



CITY LIGHT CHURCH

Mission and Vision

WE EXIST TO BE THE LIGHT OF THE
WORLD THROUGH MAKING DISCIPLES
OF JESUS WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE
FOR JESUS.

SERVE faithfully

GIVE generously

LIVE purposefully

WORSHIP joyfully

LOVE intensely



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

LOCATION

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WWW.CITYLIGHTPO.ORG

SERVICE/MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- FEBRUARY – TIM TEBOW’S NIGHT TO SHINE
- APRIL – PORT ORANGE TRUST SPRING FOOD FESTIVAL
- APRIL – MIRACLE LEAGUE BASEBALL GAME
- JUNE – CITY LIGHT STUDENT SUMMER CAMP
- JULY – CITY LIGHT KIDS SUMMER CAMP
- AUGUST – SLIDE OUT OF SUMMER EVENT
- NOVEMBER – BASKET BRIGADE
- NOVEMBER – CITY OF PORT ORANGE FOOD DRIVE
- DECEMBER – PORT ORANGE HOLIDAY PARADE

All dates may be subject to change

BYLAWS
of
City Light Church, Inc.
A State Nonprofit Religious Corporation

Preamble to the Bylaws

City Light Church endeavors to be a Church of the Lord Jesus Christ as described, established, and mandated by the New Testament. The purpose of these Bylaws is to help us accomplish the task of this Church in a "decent and orderly" manner through the use of effective and efficient means of good stewardship of the body's time, gifts and resources. Our ultimate desire is to bring glory to God through the Church.

These Bylaws are to provide general guidance on organization, governance, and operation, based upon biblical principles and practices. However, the ultimate authority for City Light Church's organization, governance and operation is the Bible. When a conflict or ambiguity exists with regard to these Bylaws, deference is to be given to the biblical reference to resolve the conflict or ambiguity.

Article I

Name and Offices

The name of the Corporation is City Light Church, Inc. This Corporation will be further referred to in the Bylaws as the "Church". The Church maintains its principal office as designated in the Articles of Incorporation. The Church may also have offices at such places within or outside the State of Florida as the Board of Directors may from time to time establish.

Article II

Membership

Section 1: General

The New Testament presents a picture of definable groups of people who, once committed to the Lord, identified themselves with and committed themselves to a particular local body. (Rom. 16:1; 1 Cor. 1:2; 2 Cor. 8:1; Phil. 1:1; Acts 11:26)

In order to implement the principles of accountability and commitment to the local body of Christ, as defined in the New Testament and practiced in the early churches, City Light Church recognizes the need for formal membership. Membership in this Church shall

consist of all persons who have met the qualifications for membership and are listed on the membership roll.

Section 2: Candidacy and Membership

Any person 16 years of age or older who has personally received Christ as their Savior and Lord, who has received baptism by immersion as a testimony of their salvation, and who desires to be committed to City Light Church as a local body of believers may become covenant members through the following procedures:

1. Approach the Pastor, staff member, deacon or other ministry leader, or come forward during one of the worship service invitations and share a desire to join City Light Church.

2. Attendance at New Membership Classes. Periodically, membership classes shall be offered to provide, but are not limited to, the following:

- Introduction of Pastor and ministerial staff
- History of City Light Church
- City Light Church's Philosophy of Ministry
- Review of Bylaws
- Overview of ministries and insights from selected ministry leaders
- General Operating Budget
- Leadership and membership responsibilities

3. Personal Interview

Following attendance at New Membership Classes, individuals desiring membership shall meet with the Pastor, a Deacon or appointed ministry leader to verbalize their personal testimony, and to determine the integrity of their faith and their desire to be committed to City Light Church as a local body of believers.

4. Signed Membership Covenant Commitment

A signed Membership Covenant shall be used as an instrument to affirm one's desire for membership, to agree with the Church's covenant, and to serve as formal record of one's membership.

All such candidates shall be presented to this Church and membership by adding their name to the City Light Church membership roll, recognizing them as members in a

worship service and publicizing their name and picture to the membership of City Light Church in the Church's publications.

Section 3: Designations of Membership

In an effort to properly reflect the membership of the Church, two rolls shall be maintained. These rolls shall be updated periodically.

1. Active/Resident Members: All members who reside within the Church's ministry area or are currently active in the Church.

2. Inactive/Nonresident Members: Members who have become inactive as a result of lack of attendance and participation or of moving out of the Church's ministry area and have not joined another church. Members in this designation are ineligible to vote or hold a position. After one year of being in this designation, inactive members will be removed from the membership roster.

Section 4: Responsibilities of Membership

The responsibilities of membership are described in the Membership Covenant.

Section 5: Voting Rights of Membership

Every Active/Resident Member (except those members who are under the process of Church discipline, see Article II, Section 7) shall have the right to vote on the following matters:

- Adoption of the annual General Operating Budget of the Church
- Election of trustees and deacons
- Acquisition of real property
- Disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of the Church
- Merger or dissolution of the Church
- Obtaining of any indebtedness
- Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Church
- Calling or removing of the Senior Pastor
- Other matters in which the Pastor and Trustees feels led to seek the members' advice and counsel

Each Active/Resident Member 16 years and older is entitled to one vote. Voting by proxy is prohibited.

All members may participate in the Lord's Supper ordinance of the Church administered by the Church unless they remain unrepentant and out of fellowship while under the process of Church discipline.

Section 6: Termination of Membership

Members shall be removed from the Church roll for the following reasons:

1. Death
2. Transfer of membership to another church or 1 year on inactive status
3. By personal request of the member
4. Dismissal by the Pastor and Deacons according to a member's life and conduct which is not in accordance with the Church Membership Covenant and is in such a way that the member hinders the ministry influence of the Church. Procedures for the dismissal of a member shall be in accordance with Section 7 of this Article.

Section 7: Discipline of Members

Purpose

The purpose of Church discipline is to glorify God by maintaining (1) purity in the Church (1 Cor. 5:6), (2) protecting believers by deterring sin (1 Tim. 5:20) and (3) promoting the spiritual welfare of the offending believer by calling him or her to return to biblical standards of doctrine and conduct (Gal. 6:1). Furthermore, upon joining this Church, all members are in agreement with Article VII (Binding Arbitration) of these Bylaws.

Process

Members and all other professing Christians who regularly attend or fellowship at City Light Church who err in biblical doctrine or conduct shall be subject to discipline according to Matthew 18:15-18. (Such person hereafter will be referred to as an "Erring Person".) Before such discipline reaches its final conclusion:

1. It shall be the duty of any Church member who has knowledge of the Erring Person's unbiblical beliefs or misconduct to warn and to correct such Erring Person in private, seeking his or her repentance and restoration. If the Erring Person does not heed this warning; then,

2. The warning member shall again go to the Erring Person accompanied by one or two witnesses to warn and correct such Erring Person, seeking his or her repentance and restoration. If the Erring Person still refuses to heed this warning; then,

3. It shall be brought to the attention of the Pastor. (It is understood that this process will continue to conclusion, whether the Erring Person leaves City Light Church or otherwise seeks to withdraw from membership to avoid the discipline process.) The Pastor and an appointed committee of Deacons will appropriately investigate any allegation brought by one Church member against another. If these allegations are warranted, two or more of the Deacons and Pastor will contact the Erring Person and seek his or her repentance and restoration. If the Erring Person refuses to be restored, the matter will be presented to the entire Deacon Body, who will act to protect the Church by removing the Erring Person's membership and notifying the Church in accordance with Matthew 18. However, even at this point, City Light Church will continue to pray for the restoration of the Erring Person.

4. All claims or disputes, which cannot be resolved in accordance with Matthew 18 principles, shall be settled by biblically based and legally binding arbitration as set forth in Article VII of these Bylaws.

Reinstatement

If such dismissed member heeds the warning, demonstrates repentance, and requests reinstatement, he or she shall be publicly restored to membership through the affirmation of the Pastor, Deacon Body and notification of City Light Church membership.

Article III

Membership Meetings

Section 1: Place

Meetings of the members shall be held at a building on the Church property or at such other place or places within or outside the incorporated State as may be designated from time to time by the Pastor or Trustee Council.

Section 2: General Meetings

A general meeting of the members shall be held in November of each year at such time as determined by the Pastor and Trustees. This general meeting shall be the annual membership meeting. The purpose of this meeting shall be to adopt an annual General

Operating Budget and to elect any new Trustees and Deacons. Subject to Section 4 of this Article, any other proper business may be conducted at this meeting.

Section 3: Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called at any time by the Pastor, Trustees or Deacons for any purpose by giving notice to the members in accordance with Section 4 of this Article.

Section 4: Notice Requirements for Membership Meetings

General Requirements

Whenever members are required or permitted to take any action at a meeting, notice shall be given to members no less than two weeks prior to a meeting. Notification of membership meetings shall be given in any of the following manners, which shall be deemed to be a reasonable method of calling a membership meeting:

1. Distribution of written material to the congregation in attendance at a regular weekend worship service
2. Announcement of the meeting in the Church newsletter
3. Oral announcement to the congregation at a mid-week worship service
4. Delivery by United States mail to each member identified on the membership roll.

Notice of Certain Agenda Items

Action by the members on any of the following proposals, other than by unanimous approval by those members present and entitled to vote, is valid only if the notice specifies the general nature of the proposal:

1. Selection, rebuke, or dismissal of the Senior Pastor
2. Amending the Articles of Incorporation
3. Adopting, amending, or repealing the Bylaws
4. Disposing of all or substantially all of the Church's assets
5. Approving the acquisition of real property and related indebtedness

6. Approving the election to dissolve the Church.

Section 5: Quorum

Those members present and voting at a meeting duly noticed and called shall constitute a quorum of the membership for the transaction of business.

Section 6: Voting

Church action shall be by concurrence of a majority of members present and voting, except for the calling or removal of the Senior Pastor which shall require an affirmative vote of three-fourths of those present and voting, and the amending of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws which shall require an affirmative vote of two-thirds of those present and voting. All voting shall be by those physically present at the Church meeting at which a vote is taken, and no proxy votes shall be allowed.

Section 7: Rules of Order

Except where these Bylaws state otherwise, Robert's Rules of Order shall be the accepted pattern for the transaction of all Church business. The Pastor shall retain the right to appoint a parliamentarian to help in all Church meetings.

The Moderator for all Church meetings shall be the Senior Pastor. In the absence of the Pastor the Deacon Ministry Coordinator will serve as the Moderator. The Senior Pastor will always be allowed to speak, in the capacity of Pastor, in Church meetings if he so elects.

The Corporate Secretary will be responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting. The minutes should include who presided over the meeting; quorum of members, summary of actions taken at the meeting but in sufficient detail to clearly describe what was discussed and agreed upon to avoid any subsequent disputes.

Church meetings are open to any Church member desiring to attend. Visitors and nonmembers will be dismissed before meetings commence.

Article IV

Church Leadership

Section 1: General Scope

"Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust." (Acts 14:23)

"Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which He bought with His own blood."
(Acts 20:28)

"The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you." (Titus 1:5)

The New Testament clearly teaches that the Church is to be led by God-called men. Their assignment falls into four categories: First, these men are given both the responsibility and authority to skillfully and lovingly lead the flock. Next, they are to **feed** the flock, offering accurate and insightful teaching of the Scripture. Third, they are to **care** for the flock. This care is shown in the love, concern, prayers, ministry, and adept management of Church resources. Finally, they are to **protect** the flock from harmful influences and beliefs.

These leaders are known by three titles, each of which reveals a separate aspect of their function. All three titles are used in 1 Peter 5:1-2:

"To the **elders** among you, I appeal as a fellow **elder**, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as **overseers** - not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve;"

It is important to note that within the New Testament model of church organization, authority for leadership is not granted to a Deacon "board of directors", nor is it given as purely "democratic" rule by the congregation. Instead, the Scripture states that authority for leadership is conducted by God-called Pastors who are recognized by the Church and accountable to God. The Scripture further teaches that when the Church supports the elders, both the Church body and individual Christians will flourish. (Heb. 13:17; 1 Thess. 5:12-13; 1 Pet. 5:1-5; Acts 20:28) These Pastors do not form a separated "clergy class" of Christians. Instead, the Pastors, some of whom fill Church vocational roles or other non-vocational roles, are (while overseers of the church) brothers with the people, always seeking God's best for the members of the Church. (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5; 2 Cor. 8:19)

City Light Church seeks to be a New Testament Church committed to the teachings of the Bible. No other authority or tradition is to guide the means, faith, or structure of the

Lord Jesus Christ's Church. The ministerial and administrative structure for a New Testament Church is to utilize a Pastoral/Elder form of leadership. City Light Church will follow this scriptural example.

To achieve this New Testament model, City Light Church requires qualified men to serve as the Pastor and associate Pastors. These men must meet specific moral and spiritual qualifications before they can serve. Selection will be based on biblical directives such as: character (1 Tim. 3:1-10), giftedness (1 Cor. 12:12-31), function (Romans 12:3-8) and results (Eph. 4:11-16). They must be publicly installed into office (1 Tim. 5:22; Acts 14:23). They must be motivated and empowered by the Holy Spirit to do their works of ministry (Acts 20:28).

Men called and affirmed by City Light Church to serve as the Pastor and associate Pastors shall constitute the "Council of Elders". To effectively perform their duties, the Pastor and associates need the prayers, support (1 Tim. 5:17-18) and assent of members of City Light Church (Heb. 13:17). City Light Church is called upon to honor their Pastor and associates and to protect them against false accusations (1 Tim. 5:19). Finally, if the Pastor or associate Pastor falls into sin, and continues in sin after private attempts to secure repentance, he must be publicly rebuked (1 Tim. 5:20).

The government of this Church, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, shall be vested ultimately in the membership of the congregation under the headship of Christ, but led, overseen, and administered by the Pastor and as he delegates (except in matters reserved to the members, as defined in the Bylaws).

Section 2: Qualifications and Discipline

"An overseer then must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, uncontentious, and free from the love of money. He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping children under control with all dignity...and not a new convert, he must have a good reputation with those outside the Church, so he may not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil." 1 Tim 3:2-7 NASB

"If a man be above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion...above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, holding fast the

faithful word...that he may be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and refute those who contradict." Titus 1:6-9 NASB

Section 3: Duties

It is the Pastor's duty to exercise personal character and discipline. The Senior Pastor and Associate Pastors, as directed by the Senior Pastor, shall oversee, lead, shepherd, and care for the spiritual condition of the Church, as set forth in Scripture (I Timothy 5:17; Titus 1:9; I Peter 5:1-2).

Specific List of Responsibilities:

1. Shepherd the Flock. Serving in all humility, the Pastor/s are to guide, direct, guard and protect the members of the body, seeking to meet their needs and assist in any way possible, warning against harmful influences and guarding against false teachers. (Acts 20:35)
2. Lead Through Example. Pastors are to provide a Scriptural role model and are to set a pattern before the flock of a rightly ordered life - with a single purpose, to glorify God. (1 Timothy 3:4-5; 5:17)
3. Teach and Exhort. Pastors are to see that the flock is fed through insightful and accurate Biblical instruction and admonition. Teaching will be centered on equipping the members of the body to perform works of ministry. (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9-16; John 21:17)
4. Refute Those Who Contradict Truth. Pastors are to confront those who are teaching what they should not teach or who are continuing in a pattern of behavior contradictory to Biblical truth. Thus, Pastors are to keep closing potential entrances for Satan, so that the truth of Christ will remain credible to both the congregation and the community. (Acts 20:17, 28-31; 1 Thess. 5:12)
5. Manage the Church of God. Pastors are to oversee the life of the Church, with the assistance of other godly leaders. They must be people who can "rule well". Deacon qualified men are to be selected to assist the Pastors in the management and ministry of the Church. (1 Timothy 5:17)
6. Pray for the Sick. Pastors are to pray for the spiritual and physical well being of members of the congregation. (James 5:14-15)

The Senior Pastor has the authority to hire, select, dismiss, and, in consultation with the Trustees, have salaries set for all ministerial staff positions and support staff positions. The congregation has the authority to select, call and dismiss the Senior Pastor.

The Senior Pastor is the President of the Corporation.

Section 4: Tenure of Office of Senior Pastor

The tenure of the office of Senior Pastor is indefinite, however may be terminated at any time by the Senior Pastor or the Church. If the Senior Pastor relinquishes the office, he may do so by giving at least four weeks' notice at the time of resignation. Should he and the Trustees deem it best for the welfare of the church and the Pastor, he may be paid out the notice and released from his duties.

The Church may declare the office of Senior Pastor to be vacant if circumstances dictate biblically. Such action shall take place at a meeting called for that purpose, with at least a full two weeks' written notice given to all members. The meeting may be called only upon the recommendation of three-fourths of the Deacon Fellowship or by written petition signed by not less than one-third of the resident/active Church membership.

The moderator of this meeting shall be the Deacon Ministry Coordinator. The vote to declare the office of Senior Pastor vacant shall be by written ballot with three-fourths affirmative vote of those present. Should the pastor be removed from office by vote, he will be entitled to at least one month's compensation and benefits and as much as three months' compensation and benefits upon the approval of the Trustee Council.

Section 5: Vacancy

When a vacancy in the Senior Pastorate exists, a Pastor Search Committee shall be established with Church membership approval. The Search Committee will be responsible for screening all resumes, interviewing applicants, and confirming the qualifications and experience of top candidates. The Trustees and Deacons will be consulted during the search process. The Pastor Search Committee recommendation to the Church will constitute a nomination.

The Pastor Search Committee will be comprised of the Deacon Ministry Coordinator, a Trustee and three (3) members elected at large by the Church in a special-called Church meeting. Two (2) alternates will be chosen if for any reason a vacancy occurs.

Once the Pastor Search Committee has selected a candidate, that candidate shall be presented to the Church members for affirmative vote, by written ballot. Three-fourths (3/4) of those present is necessary for an affirmed choice of the Senior Pastor. The Senior Pastor, thus elected, shall serve until the relationship is terminated by his or the Church's request pursuant to the previous section. The Pastor Search Committee is then dissolved.

Article V

Deacons, Trustees and Committees

Section 1: Deacon Ministry

General Scope Deacons are the servant-ministers of the Church. Their purpose is to assist the Pastor in the multitude of practical duties of caring for the flock. No specific, on-going deacon roles are mentioned in Scripture, probably because service needs change, and so the role of the deacons must remain flexible. Perhaps this is why qualifications for deacons are stressed in Scripture rather than specific tasks. Deacons are to give their primary attention toward caring for the congregation's physical welfare. Deacons have the honor of modeling, for the local Church and the lost world, God's compassion, kindness, mercy, and love. As the Church compassionately cares for people's needs, the world sees a visible display of Christ's love, which will draw some people to the Savior. Deacons are to be an example of commitment, unity, and harmony in their service.

Their primary service will consist of ministering to the physical and temporal needs of the Church. Examples of specific service would be: the collectors of funds, the distributors of relief, and agents of mercy. They help the poor, the jobless, the sick, the widowed, the elderly, the homeless, the shut-in, and the disabled. They comfort, protect, and encourage people, and help to meet their needs. Although they do in many ways meet spiritual needs of those whom they serve, their primary service is related to physical needs.

Number, Election, Terms of Office

The Deacon Ministry Team shall consist of five or more active Deacons. Deacons shall be elected by the Church at the annual Church meeting from qualified nominees. The Deacons so elected shall take office on January 1 following their election and shall serve on a three-year rotational basis. There is no obligation to constitute as an active Deacon a person who comes to the Church from another congregation where he served as an active Deacon.

Rotation

The term of office of Deacons actively serving on the Deacon Ministry Team shall expire on December 31 of their third year of service. After serving on the Deacon Ministry Team, no man shall be eligible to be re-elected to serve another term until the lapse of at least one year. This is so the Deacon may have a time of rest and the opportunity to be ministered to. If the Senior Pastor believes that it would be ministry essential for a rotating Deacon to remain, the Senior Pastor can override the rotation one time and have the Deacon stay on for another term.

Qualifications

Any man who is a member of the Church over twenty-five years of age and meets the qualifications of Scripture shall be eligible for the office of Deacon, provided he is willing and able to serve. He shall also have been an active member of the Church for a period of at least one year at the time of his election.

He shall also meet the qualifications of Acts 6:3 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13. His duties are Church wide, covering areas of need, ministry, witnessing, etc. It is his duty to be a positive encouragement in all matters concerning the welfare of the Church, but it is understood that he does not have authority over the Church, except when that authority has been delegated by the Pastor or is stated in the Bylaws. Each Deacon must be supportive of the Pastor, staff, and ministry philosophy of City Light Church.

Section 2: Trustee Council

General Overview

While Scripture indicates that Pastors bear the ultimate responsibility for the watch-care and welfare of the Church, it does allow for the delegation of responsibilities. Therefore, City Light Church has specifically delegated to the Trustee Council the responsibility of advising and assisting the Pastor with the legal, financial, and business matters of the Church. This Council will also provide for the care and maintenance of all properties owned by City Light Church. Members of the Trustee Council also serve as the corporate officers of the Church and as the Corporation Board of Directors. As administrative officers of the Corporation, they shall have the same duties and responsibilities as the same officials in a corporation formed for profit. They may also have other duties as directed or delegated by the Pastor, Church or by these Bylaws.

The Trustee Council is accountable to the Church membership and the Senior Pastor.

The Trustee Council shall create whatever internal organization it deems appropriate to carry out its responsibilities and to fulfill any requirements necessary for them to act as legal representatives of City Light Church.

Number, Election, Terms of Office

Annually, the Church will elect Trustees to serve on the Trustee Council of the Church. These Trustees represent and serve as the Vice-President and Treasurer.

The Trustee Council shall consist of three or more Trustees. Trustees shall be elected by the Church at the annual Church meeting from qualified nominees. The Trustee(s) so elected shall take office on January 1 following their election and shall serve on a three-year basis.

Rotation

The term of office of Trustees shall expire on December 31 of their third year of service. After serving as a Trustee, no man shall be eligible to be re-elected to serve another term until the lapse of at least one year. If the Senior Pastor believes that it would be ministry essential for a rotating Trustee to remain, the Senior Pastor can override the rotation one time and have the Trustee stay on for another term.

Specific List of Responsibilities:

1. To assist the Senior Pastor in the administrative oversight of the Church. To determine and ensure that all the administrative committees of the Church are performing their designated responsibilities.
2. Provide assistance and development for all legal, financial and business-related matters, to include the development and presentation of an Annual Ministry Operating Budget to the Church for adoption at the Annual Meeting. Review and update the fiscal policies and procedures.
3. Perform and maintain a fiduciary responsibility to the Church in all legal, financial, and business matters.
4. Review and make recommendations for Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation revisions.
5. Execute all legal documents relative to contracts, Church property and other business matters as conditioned by these Bylaws.

Corporate Officer Positions and Responsibilities:

President — The President sets goals and objectives for the Trustee Council that assist and compliment the Church's vision and purpose statements and ministry goals. The President is responsible for assigning work and overseeing its completion on a timely basis.

The President presides over Council meetings and is responsible for preparing meeting agendas and leading such meetings.

Vice-President — The Vice-President will serve in the absence of the President and perform other duties delegated by the President.

Treasurer — The Treasurer presents quarterly financial reports at Council meetings and keeps the Council informed regarding the general operating budget. The Treasurer, together with the Trustees, assists in managing the Church's financial portfolio and reviews all investment transactions for appropriateness. This person is responsible for working closely with the Trustees and the Financial Secretary to ensure a high level of fiscal integrity over the financial affairs of the Church. This individual is also responsible for providing a quarterly financial report to the Church membership.

Secretary — The Secretary takes minutes of Council meetings and mails them to Council members on a timely

basis. A staff person could be selected to perform this task. This would allow the Secretary to more fully participate in Council proceedings. It is the responsibility of the Secretary to review all minutes of the Trustee Council. These minutes will be reviewed for accuracy and completeness before they are filed in the church office as permanent records. The Secretary will be responsible for maintaining these minutes in an orderly manner and retrieving such information when needed. The Secretary must be familiar with Robert's Rules of Order since he/she acts as the Council's parliamentarian.

The Secretary may prepare correspondence on behalf of the Trustee Council, execute corporate papers, serve as the Council's notary and perform other assigned duties.

All legal instruments that must be signed for the Corporation shall be signed by the President or Vice- President, sealed with the corporate seal, and attested to by the Secretary.

An Executive Committee can be created to function on behalf of the Trustee Council in emergencies and/or interim situations.

Section 3: Standing Committee

General Scope Committees can be established by appointment of the Pastor or Trustees, or by the Church as nominated and voted upon in the annual or a special-called members' meeting. The purpose for establishing committees is to assist the Pastor and Trustees in doing the administrative works of ministry in a "decent and orderly" manner. Committees will possess

certain authority and responsibility levels of the corporate Church as delegated by the Trustee Council. Each approved committee will function under a Ministry Position Description. This description will outline their purpose and what duties and responsibilities have been delegated to them. Committees' functions will be primarily administrative in nature versus Ministry Teams whose primary functions are ministry in nature. Individuals serving on these committees will be selected by a Nominating Committee, which will be established by the Pastor and Trustees. Spiritual giftedness will be the primary qualification for service. The leadership of City Light Church feels that committees should be held to a minimum. Examples of possible Standing Committees of City Light Church are as follows:

- Personnel Committee
- Facilities Committee
- Legal Committee
- General Administration Committee

Additional supporting committees can be established by the Trustee Council to assist the various Standing Committees.

The President of the Corporation shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and shall have the right to vote as a committee member.

Election

Elections of committee members may be conducted in more than one session. Regular elections shall be completed prior to January 1. Special elections may be held as needed. Persons elected at regular elections shall begin their service on January 1 immediately following their election, unless otherwise stated. Persons elected at special elections shall begin their ministry as soon as they are elected unless some other time is stated at the time of their election.

Rotation

Election of active committee members shall be based on the principle of a three-year rotation system, with a three-year term and a one-year minimum gap in service. Ideally, one-third of the members each year would be elected to three-year terms.

Unexpired terms

When a position is vacated prior to completion of the elected term, a person is to be elected to complete the unexpired portion of the term. He or she may be eligible for a new three-year term upon the completion of serving the unexpired term.

Enlarged Membership

When the size of the active committees is increased, one-third of the additional members are to be elected for a one-year term, one-third for a two-year term, and one-third for a three-year

term. Fractional terms will exist when members are added at times other than for January 1 assumption of service.

Eligibility to Serve Consecutive Terms:

1. Persons completing a full three-year regular term will not be nominated or re-elected to the same position until a one-year waiting period has passed. The one-year waiting period does not affect service in other positions.
2. Persons completing a partial term, but having less than three years' consecutive service on the same committee, may be re-elected to a term of three years or less, without a one-year waiting period.
3. Members may have the one-year waiting requirements waived when the Pastor and Trustee Council votes to do so.
4. Members of the same immediate family may not serve on the same committee simultaneously.

Section 4: Ministry Teams

Ministry Teams exist to perform a specific role of ministry. Teams perform ministry best when they are performed by a plurality. Teams are the basic organizing units of City Light Church to accomplish its ministry goals within the guidelines of our Purpose Statement. These teams devise and carry out the numerous ministries of City Light Church. Unlike committees, their primary role is not to exercise administrative responsibilities or set policy. Ministry Teams will possess no authority or responsibility levels of the corporate Church and are not subject to any service rotation system. Rather, they are the "hands and feet" of the body of Christ. A team is a small group of people with complementary skills committed to a common purpose or goal and for which they are willing to be mutually accountable. Teams are an effective way to help people identify their spiritual gifts and to empower them with a passion for ministry. Teams may exist for a very short term to perform a specific ministry or may be ongoing in nature. On-going Ministry Team members will be enlisted for one year of service and re-enlisted as needed every year. Ministry Teams may vary in size depending upon their specific purpose and upon those available to serve in that capacity. The appropriate staff or lay representative, as delegated by the Pastor, shall recruit them with the assistance of the Deacon Ministry Team as needed.

Each Ministry Team will function under a Ministry Position Description, which will outline their primary ministry purpose and briefly describe anticipated duties and responsibilities. Leadership still feels that such descriptions are needed so as to assure that the ministry function is in fact fulfilling City Light Church's purpose statement and ministry objectives and goals. The Pastor or Ministerial Staff designated by him shall give overall supervision to all teams and oversee the selection of the team leaders. No person shall serve as a teacher or on a ministry team without the final approval of the Senior Pastor.

Each Ministry Team leader is requested to serve on the Ministries Council. This is because each ministering part of the body needs to be connected to the entire body (Ephesians 4:16) to allow for effective communication and an avenue which allows for input to and from the Pastor and staff. Examples of several Ministry Teams are as follows:

- Family Groups Ministry Team (Sunday school teacher, etc.)
- Missions Ministry Team
- Music Ministry Team
- Children's Ministry Team

Article VI

Indemnification of Officers, Employees and Other Agents

Section 1: Definitions

For the purpose of this Article,

Agent

"Agent" means any person who is or was an elder, director, officer, trustee, employee or other agent of the Church, or is or was serving at the request of the Church as a Pastor, director, officer, trustee, employee or agent of another foreign or domestic corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, or was an elder, director, officer, employee or agent of a foreign or domestic corporation that was a predecessor corporation of the Church or of another enterprise at the request of such predecessor corporation.

Proceeding

"Proceeding" means any threatened, pending or completed action or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative.

Expenses

"Expenses" include, without limitation, all attorneys' fees and any other expenses incurred in the defense of any claims or proceedings against an agent by reason of his position or relationship as agent and all attorneys' fees, costs, and other expenses incurred in establishing a right to indemnification under this Article.

Section 2: Successful Defense by Agent

To the extent that an agent of the Church has been successful on the merits in the defense of any proceeding referred to in this Article, or in the defense of any claim, issue, or matter therein,

the agent shall be indemnified against expenses actually and reasonably incurred by the agent in connection with the claim. If an agent either settles any such claim or sustains a judgment rendered against him, then the provisions of Sections 3 through 5 of this Article shall determine whether the agent is entitled to indemnification.

Section 3: Actions Brought by Persons Other than the Church

Subject to the required findings to be made pursuant to Section 5 below, the Church shall indemnify any person who was or is a party, or is threatened to be made a party, to any proceeding other than action brought by, or in the right of, the Church, to procure judgment on its favor, an action brought under State or Federal law, by reason of the fact that such person is or was an agent of the Church for all expenses, judgments, fines, settlements, and other amounts actually and reasonably incurred in connection with the proceeding.

Section 4: Action Brought by or on Behalf of the Church

Claims Settled Out of Court

If any agent settles or otherwise disposes of a threatened or pending action brought by or on behalf of the Church, without court approval, the agent shall receive no indemnification for either amounts paid pursuant to the terms of the settlement or other disposition or for any expenses incurred in defending against the proceeding.

Threatened Pending or Completed Actions Against Agent

The Church shall indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action brought by or in the right of the Church, or brought under State or Federal law, to procure a judgment in its favor, by reason of the fact that the person is or was an agent of the Church, for all expenses actually and reasonably incurred in connection with the defense or settlement of that action, provided that both the following are met:

1. The determination of good faith conduct required by Section 5 below, must be made in the manner provided for in that section; and
2. Where the agent has actually been adjudged liable to the Church in the performance of such person's duty to the Church, unless, and only to the extent that the court in which such proceeding is or was pending, shall, upon application, determine that, in view of all of the circumstances of the case, the agent is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for the expenses incurred. If the agent is found to be so entitled, the court shall determine the appropriate amount of expenses to be reimbursed.

Section 5: Determination of Agent's Good Faith Conduct

The indemnification granted to an agent in Sections 3 and 4 of the Article is conditioned on the following:

Required Standard of Conduct

The agent seeking reimbursement must be found, in the manner provided below, that he acted in good faith, in a manner he believed to be in the best interest of the Church, and with such care, including reasonable inquiry as an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would use in similar circumstances. The termination of any proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or on a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent, shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith or in a manner which he reasonably believed to be in the best interest of the Church or that he had reasonable cause to believe that his conduct was unlawful. In the case of a criminal proceeding, the person must have had no reasonable cause to believe that his conduct was unlawful.

Manner of Determination of Good Faith Conduct

The determination that the agent did act in a manner complying with Section 5 above shall be made by:

1. The Trustees by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of members who are not parties to the proceeding;
or
2. Approval of the Church members, with the persons to be indemnified not being entitled to vote thereon;
or
3. The court in which the proceeding is or was pending. Such determination may be made on application brought by the Church or the agent or the attorney or other person rendering a defense to the agent whether or not the application by the agent, attorney or other person is opposed by the Church.

Section 6: Limitations

No indemnification or advance shall be made under this Article, except as provided in Sections 2 or 5, in any circumstances when it appears:

1. That the indemnification or advance would be inconsistent with a provision of the Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws, Trustee Council or Church members, or an agreement in effect at the time of the accrual of the alleged cause of action asserted in the proceeding in which the expenses were incurred or other amounts were paid, which prohibits or otherwise limits indemnification; or
2. That the indemnification would be inconsistent with any condition expressly imposed by a court in approving a settlement.

Section 7: Advance of Expenses

Expenses incurred in defending any proceeding may be advanced by the Church before the final disposition of the proceeding on receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the agent to repay the amount of the advance unless it is ultimately determined that the agent is entitled to be indemnified as authorized in this Article.

Section 8: Insurance

The Trustee Council may adopt a resolution authorizing the purchase and maintenance of insurance on behalf of any agent of the Church against any liability asserted against or incurred by the agent in such capacity or arising out of the agent's status as such, whether or not the Church would have the power to indemnify the agent; provided, however, that the Church shall have no power to purchase and maintain such insurance to indemnify any agent of the Church for violation of State or Federal laws.

Article VII

Binding Arbitration

Members of City Light Church believe that Scripture teaches in Matthew 18:15-20 and I Corinthians 6:1-8 that every effort must be made to live at peace and to resolve disputes or conflicts with each other in private or within the Church. Therefore, the members of City Light Church agree that any claim or dispute arising from or related to being a member of City Light Church, which claim or dispute is not resolved between the parties through the use of principles set forth in Matthew 18, shall be settled by biblically based and legally binding arbitration in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for Christian Conciliation of the Institute for Christian Conciliation. Judgment upon an arbitration award may be entered in any court having jurisdiction. Members understand that these methods shall be the sole remedy for any controversy or claim arising out of their Church membership and expressly waive their right to file any suit or claim against one another for such claims or disputes, except to enforce an arbitration decision or the provisions of this article.

Article VIII

Ordaining, Licensing and Commissioning

Section 1: Ordaining and Licensing of Ministers

Any present member of this Church, or former member now serving in ministry at another location, who by his piety, zeal, and aptness to preach and teach gives evidence that he is called of God to the work of the ministry may, after examination by the Senior Pastor and Deacons as to his Christian experience, be ordained or licensed by the Church to the Christian ministry.

When a Church of like faith and order shall have called a member of this Church to its staff and shall have requested that he be ordained, this Church shall consider such request. If the Church by a vote of a majority of the members present at a regular Church meeting approves such a request, then the Senior Pastor shall assemble an ordination council of ordained ministers of the

Gospel of like faith and order and Deacons of like faith and order who shall perform the ceremony of ordaining this member to the Gospel ministry in the name of, and in the presence of the Church.

Section 2: Ordaining of Deacons

If the Church, at a regular Church meeting, shall elect a member or members to the scriptural office of Deacon, it shall authorize and direct the Senior Pastor to assemble an ordination council which may be composed of ordained ministers of the Gospel of like faith and order, Deacons of this Church, and of visiting ministers and deacons of like faith and order who shall perform the ceremony of ordaining him or them to the office of deacon, in the name of, and in the presence of, this Church.

Section 3: Commissioning of Missionaries

Any present member of this Church, or former member now serving in ministry at another location, who by his or her leadings and convictions feel called of God to the work of missions may, by a vote of a majority of the members present at any regular Church meeting, and after examination by the Senior Pastor and Missions Ministry Team as to his or her Christian experience, be commissioned by the Church to missionary related service.

Article IX

Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Church shall begin on January 1 and end December 31 of each year.

Article X

Fiscal Responsibilities

Section 1: Accounts, Books and Records

City Light Church shall maintain adequate and accurate books and records of accounts (financial records); written minutes of the proceedings of its members, councils, and committees; records of the membership of the Church, setting forth the members' names and addresses; and contribution records of contributors. All such records shall be kept at its principal place of business. The adequacy and accuracy of these records shall be overseen by the Trustee Council.

Section 2: Inspection of Records, Reports and Documentation

Every active/resident member shall have the right, at any reasonable time, to inspect all records, reports and documentation of every kind (with the exception of contribution records and confidential ministerial communications) and the physical properties of City Light Church. The Trustee Council, if necessary to maintain good order, may restrict and limit the number of inspections or establish an orderly manner for such to be conducted, to include the signing of a

binding confidentiality agreement by the member. But in no event shall a reasonable inspection of the books and records be denied to a member.

Section 4: Internal Auditing/Safety Committee

The Trustee Council will establish an Internal Auditing/Safety policy for the purpose of providing: assurance that the Church is operating its activities in an effective and efficient manner which demonstrates the wise stewardship of time and material resources; assurance that key risk areas of the Church are being managed by the use of adequate internal controls in its operational systems; assurance that the financial disclosures made by the Treasurer and staff of the Church reasonably portray the ministry's financial condition, results of operations, cash flow needs, and long-term commitments; and assurance that the Church is in reasonable compliance with pertinent laws and regulations, is conducting its affairs ethically, and is maintaining effective controls against leadership and employee conflicts of interest.

Throughout the year, the Council will continue to review the organizational structure and operational systems of the Church to accomplish the assurances mentioned above. They will work closely with the Pastor. They will report directly to the Pastor and Church membership in conference regarding their findings.

Article XII

Amendments to the Bylaws

These Bylaws or any provision of them may be altered, amended, or repealed, and new Bylaws may be adopted at any time by the Church, with affirmation of change, as reflected by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at any special or regular membership meeting at which a quorum is present.

Ministry Distinctives and Values

LEADERSHIP

Each leader of City Light Church strives to sharpen their lives and service by obtaining the following thirteen personal qualities:

1. Visionary Capacity: Ability to project a vision into the future, persuasively motivate people toward that vision, and bring it into reality.
2. Intrinsically Motivated: Approaches ministry as a self-starter and commits to excellence through long and hard work.
3. Creates Ownership of Ministry: Instills in people a sense of personal responsibility for the growth and success of ministry and trains leaders to reproduce leaders.
4. Relates to the Unchurched: Ability to develop rapport, break through barriers, and encourages unchurched people to examine themselves and commit to a walk with God and lead people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.
5. Spousal Cooperation: Creating a workable partnership that agrees on ministry priorities, each partner's role and involvement in ministry, and the integration of ministry with family life.
6. Effectively Builds Relationships: Takes the initiative in getting to know people and deepening relationships as a basis for more effective ministry.
7. Committed to Church Growth: Values church growth as a method for building more and better disciples; strives to achieve numerical growth only within the context of spiritual and relational growth.
8. Responsive to the Community: Adapts the ministry to the culture and needs of local residents while seeking to engage community issues and concerns.
9. Utilizes Giftedness of Others: Equips and releases people to do ministry according to their spiritual gifts.
10. Flexible and Adaptable: Ability to adjust to change and ambiguity, shift priorities when necessary, and handle multiple tasks at once.
11. Builds Group Cohesiveness: Enables the group to work collaboratively toward a common goal and skillfully handles divisiveness and disunifying elements to positive resolutions.

12. Demonstrates Resilience: Ability to sustain one's self emotionally and physically through setbacks, losses, disappointments, and failures.

13. Exercises Faith: Demonstrates how one's convictions are translated into personal ministry goals.

City Light Church leadership display these additional ministry distinctives and values:

- We are committed to Godly leadership – We believe that the key to successfully fulfilling God's mission for our church is having staff and lay leaders who are committed to integrity and holiness. (I Timothy 3; Titus 1)
- We serve under a Pastoral form of leadership with transparency - The spiritual oversight responsibilities of this body of believers rests with a God-called Pastor and associate Pastors. The appointment of "elders" was the method used by the New Testament church for establishing leadership. Leadership constantly strives to display a transparency to the body as it relates to their daily walk with the Lord.
- We are ministry and mission driven. We believe in the priority of our ministry and mission over our comfort or preferences. We will be willing to live our lives outside of our natural comfort zones in order to achieve these purposes.
- We value heritage over tradition. We know there is much to be gained from the great men and women of faith who have gone before us. We value the rich heritage they have left us through their deeds, their words and their music. We do not believe we have all the answers or are in any way superior to those who have gone before us or even over those who minister in other ways in the present time. We will seek to understand our role in the history of the church and impart that heritage to those who come after us. However, we do not feel bound by the successful methods of others in this time or times past. We recognize that the world is changing at a rapid pace and methods that work today may not work tomorrow. We expect God to continue demonstrating His remarkable creativity by showing us exciting and effective strategies to present His love to our community and the world.
- We stress decentralized ministry. Ministry is to take place out in the midst of a fallen world and so our challenge is to provide a balance between times when believers are gathered together to be equipped for ministry and times when they are sent out to do the ministry for which every member has been commissioned by Christ.

- We emphasize faithfulness, not fruitfulness. Rather than focus on bearing fruit in our ministries, either numerically or spiritually, we believe we are called instead to be faithful and allow the Lord to determine the level of fruitfulness we are to enjoy.
- We believe in identifying and training emerging leaders who are fully committed to Christ and who will reach their generation with the Gospel. God is raising men and women who will take the baton of godly character, authentic faith, and servant-hearted leadership into the next generation.
- We stress the experience of the Lordship of Christ in your daily lives. (II Corinthians 5:15; John 15:1-17) Christian maturity is commanded by Jesus and is made possible when we respond to God's grace by personally surrendering to Jesus Christ as Lord. We become fully devoted followers of Jesus when we begin to realize the Lordship of Jesus in our lives.
- We believe the church must be culturally relevant while remaining doctrinally pure.
- We desire to ground the church's life in our biblical vision so that the church's way of life, including its organizational structures, decision-making processes, policies and procedures, and management relationships, reflect Christian excellence and gives glory to Christ.
- We believe in building on relationships and networking. We will strive to build relationships and networks at the grassroots level in locations around the world to mobilize churches, community groups, donors, corporations, and volunteers in effective ministry alliances.
- We work hard to retain high levels of public trust and safeguard our reputation by applying good stewardship principles, using resources for the purposes they were given, by building collaborative partnerships, and by being factual with all constituents.
- We continually measure the performance of our ministry plan and are accountable to objectives as ministry programs and costs are rigorously scrutinized to obtain maximum benefit.

SCRIPTURES

Leadership feels that all principles and practices of ministry must be submitted to God's Holy Scriptures. In saying this, leadership insists that a clear distinction must be made between traditions, however effective they may have been in the past, and the clear teachings of the Word of God. The creative power of the Spirit of God must be allowed, through the Church's leadership, to constantly re-evaluate the activities of the congregation. There must be a willingness to discard old programs in order to change to new approaches into which God may be leading. The birthing of new ministries will parallel with God's provision of proven leadership.

City Light Church leadership is committed to these additional scriptural distinctives and core values:

- Teach the Word of God in a practical, inspiring way. Hear God's current prophetic Word for today. The Bible is contemporary with us as the spoken Word of God, telling us who God is, how He has revealed Himself, what He has done in Jesus Christ for our salvation, and showing us how to have fellowship with Him.
- Be people of the Word by studying God's Word, through excellence in Bible teaching, and living what the Bible says. "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given to you. This is my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." (John 15:7,8)
- Scripture and its message of God's redemption of the world through Christ are the church's authority for faith, life, and ministry. Leadership strives to affirm and carry out the ministries of City Light Church in line with the grand themes of Scripture. These themes include, but are not limited to:
 - The sovereignty of God
 - A historical-redemptive understanding of God's Word and history
 - God's mission to save and the church's key role in that mission
 - The dignity and worth of all human beings as image bearers of God
 - Salvation by grace alone through faith
 - The Holy Spirit as the giver and sustainer of spiritual life
 - The Lordship of Christ over all of life
 - The unity and diversity of the body of Christ
 - Justice and reconciliation as key manifestations of God's kingdom
 - Word and deed as inseparable parts of our obedience
 - Worship as the most important expression of our thankfulness to God

- Word and ordinance as central in Christian worship
- Christian ministry as encompassing everyday life and work
- The hope for a new heaven and new earth

WORSHIP

City Light Church leadership is committed to following these worship distinctives and core values:

- Becoming true worshippers - Worship services are designed primarily for the purpose of biblical teaching and personal praise. An emphasis has been placed on worship through music. Leadership feels that music must prepare the heart for receiving God's Word. The primary method of biblical teaching is through expository teaching, accompanied with practical applications. Services are not designed with a performance, entertainment or spectator mentality in mind. Corporate worship services are not considered "traditional, charismatic, or contemporary" in style.
- Stressing the importance of making public commitments to Christ and the church. It is vital for a believer to make a public declaration of devotion to Christ through baptism and to enter a formal covenant of partnership and accountability with other believers of the church. (Romans 10:9; Matthew 10:32, 33; Philippians 1:4,5; I Timothy 6:12; II Timothy 1:8)

INSTRUCTION

City Light Church leadership is committed to following these instruction distinctives and core values:

- Emphasis on the men - While recognizing the Church has a responsibility to nurture all of its members, leadership feels that a special ministry emphasis must be placed on the husbands, fathers, and heads of the homes in order that they can properly teach and train each member within their home the infallible Word of God. Leadership desires to build spiritually healthy men through their accountability to other proven Godly men.
- Emphasis on the family - There are three divine institutions, which the Lord has established on this earth - the family, Church, and government. Since the family was the first of these institutions to be established, leadership feels that the parents have the primary responsibility for teaching and training their children for God. The Church must not merely co-exist with the family, nor should the Church, through its programs (however good), set up conflicts with the family. Instead, the Church must assist parents

in every possible way to bring their children to love, honor, and serve the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Church ministries and programs must compliment, not divide the family.

- Using Spiritual Gifts, Temperament, and Spiritual Passion - Leadership believes every believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit and has been given at least one spiritual gift by God for the benefit of the Church. Since the Church, the Body of Christ, cannot be healthy and effective without every member exercising their spiritual gift(s) for the benefit of the whole, each Church member will be instructed on how to know their spiritual gift, temperament and spiritual passion, and they will be continually encouraged by leadership to exercise them in local and global ministries.
- Equipping the saints through Bible Fellowship groups - To balance between verse by verse exposition of Scripture and topical areas of importance and interest, a wide variety of adult electives and Sunday Bible Fellowship classes will be offered to supplement corporate biblical instruction. These classes are designed to further equip, educate, and edify each member of the body on a small-group basis.

FELLOWSHIP

City Light Church leadership is committed to following these fellowship distinctives and core values:

- A time to heal - Realizing that certain believers who visit our assembly might be coming from a prior church experience in which they have been spiritually wounded, it is the desire of leadership that these individuals take whatever time is needed to properly heal before they become directly involved in any ministry of this assembly.
- Caring and accountability of all members – We must minister to all members within this local assembly. Leadership recognizes the importance of social interaction as a way of establishing relationships on a more meaningful level, providing support and accountability among the members. Opportunities are provided in various areas of ministry to encourage fellowship among families, peer groups and on an individual basis.

MINISTRY & EVANGELISM

City Light Church leadership is committed to following these ministry and evangelism distinctives and core values:

- All members of City Light Church are "ministers" - The primary philosophy for ministries is that of GOING into the community/world instead of simply COMING to a church building to be served. It is not the desire of leadership to build unneeded programs/ministries to fit members into, but instead there is a desire to equip members to do works of ministry through the use of their spiritual gift(s). All Church members are viewed as ministers of the gospel, not just those which are the paid ministerial staff.
- Local and global evangelism - Leadership is committed to fulfilling the great commission of evangelism and outreach through this local assembly. Local (city, state, and nation) mission emphases and global (cross cultural/world) mission emphases are of high priority. Each believer is encouraged to witness to guests, family members, friends, and those within our community both locally and abroad.
- Giving personal invitations - Leadership believes the most effective evangelism happens through people inviting people. A life will reach a life. Each believer develops genuine relationships with friends and family and extends an invitation to them. Evangelism gets to be a normal, natural lifestyle of winning others to Christ, one on one.

STEWARDSHIP

City Light Church leadership is committed to following these stewardship distinctives and core values:

- A well-managed ministry with a priority on excellence - It is the desire of leadership that the internal operations of this local assembly be handled in a "decent and orderly" manner which would be above reproach. The Church's business and financial operations will be managed at a level, which would be a pacesetter for all Church members and the world to follow.
- Major ministries in modest facilities - Since the Church is not brick or mortar, but men and women in Christ, a high priority will not be placed on the building of physical monuments. It is the desire of leadership to maintain major ministries within modest facilities. The financing of facility needs by the use of significant long- term debt is not the desire of leadership. An emphasis is being placed on putting financial resources in the lives of people instead of in buildings. This approach prevents continuous overhead costs accumulating in the

Church's annual budget. Such accumulations would ultimately become an inheritance for our future generations.

- Members are viewed as managers - The ownership of every tangible resource on the face of this earth belongs to God. Each member of this local assembly is considered a manager of those resources, which He has placed in their possession. Thus, financing the works of ministries within this local assembly is the obligation of each and every member within the body. City Light Church practices generous giving for the financial support of Christ's Body, the Church and its Kingdom work, as God so commands. Generous giving is an act of obedience and expression of love. Leadership recognizes that while we are not under a "law" to do so, giving the first 10% of our income is the beginning Biblical standard of giving.
- Equal access to God - Leadership is committed to the Priesthood of all believers. All born-again believers have equal access to God, and the Holy Spirit speaks to each believer, not just the Pastor/s, ministers, or ministry leaders. Each believer is encouraged to seek the Holy Spirit's leadership as ministry needs arise within the body and exercise wise stewardship means with his/her time, talent and money.
- Communication and connection of all members - No body of believers should get to a size or structure, which would allow a member to be lost in the crowd. City Light Church Care groups are used as the primary means for communication and connection with each Church member. These City Light Church Care groups operate under the care and direction of the deacons.

MINISTRY PRIORITIES

WORSHIP

The purpose of Worship at City Light Church is to glorify God by helping believers worship the one true living God in spirit and in truth on a daily basis, and when the Church is assembled together corporately. (John 4:20- 24)

Priority Objectives - Priority objectives for the accomplishment of the purpose of Worship will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Help believers know who God is - His glory, His majesty, His power, His worth.
 - Help believers know who they are in Christ.
 - Have a time of uninterrupted praise and worship in songs, hymns and spiritual songs, allowing people to get their focus off themselves and their circumstances, and placed on God and His glory.
 - Have a good balance of rich, traditional hymns of the faith and beautiful, contemporary worship songs.
 - Help the congregation have the freedom to sing loudly and joyfully or be still and know that our God reigns.
 - Grow in our freedom in Christ and the leadership and ministry of the Holy Spirit in our assembly meetings.
- Be intentionally missional – seeking to remain relevant to our community in worship and ministry styles so there are fewer barriers to the acceptance of the gospel.

INSTRUCTION

The purpose of Instruction at City Light Church is to glorify God by helping believers have love out of a pure heart, a good conscience and sincere faith. (I Timothy 1:5; II Timothy 4:1-14)

Priority Objectives - Priority objectives for the accomplishment of the purpose of Instruction will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Instruction to believers is to be:
 - - biblical in content
 - - accurate in interpretation
 - - practical in application
 - - systematic in presentation

- Help every believer discover the joy and value of reading, studying, meditating, memorizing, believing, and obeying the Scriptures.
- Teach the importance of a clear conscience – Who we are always determines what we do.

Our private lives and public lives are equally important. Leadership is committed to teaching truthful principals that develop character and help the believer do what is right under any circumstances. (Hebrews 13:8)

- Create a Body-life ministry – We believe God never intended church to be a spectator sport, but that He gives vital spiritual gifts to every believer. The discovery, development, and exercise of these gifts are the primary instrument of Christ to minister to His body. The role of ministers and church leaders is to equip, instruct, and encourage the believers in this process. We are committed to helping people serve each other according to their spiritual gifts, so that all might become mature in Christ. (Romans 12:3-8; Ephesians 4:1-16; I Peter 4:8-11)
- Expand the learning process – City Light Church encourages its teachers to discuss and explore openly what Scriptural truth means and implies. Helping people process the truth makes a far greater impact on their life than just telling them the truth in a lecturing approach.
- Stress foundation building - City Light Church helps people establish the essential elements for spiritual life, growth, and ministry. Our priority is to help people do the most important things well, not just do more things.
- Allow and encourage parents to be the most influential people in a child's life. The family is the foundation for spiritual learning and experience.

FELLOWSHIP

The purpose of Fellowship at City Light Church is to glorify God by providing the opportunities for people to get their relationship needs met, whether it is from the most casual contact to the deepest most intimate issues of the heart. (I John 1:3,7)

Priority Objectives - Priority objectives for the accomplishment of the purpose of Fellowship will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- To provide places and opportunities for contact at five levels of relationship:
Level 1 Casual contact and friendly greeting

Level 2 Further introduction and interest

Level 3 Time spent together over a meal or dessert

Level 4 Small group meetings which are regular, more personal, deeper and more accountable

Level 5 Deep accountability, sharing and transparency

- Stress the importance of character - Character is the expression of the person of Christ in our life. We will strive to live consistent, Christian lifestyles, conducting our ministry and business with the highest standards of integrity and Christian ethics.
- Develop and allow the creation of loving relationships in small groups – We believe spiritual growth happens best in the context of caring relationships, where people actively participate in a small group of believers who encourage, challenge, pray, serve, and learn together. Every person in the church needs a shepherd, someone who knows their unique story and is involved deeply in their lives. We are committed to developing an expanding network of these small groups, led by people with shepherd hearts, which, when joined together, form a purposeful, loving community. (Acts 2:42-47; Galatians 6:1-2; Hebrews 10:24-25) “But if we are living in the light of God’s presence, just as Christ is, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from every sin.” (1 John 1:7)
- Unity forged by authenticity – We believe God longs for His people to be united in spirit and purpose, and that He intends for us to live life honestly. Unity is created and preserved when people are not afraid to admit their flaws and fears, and also when people are willing to speak the truth in love to each other (even when it is difficult and church discipline is necessary). We are committed to living authentic lives with God and with each other. (John 17:20-23; Ephesians 4:15; Philippians 2:1-2; James 5:16)
- Assist the body through a financial counseling ministry – Financial problems are the primary cause for most Christian divorces. City Light Church is committed to teaching biblical financial principles, giving training in budget preparation and counseling members who are having personal or business financial problems.
- Be committed to one another. Leadership recognizes and value the skills, gifts, and experience which God has given to members and thus participate mutually in planning, decision making, and in sharing the resources which God provides. Esteeming one another highly, members will participate together in the mission the Lord has given and will seek out the spiritual and professional growth of the

church staff. Romans 12:5-6 "In Christ we who are many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us."

- Promote spiritual development by providing opportunities for nourishment, support, and encouragement for members at their various stages of growth and maturity.
- Initiate, organize and implement church-wide and aged-group social activities in coordination with the total ministry of the church.
- Build love relationships with each other for encouragement, exhortation, edification, admonition and unity. "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. All men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another." (John 13:34,35)
- Actively shepherd and assimilate new Christians and new members into church life.
- Equip and empower individuals to be healthy social beings (active in the life of the community, church, family, work environment, and other important social relationships).
- Be accountable as "each one helping the other keep the commitments they have made to God on the basis of loving relationships." Members will agree to submitting themselves to this process within church or member established Ministry Teams and the body-at-large. All will rejoice together in the fruits of this process.

EVANGELISM

The purpose of Evangelism at City Light Church is to glorify God by helping every believer effectively and faithfully participate with Christ in sharing the gospel by lifestyle and word in our community and the world. (Matthew 28:18-20)

Priority Objectives - Priority objectives for the accomplishment of the purpose of Evangelism will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Help believers know and understand:
 - the Purpose, Priority, and Plan of God to redeem, reclaim and save the lost from all nations.
 - our individual call and responsibility to the gospel as an ambassador of Christ and minister of reconciliation. (II Cor. 5:17-21)
 - the content of the gospel of grace. (I Cor. 15:1-4)

- To raising an army of witnesses, who make it their personal objective to testify as to the transforming power of God in salvation.

- To have a "Global Mindset" while locally involved in life and ministry.
- To pray for and be sensitive to opportunities for the gospel every day and for the sending of laborers into all regions of the world.
- To develop plans and opportunities to raise and send laborers on short-term mission trips from our own body.
- To significantly invest in and support the work of the gospel throughout the world.
- To plant local indigenous Bible believing churches.

- To train the next generation of evangelists to preach the gospel.
- To use the Internet as a ministry tool to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Develop personal ministry involvement from members who possess the talent and use of technology. Technological advances are making national economies interdependent and are bringing about rapid cultural change. They are influencing employment, communication, lifestyles and many other choices.
- To promote a healthy desire for personal witness to family, friends and colleagues.
- To share the love and knowledge of Christ through personal invitations, witness, and our lifestyles rather than through formal evangelism programs.

The above priority objectives will be accomplished through biblical education, exposure, and equipping.

STEWARDSHIP

The purpose of Stewardship at City Light Church is to glorify God by performing the works of the ministry in a "decent and orderly" manner. (I Cor. 14:40)

Priority Objectives - Priority objectives for the accomplishment of the purpose of Stewardship will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Lead and administrate the business affairs of the Church by the use of Biblical principles.
- Govern the operations of the Church by a responsible Council of Elders.
- Operate under a properly documented and updated Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and Organizational Manual.

- Document and permanently file all actions of the Council of Elders and business congregational meetings
 - Manage the Church finances by the use of generally accepted accounting principles for non-profit charitable religious organizations. Establish an effective system of internal financial controls to ensure integrity over the receipt and use of God's financial resources and the safeguarding of Church assets.
 - Maintain high standards in all fund-raising appeals and assure that donor confidentiality exists.
 - Assist ministry leaders to be wise stewards of the financial resources which have been set aside in the Church's General Operating Budget for the work of their ministry. Restricted (designated) gifts will be properly managed based on the donor's intent.
-
- Establish opportunities for creating and using ministry endowments and foundations. Be open to pursuing financial grants that enhance the purposes of City Light Church; but do not hinder church ministries through governmental entanglement.
 - Value generosity - We recognize that God has richly blessed our congregation both with financial wealth and with a wealth of talent and other personal resources. We seek to live lives characterized by generosity towards one another and toward those outside the church that are less fortunate. We believe biblical stewardship is both a response of a loving heart to the grace of God and a skill which can be developed through biblical instruction.
 - Committed to creativity - As bearers of God's image, we are enabled to express his creativity in the world around us. We will strive to carry out this calling by means of innovative products and programs and through the use of new technologies which communicate God's Word in culturally relevant and compelling ways. (Psalm 96:3) "Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples."
 - Committed to growth – We believe that conversion growth is the essential element in the life of a healthy and productive church. Thus, we strive to create structures that will encourage growth as well as provide opportunities for believers to become more effective in evangelism and personal ministry. (Acts 2:47, 4:4, 6:7, etc.)
 - Committed to integrity - In all our dealings, we will follow the highest ethical standards to ensure our stewardship of the resources entrusted to us. We are responsible before God, one another, and all people for our programs, relationships, personal lifestyles, and expenditures of time and money. (Psalm 41:12) "In my integrity you uphold me and set me in your presence forever."

- Committed to excellence – Within all of our ministries, we will maintain standards of quality which reflect the excellence of the God whom we serve. (Philippians 4:8) “Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things.”
- Committed to a willingness to change and innovate – We are convinced that in order to follow Christ, we must be committed to change and be willing to be innovative so that we do not place any barriers to growth in our way to becoming the body of believers Christ wants us to be.

THE BAPTIST FAITH & MESSAGE 2000

I. The Scriptures

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

[Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalms 19:7-10; 119:11,89,105,140; Isaiah 34:16; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 36:1-32; Matthew 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16ff.; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21.](#)

II. God

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

A. God the Father

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men.

[Genesis 1:1; 2:7; Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11ff.; 20:1ff.; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3,15; 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; 17:13; Matthew 6:9ff.; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:6; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7.](#)

B. God the Son

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.

[Genesis 18:1ff.; Psalms 2:7ff.; 110:1ff.; Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 53:1-12; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16,27; 17:5; 27; 28:1-6,19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18,29; 10:30,38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16,28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20,28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20; Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,34; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8,24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; 8:9; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15,24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Revelation 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16.](#)

C. God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Saviour, and effects regeneration. At the moment of regeneration He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the

believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

[Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalms 51:11; 139:7ff.; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10,12; Luke 1:35; 4:1,18-19; 11:13; 12:12; 24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4,38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17,39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Romans 8:9-11,14-16,26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11,13; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Timothy 3:16; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8,14; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Revelation 1:10; 22:17.](#)

III. Man

Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence whereby his posterity inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. Therefore, as soon as they are capable of moral action, they become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

[Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18,29; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19,21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11.](#)

IV. Salvation

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration,

justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

A. Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace.

Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Saviour.

B. Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of His righteousness of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Justification brings the believer unto a relationship of peace and favor with God.

C. Sanctification is the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life.

D. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

[Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matthew 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22-28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14,29; 3:3-21,36; 5:24; 10:9,28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3ff.; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18,29-39; 10:9-10,13; 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18,30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1ff.; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8,14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6-2:11; Revelation 3:20; 21:1-22:5.](#)

V. God's Purpose of Grace

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

[Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-8; 1 Samuel 8:4-7,19-22; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31ff.; Matthew 16:18-19; 21:28-45; 24:22,31; 25:34; Luke 1:68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-48; John 1:12-14; 3:16; 5:24; 6:44-45,65; 10:27-29; 15:16; 17:6,12,17-18; Acts 20:32; Romans 5:9-10; 8:28-39; 10:12-15; 11:5-7,26-36; 1 Corinthians 1:1-2; 15:24-28; Ephesians 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11; Colossians 1:12-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:12; 2:10,19; Hebrews 11:39-12:2; James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:2-5,13; 2:4-10; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:19; 3:2.](#)

VI. The Church

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

[Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42,47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23,27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11,21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Hebrews 11:39-40; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3.](#)

VII. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

[Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12.](#)

VIII. The Lord's Day

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should include exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. Activities on the Lord's Day should be commensurate with the Christian's conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

[Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 12:1-12; 28:1ff.; Mark 2:27-28; 16:1-7; Luke 24:1-3,33-36; John 4:21-24; 20:1,19-28; Acts 20:7; Romans 14:5-10; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Colossians 2:16; 3:16; Revelation 1:10.](#)

IX. The Kingdom

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

[Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Matthew 3:2; 4:8-10,23; 12:25-28; 13:1-52; 25:31-46; 26:29; Mark 1:14-15; 9:1; Luke 4:43; 8:1; 9:2; 12:31-32; 17:20-21; 23:42; John 3:3; 18:36; Acts 1:6-7; 17:22-31; Romans 5:17; 8:19; 1 Corinthians](#)

[15:24-28; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 11:10,16; 12:28; 1 Peter 2:4-10; 4:13; Revelation 1:6,9; 5:10; 11:15; 21-22.](#)

X. Last Things

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

[Isaiah 2:4; 11:9; Matthew 16:27; 18:8-9; 19:28; 24:27,30,36,44; 25:31-46; 26:64; Mark 8:38; 9:43-48; Luke 12:40,48; 16:19-26; 17:22-37; 21:27-28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 17:31; Romans 14:10; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 15:24-28,35-58; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 1:5; 3:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 5:1ff.; 2 Thessalonians 1:7ff.; 2; 1 Timothy 6:14; 2 Timothy 4:1,8; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:27-28; James 5:8; 2 Peter 3:7ff.; 1 John 2:28; 3:2; Jude 14; Revelation 1:18; 3:11; 20:1-22:13.](#)

XI. Evangelism and Missions

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

[Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:18-30, 37-43; 16:19; 22:9-10; 24:14; 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-18; 24:46-53; John 14:11-12; 15:7-8,16; 17:15; 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2-3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 3:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; 2 Timothy 4:5; Hebrews 2:1-3; 11:39-12:2; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Revelation 22:17.](#)

XII. Education

Christianity is the faith of enlightenment and intelligence. In Jesus Christ abide all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. All sound learning is, therefore, a part of our Christian heritage. The new birth opens all human faculties and creates a thirst for knowledge. Moreover, the cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches. An adequate system of Christian education is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people.

In Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility. Freedom in any orderly relationship of human life is always limited and never absolute. The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists.

[Deuteronomy 4:1,5,9,14; 6:1-10; 31:12-13; Nehemiah 8:1-8; Job 28:28; Psalms 19:7ff.; 119:11; Proverbs 3:13ff.; 4:1-10; 8:1-7,11; 15:14; Ecclesiastes 7:19; Matthew 5:2; 7:24ff.; 28:19-20; Luke 2:40; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 2:3,8-9; 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:14-17; Hebrews 5:12-6:3; James 1:5; 3:17.](#)

XIII. Stewardship

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

[Genesis 14:20; Leviticus 27:30-32; Deuteronomy 8:18; Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 6:1-4,19-21; 19:21; 23:23; 25:14-29; Luke 12:16-21,42; 16:1-13; Acts 2:44-47; 5:1-11; 17:24-25; 20:35; Romans 6:6-22; 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 12:15; Philippians 4:10-19; 1 Peter 1:18-19.](#)

XIV. Cooperation

Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches. They are voluntary and advisory bodies designed to elicit, combine, and direct the energies of our people in the most effective manner. Members of New Testament churches should cooperate with one another in carrying forward the missionary, educational, and benevolent ministries for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. Christian unity in the New Testament sense is spiritual harmony and voluntary cooperation for common ends by various groups of Christ's people. Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament.

[Exodus 17:12; 18:17ff.; Judges 7:21; Ezra 1:3-4; 2:68-69; 5:14-15; Nehemiah 4; 8:1-5; Matthew 10:5-15; 20:1-16; 22:1-10; 28:19-20; Mark 2:3; Luke 10:1ff.; Acts 1:13-14; 2:1ff.; 4:31-37; 13:2-3; 15:1-35; 1 Corinthians 1:10-17; 3:5-15; 12; 2 Corinthians 8-9; Galatians 1:6-10; Ephesians 4:1-16; Philippians 1:15-18.](#)

XV. The Christian and the Social Order

All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.

[Exodus 20:3-17; Leviticus 6:2-5; Deuteronomy 10:12; 27:17; Psalm 101:5; Micah 6:8; Zechariah 8:16; Matthew 5:13-16,43-48; 22:36-40; 25:35; Mark 1:29-34; 2:3ff.; 10:21; Luke 4:18-21; 10:27-37; 20:25; John 15:12; 17:15; Romans 12-](#)

[14; 1Corinthians 5:9-10; 6:1-7; 7:20-24; 10:23-11:1; Galatians 3:26-28; Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; Philemon; James 1:27; 2:8.](#)

XVI. Peace and War

It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness. In accordance with the spirit and teachings of Christ they should do all in their power to put an end to war.

The true remedy for the war spirit is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations, and the practical application of His law of love. Christian people throughout the world should pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace.

[Isaiah 2:4; Matthew 5:9,38-48; 6:33; 26:52; Luke 22:36,38; Romans 12:18-19; 13:1-7; 14:19; Hebrews 12:14; James 4:1-2.](#)

XVII. Religious Liberty

God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.

[Genesis 1:27; 2:7; Matthew 6:6-7,24; 16:26; 22:21; John 8:36; Acts 4:19-20; Romans 6:1-2; 13:1-7; Galatians 5:1,13; Philippians 3:20; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; James 4:12; 1 Peter 2:12-17; 3:11-17; 4:12-19.](#)

XVIII. The Family

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

[Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8,14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.](#)



City Light Church
2447 Tomoka Farms Road
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Membership Covenant

"Having been led, as I/we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and recognizing human frailty and imperfection, I/we do now in the presence of God, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one Body in Christ, by God's grace and with His help:

- TO commit ourselves as members to honor, esteem, and love one another and our Pastor/s;
- TO pray for each other constantly and to manifest tender regard for our reputation;
- TO walk together in Christian love by the aid of the Holy Spirit; to strive for the advancement of this Church and its ministries; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines;
- TO contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the gospel throughout all nations; and to manage all the resources God has entrusted to us in such a way that He is glorified;
- TO encourage family and private devotions; to educate our children religiously; to seek the salvation of our relatives, friends, neighbors and associates;
- TO walk worthy of our calling in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful to engagements and exemplary in our conduct; to avoid malicious use of the tongue; to keep our testimonies above reproach; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior;
- TO seek to identify, develop and utilize my spiritual gift(s) and abilities; and to seek a place of service within the body, with the support and affirmation of the body;
- TO watch over one another in brotherly love; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feelings and Christian courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense but always ready for reconciliation and, mindful of scriptural guidelines, to secure it without delay; and
- TO pledge that when we move from this place, we will unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word."

Print Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____