

BYLAWS
Of
LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH

A Tennessee Not-for-Profit Religious Corporation

ARTICLE I
Name and Principal Office

The name of the Corporation is LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH. This Corporation will be further referred to in the Bylaws as the “Church.” The Church maintains its principal office at 6341-A Pettus Road Antioch, TN 37013. The Elders of the Church shall have full power and authority to change the principal office from one location to another. Any change of this location shall be recorded by the Secretary on these bylaws opposite this section, or this section may be amended to state the new location.

ARTICLE II
Purpose

The purpose of the Church is to glorify God by fulfilling the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:36-40) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).

1. OUTREACH – “To share the good news of Jesus Christ with as many people as possible in our community and throughout the world” (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, 2 Peter 3:9).
2. DISCIPLESHIP – “To help members develop toward full Christian maturity and train them for effective ministry. To promote personal spiritual growth and discipleship through Bible teaching” (Ephesians 4:11-13, Matthew 18:20, 2 Timothy 2:2).
3. WORSHIP – “To participate in public worship service together and to maintain personal daily devotions” (John 4:24).
4. MINISTRY/SERVICE – “To serve unselfishly in Jesus’ name, meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those in our Church, community and in the world” (1 Peter 4:10-11, Matthew 25:34-40, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Galatians 5:13).
5. FELLOWSHIP – “To encourage, support and pray for each other as members of the family of God. To share our lives together” (1 John 1:7, Acts 2:44-47, Hebrews 10:23-25, Romans 15:5,7, John 13:34-35).

ARTICLE III
Statement of Faith

Included in the Life Community Membership Packet.

ARTICLE IV
Affiliation

This Church works in association with the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), Tennessee Baptist Convention (TBC), and Nashville Baptist Association (NBA). This Church maintains its autonomy from these organizations and reserves the right to determine its involvement with each of these institutions. Life Community Church is not subject to the control of other ecclesiastical bodies, but recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation common among Baptist Churches. The Elders and Pastor of the Church will define the relationship with the SBC, TBC, and NBA.

ARTICLE V
Membership

SECTION I: General

Membership in this Church shall consist of all persons who have met the qualifications for membership (as outlined in the Life Community membership packet) and who are listed on the membership role.

SECTION II: Qualifications for Membership

For Membership at Life Community Church you must:

1. Be a committed and faithful follower of Jesus Christ.
2. Have taken the next step of obedience in Believer's Baptism.
3. Initial and sign our statement of faith
4. Sign our statement of expectations as a member
5. Complete the written testimony
6. Interview with Pastor and or Elder

SECTION III: Membership Roles

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. Nonresident Members: Members who have become inactive as a result of moving out of the Church's ministry area and have not joined another church.

SECTION IV: Responsibilities of Membership

The responsibilities of membership are described in the membership packet.

SECTION V: Voting Rights of Membership

Every Active/Resident Member shall have the right to vote on the following matters: the annual budget of the Church, the affirmation of the Elders, the disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of the Church, the merger or dissolution of the Church, the acquisition or sale of real property and any related indebtedness, amendments to the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws of the Church, and the calling or removing of a Senior Pastor. Each member 16 years and older is entitled to one vote. A Vote must pass by a majority of 75 percent of present members. Voting by proxy is prohibited.

SECTION VI: Termination of Membership

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

1. Death.
2. Transfer of membership to another church.
3. By personal request of the member.
4. Dismissal by the Senior Pastor and Elders according to the following conditions:
 - a. The member's life and conduct is not in accordance with the membership covenant in such a way that the member hinders the ministry influence of the Church.
 - b. Procedures for the dismissal of a member shall be according to Matthew 18:15-17.

SECTION VII: Restoration of Members

Members dismissed shall be restored by the Senior Pastor and Elders according to the spirit of 2 Corinthians 2:7-8, when their life-styles are judged to be in accordance with the membership covenant.

ARTICLE VI Membership Meetings

SECTION I: Place

Meetings of the members shall be held at the principal office of the Church or at such other place or places within or outside Tennessee as may be designated from time to time by the Pastor and Elders.

SECTION II: General Meetings

A general meeting of the members shall be held by December of each year at such time as determined by the Senior Pastor and Elders. This general meeting shall be the annual membership meeting. The purpose of this meeting shall be to adopt an annual budget and to affirm the recommend new Elders. Subject to Section IV of this Article, any other proper business may be conducted at the general meeting.

SECTION III: Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called at any time by the Senior Pastor or Elders for any purpose by giving notice to the members in accordance with Section IV of this Article.

SECTION IV: Notice Requirements for Membership Meetings

1. 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 (2) 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:
 - a. Distribution of written material to the congregation in attendance at a Sunday service;
 - b. Announcement of the meeting in the Church newsletter;
 - c. Oral announcement to the congregation at a Sunday service; or
 - d. Delivery by United States mail to each active/resident member identified on the membership roll.
2. Notice of Certain Agenda Items. Approval by the members of any of the following proposals is valid only if the notice specifies the general nature of the proposal:
 - a. Calling or removing the Senior Pastor;
 - b. Adopting, amending or repealing Bylaws;
 - c. Disposing of all or substantially all of the Church's assets;
 - d. Adopting or amending a merger agreement; or
 - e. Approving the election to dissolve the Church;
 - f. Approving the acquisition or sale of real property and any related indebtedness.

SECTION V: 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. At least 75 percent of members in attendance must be in agreement for a vote to pass.

ARTICLE VII GOVERNANCE

SECTION I: Polity

Life Community will operate under a “Pastor Led” and “Elder Managed” polity. The Senior Pastor will provide spiritual leadership, direction, vision, and lead day-to-day operations, while working exclusively with the elders on major directional issues and financial decisions. The Senior Pastor will be a voting member of the Elder body except for issues related to personal performance and compensation. The Senior Pastor will be accountable to the Elders. The Elders will meet annually to discuss performance and compensation of the Senior Pastor and then conduct an annual review with him.

SECTION II: Manner of Acting

The Senior Pastor will lead in daily operations and ministry, while setting the agenda for leadership and elder meetings. Major decisions, such as: hiring full-time employees, spending over an agreed upon sum on non approved items, changing the spiritual direction or vision of the church, or any decision that effects the entire church body will be acted on in unity by the Senior Pastor and Elders.

ARTICLE VIII Elders

SECTION I: Number and Term

Prospective Elders recommended by the Senior Pastor and Elders are subject to affirmation by the members at the annual membership meeting. An Elder may only be removed by a vote of the Senior Pastor and Elders, or by resignation. The authorized number of Elders shall be, until changed by amendment of the Bylaws duly adopted by the members, such number as may from time to time be authorized by resolution of the Elders, provided that such number shall not be less than three (3), nor more than ten (10). Each elder will have a three year tenure. At the end of the designated term, the elder will rotate off the elder board for a minimum of one year, and then are eligible for another term . Initial terms will be collectively decided by the elder board.

The Elders shall elect in January a Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary from among the Elders. For purposes of Corporate Governance these officers shall be deemed the President, Vice President, and Secretary of the church respectively.

SECTION II: Powers

1. General corporate powers. Subject to the provisions and limitation of the Tennessee Nonprofit Corporation Law and any limitations in the Articles of Incorporation and these Bylaws, the activities, business and affairs of the Church shall be conducted and all corporate powers shall be exercised by or under the direction of the Senior Pastor and Elders.
2. Specific Powers. Without prejudice to the general powers set forth above, and subject to the same limitations, the Elders shall have the power to:
 - a. Select and remove all officers, agents and employees of the Church except for the Senior Pastor; prescribe any powers and duties for the Elder body that are consistent with law, with the Articles of Incorporation and with these Bylaws; and
 - b. Change the principal executive office or the principal business office of the Church in the State of Tennessee from one location to another, and designate any place within or outside the State of Tennessee for the holding of any meeting or meetings of the Directors; and
 - c. Adopt, make and use a corporate seal and alter the form of the seal; and
 - d. Borrow money and incur indebtedness on behalf of the Church and cause to be executed and delivered for the Church's purposes and in the Church's name, promissory notes and other evidences of debt and securities; and
 - e. Exercise all other powers conferred by the Tennessee Nonprofit Corporation Law or other applicable laws.

SECTION III: Manner of Acting

The act of the unanimous vote of the Senior Pastor and Elders present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Senior Pastor and Elders, in agreement with the existing By-laws and polity of Life Community Church. Quorum is fifty one percent (51%) of the Elder body.

ARTICLE IX Meetings of the Elders

SECTION I: Place of Meetings

Regular or special meetings of the Elders may be held at any place within or outside the State of Tennessee that has been designated from time to time by resolution of the Elders. In the absence of such designation, meetings shall be held at the principal office of the Church. Any meeting, regular or special, may be held by conference telephone or similar communication equipment, as long as all Elders participating in the meeting can hear one another. All such Elders shall be deemed to be present in person at such meeting.

ARTICLE X
Prohibition Against Sharing in Corporate Earnings

No member, Elder, Staff member, or person connected with the corporation, or any other private individual shall receive at any time any of the net earnings of pecuniary profit from the operations of the corporation, provided that this shall not prevent the payment to any such person of a reasonable compensation for services rendered to or for the corporation in effecting any of its purposes as shall be fixed by the church; and no such person or persons shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the corporate assets upon the dissolution of the corporation. All members of the church shall be deemed to have expressly consented and agreed that upon such dissolution or concluding the affairs of the corporation, after all debts have been satisfied, assets then remaining in the hands of the officers of the church shall be distributed, transferred, conveyed, delivered, and paid over, in such amounts as the church may determine or as may be determined by a court of competent jurisdiction upon application of the church, exclusively to charitable, religious, or educational organizations which would then qualify under the provisions of Section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and its regulations as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended.

ARTICLE XI
Exempt Activities

Notwithstanding any other provision of these by-laws, no Staff member, Elder, or representative of the corporation shall take any action or carry on any activity by or on behalf of the corporation not permitted to be taken or carried on by any organization exempt under Section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and its Regulations as the now exist or as they may hereafter be amended, or by any organization contributions to which are deductible under Section 170 (C) (2) of such code and regulations as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended.

Certificate of Leadership

We, the undersigned, certify that we are the acting Elders and Senior Pastor of Life Community Church, a Nonprofit Religious Corporation, and the above Bylaws are complete and approved Bylaws of this Corporation as adopted on _____ 2008.

Executed at _____ this _____ day or
_____, 2008.

By _____ Pastor

By _____ Elder

By _____ Elder

By _____ Elder

By _____ Elder