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# THE LIFE CHURCH WARREN

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BY-LAWS



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THE LIFE CHURCH WARREN  
12221 Martin Rd. Warren, MI 48093

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Article I: Name

Article II: Affiliation

Article III: Tenets of Faith

Article IV: Membership

Article V: Administration: Official Board

Article VI: Administration: Pastor

Article VII: Administration: Deacon Board

Article VIII: Meetings

Article IX: Departments

Article X: Multi-sites, Ministry Extensions, and Affiliates

Article XI: Property

Article XII: Disaffiliation

Article XIII: Prerogatives

Article XIV: Amendments

## Article I. Name

The name of this church shall be "The Life Church."

## Article II. Affiliation

We believe that God's purpose concerning mankind finds fulfillment in that a priority reason for being is:

1. to be an agency of God for evangelizing the world;
2. to be a corporate body in which people may worship God;
3. to be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints, being perfected in the image of His Son, and;
4. to be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world.

We exist expressly to give continuing emphasis to this reason for being in the New Testament apostolic pattern by teaching and encouraging believers to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. This enables us to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs, adding a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God, and enabling us to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit, gifts, and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the Body of Christ.

We give expression to our reasons for being establishing and maintaining a place for the worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father; to provide for Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith, where the Holy Spirit may be honored according to our distinctive testimony; to assume our share of responsibility and the privilege of propagating the gospel of Jesus Christ, by all available means, both at home and in foreign lands.

While maintaining its inherent rights to sovereignty in the conduct of its own affairs, as herein set forth, this church declares itself to be voluntarily in full cooperative fellowship with all other churches affiliated with the Assemblies of God Michigan District, and The General Council of the Assemblies of God, with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri, and shares in the privileges and assumes the responsibilities enjoined by that affiliation. "Voluntary cooperation" means that once a church, out of its own free will, decides to be a cooperating church of the Assemblies of God, this cooperation becomes obligatory and not optional.

This church agrees to:

1. Abide by the Constitution and By-laws of the District and General Councils and conform to the decisions of the District and General Councils in the interest of general unity;
2. Participate in and financially support the missionary programs agreed upon by the District and General Councils in order to extend God's work and kingdom throughout the world;
3. Participate in District and General Council sessions via duly chosen delegates;
4. Invite the counsel of the District Office when a pastoral change occurs and in the event of church difficulty;
5. Participate in and financially support the District and General Councils [District Bylaws Article XVII. Section 1. b.; General Council Bylaws Article XIII. Section 1. c. (2)], and;
6. Recognize that the District Council or General Council shall have the right and authority to:
  - a. Approve scriptural doctrine and conduct;
  - b. Disapprove unscriptural doctrine and conduct as stated in the General Council Constitution [Article IX], and;
  - c. Withdraw the church's Certificate of Affiliation if deemed necessary.

### Article III. Tenets of Faith

This church shall accept the Holy Scriptures, as the revealed will of God, the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice; and, for the purpose of maintaining the general unity, adopt the Statement of Fundamental Truths approved by the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

If the General Council of The Assemblies of God departs from any of the "Statement of Fundamental Truths" listed below, The Life Church reserves the right to no longer voluntarily cooperate in full fellowship with the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Under Article V of the Statement of Fundamental Truths, the Michigan District understands that the term "Man" is used to refer to humankind and includes all people except when used in gender specific cases.

## STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS

The Bible is our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. This Statement of Fundamental Truths is intended simply as a basis of fellowship among us (i.e., that we all speak the same thing, **1 Corinthians 1:10; Acts 2:42**). The phraseology employed in this statement is not inspired or contended for, but the truth set forth is held to be essential to a full-gospel ministry. No claim is made that it contains all biblical truth, only that it covers our need as to these fundamental doctrines.

### 1. The Scriptures Inspired

The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man; the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct.

**(2 Timothy 3:15-17, 1 Thessalonians 2:13, 2 Peter 1:21)**

### 2. The One True God

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the Creator of heaven and earth, and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**(Deuteronomy 6:4, Isaiah 43:10-11, Matthew 28:19, Luke 3:22).**

## Adorable Godhead

### a.) Terms Defined

The terms "trinity" and "persons" as related to the Godhead, while not found in the Scriptures, are words in harmony with Scripture, whereby we may convey to others our immediate understanding of the doctrine of Christ respecting the Being of God, as distinguished from "gods many and lords many." We, therefore, may speak with propriety of the Lord our God who is One Lord, as a trinity or as one Being of three persons, and still be absolutely scriptural.

**(Matthew 28:19, 2 Corinthians 13:14, John 14:16-17).**

### b.) Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead

Christ taught a distinction of Persons in the Godhead which He expressed in specific terms of relationship, as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but that this distinction and relationship, as to its mode is inscrutable and incomprehensible because it is unexplained.

**(Luke 1:35, 1 Corinthians 1:24, Matthew 11:25-27, Matthew 28:19, 2 Corinthians 13:14, 1 John 1:3-4)**

### **c.) Unity of the One Being of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**

Accordingly, therefore, there is that in the Father which constitutes him the Father and not the Son; there is that in the Son which constitutes Him the Son and not the Father; and there is that in the Holy Spirit which constitutes Him the Holy Spirit and not either the Father or the Son. Wherefore the Father is the Begetter, the Son is the Begotten, and the Holy Spirit is the one proceeding from the Father and the Son. Therefore, because these three persons in the Godhead are in a state of unity, there is but one Lord God Almighty and His name is one. **(John 1:18, John 15:26, John 17:11, John 17:21, Zechariah 14:9)**

### **d.) Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead**

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are never identical as to Person, nor confused as to relation, nor divided in respect to the Godhead, nor opposed as to cooperation. The Son is in the Father and the Father is in the Son as to relationship. The Son is with the Father and the Father is with the Son, as to fellowship. The Father is not from the Son, but the Son is from the Father, as to authority. The Holy Spirit is from the Father and the Son proceeding, as to nature, relationship, cooperation, and authority. Hence, neither Person in the Godhead either exists or works separately or independently of the others. **(John 5:17-30, John 5:32, John 5:37, John 8:17-18)**

### **e.) The Title, Lord Jesus Christ**

The appellation "Lord Jesus Christ," is a proper name. It is never applied in the New Testament, either to the Father or to the Holy Spirit. It, therefore, belongs exclusively to the Son of God. **(Romans 1:1-3, 2 John 1:3).**

### **f.) The Lord Jesus Christ, God with Us**

The Lord Jesus Christ, as to His divine and eternal nature, is the proper and only Begotten of the Father; but as to His human nature, He is the proper Son of Man. He is, therefore, acknowledged to be both God and man; who, because He is God and man, is "Immanuel," God with us. **(Matthew 1:23, 1 John 4:2, 1 John 4:10, 1 John 4:14, Revelation 1:13, Revelation 1:17).**

### **g.) The Title, Son of God**

Since the name "Immanuel" embraces both God and man in the one Person, our Lord Jesus Christ, it follows that the title, Son of God, describes His proper deity;

and the title, Son of Man, His proper humanity. Therefore, the title Son of God, belongs to the order of eternity, and the title, Son of Man, to the order of time. **(Matthew 1:21-23, 2 John 1:3, 1 John 3:8, Hebrews 7:3, Hebrews 1:113)**

#### **h.) Transgression of the Doctrine of Christ**

Wherefore, it is a transgression of the Doctrine of Christ to say that Jesus Christ derived the title, Son of God, solely from the fact of the incarnation or because of His relation to the economy of redemption. Therefore, to deny that the Father is a real and eternal Father, and that the Son is a real and eternal Son, is a denial of the distinction and relationship in the Being of God; a denial of the Father, and the Son; and a displacement of the truth that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh. **(2 John 1:9, John 1:1, John 1:2, John 1:14, John 1:18, John 1:29, John 1:49, 1 John 2:22-23, 1 John 4:1-5, Hebrews 12:2).**

#### **i.) Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord**

The Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, having by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; angels and principalities and powers having been made subject unto Him. And having been made both Lord and Christ, He sent the Holy Spirit that we, in the name of Jesus, might bow our knees and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father until the end, when the Son shall become subject to the Father that God may be all in all.

**(Hebrews 1:3, 1 Peter 3:22, Acts 2:32-36, Romans 14:11, 1 Corinthians 15:24-28)**

#### **j.) Equal Honor to the Father and the Son**

Wherefore, since the Father has delivered all judgment unto the Son, it is not only the express duty of all in heaven and on earth to bow the knee, but it is an unspeakable joy in the Holy Spirit to ascribe unto the Son all the attributes of Deity, and to give Him all honor and the glory contained in all the names and titles of the Godhead except those which express relationship (see Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead, Unity of the One Being of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead), and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father.

**(John 5:22-23, 1 Peter 1:8, Revelation 5:6-14, Philippians 2:8-9, Revelation 7:9-10, Revelation 4:8-11)**

### **3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ**

The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. The Scriptures declare:

a.) His virgin birth

**(Matthew 1:23, Luke 1:31, Luke 1:35)**

b.) His sinless life

**(Hebrews 7:26, 1 Peter 2:22)**

c.) His miracles

**(Acts 2:22, Acts 10:38)**

d.) His substitutionary work on the cross

**(1 Corinthians 15:3, 2 Corinthians 5:21)**

e.) His bodily resurrection from the dead

**(Matthew 28:6, Luke 24:39, 1 Corinthians 15:4)**

f.) His exaltation to the right hand of God

**(Acts 1:9, Acts 1:11, Acts 2:33, Philippians 2:9-11, Hebrews 1:3)**

### **4. The Fall of Man**

Man was created good and upright; for God said, "Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness." However, man by voluntary transgression fell and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God.

**(Genesis 1:26-27, Genesis 2:17, Genesis 3:6, Romans 5:12-19)**

### **5. The Salvation of Man**

Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

#### **a.) Conditions to Salvation:**

Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God, according to the hope of eternal life.

**(Luke 24:47, John 3:3, Romans 10:13-15, Ephesians 2:8, Titus 2:11, Titus 3:5-7)**

#### **b.) The Evidence of Salvation:**

1.) The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit



**(Romans 8:16).**

2.) The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness.

**(Ephesians 4:24, Titus 2:12).**

## **6. The Ordinances of the Church**

### **a.) Baptism in Water**

The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded by the Scriptures. All who repent and believe in Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Thus, they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life.

**(Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:16, Acts 10:47-48, Romans 6:4).**

### **b.) Holy Communion**

The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements—bread and the fruit of the vine—is the symbol expressing our sharing in the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (**2 Peter 1:4**), a memorial of his suffering and death (**1 Corinthians 11:26**), and a prophecy of His second coming (**1 Corinthians 11:26**), and is enjoined on all believers "till He come!"

## **7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit 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 power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry.

**(Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4, Acts 1:8, 1 Corinthians 12:1-31).**

\*This experience is distinct from, and subsequent to, the experience of the new birth.

**(Acts 8:12-17, Acts 10:44-46, Acts 11:14-16, Acts 15:7-9).**

With the baptism in the Holy Spirit come such experiences as:

a.) an overflowing fullness of the Spirit

**(John 7:37-39, Acts 4:8)**

b.) a deepened reverence for God

**(Acts 2:43, Hebrews 12:28)**

c.) an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work

**(Acts 2:42)**

d.) and a more active love for Christ, for His Word, and the lost

**(Mark 16:20)**

## **8. The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance.

**(Acts 2:4)**

The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues but is different in purpose and use.

**(1 Corinthians 12:4-10, 1 Corinthians 12:28).**

## **9. Sanctification**

a.) Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God.

**(Romans 12:1-2, 1 Thessalonians 5:23, Hebrews 13:12)**

b.) The Scriptures teach a life of "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord."

**(Hebrews 12:14).**

c.) By the power of the Holy Spirit, we are able to obey the command: "Be ye holy, for I am holy."

**(1 Peter 1:15-16).**

d.) Sanctification is realized in the believer by recognizing his identification with Christ in His death and resurrection, and by the faith reckoning daily upon the fact of that union, and by offering every faculty continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit.

**(Romans 6:1-11, Romans 6:13, Romans 8:1-2, Romans 8:13, Galatians 2:20, Philippians 2:12-13, 1 Peter 1:5)**

## **10. The Church and Its Mission**

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 an integral part of the General Assembly and Church of the Firstborn, which are written in heaven.

**(Ephesians 1:22-23, Ephesians 2:22, Hebrews 12:23)**

a.) Since God's purpose concerning man is to seek and to save that which is lost, to be worshipped by man, and to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, the priority reason for being of the Assemblies of God as part of the Church is:

1.) to be an agency of God for evangelizing the world;

**(Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15-16)**

2.) to be a corporate body in which man may worship God;

**(1 Corinthians 12:13)**

3.) to be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son;

**(Ephesians 4:11-16, 1 Corinthians 12:28, 1 Corinthians 14:12)**

4.) and to be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world.

**(Psalms 112:9, Galatians 2:10; 6:10, James 1:27)**

b.) The Assemblies of God exists expressly to give continuing emphasis to this reason for being in the New Testament apostolic pattern by teaching and encouraging believers to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. This experience:

1.) Enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs;

**(Mark 16:15-20, Acts 4:29-31, Hebrews 2:3-4)**

2.) Adds a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God;

**(1 Corinthians 2:10-16, 1 Corinthians 12, 1 Corinthians 13, 1 Corinthians 14)**

3.) Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit, gifts, and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ and to care for the poor and needy of the world.

**(Galatians 5:22-26, Matthew 25: 37-40, 1 Corinthians 14:12, Galatians 6:10, Ephesians 4:11-12, 1 Corinthians 12:28, Colossians 1:29).**

## **11. The Ministry**

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the threefold purpose of leading the Church in:

a.) Evangelism of the world;

**(Mark 16:15-20)**

b.) Worship of God;

**(John 4:23-24)**

c.) Building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son;

**(Ephesians 4:11-16)**

d.) Meeting human need with ministries of love and compassion.

**(Psalm 112:9, Galatians 2:10, 6:10; James 1:27)**

## **12. Divine Healing**

Divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement and is the privilege of all believers.

**(Isaiah 53:4-5, Matthew 8:16-17, James 5:14-16)**

## **13. The Blessed Hope**

The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the Church.

**(1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, Romans 8:23, Titus 2:13, 1 Corinthians 15:51-52)**

## **14. The Millennial Reign of Christ**

The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on earth for one thousand years **(Zechariah 14:5, Matthew 24:27, Matthew 24:30, Revelation 1:7, Revelation 19:11-14, Revelation 20:1-6)**. This millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel **(Ezekiel 37:21-22, Zephaniah 3:19-20, Romans 11:26-27)** and the establishment of universal peace **(Isaiah 11:6-9, Psalms 72:3-8, Micah 4:3-4)**.

## **15. The Final Judgment**

There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together with the devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, will be consigned to the everlasting punishment in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.

**(Matthew 25:46, Mark 9:43-48, Revelation 19:20, Revelation 20:11-15, Revelation 21:8).**

## **16. The New Heavens and the New Earth**

“We according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.” **(2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21,22)**

## Article IV. Membership

### Section 1. Requirements

1. Experience salvation as in **John 3:3, and 2 Corinthians 5:17**;
2. Be baptized in water when next available opportunity happens, as in **Matthew 28:19**;
3. Received or seeking the baptism of the Holy Spirit as in **Acts 2:2-4**;
4. Be 18 Years of Age;
5. Subscribe to the Assemblies of God 16 Tenets of Faith (Article III);
6. Complete the membership course of The Life Church;
7. Sign and adhere to the Membership Covenant;
8. Contribute regularly to the support of the church through personal giving as a matter of record per **2 Corinthians 9:7**, and;
9. Believe in God's Word. Members shall believe in the inspiration of the Holy Scripture as the Word of God and the final authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

### Section 2. Pastors and their Spouses

All Pastors on staff and their spouses shall be considered active members of the church during the tenure of their Pastorate. They must fulfill the Membership requirements found in Article IV. Section 1 and Membership Covenant.

### Section 3. Reception of Members

1. Persons desiring to become members of The Life Church shall make the fact known by completing the membership class.
2. The individual(s) responsible for membership shall present the names of those who apply for membership with a recommendation to the Official Board. The Official Board shall act upon said recommendation and render a final decision.
3. All persons who shall have met the membership requirements and have been endorsed by the Official Board, shall be received into The Life Church and their names added to the membership roll.

## Section 4. Active Membership

The active membership of The Life Church shall consist of those who have met the requirements of The Life Church membership course.

All those who meet the requirements for active membership (Article IV. Section 1), have been endorsed for membership by the Official Board, and whose names appear on the official membership roll shall qualify to vote in all annual or special business meetings of The Life Church.

Those in this church who have or have had membership from another Assemblies of God church must complete all the requirements of this church (Article IV. Section 1) for official membership.

## Section 5. Inactive Membership

Members who shall, without cause, absent themselves from attending the services of the church for a period of three (3) consecutive months or more, or who do not uphold membership requirements of The Life Church shall be considered inactive by the Official Board and be notified in writing by the Secretary.

Inactive members shall lose their voting privileges until they are restored to the fellowship through the Official Board.

Inactive members can be restored through a request to the Official Board.

## Section 6. Associate Members

The Official Board, at any regular or special meeting, may approve associate membership by a majority vote. Eligibility for an associate member is available to any person who is a member in good standing of an Assemblies of God church in another community, who is in this community on a temporary basis, and intends to return to his or her home church. Associate members shall be entitled to all the privileges of a regular member, with the exception that they are not eligible to vote and are not eligible for any offices held by a board member. An associate member can be voted in (and out) by the Official Board.

## Section 7. Discipline of Members

Discipline is an exercise of spiritual responsibility and authority of the church (Matthew 16:19, 18; 15-20; Luke 17:3; John 20:23; Acts 16:4; Ephesians 5:11; 1 Timothy 5:20; 2 Timothy 4:2; Hebrews 13:17). The purpose of discipline is to promote repentance and restoration. It is to be redemptive in nature, as well as corrective. Any member of the church is subject to discipline

based on exposing unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the Tenets of Faith, as determined in the sole discretion of the Official Board.

## Article IV. Administration: Official Board

The Official Board shall consist of the Senior Pastor and the Deacon Board

## Article VI. Administration: Senior Pastor

### Section 1. Senior Pastor Oversight

The Senior Pastor shall be recognized as the spiritual overseer of the church and all affiliates, and shall serve as:

1. President of the corporation
2. Chairman of all business meetings of the church and Deacon Board
3. Ex officio member of all committees, teams, or departments

The Senior Pastor shall:

1. Provide spiritual leadership and discipline;
2. Be a credentialed minister of the Assemblies of God and be in good standing with the District and General Councils;
3. Be responsible for selecting all employees and personnel;
4. Prescreen potential Board nominees to be presented to the current Deacon Board for consideration to later be elected by voting constituency members, and;
5. Provide for all the services of the church, including the arrangement of special meetings, conventions, etc. the invitation for any guest speaker in the church must first be approved by the Senior Pastor.

## Section 3. Election

The Senior Pastor shall be nominated by the Deacon Board who, when serving as the Pulpit Committee, shall invite the District Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee to the board meeting. Any member of the church may suggest names for the consideration of the committee.

Names of potential candidates shall be sent to the Michigan District Superintendent. No prospective Senior Pastor shall be contacted until the recommendation of the District Superintendent concerning the candidate has been received. Only one (1) name shall be placed in nomination at a time.

The District Superintendent or their designee shall preside over the business meeting for the election of the Pastor. Election shall be by secret ballot. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of all votes cast shall be required to constitute an election.

### **1. Term of Office**

The Senior Pastor shall be elected to serve for an indefinite period.

### **2. Vacancy**

When a vacancy for the Senior Pastor role occurs, a supply of speakers shall be arranged by the Deacon Board until a pastor shall be chosen. In the case of the Senior Pastor's removal from office, a report of such action shall be made to the District Office by the Secretary.

### **3. Resignation**

It shall be agreed between the Senior Pastor and the church at the time of his election that, should he resign, he will give the church at least thirty (30) days' notice before vacating the pulpit (except in cases of moral failure).

### **4. Removal**

Since this is a serious spiritual issue, clarification for all the below requires the Deacon Board to contact the Michigan District for a meeting with the Senior Pastor to discuss prior to removal. (Matthew 5:21-26; 18:15-20)

If serious charges are brought against the Senior Pastor, or the Senior Pastor is unable to fulfill their responsibility and no provision has been made for the termination of the Senior Pastor's ministry, the Deacon Board may ask for the resignation of the Senior Pastor at any of its regular Official Board meetings by a two-thirds majority vote. If such resignation is refused, the Senior Pastor position shall not be considered vacant until the action of the Deacon Board has been confirmed by a 2/3 majority vote of the Voting



Constituency at a meeting called for that purpose. Such a meeting is to be presided over by the District Superintendent or their designee.

Other than the Superintendent, or the Superintendent's designee, only active members of the church shall be permitted to attend, speak and/or vote at such a business meeting, unless invited by the Deacon Board.

Upon the action of the District or General Council that suspends or withdraws the ministerial credentials of the Senior Pastor, due to the departure from the Tenets of Faith, declared open change in doctrinal views, moral failure, mental or physical incapacity, negligence of duty, or any good and sufficient cause, the Senior Pastor shall be removed from office.

## Article VII. Administration: Deacon Board

### Section 1. Deacon Board Oversight

The Deacon Board shall act in an advisory capacity under the authority of the Senior Pastor in matters pertaining to the church in its spiritual life, finances, and the ministry of its ordinances.

1. They shall act in the examination of applicants for membership.
2. The Official Board shall disburse all funds of the Church derived from personal giving, offerings, and all other sources.
3. They shall serve as Trustees of the corporation of The Life Church.
4. Members of the Deacon Board shall recognize that they have been chosen to serve, not to govern the church, and that it is their responsibility to carry out the policies established by the voting constituency to whom questions of importance should be referred with the recommendation of the Official Board.

### Section 2. Deacon Board Members Qualifications

Candidates selected and elected as members of the Deacon Board shall:

1. Be an active member of the church for a minimum of 1 year;
2. Meet qualifications as described in **Acts 6, 1 Timothy 3, and Titus 1;**
3. Be faithful and consistent in matters of financial stewardship;
4. Be at least 21 years of age;

5. Be actively involved in another area of ministry in addition to the Deacon Board in this church prior to selection and after election, and;
6. Not be an employee of the church and shall not be the spouse of a Pastoral Staff member or immediate family member of another Official Board member.
7. They shall not have, (other than the Pastor) or be seeking, ministerial credentials from the Assemblies of God.

### Section 3. Deacon Board Selection and Election

#### 1. Nomination

- a.) A nominating committee shall consist of 3 members in good standing appointed by the Senior Pastor and the term limited deacons. They, along with the Senior Pastor, shall nominate prospective candidate(s) for the Deacon Board.
- b.) The Senior Pastor shall prescreen the candidates that qualify for election, then present the candidates to the Deacon Board. The Official Board shall select nominees to present to the church members.
- c.) Nominees must meet all Deacon Board qualifications.
- d.) Church members shall be publicly notified of nominees a minimum of two (2) weeks prior to an annual or special business meeting.

#### 2. Election of Nominees for Deacon Board

- a.) Deacon Board members shall be elected by secret ballot by a majority vote at the annual business meeting of the church or at a special business meeting called for that purpose.
- b.) When a nominee receives a majority vote, the individual shall be declared elected to serve on the Deacon Board.
- c.) If a majority for each office shall not have been reached by the first three (3) ballots, all nominees except those receiving the highest three (3) number of votes shall be eliminated from further balloting.
- d.) Deacon Board members shall be elected for three (3) year terms with terms being staggered appropriately.
- e.) A Deacon Board member may only serve two (2) consecutive three (3) year terms, and then be eligible for election again after one (1) year.

f.) If a Deacon Board member has been previously elected or appointed to serve a vacated, partial term, the individual shall be eligible to serve two (2) full consecutive terms.

## Section 4. Deacon Board Member Responsibility

As part of its responsibilities, the Deacon Board shall:

1. Advise the Senior Pastor with selections of personnel, leadership, Associate Pastors, employees, etc.
2. Advise on all financial matters.
3. Serve and/or advise in other departments or committees, either special or standing, as the need arises.
4. Advise and assist with the discipline of the church, when needed.
5. Serve as Trustees of the church property.
6. Serve as the Pulpit Committee in the event the Senior Pastor position shall become vacant. The Deacon Board may elect a chairman to serve until the Pastorate is filled.
7. Shall be responsible for ensuring that all personal giving and offerings are collected, counted, secured and that the deposits are managed.
8. Elect a qualified Secretary.
9. Revise the membership roll at least once per year, 30 days prior to the annual business meeting.
10. Approve salaries of any paid positions annually.

## Section 5. Secretary

### 1. Responsibilities

- a.) Keep the minutes of the meetings of the Official Board and the Annual and Special Business Meetings of the church;
- b.) Oversee the membership roll of the church;
- c.) Oversee all legal documents; with the President, sign all legal documents on behalf of the church. In case the pastorate is vacant, be authorized to sign all legal documents by the majority vote of the Deacon Board;

- d.) Oversee the permanent record of the voting constituency in attendance at business meetings;
- e.) Perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of his or her duties, and;
- f.) Be responsible for ensuring that the annual corporations reports are filed with the Secretary of State as required by law.

## 2. Qualifications

The Secretary shall be elected by the Official Board at their first meeting following the Annual Business Meeting. They shall be nominated from the Deacon Board and shall be elected by a majority vote. A candidate for the office of the Secretary must be a member of the Deacon Board.

## 3. Term of Office and Vacancy

- a.) The Secretary of the Official Board shall hold office for one (1) year from the time of election provided they remain on the Official Board for that entire year. The Secretary may serve up to six (6) consecutive terms and then be eligible for election again after one (1) year.
- b.) If a belief that the responsibilities no longer fit the individual, the secretary can step down voluntarily, or the other Official Board members can vote by a secret ballot to ask for their removal.
- c.) In cases of vacancy concerning the Secretary of the Official Board, the selection process shall be performed again.

## Section 6. Treasurer

### 1. Responsibilities

- a.) Oversee the reception and disbursing of all funds of The Life Church under the direction of the Senior Pastor and the Deacon Board;
- b.) Oversee depositing all funds in a responsible financial institution in the name of The Life Church;
- c.) Keeping a true and accurate record of all monies received and disbursed;
- d.) Give the quarterly report and other reports as requested by the Official Board;

e.) Have the financial books reviewed once a year and audited at the discretion of the Official Board, and;

f.) Review and advise financing of assets as needed, and obtain best possible return on investments.

## 2. Qualifications

They shall be nominated by the Official Board and shall be elected by a majority vote. The Official Board may elect someone to office of Treasurer that does not serve on the Deacon Board but must meet those qualifications.

## 3. Term of Office and Vacancy

a.) If a belief that the responsibilities no longer fit the individual, the Treasurer can step down voluntarily, or the other Official Board members can vote by a secret ballot to ask for their removal.

b.) In cases of vacancy concerning the Treasurer of the Official Board, the selection process shall be performed again.

c.) The Treasurer need not be on the Official Board to hold their position.

## Section 7. Vacancies and Removals of Deacon Board Member(s)

A Deacon Board Member position shall become vacant upon death or resignation of the member. At the discretion of the Senior Pastor, a special Official Board meeting can be called to discuss the possible removal of a deacon. During which, the Deacon in question may attend and speak to their circumstance. A secret ballot will be taken without the Deacon present to preserve unity within the board. A majority secret vote is required to remove the deacon, or upon the termination of the Deacon's active membership, whichever shall occur first.

Deacons can be removed:

1. For no longer meeting the requirements for election to the office;
2. Unscriptural conduct;
3. Doctrinal departure from the Tenets of Faith;
4. Incompetence in office, or;
5. Any good and sufficient cause.

## Section 8. Official Board Meetings

### 1. Quorum

A majority present at any meeting of the Official Board shall constitute a quorum, provided all the members have been notified by verbal communication, personal contact, or digital media. A quorum shall consist of the Senior Pastor, and 50% Deacon Board members. An Official Board member shall be considered present by appearing in person or via digital means.

### 2. Meetings and Attendance

- a.) At the discretion of the Senior Pastor members of the Pastoral Team may be invited to sit in the meeting regarding all matters other than salaries.
- b.) The Official Board shall arrange for meetings as may be necessary for the discharge of their duties.
- c.) The Official Board shall meet at least quarterly, or by the call of the Pastor, for the transaction of routine business for The Life Church; time and place to be announced by the Senior Pastor.
- d.) Meetings may be called by the Senior Pastor, or by request of any three (3) Deacon Board members.

### 4. Order of meeting of the Official Board

The order of business shall include the following (provided that, in the absence of any objection, the presiding officer may vary the order of business at his/her discretion):

- a.) Prayer
- b.) Reading of previous minutes
- c.) Report of Treasurer
- d.) Report of Committees
- e.) Unfinished Business
- f.) Election of Officers (if necessary)
- g.) New Business
- h.) Adjournment

## Article VIII. Meetings

### Section 1. Meetings for Worship

Meetings for public worship shall be provided for under the direction of the Senior Pastor or the Deacon Board if the Senior Pastor position is vacant.

### Section 2. Annual Business Meetings

There shall be an Annual Business Meeting of the church at a time and date selected by the Official Deacon Board during the first quarter of each year. Adequate announcement shall be made in all services on at least two (2) Sundays prior to the date of the meeting.

The order of business shall include the following (provided that, in the absence of any objection, the presiding officer may vary the order of business at his/her discretion):

1. Prayer
2. Report of the Treasurer
3. Report of the Senior Pastor
4. Other Items if needed (i.e., election of new Deacon Board members)
5. Adjournment

### Section 3. Special Business Meetings

A Special Business Meeting may be called by the Senior Pastor, by a majority vote of the Deacon Board or by a petition signed by no less than 51% of the voting constituency of The Life Church. Before the write-in petition is addressed, the District Superintendent will meet with the Official Board. Adequate announcement, including the purpose of the Special Business Meeting, shall be made at all services on two (2) Sundays prior to the date of the meeting.

### Section 4. Parliamentary Order

In order to expedite the work of the church and to avoid confusion in its deliberations, all business meetings of the church shall be governed by parliamentary procedure as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

### Section 5. Voting Constituency and Quorum

### 1. Voting Constituency

The voting constituency shall consist of all active members, eighteen (18) years of age and over, who are in good standing.

### 2. Quorum

The active members responding to the call for a regular or special business meeting shall constitute a quorum. However, the business meeting will be canceled should there be a travelers' advisory warning in effect.

### 3. Absentee Ballots

Any eligible voting member who, because of work schedule, sickness, or an unavoidable out-of-town absence, cannot attend a regular or special business meeting, may cast an absentee ballot on non-amendable resolutions with the Secretary. This ballot must be in the hands of the Secretary at least twenty-four (24) hours before the announced date and time of the business meeting.

## Article IX. Departments

All departments and committees shall exist to help carry out the declared purposes and intents of this church. They shall operate under the direct supervision of the Senior Pastor and his Pastoral Team and their approved policies and guidelines, and/or his/her designee.

## Article X. Multi-Sites, Ministry Extensions & Affiliates

All multi-site campuses, ministry extensions, or any affiliates shall exist to carry out the declared purposes of The Life Church. They shall operate under the direct supervision of the Senior Pastor.

## Article XI. Property

### Section 1. Corporate Ownership

The Life Church, including its ministry extensions and affiliates, shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Michigan and all property, real or chattel, intellectual, tangible and intangible, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred, and conveyed in the corporate name of The Life Church. All assets, real, intellectual, tangible and intangible, and all property belonging to



The Life Church will remain under the supervision of The Life Church through the Official Board and the membership of The Life Church.

## Section 2. Property Purchases, Dispositions, and Financing

The Official Board, on behalf of the church, shall be authorized to purchase or acquire by gift, bequest or otherwise, either directly or as trustee, and to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of any real personal, intellectual, tangible and intangible, or property of whatever kind, as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purpose, and to exercise all other powers conferred upon it by its charter or by the applicable non-profit corporation law of this State; all in accordance with its bylaws, as the same may be hereafter amended.

No real property of whatever kind shall be financed in excess of 25% of the annual budgeted income unless first authorized by first a unanimous decision of the Official Board, then at least two-thirds (2/3) majority vote by the voting constituency ballots cast by members who attend an annual or special business meeting, which has been called for the consideration of the proposal. The proposed action shall be announced per Article VII, Sections 2 and 3. The Treasurer may obtain refinancing of assets with approval of the Deacon Board. Refinancing does not require church membership approval unless indebtedness is being increased.

All real property of The Life Church shall be deeded to The Life Church and held in its name.

No real property of The Life Church shall be purchased or sold, leased or mortgaged, or otherwise obtained or disposed of without the same shall have first been authorized by a vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the voting constituency who attend the Annual Business Meeting or Special Business Meeting of The Life Church which has been called for the consideration of the proposal.

The Senior Pastor and the Treasurer for The Life Church shall certify in such conveyance, lease or mortgage, that the same has been duly authorized by a vote of The Life Church. Such certificate shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

## Section 3. Dissolution

Should "The Life Church" cease to function for the purpose as declared in its Constitution, then after providing for the payment of its debts, the remaining assets will not inure to the benefit of any private person or persons. All such remaining assets shall revert and be transferred back to the parent body- The Michigan District of the Assemblies of God, within 1 year of cessation.

The Michigan District of the Assemblies of God shall have full authority to sell such property and to use the proceeds for the extension of the work of the Assemblies of God within the Assemblies of God, Michigan District and under the direction of the Presbytery.

If such transfer is not made within the time prescribed, or if The Michigan District of the Assemblies of God is unable or unwilling to accept the transfer as an organization operated exclusively for religious purposes with tax-exempt status under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, then disposition shall be made by the court of the county in which this church is located. In such case, proceeds of the dissolution shall be distributed to an organization or organizations having purposes nearest the purposes of the Michigan District of the Assemblies of God, and which are organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes, and which have tax-exempt status under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

## Article XII. Disaffiliation

This church may disaffiliate from the Assemblies of God by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all active members of the church at a special business meeting called for that purpose, provided that the District Superintendent, or Superintendent's designee shall be present and actively participate in such a meeting.

## Article XIII. Prerogatives

The Life Church shall have the right to govern itself and to conduct its own affairs according to the standards of the New Testament scriptures, the Assemblies of God Michigan District, and the General Council of the Assemblies of God. This includes communion, child dedication, baptism, marriage covenants and funerals. The institution of marriage is created by God, observed by man, and shall be recognized as a covenant between a man, a woman, and God. **(Gen. 1:27, 2:23-24; Mal. 2:13-16; Matt. 19:5-6)**. This right shall specifically include such matters as the calling of a Senior Pastor, the selection of a Deacon Board, the discipline of members, and the conducting of its own services and church programs.

## Article XIV. Amendments

The by-laws may be amended at any Annual or Special Business Meeting of the church by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Voting Constituency present, provided the proposed amendment has been announced publicly on the two (2) Sundays prior to the date of the meeting. This announcement shall be made by the Senior Pastor or Secretary.

**Article III is not amendable and can only be changed to line up with the Tenets of Faith set forth by the General Council of the Assemblies of God.**

After reading the by-laws, a member may bring to the attention of the Official Board any typographical or grammatical errors that can be changed without needing a majority vote, provided it does not change the context.