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Membership Manual
Facilitator Guide

Membership Survey

(use extra paper if necessary)

Today's Date: ___/___/___

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

Birthday: ___/___/___

1. Are you currently a member of a church? _____

Name of church: _____

Denomination: _____

City: _____ State: _____

2. Have you come to the point in your spiritual life so that if you were to die today, you would know for certain you would go to Heaven? _____

3. If you died today and stood before God and He asked you, "Why should I let you into My heaven?" what would you say?

4. Have you been baptized? When?

5. Do you have any specific questions about our church?

6. Check the areas below that you may be interested in serving in.

Children's Ministry Team

Youth Ministry Team

Music Ministry Team

Audio/Visual Team

Drama Team

Missions Team

Fellowship Team

Other: _____

Other: _____

Other: _____

7. List any of your hobbies/interests/talents.

WHAT MAKES NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH A FAMILY?

FOUR THINGS UNITE US

- Our Salvation (What God has done for us)
- Our Statements (Why we exist as a church)
- Our Strategy (How we fulfill our purpose)
- Our Structure (When & where we fulfill our purpose)

OUTLINE

Session One: Our Salvation

- What it means to be a Christian
- The symbols of salvation: Baptism & Communion

Session Two: Our Statements

- Our purpose statement
- Our core values
- Our faith statement
- Our lifestyle statement

Session Three: Our Strategy

- Our Strategy
- How we will do this

Session Four: Our Structure

- How New Life Community Church is structured
- Our Affiliation
- Membership Covenant
- Benefits to Membership

SESSION ONE
OUR SALVATION

"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Galatians 3:26-28 (NIV)

"Jesus said to him, " I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but through me."

John 14:6 (NASB)

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CHRISTIAN

Everyone wants happiness and joy. Real joy and happiness come from understanding my PURPOSE FOR LIVING.

I. WHY AM I HERE?

1. I was planned for God's PLEASURE.
Revelation 4:11 (NLT)
Psalm 149:4 (NASB)
Psalm 147:11

2. I was formed for God's FAMILY.
Hebrews 2:10-11
Ephesians 1:5
1 Peter 1:3

3. I was created to become like CHRIST.
Genesis 1:26
Romans 8:29
Colossians 1:15
Philippians 2:5

4. I was shaped for SERVING God.
Ephesians 2:10
Isaiah 43:21
1 Peter 4:10
1 Corinthians 12:4-7

5. I was made for a MISSION.
John 17:18
2 Corinthians 5:18, 20
Acts 20:24
Matthew 28:19-20

6. I was created to ENJOY a personal relationship with God.

John 10:10

1 Timothy 6:17

When we know and love God, and live in harmony with his purposes for our lives, it produces tremendous BENEFITS in our lives.

Romans 8:1 CLEAR CONSCIENCE_____

Romans 8:28 PURPOSE_____

Romans 8:6 LIFE & PEACE_____

Romans 8:26 HELP WITH WEAKNESS_____

Romans 8:38-39 SECURITY_____

Romans 8:31 CONFIDENCE_____

Philippians 4:13 POWER & STRENGTH_____

Philippians 4:19 GOD'S RESOURCES_____

John 8:32,36 FREEDOM_____

This is the kind of lifestyle God intends for us to live. Why then are most people really not happy and experiencing the joy that God intends?

II. WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Man has a natural desire to BE BOSS_____ and to ignore God's principles for living.

The Bible calls this attitude SIN_____.

- Isaiah 53:6
- 1 John 1:8
- Isaiah 59:2
- Romans 3:23
- Romans 6:23a
- Proverbs 16:25

III. WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

- John 14:6
- Romans 6:23b
- 1 Timothy 2:5

God has done His part to bring you to himself. To restore our relationship with him, He has taken the initiative. The way is a person (Jesus Christ). He has taken care of our sin problem.

IV. WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO?

1. ADMIT that God has not been first place in your life and ask him to forgive your sins.
1 John 1:9
2. BELIEVE that Jesus died to pay for your sins and that he rose again on Easter, and is alive today.
Acts 4:12
Romans 10:9-10
3. ACCEPT God's free gift of salvation. Don't try to earn it.
Ephesians 2:8-9
John 1:12
Our relationship with God is restored only by what HE has done!
4. ASK Jesus Christ to come in to your life and be the director (LORD) of your life. (Resident and President)
John 1:12-13
Revelation 3:20

YOU CAN TAKE THESE STEPS BY PRAYING A SIMPLE PRAYER OF COMMITMENT TO GOD.

"DEAR GOD, I KNOW THAT JESUS IS YOUR SON AND THAT HE DIED ON THE CROSS AND WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD. BECAUSE I HAVE SINNED AND NEED FORGIVENESS, I ASK JESUS TO COME IN TO MY HEART. I AM WILLING TO CHANGE THE DIRECTION OF MY LIFE BY ACKNOWLEDGING JESUS AS MY LORD AND SAVIOR, AND BY TURNING AWAY FROM MY SINS. THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME FORGIVENESS, ETERNAL LIFE, AND HOPE. IN JESUS' NAME, AMEN."

THE SYMBOLS OF SALVATION

BAPTISM

I. WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

1. To follow the example set by JESUS.
Mark 1:9
2. Because Christ COMMANDS it.
Matthew 28:18-20
3. It demonstrates that I really am a BELIEVER.
Acts 18:8
1 John 2:3

II. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

1. It illustrates Christ's DEATH/BURIAL and resurrection.
1 Corinthians 15:3-4
Colossians 2:12
2. It illustrates my NEW LIFE as a Christian.
2 Corinthians 5:17
3. Romans 6:4

Note: Baptism does not make you a believer; it shows that you have already believed. Baptism does not save you; only your faith in Christ does that. It is an outward symbol of an inward change.

Ephesians 2:8-9

III. WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?

1. Because JESUS was baptized that way.
Matthew 3:16
2. Every baptism in the BIBLE was by immersion.
Acts 8:38-39
3. The word "Baptize" means to DIP UNDER.
4. It best symbolizes a BURIAL and RESURRECTION.

IV. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Everyone who has BELIEVED in Christ.

Acts 2:41

Acts 8:12-13

What about children? Baptism vs. Dedication.

Dedication of infants and children is the symbolic giving of our children back to the Lord, understanding that He has entrusted them to our care so that we might bring them up in the knowledge and admonition of the Lord.

V. WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

As soon as possible!

Acts 2:41, Acts 8:35-38

Can my family be baptized together?

What should I wear?

Will I have to say anything?

What about special needs?

THE LORD'S SUPPER

What is the Lord's Supper? 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

1. It is a ___SIMPLE ACT_____. (verse 23)
2. It is a ___REMINDER_____. (verse 24)
3. It is a ___SYMBOL_____. (verse 25)
4. It is a ___PROCLAMATION_____. (verse 26)
5. It is a celebration of our SALVATION. (Matt. 26:28)

Who should take the Lord's Supper?

Only those who are ___CHRISTIANS_____. Mark 14:22-26

2 Corinthians 11:29, "For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself."

How do I prepare myself for the Lord's Supper?

1 Corinthians 11:27-28

- | | | |
|-------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| BY... | 1. Self-Examination | 1 Corinthians 11:27 |
| | 2. Confessing my sins | 1 John 1:9 |
| | 3. Recommitment | Romans 12:1 |
| | 4. Restoring relationships | Matthew 5:23-24 |

When and how often should we observe the Lord's Supper?

There are no instructions on particular methods or timetables. The only instruction we have is to observe it until He comes again.

Facilitator Guide
SESSION TWO

NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH'S STATEMENTS

"I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought."

1 Corinthians 1:10

Our Purpose:

New Life Community Church exists to help all people celebrate, cultivate, and spread New Life in their relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

The Biblical Basis For Our Purpose:

The purpose of the church is found in God's Word: *Matthew 22:36-40* - The Great Commandment, and in *Matthew 28:19-20* - The Great Commission. Five biblical truths are found in these scriptures:

1. To "Love God with all your heart" is WORSHIP.
2. To "Love your neighbor as yourself" is MINISTRY.
3. To "Go...make disciples" is EVANGELISM.
4. To "Baptize" is to incorporate into FELLOWSHIP.
5. To "Teach them all things" is DISCIPLESHIP.

Our Statement of Faith
See Constitution and By-Laws

THE NEW LIFE-STYLE

Beliefs are not worth much unless they are translated into actions. Based on what the Bible teaches, we feel very strongly about the following seven practices:

Bible as our sole authority.

"All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16

Since God's word is the only completely reliable and truthful authority, we accept the Bible as our manual for living. Our first question when faced with a decision is "What does the Bible say?" We practice daily Bible reading, Bible study, and Bible memorization. The Bible is the basis for all we believe.

Autonomy of each local church.

“And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.” Colossians 1:18

Christ is the recognized head of our church, not any person, group, or religious organization. While recognizing the value of associating and cooperating with other groups of Christians, we believe every local church should be self-governing and independent of any denominational control.

Priesthood of every believer.

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God...” 2 Peter 2:9

“and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father...” Revelation 1:6

The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to “full time” Christian service, regardless of his or her vocation. Every believer is a minister and has direct access to God through prayer and Bible reading.

Tithing.

“A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.” Leviticus 27:30

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse...” Malachi 3:10

At New Life Community Church we practice tithing for the support of Christ’s Body, the church, as God commands. We recognize that giving 10% of our income is the biblical standard of giving.

Immersion.

“having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.” Colossians 2:12

We practice baptism by immersion under water-the way Jesus was baptized and the way the Bible commands.

Spirit-Led living.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5

“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.” Galatians 5:16

We believe the only way possible to live the Christian life is by God’s power within us. So we seek to practice a daily dependence on God’s Spirit to enable us to do what is right.

Telling others about Christ.

"...Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have..." 1 Peter 3:15

It is the responsibility and privilege of every Christian to share the Good News with those God brings us into contact with. We practice personal sharing about Christ and inviting friends to church.

SESSION THREE **NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH'S STRATEGY**

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Mark 10:45

Celebrate New Life

We will lead Christians to bring glory to God and Jesus Christ our Savior through corporate and individual worship as directed by His Holy Spirit. (Hebrews 10:25, Acts 2:40-47, Psalm 100, 1 Corinthians 10:31)

Cultivate New Life

We will teach the truth and application of God's Word to help all believers in Christ mature in their faith. We will make it a practice to pray together, serve together, and grow together for the building up of Christ's body which is the church. We will hold each other accountable and help each member live out their faith in Christ daily. (1 Thessalonians 1:2-3, Ephesians 4-6; Romans 12)

Spread New Life

We will proclaim the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ by being "on mission" in our community, state, and throughout the world. We will demonstrate Christian love for each other by serving each other and our community. (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; John 20:21, Joshua 24:15, Acts 2:40-47)

SO...HOW WILL WE DO THIS?

- **WORK FROM GOD'S PURPOSES**
Matthew 22:36-40 & 28:19-20= 5 purposes from the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.
- **INVOLVE EVERY MEMBER IN MINISTRY**
1 Peter 4:10, "As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."
- **LOVE ONE ANOTHER AND THE LOST**
John 13:34, "A new commandment I give to you that you love one another even as I have loved you."
John 3:16, For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him would not perish, but have eternal life."

- **LET GOD LEAD**
Ephesians 5:18 “... Be filled with the Spirit...”
Ephesians 4:30 “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God...”
1 Thessalonians 5:19 “Do not quench the Spirit...”
- **USE MULTIPLE METHODS FOR REACHING THE LOST**
1 Corinthians 9:22-23, “...Whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so that he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him. I do this to get the Gospel to them...”
- **WORK TOWARD MATURITY IN ALL AREAS OF LIFE**
Ephesians 4:13-15. “...We arrive at real maturity - that measure of development which is meant by ‘the fullness of Christ.’ We are not meant to remain as children...but to grow up in every way into Christ...”
- **KEEP PEOPLE MORE IMPORTANT THAN PROGRAMS**
Genesis 1:27, “God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”
- **BE OPEN AND FRIENDLY TO GUESTS AND NEWCOMERS**
Matthew 7:12, “Therefore, however you want people to treat you, so treat them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”
- **BIBLE-BASED PREACHING THAT APPLIES TO REAL LIFE**
James 1: 22, “But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.”
Hebrews 4:12, “For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”
- **INTENTIONAL EVANGELISM**
Matthew 10:5-6 “Do not go in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans; but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”
Matthew 28:19-20
- **EVALUATE FOR EXCELLENCE**
Colossians 3:17, “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”

SESSION FOUR **THE NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH STRUCTURE**

“For God is not a God of disorder but of peace...everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.”

1 Corinthians 14:33-40

HOW NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH IS STRUCTURED

The structure of the church should not be determined by culture, business practices, or even denominational traditions, but by the Bible.

We believe that the Bible teaches that New Testament churches were and are to be staff/elder led and congregationally governed.

The nature of the church determines its structure.

1. THE CHURCH IS A FELLOWSHIP.

Acts 2:42

It is essential for a fellowship to have UNITY and HARMONY.

Ephesians 4:3

Romans 14:19

A good structure promotes unity and downplays DIVISIONS and DIFFERENCES.

1 Corinthians 11:17-18

At New Life Community Church we are elder led, congregationally governed, and member served. We will vote on very few items as a church including:

- Annual Budget & Leadership Team of Elders
- Purchase of Land or Building
- Calling the Senior Pastor
- Changes in the Church Constitution

Why? Voting tends to create DIVISION.

(See Constitution and By-laws)

2. THE CHURCH IS A FAMILY.

1 Peter 3:8; Galatians 6:10

Because we are a family, we operate primarily on the basis of RELATIONSHIPS not RULES.

1 Timothy 5:1-2

1 Timothy 3:4-5

3. THE CHURCH IS A BODY.

1 Corinthians 12:27

Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:23

Colossians 1:8, 2:19

Therefore, we function on the basis of SPIRITUAL GIFTS not ELECTED OFFICERS.

Consequently, we function as teams not committees.

We are a body not a business! We are an organism not an organization!

In an organization “maintenance” becomes the focus. In an organism “ministry” becomes the focus.

At New Life Community Church we will have a simple structure so we can maximize

MINISTRY and minimize MAINTENANCE.

Ephesians 4:11-12

4. OUR STRUCTURE:

- The People are the MINISTERS.
- The Staff and Elders are the ADMINISTRATORS.

Our Church Covenant

As a member of New Life Community Church, having made a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and been scripturally baptized, I do covenant before God as I am enabled by His Holy Spirit to:

___ Live my life under the Lordship of Jesus Christ in every area.

___ Accept the Word of God as my authority for faith and every day living, and seek to meditate on and apply its truths daily.

___ Follow and be equipped for service by the church leadership as they are led by the Holy Spirit and the teachings of the Word of God.

___ Maintain the unity of the church by acting in love toward other members, discovering my spiritual gifts and finding my place of service within this local body, and allowing myself to be held accountable to the standards of God's Word by this local body.

___ Participate in the great commission by being involved in missions to my community, my state, my country, and to the ends of the earth.

___ Willingly give of my time, talents, and treasure, in obedience to God's Word, to support the ministries and missionary outreach of this church.

___ Unite as soon as possible, should I leave this local body, with some other church where I can carry out the spirit of this covenant and principles of God's Word.

BENEFITS TO MEMBERSHIP

The difference between "attenders" and "members" can be summed up in one word: Commitment.

At New Life Community Church we recognize the need for a formal membership. We ask you to commit to membership for five reasons:

1. A BIBLICAL REASON: *Christ is committed to the church*

"...Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her..." Ephesians 5:25

2. A PERSONAL REASON: *It identifies you as a child of God*

"so then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,..." Ephesians 2:19

3. A CULTURAL REASON: *It is an antidote for our society*

We live in an age where very few want to be committed to anything...a job...a marriage...our country. This attitude has even produced a generation of "church shoppers & hoppers". Membership swims against the current of America's "consumer religion". It is an unselfish decision. Commitment always builds character.

4. A PRACTICAL REASON: *It defines who can be counted on*

Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Every business has a payroll. Every army has an enlistment. Membership identifies our family.

5. A SPIRITUAL REASON: *It produces spiritual growth*

The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth (Eph. 5:21). You cannot be accountable when you are not committed to any specific church family.

OTHER BENEFITS

- You are part of a caring community of believers
- You are a part of the family of God (Eternal life)
- Love and Fellowship
- Support
- Prayer

OUR AFFILIATION

The New Life Community Church is an autonomous church that guides itself in its own affairs. But believing that we can accomplish more in cooperation with the larger body of Christ than we can on our own, we have chosen to affiliate with the following organizations:

Green Mountain Baptist Association

A fellowship of 37 churches, in the general area of Vermont, which was formed in 1982 for the purpose of reaching Vermont for Christ. About one third of the member churches are historic churches indigenous to Vermont, and about two thirds are church plants begun by the Southern Baptist Convention. The Green Mountain Baptist Association receives a significant amount of its financial support from member churches and the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. www.vermontbaptist.org

Baptist Convention of New England

A fellowship of over 270 churches and church plants that cover the six New England states, which was formed in 1967 for the purpose of reaching New England for Christ. The vast majority of the member churches are new church plants begun by the Southern Baptist Convention. The Baptist Convention of New England receives a significant amount of its financial support from member churches, Lifeway Christian Resources and the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. www.BCNE.net

Southern Baptist Convention

A fellowship of over 43,000 churches, in all 50 states, that comprises the largest Protestant denomination in America. The Southern Baptist Convention was formed in 1848 and supports over 10,000 missionaries around the world. This fellowship is funded by a unique and very effective mission system called the Cooperative Program, in which every member church voluntarily gives to support the missions program. The organization maintains six seminaries, two mission boards and a variety of related organizations that help it serve its member churches effectively. www.sbc.net

WHY PARTNER WITH THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION?

- It is the largest association of Christian churches in America. One out of every ten churches in America is associated with the Southern Baptist Convention with over 15.9 million members.
- It is the most diverse association of churches. The SBC includes every race, nationality and ethnic group. Each Sunday, services are held in over 80 languages in the United States.
- It is one of the fastest growing groups. The Southern Baptist Convention baptizes over 1,000 new Christians a day in the United States and on the average, begins five new churches each day.
- The stated goal of the Convention is to give everyone in the world a chance to hear the gospel. The members of New Life Community Church are excited to be a part of a group with that kind of vision.

WHY NOT JUST AN INDEPENDENT CHURCH?

We are an independent church! Every Southern Baptist Church is independent. There is no denominational control or hierarchy as there are in many denominations. Each church is self-governed and determines its own affairs. For example, every Southern Baptist church:

- Chooses its pastor.
- Owns its buildings and property.
- Determines how it will financially support its own mission and ministries.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF AFFILIATING WITH THE SBC?

- It allows for us to identify with other Christians around the world who are known for their commitment to Biblical teachings. We have no man-made creed. The Bible is our sole authority.
- It allows our church to participate in the largest missionary organization in the world. Through the SBC Cooperative Program, we will help support over 10,000 missionaries in North America and around the world.