

New Life Fellowship

Bylaws

Article I

Doctrinal Statement: Baptist 2000 Faith and Message

To read the document in its entirety go to <http://www.sbc.net/bfm/bfm2000.asp>.

Article II

Name

The name of the church is New Life Fellowship Church of DeWitt.

Article III

Purpose

The purpose of the church shall be the evangelism of the lost and the edification of believers through Bible study, prayer, worship, fellowship and service.

Article IV

Membership

A. Qualifications for Membership

1. Any person who has trusted Jesus Christ as his or her Savior through a profession of faith is considered a part of the universal church, or body of Christ. Any professing and scripturally baptized believer who desires to express that identification through membership in the local body of believers of New Life Fellowship of DeWitt shall:

- a. Inform the Pastor or Elder that you would like to become a member(s) of NLF and fill out a membership request form,
- b. Complete New Members Class including Life Assessment
- c. New members must agree to Baptist 2000 faith and message

<http://www.sbc.net/bfm2000/bfm2000.asp>

2. Upon completion of all of the steps and review by the Board of Elders such persons will be accepted as members and a letter indicating membership in New Life Fellowship Church of DeWitt will be issued. These actions shall indicate that person's willingness to become committed to and involved in the ministries of the church. Membership is a requirement for teachers and voters at NLF. It also indicates the willingness of the Elders to assume their responsibilities of oversight and spiritual leadership for that individual.
3. A membership roll of current members will be maintained.

B. Removal from Membership Roll

1. Any member may withdraw from membership roll upon request.
2. Any member may be removed from the membership roll 6 months after unresolved church discipline as explained below.
3. Six months protracted inactivity/attendance without explanation will be deemed a request to withdraw from active membership.
4. In order to return to active membership the member in question may, according to determination of the elders, need to attend the next available new members class.

C. Complaints & Grievances

1. Any individual with a general complaint will bring that issue to the attention of an Elder and will accompany them to the Pastor for resolution of the complaint. This is the process for conflict resolution. Complaints handled any other way will be considered malicious gossip, they will not be tolerated and will be dealt with immediately according to the principles of church discipline as outlined in the Bible.
2. Any individual with a grievance against a member, Deacon, Elder, or staff will bring it to the attention of an Elder and will accompany that Elder to the Pastor for Biblical resolution of said grievance. Grievances handled in any other way will be considered malicious gossip, they will not be tolerated and will be dealt with immediately according to the principles of church discipline as outlined in the Bible.

D. Discipline of members

1. An individual may be removed from fellowship in the church for reasons of immoral or unchristian conduct as defined by the 2000 Baptist Faith & Message. The process for removal is found in Matthew 18:15-20:

- a. Speak with person privately assessing the details being gentle, fair, and honest.
- b. If there is no resolution the person will be brought before the Elders to again try to resolve the issue.
- c. If there is still no resolution, the member is removed from fellowship by the Elders.
- d. After 6 months, if no resolution is made, the member is removed from the church roll.
- e. Persons who have been so disciplined, but those who demonstrate a genuine attitude of repentance, may be restored to membership at the discretion and wisdom of the Elders.

Article V

Membership Covenant

See Pg 2 of the Handbook

Article VI

Elder Ministry

A. Overview

1. The men serving as Elders shall be members of this church, of high Christian character and shall maintain an exemplary reputation in all aspects of their lives both in the church and in the world. They shall be the spiritual leaders of the church and shall meet the qualifications and fulfill the responsibilities as set forth in Titus 1:5-9, 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and 1 Peter 5:1-3. They shall be responsible for overseeing the spiritual well-being and discipline of the church.
2. The Elder Board will elect new elders by unanimous vote. The Senior Pastor shall serve as a non-voting Elder.

3. Vacancies to the Elders shall be filled by the same procedures as outlined for election. An Elder may choose to be placed on the inactive roster for a period of time agreed upon by the board. An Elder may be removed from office by 2/3 majority vote of the Elder Board.

4. The Elders will meet the Monday after the first Sunday each month. The meeting date may be changed by the Pastor due to unforeseen circumstances as they arise.

Article VII

Deacon Ministry (Servant Leaders)

A. Overview

1. The Servant Leaders are responsible to the Elders in the fulfillment of their office. Only men who are members of this church and who are of high Christian character and integrity, possessing the qualifications as given in Acts 6:3 and in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 shall be selected as Deacons.
2. The Deacons shall minister to the church body in accordance with policies established by the Board of Elders.
3. The Elders shall select Deacons.
4. Vacancies in the Deacon ministry shall be filled by the same procedures as outlined for election. A Deacon may choose to be placed on the inactive roster for a period of time agreed upon by the Elder Board. A Deacon may be removed from office by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the total number of Elders.
5. Should it become necessary the Deacons may serve on a rotation basis as agreed upon by the Elder board.

Article VIII

Ministerial Staff and other staff.

A. Senior Pastor

1. The Senior Pastor is the primary leader of the church concerning spiritual issues. This position is concerned with planning, supervising and participating in the worship services and all ministries of the church; providing work guidance to

office staff; supervision and management of the pastoral staff; and accomplishment of pastoral duties. This position is accountable to the Elders.

2. In the event of a vacancy in the position of Senior Pastor, the Elders shall temporarily assume the responsibilities of the position, and act as the interviewing and selection agency. The prospective pastor shall give satisfactory evidence regarding his theological understanding, and he shall meet the requirements of Elder as detailed herein. He shall without reservation subscribe to and sign the church's Doctrinal Statement.

3. After being interviewed by the Elders and when satisfactory qualifications have been demonstrated, the candidate shall be presented to the members and, if approved by a ninety (90) percent vote of members present, be installed for an indefinite period of time.

4. The Senior Pastor may be recommended for dismissal by an affirmative vote of at least two thirds (2/3) of the total number of Elders. If the vote is for dismissal, recommendations shall be made by the Elders to the members, and the services of the Pastor may then be terminated immediately by a majority vote.

B. Other Staff

1. The Board of Elders is ultimately responsible for all staff appointments and dismissals. Any decision regarding appointments or dismissals of staff shall be discussed with the current Senior Pastor. All staff must agree with the doctrinal statement as well as the church covenant.

C. Financial Secretary

1. The financial secretary shall be appointed and dismissed in the same manner as other staff. The Board of Elders shall have charge and custody of and be responsible for all funds and securities of the church; receive and give receipts for monies due and payable to the church from any source whatsoever and deposit all such monies in the name of the church in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as shall be selected in accordance with the provisions of these by-laws.

2. The financial secretary prepares and reviews payments made from church accounts. Upon request by the Elders the financial secretary shall make the books available for financial review.

Article IX

Finances

A. Contracts

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

B. Business Meetings (Ministry Celebration Meetings)

1. Ministry Celebration Meetings -meetings are held in January each year unless the Elders and Pastor move the date due to unforeseen circumstances.

2. Ministry celebration meetings may be attended by both members and nonmembers.

3. Voting rights during MCM's are held only by registered members of NLF.

4. Additional meetings can be called by the Pastor or Elders with notice and purpose given to the church during the Sunday worship service one week prior to the called meeting.

5. The Pastor will conduct these meetings with the assistance of the Elders.

6. Thirty-five (35) percent of the voting members constitute a voting quorum.

7. A simple majority vote of the voting members present is required on the following as recommended by the Elders:

a. A two-thirds (2/3)percent majority vote of the members present and voting is required on the following as recommended by the Elders:

a. Purchase, transfer or sale of Corporation property;

b. Amendment of these By-laws.

9. Results of such votes shall be binding upon all boards and members of the church.

10. Members shall be eligible to vote, providing they are 18 years or over.

11. Roberts Rules of Order will apply where not otherwise stated in these By-laws.

Article XI

Ordinances

A. Baptism

1. Since baptism is the outward testimony of an inward spiritual transformation, it shall be administered only to those who give evidence of having been born again by faith in Jesus Christ.
2. The church shall practice believer's baptism by immersion, a mode most accurately portraying the believer's death, burial and resurrection with Christ.
3. Baptism's will be considered a part of our Sunday Worship service and can only be administered by Christian's who have been given the authority to do so by the Elders.

B. The Lord's Supper

1. The Lord's Supper shall be administered as a commemoration of His death, the elements being used as symbols of His body and blood. It shall be observed on such occasions and in such frequency as the Elders shall deem desirable. It shall be open to all believers, regardless of church affiliation.

Article XII

Interpretation of Bylaws

- A. Interpretation of the bylaws of New Life Fellowship of DeWitt is the sole responsibility of the Elder Board.