



Constitution

September 25, 2014

Amended November 26, 2017

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True Life Church
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Constitution of True Life Church

PART I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be “True Life Church” operated by Rothesay Baptist Church, Inc.

PART II: PURPOSE

- A. To provide regular services for public worship, prayer and praise.
- B. To see the salvation of souls through faith in Jesus Christ.
- C. To edify believers through the regular preaching and teaching of God’s Word.
- D. To promote a Christ-centered home and the proclamation of the Gospel throughout the world.
- E. To contend earnestly for the faith which was once delivered to the saints.
- F. To fellowship with born again believers in the work of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- G. To help the needy and support Christian social action according to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

PART III: STATEMENT OF FAITH

A. Concerning the Scriptures – We believe that the Bible in both the Old and New Testaments was given by the Holy Spirit, who moved upon the writers so that what they wrote was the very Word of God, verbally and plenary inspired, and therefore, wholly without error as originally given by God and altogether sufficient in itself as our only infallible and authoritative rule of faith and practice. (II Peter 1:20-21; II Timothy 3:16)

B. Concerning the True God – There is one true living God; He is an infinite Spirit – self-existent, omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, loving, good, wise, just and merciful. He is the creator, preserver and sovereign of the universe; He is inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all honour, confidence and love. In the Godhead there are three distinct persons in one – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit who are equal in every divine perfection, and who execute different but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. (I Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 4:6)

C. Concerning the Lord Jesus Christ – We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the God-man, was conceived by the Holy Spirit in a supernatural manner and born of the Virgin Mary; He is very God of very God, being “God manifest in the flesh.” He lived a life of absolute sinlessness, and in His death He made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins, dying not a martyr’s death, but a voluntary substitute in the sinner’s place. He rose again bodily from the dead the third day and ascended bodily to Heaven where He now sits on the right hand of the Father, as our great High

Priest, “ever living to make intercession for us.” We believe in the premillennial, pretribulation, imminent rapture of the Church and then after the tribulation, the return of Christ to reign on the earth for 1000 years. (I John 4:13; Acts 1:11; Jude 14; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 1:7; Revelation 22:20)

D. Concerning the Holy Spirit – We believe in the absolute essential deity and personality of the Holy Spirit who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment, who regenerates, seals, sanctifies, illuminates, guides, comforts, indwells, and fills all those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. (John 14:16-17; John 16: 8-11; Romans 8:14; II Thessalonians 2:13)

1. His Baptism – We believe that when the Holy Spirit came upon the whole body of believers on the day of Pentecost, it was the fulfillment of the announcement made by John the Baptist, and the promise of Christ to individually endow them with power to witness, and collectively baptize them into one body, which was the formation of the Church, His body. We further believe that since the time the gospel went forth to the Gentiles, we receive the Holy Spirit at the time of salvation without delay, tarrying, praying, laying on of hands, or any other condition save faith. All who believe in Christ are born of the Spirit, sealed by Him, and by the Spirit baptized into the body of Christ. (I Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:13; Ephesians 4:30).

We also believe that the New Testament distinguishes between being indwelt by the Spirit and being filled with the Spirit. There is one indwelling of the Spirit, but many fillings. (Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; Luke 24:46-49; John 1:33; John 14:16,18,26; John 15:26-27; John 16:7,15; Acts 1:4-5; Acts 2:1-4,47)

2. Spiritual Gifts – We believe that the Holy Spirit gives a spiritual gift or gifts to all believers at the time of salvation for the building up of the body of Christ. We believe that the sign gifts were given to help establish the authenticity of the apostles and are no longer needed today. (Romans 12:3-8; I Corinthians 12:13,14; II Corinthians 12:12; Hebrews 1:1, 2:3,4; I Corinthians 13:8-13). We believe that divine healing of the body is not in the atonement. During the present age the Lord heals the body in answer to believing prayer, but only according to His own Sovereign will, and for His glory. (Romans 8:18-19; I Corinthians 15:3; I Peter 2:24; I Peter 3:18)

E. Concerning Man – We believe that man was created in God’s image, holy and apart from sin, to worship, serve and fellowship with Him. We believe that God wonderfully foreordained and immutably created each person as either male or female in conformity with their biological/chromosomal sex. These two distinct yet complimentary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. We believe that one’s sex is determined at birth and is unchangeable. (Genesis 1:26-27) Although we believe that gender dysphoria is not part of God’s original plan, we do not condone any mistreatment, abuse, or disparaging of individuals who are experiencing gender dysphoria. We affirm that all people are created in God’s image and loved by Him

equally. Definition of Gender Dysphoria: the condition of feeling one's emotional and psychological identity as male or female, neither or a portion of both to be opposite to one's biological sex.

F. Concerning Sin – We believe that even though man was perfectly created in God's image, he sinned in the Garden of Eden, which resulted in his total depravity, thereby incurring eternal, physical and spiritual death being passed upon all of mankind down through history, resulting in all having "sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:23) Sin is defined as doing anything that breaks God's Biblical law, which includes the acts of stealing, lying, adultery, homosexuality, etc. Man on his own cannot do anything to deal with his sin problem or redeem himself back to God.

G. Concerning Salvation– We believe the Scriptures teach that the salvation of sinners is wholly of God's grace through the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ; it is wholly apart from man's works and is upon the sole condition of repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; that in order to be saved the sinner must be born again, being regenerated by the power of the Holy Spirit and thus becoming a recipient of a new nature called the Divine Nature. We believe that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is justification which includes pardon of sin and the imputing of divine righteousness and sanctification solely through faith in the Redeemer's shed blood; that having exercised personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ the believer is completely justified and is in possession of salvation which is eternally secure. (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-6; II Peter 1:4; John 3:3-6; Acts 13:38-39; John 10:28-29)

H. Concerning Satan – We believe the Scriptures teach that there is a personal devil who is "the god of this age; the prince of the power of the air" who is full of all subtlety, the father of all liars, accuser of the brethren, who seeks continually to frustrate the purposes of God and to ensnare the sons of man. (Ephesians 2:2; Revelation 12:9; II Corinthians 4:4; II Corinthians 11:13-15)

I. Concerning the Rapture – We believe that at the Rapture of the Church, Christ will raise from among the dead those who have died in Christ, "then believers who are alive and remain shall be caught up to meet them in the air," this being the first resurrection and that after the millennium He will raise those who have died in unbelief to appear before Him at the Great White Throne judgment. This is the second resurrection. (John 5:28-29; I Corinthians 15; Romans 1:4, 8:23; Revelation 20:5-6; I Thessalonians 4:13-18)

J. Concerning the Eternal State – We believe that the Scriptures teach that all who through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ will spend eternity in full enjoyment of God's presence in a literal place called Heaven, and that those who through impenitence and rejection of Jesus Christ as Saviour, who refused to accept God's offer of mercy and salvation will spend eternity in everlasting punishment in the literal place called Hell. (John 14:2; II Corinthians 5:6-8; Matthew 25:41-46; Revelation 20:12-15; Revelation 21:8)

K. Concerning the Local Church – We believe that the local Church is composed of born-again, immersed believers called out from the world, separated unto the Lord Jesus Christ, voluntarily associated for the ministry of the Word, the mutual edification of its members, the propagation of the Gospel and the observance of the ordinances. We believe the local church is a sovereign, independent body, exercising its own divinely awarded gifts, precepts and privileges under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the Great Head of the Church. (Acts 2:41,42,47; I Corinthians 11:2)

L. Concerning the Ordinances – We believe that there are only two ordinances for the Church regularly observed in the New Testament in the following order: (1) Baptism, which is the immersion of the believer in water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, whereby he/she obeys Christ's command and sets forth his/her identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection (Matthew 28:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 8:36-39; Romans 6:3-5). (2) The Lord's Supper, which is the memorial wherein the believer partakes of the two elements, bread and wine, which symbolizes the Lord's body and shed blood, proclaiming His death until He comes. (Matthew 26:26-29; I Corinthians 11:23-28)

M. Concerning Separation – We believe in Ecclesiastical separation of the Church from combined meetings with any and all organizations or groups who deny the inspiration of the Scriptures, the deity of Jesus Christ, and who repudiate or deny the general principles and practices expressed in this statement of doctrinal basis. (Romans 16:17-18; II Corinthians 6:1-18; II Thessalonians 3:6; Ephesians 5:11; Titus 3:11; II John 9-11) We believe the Scriptures clearly teach nonconformity to the world by every believer, that it is clearly commanded of God, to all believers, to live lives of separation from worldly, sinful and doubtful practices, and associations, unto Christ. (Romans 12:1-2; I John 2:15-17; Colossians 3:17; I Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:1-3; Romans 1:26,27)

N. Concerning Church and State – We believe in the separation of Church and State. (Matthew 22:21)

O. Concerning the Lord's Day – We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day and that, in a special sense, it is the divinely appointed day for worship and spiritual exercise. (Acts 20:7; Mark 16:9; John 20:1; I Corinthians 16:2; Revelation 1:10)

P. Concerning Christian Stewardship – We believe that the stewardship of the believer consists of time, talents and treasures. We believe in personal, voluntary, regular, systematic and proportionate giving to the support of the local Church and the spreading of the Gospel to the regions beyond. This is best accomplished as the Scriptures teach by tithing of our income and the presenting of an offering unto the Lord. (Genesis 14:20; Malachi 3:8-10; Matthew 6:3, 23:23; I Corinthians 16:2, II Corinthians 9:6-15; Hebrews 7:1,26,9)

Q. Concerning Civil Governments – We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interest and good order of society, that all in authority are to be prayed for, conscientiously honoured and obeyed, except in the things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience and Prince of Kings of the earth. (Matthew 22:21; Romans 13:1-5; Titus 3:1; I Peter 2:13-17; Acts 5:29)

R. Concerning Marriage – We believe that God, in His sovereign plan, created both male and female for their mutual help, comfort and for procreation, and that the union between a man and a woman was ordained of God from the beginning as a holy institution (Genesis 2:21-24). Furthermore, we believe that the teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the writers of the New Testament (Matthew 19:4,5; Mark 10:7-9) is that the marriage covenant is the union of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others, so long as they both shall live.

AMMENDMENTS

The name, purpose, and statement of faith may be amended upon a 75% vote at a specially called business meeting which will require a quorum of 25% of its active voting members.

PART IV: BY - LAWS

Section I

BE IT ENACTED as a bylaw of the True Life Church, as duly incorporated under and by virtue of the laws of the Province of New Brunswick under the Companies Act (hereinafter referred to as the “Act”) as follows:

A. PURPOSE

BE IT RESOLVED that this bylaw be enacted under the following over-riding purposes:

1. So that in all things our labours for the Lord may be done decently and in order;
2. To prevent unnecessary misunderstanding, carelessness, impulsive action and division among the brethren;
3. To serve as a guide to introduce each succeeding paid elder to the ways of True Life Church

B. HEAD OFFICE

The head office of True Life Church shall be in the Town of Quispamsis in the County of Kings and the Province of New Brunswick.

C. INDEMNITY OF ELDERS AND OFFICERS

Every Elder/Officer/Deacon of True Life Church and their respective heirs, executors, and administrators, and estate and effects, shall, from time to time and at all times, be indemnified and saved harmless out of the funds of True Life Church, from and against:

1. all costs, charges and expenses whatsoever which such Elder/Officer/Deacon sustains or incurs in or about any action, suit or proceeding which is brought, commenced or prosecuted against the Elder/Officer/Deacon, for or in respect of any act, deed, matter or thing whatsoever, made, done or permitted by the Elder/Officer/Deacon, in or about the execution of the duties of the office held.
2. all other costs, charges and expenses sustained or incurred in or about or in relation to the affairs, thereof.

D. SEAL

The corporate seal of True Life Church shall be in the form impressed hereon.

E. MEMBERSHIP

1. Qualifications

To qualify for membership of True Life Church, a person must be a believer in Jesus Christ, who gives evidence of regeneration, who has been baptized by immersion in obedience to Christ following their regeneration, and who wholeheartedly believes in the Christian faith as revealed in the Bible. Members, or anyone seeking membership, must believe in the essentials and/or agree to abide by the distinctives of True Life Church. They must promise to keep the commitments expressed in the Lifestyle Expectations (see subsection 6) and agree to submit to the teaching of Scripture as expressed in the Statement of Faith. The elders shall be responsible for determining each person's qualification for membership. In making this determination, they may rely on a person's profession of faith, or other such evidence, as the elders deem appropriate.

2. Admission of Members

To be admitted into church membership, applicants shall be recommended by the elders for admission and accepted by vote of the members at any regular or special meeting, or any Sunday Worship Service, by simple majority, and shall at that point relinquish their membership in all other churches.

3. Duties and Privileges of Membership

In accordance with the duties outlined in the section on Lifestyle Expectations (see subsection 6), each member shall be privileged and expected to participate in and contribute to the ministry and life of True Life Church, consistent with God's leading and with the gifts, time, and material resources each has received from God. Non-members shall be entitled to serve only on 'ad hoc' basis with the approval of the elders. Notwithstanding, non-members may serve the purposes of administration and professional consultation, e.g. reviewing financial books, musical guests and special speakers.

Under Christ this congregation is governed by its members. Therefore, it is the privilege and responsibility of members to attend all members' meetings and vote on the election of elders, deacons and deaconesses, and on such other matters as may be submitted to a vote.

Membership is required for all teaching ministries and positions except as approved by the elders. All members in good standing, being at least 18 years of age and having an understanding of the business at hand, may vote in any and all business matters of True Life Church.

Any member of this church who, in the judgment of the elders, has been unfaithful, and has neglected his/her privileges and responsibility for a period of at least six months, may be deemed inactive. Prior to this action such a member shall have been contacted by the Lead pastor and one or more of the elders, to seek to restore such a one in a spirit of meekness.

If after a further two or more months, the inactive member has not indicated a positive response to returning to church, his or her name may be removed from True Life Church membership list by the elders.

4. Associate Membership

Students and others temporarily residing in the greater Saint John area, who are members of an evangelical church, may apply for associate membership.

Qualifications are identical to those of full membership as set out previously, except that home church membership must be retained. A letter of commendation will be sought from the applicant's home church.

Duties and privileges of associate members are the same as for other members except that:

- When absent from the greater Saint John area for extended periods of time they are released from the responsibility to attend church services;
- While they will be encouraged to participate in member's meetings they will not be eligible to stand for any office or to vote.

Termination of associate membership as a disciplinary measure will be as it is for other members, except that the elders shall notify the pastor or elders of the home church of that termination. Associate membership will normally terminate immediately upon the ending of the period of temporary residence in the greater Saint John area. This shall be done by informing the pastor or church clerk, preferably in writing.

5. Termination of Membership

True Life Church shall recognize the termination of a person's membership after they have voluntarily resigned, moved away or joined with another church. This shall be done by informing the pastor or church clerk, preferably in writing. True Life Church shall also recognize the termination of a person's membership following their death. A person's membership can also be terminated upon the decision of the elders.

6. Lifestyle Expectations

All members in good standing of True Life Church, will have read, agreed to and adhere to the following statements of lifestyle expectations:

- a. All voting members will read and agree to True Life Church doctrinal statement and will not be divisive to its teaching. They will agree to the importance of submission to church leadership and will be diligent to preserve unity and peace (Eph. 4:1-3; Heb. 13:7,17).

- b. Members will agree to submit to the authority of Scripture, recognize its relevance for today, and acknowledge it as the final arbiter on all issues (Ps. 119; II Tim. 3:16-17).
- c. Members should maintain a close relationship with the Lord Jesus through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship, and the practice of spiritual disciplines. That relationship will be evident through participation in weekly worship services, communion, service, and a life that glorifies Jesus (Ps. 105:1-2; Ps. 119:97; Acts 2:42-47; Heb. 10:23-25; II Pet. 1:3).
- d. Members should steward the resources God has given them, including time, talents, and treasure (Prov. 3:9-10; Rom. 12:1-2; Gal. 5:22-23; Eph. 4:1-16; 5:15-18). This includes regular financial giving, service, and participation in community that is sacrificial, cheerful, and voluntary (Rom. 12:1-8; II Cor. 8-9; 12:7-21; I Pet. 4:10-11).
- e. Members will not function in leadership or as a member in another church family (Heb. 13:17).
- f. Members will agree to submit to discipline by God through His Holy Spirit, to follow biblical procedures for church discipline in their relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ, to submit to righteous discipline when approached biblically by brothers and sisters in Christ, and to submit to discipline by church leadership if the need should ever arise (Ps. 141:5; Matt. 18:15-17; I Cor. 5:1-5; II Cor. 2:5-8; Gal. 6:1-5, 8; I Tim. 5:20; II Tim. 2:25; Tit. 1:9; 3:10-11; Heb. 12:5-11; Rev. 2:5-7, 14-25).
- g. Members will agree, by God's grace, to walk in holiness as an act of worship to Jesus Christ, who has saved us from our sin that we may live a new life (II Cor. 5:17); They will practice complete chastity before marriage and complete fidelity in heterosexual marriage by abstaining from practices such as cohabitation, pornography, and fornication (Job 31:1; Prov. 5; Rom. 13:12-14; I Cor. 6:9-7:16; Heb. 13:4); They will refrain from illegal drug use, drunkenness, and other sinful behaviour as the Bible dictates (I Cor. 8:7; Gal. 5:18-21).

F. CHURCH DISCIPLINE

It shall be the practice of this church to emphasize to its members that every reasonable measure will be taken to assist any troubled member. The pastor and elders are available for

counsel and guidance. The attitude of members toward one another shall be guided by a concern for redemption rather than punishment in accordance with Galatians 6:1.

Should some serious condition exist which has caused a member to become a liability to the general welfare of True Life Church, the pastor and elders will take every reasonable measure to resolve the problem in accordance with Matthew 18.

If it becomes necessary for True Life Church to exercise discipline against any member, all such proceedings by the elders and True Life Church shall be pervaded by a spirit of Christian kindness and forbearance. Such action should only be contemplated after individual, private admonitions have failed.

Any member consistently neglectful of the Lifestyle Expectations in such a manner that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be dishonored, and so opposing the welfare of True Life Church, shall be subject to the admonition of the elders and the discipline of True Life Church, according to the instructions of our Lord in Matthew 18:15-17 and the example of Scripture. Church discipline, then, should ordinarily be contemplated after individual private admonition(s) has/have failed.

Church discipline can include admonition by the elders, suspension from communion for a definite period, removal from office, or removal of membership of True Life Church (see Matt. 18:15-17; 2 Thess. 3:14-15; 1 Tim. 5:19-20; 1 Cor. 5:4-5). In such cases, the elders by a unanimous vote shall have the power to strike the offender's name from the roll of membership immediately. The Elders may restore to membership any person previously excluded, upon request of the excluded person, and by a vote of the Elders upon evidence of the excluded person's repentance and reformation.

The purpose of such discipline should be ...

- For the repentance, reconciliation, and spiritual growth of the individual disciplined (see Prov. 15:5; 29:15; 1 Cor. 4:14; Eph. 6:4; 1 Tim. 3:4-5; Heb. 12:1-11; Ps. 119:115; 141:5; Prov. 17:10; 25:12; 27:5; Ecc. 7:5; Matt. 7:26-27; 18:15-17; Luke 17:3; Acts 2:40; 1 Cor. 5:5; Gal. 6:1-5; 2 Thess. 3:6, 14-15; 1 Tim. 1:20; Titus 1:13-14; James 1:22);
- For instruction in righteousness and good of other Christians, as an example to them (see Prov. 13:20; Rom. 15:14; 1 Cor. 5:11; 15:33; Col. 3:16; 1 Thess. 5:14

[note this is written to the whole church and not just leaders]; 1 Tim. 5:20; Titus 1:11; Heb. 10:24-25);

- For the purity of True Life Church as a whole (see 1 Cor. 5:6-7; 2 Cor. 13:10; Eph. 5:27; 2 John 10; Jude 24; Rev. 21:2);
- For the good of our corporate witness to non-Christians (see Prov. 28:7; Matt. 5:13-16; John 13:35; Acts 5:1-14; 1 Cor. 6: 1-8; Eph. 5:11; 1 Tim. 3:7; 2 Pet. 2:2; 1 John 3:10)
- Supremely, for the glory of God by reflecting His holy character (see Deut. 5:11; 1 Kings 11:2; 2 Chron. 19:2; Ezra 6:21; Neh. 9:2; Isa. 52:11; Ezk. 36:20; Matt. 5:16; John 15:8; 18:17, 25; Rom. 2:24; 15:5-6; 2 Cor. 6:14-17; Eph. 1:4; 5:27; 1 Pet. 2:12).

It is understood that if a member of True Life Church desires to bring an accusation or criticism against an elder that the procedures of 1 Timothy 5:17-22 will be followed.

G. MEETINGS

1. Worship Services

Shall be held each Lord's day, and may be held throughout the week as True Life Church determines.

2. Member's Meetings

In every meeting together, members shall act in that spirit of mutual trust, openness, and loving consideration which is appropriate within the body of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- a. The annual business meeting of the congregation shall be held at such a time as appointed by the elders and held at such a place in Quispamsis, at such a time and on such a day in each year as the Board of Elders shall determine. The annual business meeting shall be for the purpose of receiving reports and statements required by the Act to be read and laid before True Life Church and to hear and approve budgets, the election of elders and deacons/deaconesses, approval of nominations by the elders, the appointing of the auditor and the transaction of such other business that shall be brought before the meeting. Notice of such meeting shall be given from the pulpit and/or in True Life Church bulletin on each of the two Sundays preceding the meeting

with the purpose of the meeting clearly stated. Copies of the Ministry Management document and the financial report shall be available two Sundays prior to the applicable meeting.

- b. Special meetings of the membership, within or without True Life Church building, may be held at the request of the elders, or by written request to True Life Church clerk, with notification given to the elders, signed by at least 10 of the active voting members of True Life Church. Notice of such meetings, location, and purpose thereof shall be given from the pulpit and/or in True Life Church bulletin on each of the two Sundays preceding the meeting with the purpose of the meeting clearly stated.
- c. The chairman of all business meetings shall be the chairman of the Elder Board or in his absence the Lead Pastor.
- d. All votes shall be tallied based on the number of votes cast by members present.
- e. Quorums - 10% of the active voting members must be present at all congregational meetings to constitute a quorum, unless otherwise stated. 20% of the active voting members must be present when deciding on matters of the call or dismissal of the Lead Pastor, the buying or selling of real property and the approval of related mortgages, as well as expenditures over and above 1.5% of the annual church budget which are not emergencies. A simple majority shall carry matters of business in meetings of congregation, board or committees unless otherwise stated.
- f. Votes to Govern - At any meeting of members, the majority of the votes duly cast on 'the question' shall, unless otherwise required by the By-Laws, determine every 'question.' The chair will only vote in the event of a tie. Any 'question' at a meeting of members shall be decided by a show of hands unless the chair or a majority of members present requests a vote by private ballot. Upon show of hands or a private ballot, every active member who is present shall have one vote. Voting by proxy is prohibited. Whenever a vote by show of hands or ballot is taken, a declaration by the chair of the meeting that the vote has been carried, or carried by a particular majority or not carried, is to be made. An entry to that effect will be noted in the minutes of the meeting. This shall be *prima facie* evidence of the fact of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against any resolution or other proceeding in respect of the said 'question.' The result of the vote so taken shall be the decision of the members upon said 'question.'

- g. When a valid ballot vote is taken, the members present at the meeting will appoint at least 3 scruteniens to verify the ballot count. The results of the scrutinized vote will be reported to the chairman and members present at the meeting so that the result can be recorded in the minutes.

3. 'Elders'/Deacons' & Deaconesses' Meetings

The Elders may meet once a month or more for prayer and to oversee the flock of God.

The deacons/deaconesses shall meet at least on a quarterly basis with the elders to discuss issues of service, benevolence and congregational care. They shall have the freedom to meet independently of the elders to discuss logistical administration with the full knowledge of the elders. Detailed minutes of that meeting shall be presented to the lead pastor promptly after that meeting.

4. Committee Meetings

Pursuant to the Bylaws, committee meetings shall also take place on a monthly, bimonthly or quarterly frequency as required by that committee (e.g. trustees, missions, school, finance, etc.).

Section II

A. GOVERNMENT

This church acknowledges the supreme authority of the Lord Jesus Christ as its Head, and receives the Holy Scriptures as the only infallible guide in matters of faith, church-order, and discipline, and is accountable to no other ecclesiastical body. Thus True Life Church recognizes that Christ gives it a subordinate power/responsibility that is the basis for congregational church government vested in the voting members of the body of believers who compose it. True Life Church then delegates the executive part of that power/responsibility to its recognized elders. The elders then share the administrative duties with the deacons/deaconesses.

All members shall maintain a lifestyle commitment to True Life Church , pledging themselves to live, pray, and work for the welfare of True Life Church. Therefore, they have

a sense of ownership of True Life Church and attend business meetings in a prayerful spirit, seeking to play their part in discerning God's guidance for the body, and are actively involved, using their gifts to serve the body and affirming others in their ministries.

Any majority vote of the congregation, at a duly convened meeting, shall be final, except when specified otherwise as outlined in this constitution.

This constitutional document recognizes the existence of other policies within the framework of True Life Church's government. These policies shall neither contradict nor supersede the statement of faith and by-laws of this document, but seek to clarify in greater detail policies and procedures at different levels of operation within True Life Church. They are to be consulted and referred to as need arises. Copies shall be available for public examination in the office at True Life Church.

B. BIBLICAL OFFICERS

The biblical officers of this congregation shall be the Elders. In addition, True Life Church recognizes the administrative positions under this constitution of director, treasurer, church clerk and financial administrator.

1. Elders

This church is led by a plurality of male elders, paid and unpaid, confirmed by the congregation after careful reflection on the biblical qualifications for that office.

Function

The elders shall oversee the ministry and resources of True Life Church. In keeping with the principles set forth in Acts 6:1-6, Acts 20:18-36 and 1 Peter 5:1-4, the elders shall devote their time to prayer, the ministry of the Word (by teaching and encouraging sound doctrine), and shepherding God's flock with oversight.

The elders shall take particular responsibility to examine and instruct prospective members, examine and recommend all prospective candidates for offices and positions, oversee the work of the deacons and appointed church agents and committees in every

aspect of the work, conduct worship services, administer the ordinances of believer's baptism by immersion and communion, equip the membership for the work of ministry, encourage sound doctrine and practice, admonish and correct error, oversee the process of church discipline, coordinate and promote the ministries of True Life Church, and mobilize True Life Church for local and world missions. The elders are further to ensure that all who minister the Word to the congregation, including outside speakers, share our doctrinal essentials and be sensitive to our distinctives.

The deacons/deaconesses may establish, with the oversight of the elders, non-paid teams at any time to assist them in fulfilling their responsibilities. The elders may also propose funding for new paid staff positions within the guidelines of the approved annual budget. The membership shall approve all candidates to fill the positions of lead, associate and assistant pastor(s), and unpaid elders according to the guidelines laid out in these by-laws. The scope and approval of job descriptions for any staff position shall reside in the hands of the lead pastor and elders.

The elders shall have primary responsibility for the employment, supervision, and evaluation of staff members. This responsibility may, on a case-by-case basis, be delegated to another staff member, e.g. the Principal of Valley Christian Academy, ('VCA'), shall supervise and evaluate VCA employees.

In the case where there is no lead pastor, the chairman of the board of elders shall have oversight of the Benevolent Fund of True Life Church.

The elders shall have authority to make financial expenditures necessary without approval of True Life Church, but not to exceed 1.5% of the annual church budget if the necessary funds are available. Emergency situations would be considered over and above this amount.

In the absence of the lead pastor, the elders shall make arrangement of pulpit supply. When the office of lead pastor shall become vacant, the unpaid elders shall constitute a pulpit committee and make recommendations to True Life Church concerning a new lead pastor. The pulpit committee may be enlarged upon recommendation of the board and then voted on by True Life Church.

Each year the elders, after consultation with the deacons, and the membership, shall present to True Life Church a budget. This budget shall be presented for discussion at the Annual Business Meeting and called up for a vote at that same meeting. No money

shall be solicited by or on behalf of True Life Church or any of its ministries without the approval of the elders.

The corporate affairs of True Life Church shall be managed by the Board of Elders who may exercise all powers and do all acts and things which may be exercised or done by True Life Church and which are not by bylaws of True Life Church, or by statute expressly directed or required to be done by True Life Church at a general meeting of the members.

The elders, in consultation with the deacons/deaconesses, shall comprise True Life Church's Nominating Committee and shall present a list to the congregation of all officers, committees and departments. The list shall be posted in a prominent place at least 2 Sundays previous to the annual meeting. After the list is posted further nominations or concerns may be made in consultation with the committee for consideration by the congregation.

These nominees shall be approached by the elders. This committee as above defined shall continually meet throughout the calendar year and shall be responsible for filling any positions that become vacant in a calendar year. Their names shall be disclosed during a regular or special business meeting for a congregational vote.

The chairman of the Board of Elders shall be a non-paid elder elected annually by the Board of Elders and shall have the deciding vote in case of a stalemate.

a. The Pastoral Staff

1) The Lead Pastor

He shall be a paid elder and thus be able to devote his full time to pastoral ministry. He shall perform the duties of an elder described previously, and shall be recognized by True Life Church as gifted and called to the full-time ministry of preaching and teaching along with vision casting and prayer. He should regularly preach on the Lord's Day, administer the ordinances of baptism and communion, and perform such other duties as usually pertain to that office, or as set forth in the constitution. The Lead Pastor shall be chosen or removed by an 75% vote of the active membership present at a meeting duly called for that purpose, announced from the pulpit and/or bulletin at least two weeks in advance with the

purpose clearly stated. If at any time a pastor shall violate his pastoral office or shall change his views concerning the Statement of Faith as outlined in this document, his teaching/pulpit ministry shall automatically cease. The Lead pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all boards and committees and it shall be his prerogative to act as chairman of the quarterly meeting of the elders and deacons. He shall act as chairman of all business meetings of True Life Church in the absence of the head elder, except when circumstances arise which make it necessary to appoint another to act, with the approval of True Life Church. The Lead Pastor's salary shall be recommended by the elders and the treasurer with the consultation of the pulpit committee, at the time of the call and reviewed at least once annually. It shall be the responsibility of True Life Church, within its capabilities, to see that the pastor has a reasonable living allowance. He shall have final approval for all speakers for True Life Church meetings, leaders and literature used. Matters relating to employment, vacation or benefits are contained in the Personnel Manual of True Life Church.

He shall have the responsibility, in consultation with the elders, for the hiring and dismissing of all other pastors/elders of True Life Church. After he has determined the person to be hired, he will present that person to the elders and then to True Life Church for their vote of approval as stipulated in this constitution. The amount of stipend for other paid elders and staff members will be decided by the elder board upon the recommendation of the Lead Pastor before said staff member is officially hired and will be reviewed each year by the Board of Elders upon a recommendation from the salary committee. All other pastors or elders of True Life Church can only be terminated upon the approval of the elder board.

2) Associate Pastor

True Life Church may call a pastor whose relationship to the Lead Pastor is that of associate. An Associate Pastor shall also be a paid elder and thus is able to devote his full time to pastoral ministry.

The Associate Pastor shall be chosen by a 75% vote of the active membership present at a meeting duly called for that purpose.

He shall perform the duties of an elder described previously, and shall be recognized by True Life Church as particularly gifted and called to the full-time ministry of preaching and teaching. He shall assist the Lead Pastor in the performance of his regular duties and

shall perform any other duties as usually pertain to the office of pastor. In the absence or incapacity of the Lead Pastor for defined periods of time (such as sabbatical or illness) the Associate Pastor shall assume the responsibility for his duties under the oversight of the elders. He shall be a member of the elder board.

3) Assistant Pastor(s)

True Life Church may call additional assistant pastors whose relationship to the Lead Pastor is that of assistant. An Assistant Pastor shall be a full or part time paid elder as needed, and thus is able to devote his full/part time to pastoral ministry. He may serve on the Board of Elders based on need, maturity, vacancy and the will of the Board. The Assistant Pastor shall be chosen by a 75% vote of the active membership present at a meeting duly called for that purpose. He shall perform the duties of an elder described previously, and shall be recognized by True Life Church as particularly gifted and called to the full/part time ministry of preaching and teaching. He shall assist the Lead Pastor and Associate Pastor in the performance of their regular duties, and shall perform any other duties as usually pertain to the office of pastor. The elders shall define the responsibilities of the assistant pastor(s).

b. Unpaid Elders

Unpaid elders shall be appointed from within the active voting membership and be presented to True Life Church by the sitting elders. These men shall be voted on by True Life Church. A minimum of six unpaid elders is required.

True Life Church shall recognize men from within the congregation, gifted and willing to serve in this calling, in accordance with the constitutional provisions on elections. These men shall be received as gifts of Christ to His church and set apart as elders.

An elder's term in office may be terminated by resignation or by dismissal. Any two members with reason to believe that an elder should be dismissed should express such concerns to the other elders. Any such action shall be done in accordance with the instructions of our Lord in Matt. 18:15-17 and 1 Tim. 5:17-21.

Selection of Unpaid Elders

1. Identify those in the congregation who are already bearing fruit in performing elder functions in True Life Church. Explore questions like these: Who meets the character qualifications of 1 Tim 3 and Titus 1? Who shows a shepherding care for the spiritual growth of others? Who shows ability and joy in teaching sound doctrine? Who has a spiritual burden for the lost and broken in our community demonstrated in relationships and evangelism? Who is effectively living out the vision and mission of True Life Church?
2. Invite the candidate to participate in elder meetings. Observe how they contribute. Is there healthy team chemistry?
3. Explore the potential elder's life. Is his character above reproach? Are his beliefs sound? Will his work and family schedule accommodate the demands of eldership?
4. Seek unity among the current elders regarding whether or not to move ahead with potential eldership. Unanimity here is important because elders need to be able to work well with a candidate and respect his character if unity among the elders is to be maintained after the addition of the new member to the group.
5. Recommend the man to the congregation as a potential elder. Let this nomination rest with the congregation for a period of thirty days, during which time members can share their concerns with the elders, and the elders can, if necessary, withdraw the nomination based on the new information.
6. Receive confirmation by 100% affirmation of the elders following the thirty day period. The names for election shall be presented to the members of True Life Church for a vote of ratification at a duly called business meeting.
7. Present the new elder(s) to the congregation for prayer and the laying on of hands.
8. Rotate elders after a three year term of service, after which the other current elders could re-nominate them for three year service, on the board of elders, if they still qualify and it seems appropriate. An unpaid elder shall not serve more than six consecutive years without a one year absence from the board.

9. The Lead Pastor and Associate Pastor, once affirmed, will be on the elder board. Other church pastors may serve on the elder board, but no more than fifty percent of the elder board may be paid elders. Paid elders will fulfill the same role on the board of elders as non-paid elders.

C. DIRECTORS

The elders shall be the Directors of True Life Church. The duties of Directors shall be to review financial and legal issues of True Life Church and sign legal documents on behalf of True Life Church and to represent True Life Church in any court or other proceedings.

All legal and valuable items shall be deposited by them in a safe place on behalf of True Life Church. Should a Director cease to be an active member of this church or resign or die, the remaining members shall have all powers of the full Board until True Life Church has appointed a new Director (elder) or Directors (elders).

D. DEACONS/DEACONESSES

Deacons and deaconesses are described in Rom. 16:1, 1 Tim. 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-7 as servants. True Life Church shall recognize, in accordance with the constitutional provisions on elections, those who are giving of themselves to True Life Church, who possess particular gifts of service and are qualified according to the biblical standards mentioned above.

These members shall be received as gifts of Christ to His church and set apart as deacons or deaconesses. The elders of True Life Church will put forward a list in conjunction with the annual nomination list of recommended individuals that uphold the office as described in the preceding passages and will be presented for congregational approval. These qualified and congregationally approved individuals shall be the elected representatives of the congregation of True Life Church in matters of ministry and service.

They shall be elected by simple majority, to one term lasting for a maximum of three years. An exception can be made, with the permission of True Life Church on the recommendation of the elders, to serve for a minimum of one year for an indefinite period. They shall be presented to the church by the Elders and voted into their position on a year to year basis at the annual business meeting.

Deacons/deaconesses shall care for the temporal needs of members, widow(er)s in the congregation, assist in the accommodations for public worship (e.g. in the setup of communion and believer's baptism by immersion), encourage and support those able to help others, and facilitate those with gifts of administration.

The deacons/deaconesses are accountable, ultimately, to the Lord, the elders and True Life Church. The position does not give authority over the elders, True Life Church, or its related organizations; but they are to work under the guidance of the elders, relieving the elders of duties that would infringe upon the priorities of their office.

Deaconesses are not to teach the Bible to men, but are to minister to the practical needs of the congregation and community at large. (I Tim. 2:12).

E. CHURCH STAFF

The Lead Pastor in consultation with the elders may hire additional church staff to meet its administrative needs based on the recommendation procedures as stipulated in this constitution, within the guidelines of the annual budget.

F. CHURCH CLERK

It shall be the duty of True Life Church Clerk to record the minutes of all regular and special members' meetings of True Life Church, maintain an accurate membership role, and to render reports as requested by the elders, deacons, or True Life Church. True Life Church Clerk shall be nominated by the elders and elected by the congregation to serve a term of three years.

True Life Church Clerk shall serve as the recording secretary for all Church meetings and proceedings.

G. TREASURER

The Treasurer shall be nominated by the elder board and confirmed by the active voting members of True Life Church to a three-year term. He/She shall be a deacon/deaconess and shall ensure that all funds and securities of True Life Church are properly secured in such banks, financial institutions, or depositories as appropriate.

In obedience to I Corinthians 4:2, the treasurer shall also be responsible for presenting regular financial reports of the account balances, revenues and expenses of True Life Church at each annual members meeting. This responsibility may be delegated with the approval of the elders. The treasurer shall also ensure that full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements are kept in books or computer files belonging to True Life Church, and that adequate controls are implemented to guarantee that all funds belonging to True Life Church are appropriately handled by any officer, employee, or agent of True Life Church. This is in accordance with I Corinthians 16:1-4

The treasurer shall render to the elders annually, or whenever they may require it, an account of all transactions as treasurer and of the financial condition of True Life Church. The treasurer shall be nominated by the elders and elected by the voting members of True Life Church to serve a term of not less than three years.

The Treasurer shall make a nomination at the Annual Business Meeting of an independent party to examine True Life Church's finances and all of its ministries.

H. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR

The Financial Administrator for True Life Church shall conduct the day-to-day financial transactions of True Life Church. He/She shall provide envelopes to the members of True Life Church and adherents who request such envelopes in which weekly offerings may be placed. He/She shall, in conjunction with the Treasurer, be responsible for collecting all offerings and depositing them. He/She shall enter the amounts contained in each envelope in a record of accounts kept for that purpose. He/She shall issue official receipts for income tax purposes.

In the absence or illness of True Life Church Clerk, treasurer or financial administrator, the elders shall appoint a member to perform the duties as previously mentioned until the next business meeting of True Life Church.

I. COMMITTEES

All standing committees (finance, missions & trustees) shall be nominated by the elders and then confirmed by the active voting members of True Life Church to a three-year term at the annual business meeting. These committees shall have clear terms of reference defined by the elders.

All committees are to work within True Life Church's vision statement while maintaining an harmonious and Christ-like relationship with one another. They are to work within the framework of this document and submit ultimately to the authority of True Life Church's elder board of whom Christ is head.

There shall be a Salary Review Committee which shall consist of the Lead Pastor, the chairman of the Board of Elders, and the Treasurer. It shall be the responsibility of this committee to prepare a budget of salaries and benefits for all employees to be presented to the Board of Elders for inclusion in the annual church budget.

J. VALLEY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

VCA is a ministry of True Life Church and is accountable to the Board of Elders. It is considered a charitable organization as part of the incorporation of True Life Church. The purpose of VCA is to educate students, while being taught from a Biblical world-view. VCA will strive to create an environment where students are encouraged to work to the best of their potential to attain primarily academic success, coupled with spiritual maturity, physical maturity and social maturity.

The achievement of these goals will depend on the partnership of students, parents, Church and VCA staff, as well as the work of God in each individual. Parents are ultimately responsible to God for the development of their child; therefore a dedicated staff that love God, love people and serve others will support them in their endeavour to raise children with sound character.

The Principal of VCA shall be a paid staff member of True Life Church. In keeping with 1 Cor. 14 and Heb. 13, the Principal is accountable to the Lead Pastor of True Life Church, who represents the congregation. He (the Lead Pastor) will delegate specific authority and responsibility to VCA's Principal for the day-to-day administration of this ministry in all its facets.

The Principal shall work in cooperation with the VCA School Board, elected by the voting members of True Life Church at the annual business meeting, and its chairperson for the progress and betterment of this ministry.

VCA shall have its own operational policies and procedures that shall be reviewed and updated on a regular basis as needed by the Principal of VCA and elders of True Life Church. A copy of these policies and procedures shall be available for examination in True Life Church secretary's office.

K. STATEMENTS OF POLICY

1. Privacy

True Life Church ensure that all information collected about its members and adherents will be used for the purposes intended. Mailing lists, membership lists and donor lists shall not be sold, leased, bartered or made available in any way for use in commercial activities.

2. Abuse Prevention

Recognizing that True Life Church and VCA have a spiritual, moral and legal obligation to provide a safe environment for children participating in programs that are under the auspices and authority of True Life Church, True Life Church will take all appropriate steps to prevent abusive incidences from occurring. These steps are given in detail in the Policies and Procedures Manual for the Plan to Protect Children, Youth and Leaders. All individuals, whether staff or volunteers, working with children and/or youth are required to abide by the procedures set forth therein.

3. Non-Harassment

Recognizing that True Life Church and VCA have a spiritual, moral and legal obligation to provide a safe working environment for staff, members and adherents, True Life Church will take all appropriate steps to prevent incidents of harassment from occurring. These steps are given in detail in the Non-Harassment Policy for True Life Church.

4. Church Use

The use of property, buildings, and facilities of True Life Church shall be primarily for the purposes and functions of various Church ministries, and shall be consistent with the principles and policies as reflected in the Statement of Faith of True Life Church. Requests for use of property, buildings and facilities by individuals or groups not associated with True Life Church shall be submitted to True Life Church secretary and approved by the Lead Pastor or his designate. Such approval will be subject to terms and conditions set by the Building Use Policy.

L. BANKING ARRANGEMENTS, EXECUTION OF INSTRUMENTS, ETC...

1. Banking Arrangements

The banking business of True Life Church or any part thereof, shall be transacted with such a bank, trust company or other firm or corporation carrying on a banking business as the Board of Elders may designate, appoint or authorize from time to time by resolution and all such banking business or any part thereof shall be transacted on True Life Church's behalf by such one or more officers and/or other persons as the Board of Elders may designate, direct or authorize from time to time by resolution and to the extent herein provided, including, but without restricting the generality of the foregoing, the operation of True Life Church's accounts; the making, signing, drawing, accepting, endorsing, negotiating, lodging, depositing, or transferring of any cheques, promissory notes, drafts, acceptances, bills of exchange and orders for the payment of money; the giving of receipts for and orders relating to any banking business and defining the rights and powers of the parties thereto; and the authorizing of any officer of such bank to do any act or thing on True Life Church's behalf to facilitate such banking business.

2. Execution of Instruments

Deeds, transfers, assignments, contracts and obligations on behalf of True Life Church shall be signed by all of the following: The Lead Pastor, the Chairman of the Board of Elders, the Treasurer, and the corporate seal shall be affixed to such instruments as require the same.

Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary contained in the bylaws of True Life Church, the Board of Elders may at any time and from time to time direct the manner in which and the person or persons by whom any particular deed, transfer, contract of obligation or any class of deeds, transfers, contracts or obligations of True Life Church may or shall be signed.

3. General Borrowing

True Life Church may from time to time:

- (a) borrow money upon the credit of True Life Church in such amounts and upon such terms as may be deemed necessary;
- (b) limit or increase the amount to be borrowed;
- (c) hypothecate, mortgage, charge or pledge any or all of the real or personal property or both, including book debts and unpaid calls, rights, powers, undertakings, and franchises of True Life Church, to secure any such bonds, debenture stock or other securities or any money borrowed or any other liability of True Life Church.

True Life Church may from time to time authorize any officer or officers of True Life Church to make arrangements with reference to the money borrowed or to be borrowed as aforesaid, and as to the terms and conditions of the loan thereof, and as to the securities to be given therefore, with power to vary or modify such arrangements, terms and conditions and to give such additional securities for any monies borrowed or remaining due by True Life Church as the elders of True Life Church may authorize, and generally to manage, transact and settle the borrowing of money by True Life Church.

Nothing contained in this bylaw shall limit or restrict the borrowing of money by True Life Church on bills or exchange or promissory notes made, drawn accepted or endorsed by or on behalf of True Life Church.

4. Disposition of Property

In the event of winding up or dissolution of True Life Church, all property, real estate and personal property shall be transferred to any charitable institution that may be voted to receive the same, or property shall be liquidated and the cash or other assets received shall be paid to any charitable institution in Canada that may be voted to receive the same, or if the latter shall not be possible, to any other charitable institution in Canada.

5. Finance and Amendments

- (a) The sources of revenue for True Life Church shall be the voluntary gifts and offerings of its members, those persons led to contribute as God has prospered them, and VCA tuition fees. The aforementioned revenues shall be used to meet the congregationally approved budgets of True Life Church. Other activities at True Life Church will, from time to time, incur some expenses outside the aforementioned budgets. In such cases, at the recommendation of elders various fund-raising mechanisms may be employed.

- (b) This constitution shall be reviewed every three years. These By-Laws may be altered, amended or repealed at any duly called meeting of members of True Life Church by a 66% vote of the membership present at a duly called business meeting where a quorum of 20% of the active voting members is present. Notice of such a proposed change or repeal shall be given at a previous business meeting, available at the information desk and in the Sunday bulletin on at least two (2) Sundays previous to the date the proposed meeting is to be held with the purpose clearly stated.

PART V: TRANSITIONAL

- A. All Church positions held under a former constitution shall continue until the expiration of the term under the former constitution.
- B. All former Church constitutions are hereby repealed.

