

New Life Christian Fellowship at Providence

BY-LAWS

Article I: Name

The name of the church shall be New Life Christian Fellowship at Providence hereafter referred to as NLCF@Providence.

Article II: Purpose

Section 2.01: Existence

The duration of NLCF@Providence will be perpetual and for the purposes so stated in Article II of this document.

Section 2.02: Mission

NLCF@Providence is a local body of believers under the authority of the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The mission of this church shall be in accordance with and as revealed in the New Testament.

Section 2.03: Organization

NLCF@Providence and its ministries are organized exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations within the scope of section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 and as amended (Or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

Article III: Doctrine: Statement of Faith

Section 3.01: Inspiration of Scriptures

We believe in the verbal inspiration of the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments by the Holy Spirit as originally given; they are the final authority for our faith and life.
2 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 4:12.

Section 3.02: God

We believe in one God revealed in three coequal, distinct persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19-20; Ephesians 2:18.*

Section 3.03: Man

We believe that man in his natural state is a sinner, lost, undone, without hope and without God. *Ephesians 2:1-2; Romans 3:23.*

Section 3.04: Divinity and Humanity of Christ

We believe that Jesus is the Messiah, He is God come in the flesh and is both divine and human. He lived a sinless life and became a sacrifice for the sins of the world. *Ephesians 1:3-5; Romans 5:1-11; Acts 4:12; 1 Peter 1:18-19.*

Section 3.05: Bodily Resurrection

We believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. *Luke 24:38-43; John 20:24-29.*

Section 3.06: Salvation

We believe that terms of salvation are repentance toward God for sin and a personal heart-felt faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, which results in regeneration. This salvation is entirely by grace and not by works. *Ephesians 2:6-10; Romans 5:1; Acts 3:19-20.*

Section 3.07: Second Coming

We believe in the visible, bodily return of Christ to this earth to judge the world and to claim His Bride. *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 1:7.*

Section 3.08: Church

We believe that the church is Christ's spiritual body on earth today. It consists of born-again believers and has both universal and local expressions. *Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28.*

Section 3.09: Heaven and Hell

We believe in the doctrines of eternal punishment for the lost and eternal bliss and service for the saved; hell for the unsaved and heaven for the saved. *John 14:1-3; Revelation 20:11-15.*

Section 3.10: Holy Spirit

We believe the Holy Spirit to be the third person of the Godhead who is active in the world today. The Spirit indwells and seals the believer at new birth. We believe the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a subsequent experience and is available to all Christians to empower us to be witnesses. We believe in and encourage the use of the gifts of the Spirit. *John 14:16-17; 20:22; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4.*

Section 3.11: Ordinances

We believe that believers' water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the church and should be practiced regularly. *Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-10; 1 Corinthians 10:16-21.*

Article IV: Government

Section 4.01: Elders as Board of Directors

NLCF@Providence acknowledges that Jesus Christ is the Head of the church and rules His body through His appointed and anointed leaders. NLCF@Providence further acknowledges the written word of God as its guide and final authority in all decisions. NLCF@Providence shall be governed by Christ through the Senior Pastor and Elders, hereafter referred to as the Directors of the Corporation.

Section 4.02: Duties of the Elders

The Elders are charged with the spiritual and legal authority and responsibility for the oversight and direction of the church and its ministries. The Elders may designate and delegate individuals, committees, or boards with the responsibility to fulfill a particular function or task, but all who hold offices or perform any task are accountable to the Elders.

The Elders are ultimately responsible for the supervision and management of the business affairs, the administration of the physical assets, and general oversight of the church's affairs.

Section 4.03: Officers of the Board of Directors

The corporation shall have the following officers whose powers and duties shall be such as are hereinafter provided by these by-laws: President, Vice president, Secretary, and Treasurer.

The President of the Board of Directors is the Senior Pastor and the other officers of the corporation shall be elected annually by the Board of Directors in November of each year. Officers shall hold their office from January 1 to December 31, inclusive, or until their successors are installed. A vacancy in any office occurring between annual elections shall be filled by the remaining directors in office.

Section 4.10: Duties of the Officers of the Board of Directors

Section 4.11 President – The president shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and shall have general supervision over the affairs of the corporation. By and with the approval of the Board of Directors, he shall make and execute all contracts or instruments for and on behalf of the corporation.

Section 4.12 Vice president – The vice president shall, in the absence or disability of the president, perform the duties and have the authority and exercise the powers of the president.

Section 4.13 Secretary – The secretary shall keep the records of the meetings of the Board of Directors and shall ensure the custody of the corporate records and other papers.

Section 4.14 Treasurer – The treasurer shall ensure that records, accounts and reports be kept in order for all funds of the corporation as directed by the Board of Directors.

Article V: Offices and Positions

Section 5.01: Senior Pastor

Qualifications: The qualifications of the Senior Pastor are the same as an Elder as described in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. Candidates should also be experienced,

exhibit a clear and definite call to pastoral ministry, and should be gifted as a pastor/teacher (Ephesians 4:11-12).

Appointment: The Elders will appoint the Senior Pastor under the direction of the Holy Spirit, and other members as designated by the Elders. Congregational input shall be in the form of recommendation of qualified candidates, input into any verifiable information regarding a candidate based upon first-hand knowledge, and feedback based upon any candidates ministry during interviews.

Responsibilities: The Senior Pastor is responsible for the performance and supervision of the local church and its ministries. As an Elder, he serves as the “senior leader” (president of the Board of Elders) and directs all Elder meetings. He directs and manages the church staff, thus the staff reports to the Senior Pastor and not the Elders. The Senior Pastor oversees all the finances, activities, and ministries of the local church and works through supportive Elders, trained staff, and a mobilized laity to fulfill God’s vision for the church. The Senior Pastor is responsible for the development of the vision, values, mission, purpose, and philosophy of ministry for the church. As the church grows and changes in response to the move of the Lord, the Senior Pastor may delegate any portion of his authority and responsibility to other staff members or groups as is fitting. The Senior Pastor is an at large member of every committee and Board of the church.

Tenure:

The tenure of the Senior Pastor is perpetual until God clearly moves him on.

Removal:

The Senior Pastor may be removed from his office by resignation, death, or through dismissal. The Elders, by unanimous consent, are empowered to dismiss the Senior Pastor without compensation with cause based on biblical grounds.

Section 5.02: Elders

Qualifications:

Elders shall be individuals who seek to achieve the biblical standards given in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. They shall have proven themselves in faithful service, and demonstrated leadership ability within the body.

Appointment:

Elders shall be appointed by the Senior Pastor and confirmed by the agreement of the existing Elders. The church shall consistently maintain at least three Elders, with the Senior Pastor serving as one of the three. Prior to the ordination of an Elder input shall be requested from the congregation.

Responsibilities:

Elders shall be servant-leaders who are an example to the flock, assist the Senior Pastor in governing the local church by discerning the mind of Christ in policy-making decisions, oversee and shepherd the flock, and counsel and advise the Senior Pastor in all matters pertaining to the church body. The Elders shall support, affirm, focus and exemplify the vision of the Senior Pastor for the ministry of NLCF@Providence.

Tenure:

The term of each Elder shall be for a three-year period of time, renewable upon the agreement of the existing Elders.

Removal:

An Elder may be removed from office by terminating his membership from NLCF@Providence, resignation, death, or through dismissal. The Elders, by simple majority consent, are empowered to dismiss an Elder based on biblical grounds.

Section 5.03: Staff

The Senior Pastor shall be responsible for the hiring and dismissal of church staff with counsel from the Elders.

Article VI: Membership

Section 6.01: Requirements for Membership

The membership of NLCF@Providence shall consist of those who are now members of the congregation, and those who shall unite with it by a confession of faith in Jesus Christ. Each person presenting himself for membership must be progressing in his/her commitment to tithing, cell life and service in the church, as well as, shall successfully complete new members' training as defined by the Senior Pastor and Elders and presented to the congregation.

Section 6.02: Membership Status

Anyone who meets the requirements stated above and who faithfully participates in the life and work of the church will be considered and active member. Only active members may hold offices at NLCF@Providence.

Section 6.03: Membership Renewal

Membership is to be renewed annually.

Section 6.04: Termination of Membership

Membership of NLCF@Providence may be terminated through transfer of membership, withdrawal of membership, continued inactivity, or by disciplinary action. The procedure for discipline shall follow the guidelines of Matthew 18:15-17. A final decision, by simple majority consent of the Elders, can result in the exclusion of an individual from church membership for biblical reasons. Membership can be reinstated by the Elders if there is biblical cause.

Article VII: Governing Documents

Section 1: Documents

The governing documents of NLCF@Providence are the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws.

Section 2: Constitutional Amendments

No amendments or repeal shall be made to the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws of NLCF@Providence as adopted except by the following procedure: The Elders must be notified, in writing, 30 days prior to the appointed time of the vote. A unanimous vote is required to amend the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws.

Article VIII: Disillusionment

Section 1: Disillusionment by NLCF@Providence

In the event that this church shall be dissolved and liquidated, the Elders, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of this organization, shall distribute or dispose of any remaining property and assets exclusively to such organization or organizations established and operated exclusively for religious purposes as, in its judgment, have purposes which are most closely allied to those of this organization; it being provided, however, that each transferee organization, at the time of such transfer, shall:

- a) be a tax-exempt, religious Christian organization within the meaning and intent of Section 501 (c) (3) and Section 170 (b) (1) (A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding sections of any successor internal revenue law of the United States of America;
- b) have been in existence for a continuous period of at least sixty (60) months; and
- c) be an organization to which contributions are deductible under section 170, Section 2055 and Section 2522 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding sections of any successor internal revenue law of the United States of America.

Section 2: Disillusionment by Court

Any of this church's property and assets not disposed of in accordance with Article VIII, Section 1, shall be disposed of by the court having jurisdiction of the dissolution and liquidation of a nonprofit corporation organized and existing under and in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia and having jurisdiction in the county of this organization's registered office exclusively to such religious organization or organizations, each of which is established and operated exclusively for such purposes as are most closely allied to those of this organization and each of which, at the time of such disposal, is a qualified, tax-exempt organization as aforesaid, as said court shall determine.

Article IX: Financial and Property Considerations

Section 1: Contributions

NLCF@Providence and its ministries will be supported primarily through the voluntary contributions and free-will donations of its membership and friends, including tithes,

offerings, real or personal property, services, or other benefits. Offerings will be accepted by NLCF@Providence at such times and in such ways as agreed upon by the Board and managed with their approval, by the staff or other designated agents.

Section 2: Property

The elders will act as trustees of all real or personal property of NLCF@Providence and any property accepted, held, purchased, sold, transferred, assigned, or conveyed by the Elders will be so accomplished in the Church's name. No real property of NLCF@Providence may be purchased, sold, leased, mortgaged, transferred, or otherwise alienated without said action having been approved by the Elders.

Article X: Elders and Congregational Meetings

Each year, an Elder's meeting shall be held, as well as, a congregational meeting shall be held to review ministry effectiveness, departmental and financial reports for the past year, and the goals and budget for the coming year. The meetings shall be held anytime within the first four months of the year, and the meetings held at a time and location suitable for the purpose.

Article XI: Autonomy & Association

Section 1: Autonomy

NLCF@Providence is and will function as an independent and sovereign assembly under the headship of Christ.

Section 2: Association

NLCF@Providence is a member of the New Life Ministries International (NLMI) Family of Churches and agrees to abide by the NLMI Handbook.

Article XII: Ordination Powers

The Elders have the right and privilege to license and/or ordain those who are recognized as having a genuine call of God to the ministry and who have satisfied the biblical guidelines.