of the present Board of Elders.

Section 9. Compensation.

Elders as such shall not receive any salaries for their services.

ARTICLE VI

OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers.

The officers of the corporation shall be a Pastor-President, a Vice-President, a secretary, a treasurer, and such other officers as may be deemed necessary. The Board of Elders may elect or appoint such other officers, including one or more assistant secretaries, and one or more assistant treasurers, as it shall be deemed desirable; such officers to have the authority and perform the duties prescribed, from time to time, by the Board of Elders. Any two or more offices may be held by the same person.

Section 2. The Pastor-President.

- a. The Church finds its headship under the Lord Jesus Christ, in its Pastor. He should be honored in his office as the primary spiritual overseer of the Church. (Head-Elder/Bishop) He shall be the chief executive officer of the Church. He shall be a continuing member of the Board of Elders. He shall have general supervision of the other officers. He shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Elders (Chairman of The Board) and see that all orders and resolutions of the Board are carried in effect; subject, however, to the right of the Board to delegate to any other officer or officers of the Church any specific powers, other than those that may be conferred only on the Pastor-President.
- b. The Pastor-President shall execute in the name of the Church all deeds, bonds, mortgages, contracts and other documents authorized by the Board of Elders. He shall be an ex-officio member of all standing duties of supervision and management usually vested in the office of President of the Corporation. He shall be the chairman of all business meetings of the Church. He shall be designated attorney in fact for the corporation by virtue of his office.
- c. The Pastor-President shall oversee all services and special meetings of the Church. He shall oversee the ministry of the Church and no person shall be invited to speak or preach without his approval. The Pastor-President shall have authority to make appointments of associates or temporary successors of the Lord. Such appointments will be made after receiving the advice and consent of the majority of the Board of Elders. The Pastor shall be empowered to establish any departments, committees, etc., and appoint their leadership as is necessary to carry on the ministry of the Church. All such actions shall receive the advice and consent of the majority of the Board of Elders.
- d. The Pastor shall comply with the scriptural standards for ministry.
(I Timothy 3:2-7, Titus 1:6-9; I Peter 5:2-3)

Section 3. The Vice-President.

- a. One of the Board of Elders shall be appointed to act as the Vice-President of the Corporation. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.**
- b. The Vice-President shall perform the duties and exercise the powers of the Pastor-President in case of his temporary absence from the office of the Church. He shall perform such other duties as may from time to time be granted or imposed by the Board of Elders.**
- c. The Vice-President shall comply with the scriptural standards for the ministry. (I Timothy 3:2-7; Titus 1:6-9; I Peter 5:2-3)**

Section 4. The Secretary.

- a. The Secretary shall attend all sessions of meetings held by the Board of Elders, or any Church business meetings. He shall act as a clerk thereof and record all votes and the minutes of all proceedings in a book to be kept for that purpose. He shall perform like duties for the executive and standing committees when required. He shall give, or cause to be given, notice of meetings of the Board of Elders when a meeting is to be held.**
- b. He shall have access to the seal as well as all authorized documents requiring a seal. He shall keep membership roles of the Church, and in general, perform the duties as shall from time to time be prescribed by the Board of Elders or the Pastor.**
- c. The Secretary shall have skills required to properly discharge the duties of the position. He shall be a person of good character, and possess the attitude of cooperation. The Secretary may, but does not need to hold any other office or position in the Church.**

Section 5. The Treasurer.

- a. The Treasurer shall keep full and accurate account of the receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the Church, and shall deposit all moneys and other valuable effects in the name and to the credit of the Church in such banks and depositories as may be designated by the Board of Elders. He shall not be personally liable for the safekeeping of any funds or securities so deposited pursuant to the order of the Board.**
- b. The Treasurer shall disburse the funds of the Church by check upon personal authorization by the Pastor, or someone so name as his representative in this matter.**
- c. He shall render to the Pastor and the Board of Elders at the regular meetings of the Board, and whenever they may require, accounts of all transactions of the financial workings of the Church. He shall perform the duties usually incidental to the office of treasurer and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Elders, or the Pastor.**

- d. The Treasurer shall have skills required to properly discharge the duties of the position. He shall be a person of good character, and possess the attitude of cooperation. The Treasurer may, but does not need to hold any other office or position in the Church.
- e. The Pastor-President shall act as the chief holder and disbursing officer of the Church's funds; in that he will be the primary guardian of the general fund account and checkbook.

Section 6. Delegating Of Powers to Others.

- a. Under no circumstances does an officer have the power to delegate their office or responsibilities to anyone without the consent of the Pastor and the Board of Elders.
- b. The Pastor may temporarily delegate an office. However, this must be approved at the next available meeting of the Board of Elders.
- c. The case of the absence of any officer of the Church, or for any other reason that may seem sufficient to the Board of Elders, the Board may delegate his duties and powers to any other officer, or to any individual properly placed into position.

ARTICLE VII

BOARD OF DEACONS

Section 1. Purpose & Powers.

- a. The partnership finds its direct representation and leadership through the Board of Elders; However, it receives additional representation through the Board of Deacons. The Board of Deacons shall act in an advisory capacity to the Pastor in the spiritual and physical ministry of the Church. They are to provide physical ministry of the Church. They are to provide counsel and assistance in all matters of the spiritual and physical workings of the Church. Together with the Pastor and the Board of Elders, they are to assist in administering the business and work of the Church.
- b. They shall be at the Pastor's disposal to act in conjunction with the Pastor in resolving any church problems - whether individual or corporate.
- c. In the event that the Church is temporarily without a Pastor, the Board of Elders, as well as the Board of Deacons, will remain intact as it was under the previous Pastor. They will remain in office throughout the transition period. The transition period will end six (6) months after the installation of the new Pastor.
- d. The Board of Deacons will be available to serve and minister in all aspects desired by the Pastor and the Board of Elders.

- e. The Board of Deacons will be available to serve and minister in all aspects desired by the Pastor and the Board of Elders.
- f. All Board members (whether the Board of Elders or the Board of Deacons) shall be individuals whose lives and conduct conform to scriptural principles for leadership. (I Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:6-9)

Section 2. Number, Term, and Qualification

The number of Deacons shall not be limited. Any member of the Board of Deacons must also be a partner of the congregation of the Church. A Deacon must agree to and submit to the qualifications of leadership that have been set forth. A congregational partner will be considered a member of the Deacon Board when they are placed in charge of a particular area of ministry. "In chare" is to be interpreted as: (1) They are solely responsible for the organization and operation of a particular area of ministry, under the direction and supervision of the Head Pastor, and /or anyone he appoints as administrator over that particular area of ministry. (2) They have been appointed to this area of ministry by the Pastor and the Board of Elders.

Section 3. Regular Meetings.

A regular annual meeting of the Board of Deacons shall be held each year. Additional regular meetings shall be held at the principle office of the Church in the absence of any designation in the resolution.

Section 4. Special Meetings.

Special meetings of the Board of Deacons may be called by or at the request of any two (2) Deacons, or at the request of the Pastor, and/or the Board of Elders; and shall be held at the principle office of the Church or at such other place as the Pastor and/or the Board of Elders may determine.

Section 5. Notice.

Notice of the annual, regular, or any special meeting of the Board of Deacons shall be given by oral notice to each Deacon.

Section 6. Quorum.

A majority of the Board of Deacons shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board; but if less than a majority are present, the chairman shall have the option of either adjourning the meeting, or allowing the Board of Elders to make the decision without the input of the Board of Deacons.

Section 7. Board of Decision.

The act of a majority of the Deacons present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board of Deacons. These decisions shall be given in an advisory capacity to

the Pastor and the Board of Elders. The advice and decisions of the Board of Deacons shall in no circumstances be binding on any decisions made by the Board of Elders and/or the Pastor.

Section 8. Vacancies, Additions, and Removal.

- a. Any vacancy occurring in the Board of Deacons shall be filled in the following manner:
 - (1) The Pastor will receive the nominations from the Board of Elders. The Congregation can suggest names of individuals to the Board of Elders when this process is taking place.
 - (2) The Board of Elders will choose one (1) specific nomination per vacancy. This individual will then be notified by the Pastor and all aspects of the position will be discussed.
 - (3) Should the individual decide that they would be willing to take charge of said area of ministry, the nomination will then be discussed at a meeting of the Board of Elders, and the individual will either be appointed to, or released from being set in charge of said area of ministry.
- b. Deacons shall be removed by the Pastor with the advice and consent of the majority of the present Board of Elders.

Section 9. Compensation.

Deacons as such shall not receive any salaries for their services.

ARTICLE VIII

ADDITIONAL PASTORS, MINISTERS, & LEADERS

Section 1. Purpose and Powers.

- a. Additional Pastors, Ministers, and Leaders may be added to the Church staff as their support is needed. The Board of Elders will decide as to the validity of the position and its importance to the Church.
- b. All added staff, no matter what position they may hold, are to serve the Church by acting on behalf of the Pastor in helping him and the body achieve the purpose of the Church. All staff shall submit and willfully subject themselves to the leadership of the Pastor and the Board of Elders.
- c. Any powers upon which a particular staff member (Pastor, Minister, or Leader) functions and carries out their duties shall be received only from the Pastor and/or the Board of Elders. No authority of power shall be given or assumed apart from that expressly authorized by the Pastor and/or the Board of Elders.

Section 2. Number, Term, and Qualification.

- a. There shall be no specific number given as to additional Pastors, Ministers, or Leaders. The number of individuals in any given position will be determined by the Pastor and Board of Elders.
- b. The term of service to the Church will be determined by the Board of Elders. (Except for unscriptural conduct, doctrinal departure from the tenets of faith, provoking co-hersion and strife, and moral charges; any of these shall be considered sufficient grounds for the Pastor to dismiss (immediately if necessary) any staff member without the consent of the Board of Elders.)
- c. Qualifications for Pastors and Ministers will follow those given specifically for these positions in scripture. (I Timothy 3:2-7; Titus 1:6-9; I Peter 5:2-3) All other Leaders will conform to the general guidelines given in scripture to those who serve the Church.

Section 3. Compensation.

- a. All salaries will be established by the Pastor.
- b. The only exception to this will be the salary of the Head-Pastor. His salary will be established by the Board of Elders.

ARTICLE IX

PASTOR/PRESIDENT RESIGNATION, REMOVAL, VACANCIES, & ELECTIONS

Section 1. Resignation.

In the event that the Pastor should voluntarily choose to leave, he shall officially resign to the Board of Elders/Board of Deacons, as well as, officially resign as Pastor of the Church to the Partners.

Section 2. Removal.

- a. In the event the Pastor has serious charges preferred against him, or there has been charges of unscriptural conduct laid against him; either the Pastor or the Board of Elders has the power to request assistance through the Association of Faith Churches and Ministries. In no case will any type of action be brought against the Pastor without the Association of Faith Churches and Ministries having been previously contacted and informed of the charges by the Board of Elders, or the Pastor. In this situation, the Association of Faith Churches and Ministries official will hear the

charges from both the Pastor and the Board of Elders; following which, they will act (The A.F.C.M.) as an independent, objective mediator to help resolve the situation. The authority of AFCM will be in an advisory capacity.

- b. Before charges will ever be considered, they must be proven scripturally valid before the Board of Elders.

Section 3. Vacancies.

- a. In the event there is an unexpected vacancy in the Pastor position, the Vice-President will temporarily assume the office as the Head-Pastor; including all rights and powers pertaining thereto.
- b. By virtue of his office, the temporary Pastor will be brought before the body for a vote. At this time, he may be elected as the permanent Head-Pastor.
- c. In the event there is a vacancy in both the Pastor/President and the Vice-President positions, the Board of Elders will provide for the ministry of the Church during the interim period. The Church Boards (Elders and Deacons) will be required to work in conjunction with an officer of the Association of Faith Churches and Ministries in securing a nomination for Head-Pastor.

Section 4. Elections.

- a. In the event the Pastor shall resign or be removed, the guidelines of section 3 - a, b. will be adhered to. Should this process fail to fill the vacancy, the Board of Elders and the Board of Deacons will be responsible to work with the A.F.C.M. in securing a nomination to fill the vacancy. The following procedure will be adhered to.
- b. The Boards of Elders/Deacons shall work in a combined effort to screen all candidates. The individual will have a thorough check of past ministry and credentials, as well as an interview by either phone or in person. Should the candidate seem satisfactory at this point, he will be invited (with his family) to come and lead a weekend's activities at the Church.
- c. At this time the candidate shall be presented to the combined Board of Elders/Deacons for their approval and recommendation. In the event the majority of the combined Boards approve of said candidate, this matter shall be referred to the partnership of the congregation for a vote.
- d. At this time, the partnership of the congregation shall be called together in a special meeting for a vote. The vote shall be by secret ballot, a majority vote of the partners present of the congregation shall be considered a recommendation of said candidate to the office of President-Pastor.
- e. All voting on any issue by the partners will be on an advisory capacity to the Pastor and the Board of Elders. Partners will vote in this capacity whenever a vote is called for by the Board of Elders.

ARTICLE X

MINISTERS ORDINATION AND LICENSING

Section 1. Procedure.

The Board of Elders may Ordain and/or License a person as a minister of the Gospel after first examining the applicant's background, moral and religious character, and what previous bible courses and/or independent study the applicant has received. Final determination shall be with the absolute discretion of the Board of Elders.

Section 2. Limitation.

The Board of Elders may, in the discretion of the Board, limit any licensee or ordained to an area of special emphasis. The following areas are (although not intended to be exclusive) recognized by the Board of Elders:

- a. Music
- b. Youth
- c. Christian Education
- d. Evangelism

Section 3. Pastor-President.

The Pastor shall be a licensed or ordained minister of the Gospel. Assistant or associate minister may or may not be either licensed or ordained.

Section 4. Application.

Application for ordination and/or licensing as a minister of the Gospel shall be on the form provided by the Board of Elders. An applicant's application shall be either approved or denied within thirty (30) days of the completion of the investigation of the applicant. Those applicants who are approved shall receive a certificate evidencing the approval.

Section 5. School of Ministry.

The Board of Elders may establish a School of Ministry, setting forth a prescribed curriculum and course of study leading to ordination and licensing of ministers. The School of Ministry shall prepare the student in the knowledge of the Word of God and in ministering to the needs of mankind through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE XI

CONTRACTS, CHECKS, DEPOSITS, AND FUNDS

Section 1. Contracts.

The Board of Elders may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents of the Church, in addition to the officers so authorized by these By-Laws, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Church, and such authority may be confined to specific instances.

Section 2. Checks, Drafts, or Orders.

All checks, drafts, or orders for payment of money, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the Church shall be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents of the Church, and in such manner as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Board of Elders. In the absence of such determination by the Board of Elders, such instruments may be signed by the Pastor of the Church.

Section 3. Deposits.

All funds of the Church shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the Church in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as the Board of Elders may select.

Section 4. Gifts.

The Board of Elders may accept, on behalf of the Church, any contribution, gift, bequest, or devise for any purpose of the Church.

ARTICLE XII

FINANCES AND PROPERTY

Section 1. Finances.

- a. All funds for the maintenance of the Church shall be provided by the tithes and offerings of the members and friends of the Church.
- c. All finances shall be disbursed only by the direction of the Pastor. The Board of Elders shall oversee all aspects of the Church finances, and give direction, consultation, and recommendation to the Pastor in regards thereto.

- c. All financial reports shall be made available to the public at the end of each fiscal year; which ends December 31st of each year.

Section 2. Property

- a. The corporation has no capital stock authorized, and in accordance with the Articles of incorporation, none shall be issued.
- b. All property - real, personal, or chattel, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred, or conveyed in the corporate name of the Church.

ARTICLE XIII

RENTAL AND USE OF CHURCH FACILITIES

Section 1. Building or Property Rental.

- a. Word of Life facilities are available for rent and use according to the pre-determined uses allowed by the board of elders.
- b. All rental and use of the facilities must be approved by the Board of Elders.
- c. No activity will be allowed in any and all Word of Life Ministries' property or facilities which would violate Word of Life's Tenants of Faith.
- d. This applies to all members (Covenant Partner's) and all non-members who may desire to use or rent stated property or facilities.

ARTICLE XIV

LIABILITY

Section 1. Personal Liability.

There shall be no personal liability upon the partners of the corporation for the obligations of the corporation.

The only exception to this is when a partner voluntarily offers themselves and their resources as a co-signer or guarantor. This can only be accomplished with the permission and agreement of the Board of Elders.

ARTICLE XV

BOOKS AND RECORDS

The Church shall keep and correct complete books and records of account and shall also keep minutes of the proceedings of its meetings: Board of Elders, Board of Deacons, Annual

Financial, Committees having and exercising any of the authority of the Board of Elders, and any other committee or meeting whereof the Board of Elders should be made aware of the details.

The Church shall keep, at the principle office, a record giving the names and addresses of the Board of Elders members entitled to vote. All books and records of the Church may be inspected by any partner, or his agent for any proper purpose at any reasonable time.

ARTICLE XVI

NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY

Any school operated by this corporation shall admit students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. The school shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its education policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.

ARTICLE XVII

MEETINGS

Section 1. Services.

- a. Meetings for public worship shall be held on each Lord's Day, and during the week as may be determined by the Pastor.
- b. Bible studies, devotional and special meetings will be held on any day or sequence of days, as may be determined by the Pastor.

Section 2. Business Meetings.

Business meetings of the Church may be called by the Pastor or the Board of Elders when necessary. The time and place shall be announced by the Pastor. Due notice shall be given on the two Sundays immediately prior to the date of said meeting.

Section 3. Board Meetings.

- a. The boards of the Church shall meet monthly or as the need requires for the transaction of routine business for the Church. The time and place shall be announced by the Pastor and due notice shall be given so that all members attendance will be given proper consideration.

ARTICLE XVIII

DISSOLUTION

- a. Should the time come when Word of Life Ministries will dissolve and abandon their 501(c)(3), it is understood that The Association of Faith Churches and Ministers will have oversight in said action. The Elder and Deacon Boards will take charge of the disbursements of any and all assets, as well as the settling of any and all liabilities.
- b. Upon the dissolution of the Church, the Board of Elders, acting under the supervision of AFCM, shall, after the payment of all the liabilities of the Church, dispose of all the assets of the Church exclusively for the purposes of (1) AFCM, (2) or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall qualify as an exempt corporation or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, (or of the corresponding provisions of any future United States Revenue Law) as the Board of Elders shall determine.
- c. No part of the net earnings of the Church shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to, its members, officers, elders, or any other person except that the Church shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered, and to make payments in the furtherance of the Church. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the Articles of Incorporation or these By-Laws of the Church, the Church shall not carry on any activity not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax, under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, (or by the corresponding section of any future Revenue Code of the United States of America) or (b) by a corporation contributions of which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended (or corresponding section of any future United States Revenue Law).

ARTICLE XIV

FINAL CHURCH RULING AUTHORITY

It is expected that any and all situations that may arise in the Church are properly addressed in this Constitution and By-Laws. In the event that an occasion should arise where there is no clear stated position given to settle the matter, let it be known that the Board of Elders has the final ruling authority in all matters. Their decision on any and all Church related matters is final.

ARTICLE XX

SEAL

The Board of Elders shall provide a corporate seal, which shall be as set forth in the designated area below.

ARTICLE XXI

AMENDMENTS & REVISIONS

- a. The articles of this Constitution and By-Laws shall supersede and make null and void all articles or agreements written or verbal, which are in conflict with the articles described herein.
- b. This Constitution and By-Laws may be altered, amended or repealed, and a new Constitution and/or By-Laws may be adopted. This will be accomplished by a combined meeting of both the Board of Elders and the Board of Deacons in which the Board of Deacons will give their advice concerning any proposed changes. The Board of Elders will then consider the recommendation of the Board of Deacons and proceed. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board of Elders at any regular or special meeting of the Boards will be required to effect any changes.
- c. At least a 7-day advance notice shall be given of said meeting to each board member (Elders and Deacons).

REVISIONS

Revised this day, July 8, 2009, at a meeting of the Church Boards of Word of Life Ministries of Louisville, Inc.

All information pertaining thereto is contained in the official minutes of said meeting.

Previous Revisions: February 10, 1986 (Original Adoption)

January 9, 1987

January 6, 1988

August 15, 1990

March 23, 2001

April 14, 2005

August 4, 2014

(SEAL)

AMENDMENT TO BY-LAWS AND CONSTITUTION
(Amendment #1)

Deacons - Elders - Bishops

24. Deacons/Deaconess

24. The word Deacon is used 5 times in the scripture. (KJV). The Title Deaconess is not used at all in scripture. (KJV)

B. Gr. – Diakonos/Diakoneo

- 1. To serve, be servants**
- 2. Translated into English (KJV) as:**
 - a. Deacon**
 - b. Minister**
 - c. Ministry**
 - d. Servant**

C. Two general scriptures used for Deacons:

- 1. Acts 6:1-7**
 - a. “Ministry of the Word”**
-Gr.- Diakonia tou Logou
“Deaconship of the Word”
- 2. I Timothy 3:8-13**

D. Other scriptures the words Diakonos/Diakoneo are used:

- 1. Matthew 23:26; 23:11 - To be the greatest, you must be the servant.**
- 2. Matthew 22:13 – Servants to Kings**
- 3. John 2:5, 9 – Servants at Feasts**
- 4. Romans 13:4 - Officers of Civil governments are servants**
- 5. Matthew 23:11; Romans 16:1; Matthew 8:15 – Men and women servants of churches**
- 6. Philippians 1:1; I Timothy 3:10-13; Acts 6:1-7; I Timothy 4:6 – Deacons of churches.**
- 7. Matthew 20:26; Mark 10:43 – Ministers of Churches**
- 8. I Corinthians 3:5; II Corinthians 3:6; Ephesians 3:7; Colossians 1:23, 25; I Thessalonians 3:2 – Preachers of the Gospel**
- 9. John 12:26; II Corinthians 6:4-10; Ephesians 6:21; Colossians 1:7 & 4:7 – Ministers of Christ**
- 10. Matthew 4:11, Mark 1:13; Hebrews 1:14 – Angels**

***** Practically anyone who serves in any way is a Deacon/Deaconess.**

***** It is considered to be the bottom level of authority in church government.**

II. Elder

- A. The word Elder/Elders is used 69 times in the New Testament. (KJV)**
- B. Gr. - Presbuteros/Presbuterion**
 - 1. Elder**
 - a. In the sense of age - Oldest.**
 - b. In the sense of authority - Overseer.**
- C. --- In the Old Testament it referred to the heads and rulers of:**
 - Tribes**
 - Cities**
 - Nations**
 - The Gospels and Acts it referred to was the Sanhedrin**
 - In the early church it referred to:**
 - Ministers**
 - Deacons**
 - Business Elders/Deacons**
 - Preaching Elders/Deacons**
- D. An Elder is a servant (Deacon) in a position of:**
 - Authority**
 - Ruler-ship**
 - Overseeing/Overseer**
- E. Scriptures concerning the Elder:**
 - 1. Acts 14:23 - Elders are appointed.**
 - 2. Acts 20:17 - Elders are summoned.**
 - 3. I Timothy 5:17, 19 - Directors/Overseers (Both Business and Preaching)**
 - 4. Titus 1:5 - Elders appointed**
 - 5. James 5:14 - Elders summoned for prayer**
 - 6. I Peter 5:1-4 - Elders serving as shepherds, overseers, servants**
- F. This is the second level of authority.**
 - 1. To be an Elder, you must first be a servant. (Deacon)**
 - 2. There is a:**
 - Business Elder/Deacon (Acts 6:3; I Timothy 5:17)**
 - Preaching Elder/Deacon (I Timothy 5:17)**

III. Bishop

- A. The word Bishop/Bishops appears 5 times in the New Testament.**
- B. Gr. - Episkopos**
 - 1. Superintendent/Overseer/Bishop**

C. A Bishop is known as a Preaching Elder.

D. Scriptures concerning Bishop/Bishops:

1. Acts 20:28 - The Holy Spirit makes Bishops.
2. I Timothy 3:1-7 - Qualifications of Bishops
3. Titus 1:7 - God's work is entrusted to a Bishop; and qualifications.
4. Philippians 1:1 - Definite difference between Bishops and Deacons.
5. I Peter 2:25 - Christ is the chief Bishop.

E. The bishop is the third level of authority in church government.

1. The first and bottom level: *The Deacon*.
 - a. The Deacon is a servant in either a business or spiritual sense.
 - b. To be a servant (Deacon) is the basic requirement before any other levels of authority can be attained.
2. The next step up in church governmental authority is: *The Elder*
 - a. The Elder is a servant (Deacon) who has been given the authority of an overseer or ruler in some area.
 - b. There are business Elders.
 - c. There are preaching Elders; more often known as Bishops.
3. The highest level of authority in church government: *The Bishop*.
 - a. A servant (Deacon) who has been entrusted with a direct authority and responsibility for God's work.
 - b. A bishop works both as a business elder and as preaching elders.
 - c. The Bishop is the one directly responsible to God for the affairs of a church.

NOTE: The Deacon/Deaconess is definitely open to women in scripture. The Elder position can also be carried out by a woman. The Bishop position is not forbidden to a woman in scripture; however, the scriptures seem to indicate that man is God's first choice. If no man will answer to the call, it is not unscriptural for a woman to be called to the position of a Bishop.