

# **New Beginning Family Worship Center**

## **By-Laws - 2016**

### **Identity**

New Beginning Family Worship Center is an independent, full gospel, and charismatic church organized under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, accountable to the Holy Scriptures, and governed by a Board of Elders.

### **Vision Statement**

“To be an AUTHENTIC and ACTIVE church that IMPACTS the world for Christ.”

### **Mission Statement**

Evangelize the world, edify the church and equip the saints for the work of the ministry in the name of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **Priorities**

- Worship — Exalting God’s Presence
- Ministry — Expressing God’s love
- Fellowship — Embracing God’s family
- Discipleship — Edifying God’s people
- Evangelism — Evangelizing God’s world

### **Values**

- love, holiness, humility, integrity, excellence, teamwork

### **Statement of Faith**

New Beginning Family worship Center is an independent, full gospel, and charismatic church. Our Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the Statement of Faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible and, therefore, is binding upon all members. All literature, whether print or electronic, used in the church shall be in complete agreement with the Statement of Faith. In all conflicts regarding interpretation of the Statement of Faith, the Elder Board, on behalf of the church, has the final authority.

#### **1. The Scriptures**

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation. *Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalms 19:7-10; 119:11,89,105,140; Isaiah 34:16; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 36:1-32; Matthew 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16ff.; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21.*

## 2. God

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

### A. God the Father

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men. *Genesis 1:1; 2:7; Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11ff.; 20:1ff.; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3,15; 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; 17:13; Matthew 6:9ff.; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:6; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7.*

### B. God the Son

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord. *Genesis 18:1ff.; Psalms 2:7ff.; 110:1ff.; Isaiah 7:14; 53; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16,27; 17:5; 27; 28:1-6,19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18,29; 10:30,38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16,28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20,28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20; Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,34; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8,24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; 8:9; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15,24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Revelation 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16.*

### C. God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, convinces of righteousness, and warns of judgment. He calls men to the Savior, and effects regeneration. At the moment of regeneration He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ, and from that moment indwells every believer. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

### 3. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is manifested through a variety of Spiritual Gifts to build and sanctify the church, demonstrate the validity of the resurrection, and confirm the power of the Gospel. The gifts of the Spirit outlined in scripture are all in effect in the current Kingdom (i.e. tongues, healing, miracles, etc.). The lists of these gifts are not necessarily exhaustive, and the gifts may occur in various combinations at various times. All believers are commanded to earnestly desire the manifestation of the gifts in their lives. These gifts always operate in harmony with the Scriptures and should never be used in violation of Biblical parameters. *Hebrews 2:4; Romans 1:11, 12:4-8; Ephesians 4:16; 1 Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:6-7; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31, 14:1-40; 1 Peter 4:10.*

### 4. Healing

Healing of the sick is illustrated in the life and ministry of Jesus, and included in The commission of Jesus to His disciple's. It is given as a sign, which is to follow believers. It is also a part of Jesus work on the cross and one of the gifts of the Spirit. (*Psalm 103:2-3; Isaiah 53:5; Matthew 8:16-17; Mark 16:17-18; Acts 8:6-7; James 5:14-16; 1 Corinthians 12:9, 28; Romans 11:29). Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalms 51:11; 139:7ff.; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10,12; Luke 1:35; 4:1,18-19; 11:13; 12:12; 24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4,38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17,39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Romans 8:9-11,14-16,26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11,13; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Timothy 3:16; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8,14; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Revelation 1:10; 22:17.*

### 5. Man

Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence whereby his posterity inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. Therefore, as soon as they are capable of moral action, they become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love. *Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18,29; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19,21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11.*

### 6. Salvation

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from repentance of sin and personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

- a. Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become children of God and new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace.
- b. Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Savior.
- c. Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal of sin and impartation of His righteousness upon all sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Justification redeems and reconciles the believer unto a son ship relationship of peace and favor with God.

- d. Sanctification is the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life.
- e. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed. *Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matthew 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22-28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14,29; 3:3-21,36; 5:24; 10:9,28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3ff.; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18,29-39; 10:9-10,13; 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18,30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1ff.; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8,14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6-2:11; Revelation 3:20; 21:1-22:5.*

## 7. God's Purpose of Grace

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

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. *Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-8; 1 Samuel 8:4-7,19-22; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31ff.; Matthew 16:18-19; 21:28-45; 24:22,31; 25:34; Luke 1:68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-48; John 1:12-14; 3:16; 5:24; 6:44-45,65; 10:27-29; 15:16; 17:6,12,17-18; Acts 20:32; Romans 5:9-10; 8:28-39; 10:12-15; 11:5-7,26-36; 1 Corinthians 1:1-2; 15:24-28; Ephesians 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11; Colossians 1:12-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:12; 2:10,19; Hebrews 11:39-12:2; James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:2-5,13; 2:4-10; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:19; 3:2.*

## 8. The Church

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Its scriptural officers are elders and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, these offices are limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation. *Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42,47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23,27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11,21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Hebrews 11:39-40; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3.*

## **9. Baptism and the Lord's Supper**

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

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the body of Christ, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming. *Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12.*

## **10. The Lord's Day**

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should include exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. Activities on the Lord's Day should be commensurate with the Christian's conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. *Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 12:1-12; 28:1ff.; Mark 2:27-28; 16:1-7; Luke 24:1-3,33-36; John 4:21-24; 20:1,19-28; Acts 20:7; Romans 14:5-10; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Colossians 2:16; 3:16; Revelation 1:10.*

## **11. The Kingdom**

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike faith to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age. *Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Matthew 3:2; 4:8-10,23; 12:25-28; 13:1-52; 25:31-46; 26:29; Mark 1:14-15; 9:1; Luke 4:43; 8:1; 9:2; 12:31-32; 17:20-21; 23:42; John 3:3; 18:36; Acts 1:6-7; 17:22-31; Romans 5:17; 8:19; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 11:10,16; 12:28; 1 Peter 2:4-10; 4:13; Revelation 1:6,9; 5:10; 11:15; 21-22.*

## **12. Last Things**

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. We believe in the pre-tribulation rapture of the church; 7 year Tribulation; the pre-millennial return of Jesus Christ personally, visibly, and gloriously to the earth to rule over the nations; the resurrection of the unbelieving dead; and the Great White Throne of Judgment. We believe in the everlasting blessedness of the righteous in heaven, and the everlasting punishment of the unrighteous in hell. *Isaiah 2:4; 11:9; Matthew 16:27; 18:8-9; 19:28; 24:27,30,36,44; 25:31-46; 26:64; Mark 8:38; 9:43-48; Luke 12:40,48; 16:19-26; 17:22-37; 21:27-28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 17:31; Romans 14:10; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 15:24-28,35-58; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 1:5; 3:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 5:1ff.; 2 Thessalonians 1:7ff.; 2; 1 Timothy 6:14; 2 Timothy 4:1,8; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:27-28; James 5:8; 2 Peter 3:7ff.; 1 John 2:28; 3:2; Jude 14; Revelation 1:18; 3:11; 20:1-22:13.*

## **13. Evangelism and Missions**

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

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

#### **14. Education**

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

In Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility. Freedom in any orderly relationship of human life is always limited and never absolute. The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists. *Deuteronomy 4:1,5,9,14; 6:1-10; 31:12-13; Nehemiah 8:1-8; Job 28:28; Psalms 19:7ff.; 119:11; Proverbs 3:13ff.; 4:1-10; 8:1-7,11; 15:14; Ecclesiastes 7:19; Matthew 5:2; 7:24ff.; 28:19-20; Luke 2:40; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 2:3,8-9; 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:14-17; Hebrews 5:12-6:3; James 1:5; 3:17.*

#### **15. Stewardship**

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debt to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth. *Genesis 14:20; Leviticus 27:30-32; Deuteronomy 8:18; Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 6:1-4,19-21; 19:21; 23:23; 25:14-29; Luke 12:16-21,42; 16:1-13; Acts 2:44-47; 5:1-11; 17:24-25; 20:35; Romans 6:6-22; 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 12:15; Philippians 4:10-19; 1 Peter 1:18-19.*

#### **16. Cooperation**

Members of New Testament churches should cooperate with one another in carrying forward the missionary, educational, and benevolent ministries for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. Christian unity in the New Testament sense is spiritual harmony and voluntary cooperation for common ends by various groups of Christ's people. Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament. *Exodus 17:12; 18:17ff.; Judges 7:21; Ezra 1:3-4; 2:68-69; 5:14-15; Nehemiah 4; 8:1-5; Matthew 10:5-15; 20:1-16; 22:1-10; 28:19-20; Mark 2:3; Luke 10:1ff.; Acts 1:13-14; 2:1ff.; 4:31-37; 13:2-3; 15:1-35; 1 Corinthians 1:10-17; 3:5-15; 12; 2 Corinthians 8-9; Galatians 1:6-10; Ephesians 4:1-16; Philippians 1:15-18.*

#### **17. The Christian and the Social Order**

All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Every Christian

should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth. *Exodus 20:3-17; Leviticus 6:2-5; Deuteronomy 10:12; 27:17; Psalm 101:5; Micah 6:8; Zechariah 8:16; Matthew 5:13-16,43-48; 22:36-40; 25:35; Mark 1:29-34; 2:3ff.; 10:21; Luke 4:18-21; 10:27-37; 20:25; John 15:12; 17:15; Romans 12-14; 1 Corinthians 5:9-10; 6:1-7; 7:20-24; 10:23-11:1; Galatians 3:26-28; Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; Philemon; James 1:27; 2:8.*

## **18. Peace and War**

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

The true remedy for the war spirit is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations, and the practical application of His law of love. Christian people throughout the world should pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace. *Isaiah 2:4; Matthew 5:9,38-48; 6:33; 26:52; Luke 22:36,38; Romans 12:18-19; 13:1-7; 14:19; Hebrews 12:14; James 4:1-2.*

## **19. Religious Liberty**

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

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

## **20. The Family**

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

- a. Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race. As such God has commanded that any intimate sexual activity outside of a covenant marriage is forbidden. Any other sexual activity, identity or expression that lies outside of this definition, including those that are becoming more accepted in culture and the courts, are sinful perversions of and contradictory to God's natural design and purpose for sexual activity. \* Any marriage ceremony performed in any facility owned, leased, or rented by The Church will be only those ceremonies sanctioned by God, joining one man and one woman as their gender was determined by birth. In any conflict between The Church's stance and any new legal standard for marriage, the Church's statement of faith, doctrine and scriptural authority will govern.

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

of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation. Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

- b. Protection of Children: children are a heritage from the Lord and should be protected at all times. The Church has a “zero” tolerance for any person, staff member, volunteer, or visitor who abuses or molests a child.
- c. Divorce & Remarriage: We believe that God disapproves of and forbids divorce except under the biblical grounds of adultery, abuse and abandonment. Although divorce is particularly detrimental to the family structure and creative design, God extends mercy, grace and forgiveness to the repentant.
- d. Abortion: life begins at conception and abortion is the unjustified and unexcused taking of a human life
- e. Euthanasia: the act or the omission which, of itself or by intention, facilitates premature death is assuming a decision to be reserved by God. We do not believe that the discontinuing of medical procedures that are extraordinary or disproportionate to the expected outcome is euthanasia.

## **21. Lawsuits within the Church**

We believe that Christians should not bring civil lawsuits from within the church. We do believe that Christians may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian’s insurance company, as long as the claim is without malice or slander. (*Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8,14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7; Ps 127:3-5; Matt 18:6; Matt 19:14; Mark 10:141 John 1:9, 1 Timothy 5:8; Mark 10:4-7; \*(Job 3:16; Psalm 51:5; 139:13-16, Isaiah 44:24; 49:1; Jeremiah 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:36,44; Ex 20:13; 23:7; Matt 5:21; Acts 17:28; 1 Corinthians 6:1-8; Ephesians 4:31-32)*

## **Affiliation**

New Beginning Family Worship Center is an autonomous church and maintains the right to govern its own affairs independent of any denominational or governmental control.

## **Government**

### **1) Elders**

New Beginning practices an Elder form of government. Although there are other important positions of leadership for instruction and ministry, it is the Elder Board that has responsibility to provide visionary direction and spiritual covering for the ministries of the church.

#### **A. Qualifications**

The Scriptures use the term “elder”, “bishop”, overseer” and “pastor” synonymously \*(*Titus 1:5-9) (1 Timothy 3:1-7) (Ephesians 4:11) (1 Peter 5:1-4).*

\*\* NOTE: There is no man, outside of Christ, who meets ALL of these qualifications ALL of the time. Men who seek the office of Elder or Deacon should be striving toward these with the help of the Holy Spirit.



## B. Terms

Elder appointments are for life unless:

- 1) They resign
- 2) They are disqualified from service for failing to maintain the biblical standards of the office.
- 3) They leave the church

## C. The Elders Role is significant and requires a major commitment.

- serve and shepherd The Church under Christ authority
- provide spiritual leadership by setting the vision, mission and strategy of The Church.
- equip the body for the work of the ministry
- maintain sound biblical doctrine and adherence to The Church's Statement of Faith
- visit the sick
- conduct general business on behalf of The Church
- conduct Church discipline in accordance with the scriptures
- appoint Deacons
- create and/or dissolve ministry teams in order to fulfill the vision and carry out the mission of The Church
- Team with Deacons to oversee specific areas of ministry within The Church
  - a. \*(Ex) Prayer/Altar Team, Welcoming/Ushering Team, Facilities Team, Small Groups Team, Missions Team
- pray daily for the church
- lead by example
- Physically attend many of the church functions \*(especially Sunday & Wednesday services)
  - maintain the discipline of personal bible study & prayer
- New Beginning maintains the biblical position that only men should serve as Elders and oversee the church just as men are charged by God to serve as head of the home

- New Beginning believes the Senior Pastor should be the leader of the Eldership and should set the agenda for each meeting
- New Beginning has Staff (paid) and Non-Staff (unpaid) Elders and should try to maintain a balance of both
- Non-Staff Elders shall be charged with the responsibility to approve the annual budget and to administrate compensation packages for the staff
- Elder Board decisions are approached with extensive prayer and discussion. Debate is not uncommon and differing opinions are welcomed. Yet every effort is made by each elder to operate with unity and keeping the good of the church and the glory of God as their highest aim.
- Existing Elders have the authority to appoint new Elders as deemed necessary. New appointees will be recognized before the congregation.
- Meetings - New Beginning believes that church policies and philosophies for ministry are best decided when the entire elder team meets together and discusses, debates and prays. Elder meetings are regularly held and include discussion about policy decisions that affect the congregation as a whole. While the Senior Pastor is the leader of the Elders and is given special respectful consideration, all the Elders have equality in relating to input and decision making. Until there is unanimity on an issue, no decision is finalized or acted upon.

## **2. Deacons**

The Scriptures define Deacons as those responsible for logistics and hands on service within the church. Their initial primary responsibility in (Acts 6) was that of “waiting tables” and distribution of food and services to the widows. The scriptural qualifications of Deacon are found in (Acts 6) and (1 Timothy 3:8-12). Men meeting the qualifications of Deacon outlined in scripture shall be appointed by the Elder Board and confirmed by the congregation to serve in an unlimited capacity.

- A.** All Deacons comprise the Deacon Board. The Deacon Board shall appoint a Chairman and Secretary and should convene regularly to address issues and needs of the church.
- B.** The Deacons role is significant and requires a major commitment.
  - serve The Church under Christ authority
  - care for the physical and spiritual needs of The Church
  - help ensure the functional needs of Church
  - help encourage other members of The Church to serve in their particular areas of giftedness and influence
  - serve and assist the Elders in the ways that are most suitable to carry out the mission of The Church
  - provide for the security and safety of church members and visitors during regularly scheduled church services
  - promote UNITY within the body by:
  - squelching dissension, gossip, backbiting, murmuring and complaining wherever they find it within the body
  - setting an example of Christ like character

### **3. Trustee**

The Elder Board will hold trust in all church property. They shall have the power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease or transfer any/all properties behalf of The Church. It shall be the responsibility of the Pastor, Associate Pastor and Treasurer to affix three (3) signatures to all legal documents where the signatures of Trustees are required.

### **4. Budgets and Fiscal Policy**

As stewards of God's resources The Church should be prudent and prayerful in its financial affairs. It is advisable that yearly budget proposals should not exceed 85-90% of the previous year's total income. The Church's budget should be wisely distributed between missions (10-15%), operations (30-35%), salaries (40-45%) and long term savings/goals (10-15%). \*\*These percentages are recommended for a healthy budget and are not intended for a hardline rule.

### **5. Membership**

Membership requirements of The Church are as follows:

- Personal salvation testimony and public confession of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
- Public water baptism (if never previously baptized)
- Personal attendance to New Member's Orientation including personal signature of New Member's Covenant Agreement and The Church's Bylaws.
- Responsibilities: outlined in Membership Covenant Agreement

### **6. Benevolence**

The Church is committed to the welfare of its members. Resources not committed to the general business affairs of The Church, and falling within the limits of budgeted monies, shall be made available to members needing such assistance. The Church will not be committed nor liable for assisting anyone who by self-destructive sinful lifestyles contribute to their own financial demise (i.e. gambling, addictions, laziness, or continual financial mismanagement, etc.) It is not the general policy of The Church to monetarily assist anyone outside of the membership. A Benevolence Committee comprised of 3 Deacons shall receive, review and respond to all requests. Benevolence requests will be limited to a predetermined amount per occasion. Any benevolence request surpassing the set amount must be reviewed by the Elder Board.

### **7. Discipline**

The goal of church discipline is restorative and not punitive. It is given to the church to protect the body of Christ from the leaven of unrepentant sin, which leavens the entire lump. \*(1 Corinthians 5:7)

New Beginning believes that a primary responsibility of the Eldership is to model and maintain a standard of behavior for the local church. We believe God has given Elders responsibility to provide spiritual oversight to the members of the church. His command in (1 Peter 5:1) to "shepherd the flock of God" is something we take seriously. Although we do not believe God has granted Elders absolute authority in any individual's life, we believe there are 3 basic areas where they are specifically called to be vigilant in the church:

- Open and blatant sin without repentance. \*(1 Corinthians 5:1-5,9-13)
- Doctrinal error \*(Matthew 7:15), (2 Peter 2:1-3), (1 Timothy 4:1-3), (2 Tim 4:1-5)
- Divisive and contentious behavior \*(Titus 3:9-11)

**Steps of confrontation:** *\*(Matthew 18:15-17)*

- 1) Personal (2 Elders)
- 2) Committee (Elder Board)
- 3) Group (Congregational)
- 4) Removal from fellowship

**Members:** The settling of all differences and offenses among members should be approached in the spirit of humility, love, unity, with the goal of repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation. (*Matthew 5:23-25, 18:15-17, 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 11, 14-15, 1 Timothy 1:20, 1 Corinthians 5:4-6, Galatians 6:1, James 5:19-20*)

**Full Time & Part Time Staff:**

For any conduct on and off duty that is illegal, immoral or unethical and/or is not in accordance with the Membership Covenant and/or otherwise hinders the work and mission of The Church, and/or brings reproach to Christ's name and The Church.

Progression of Discipline-may stop at any point a suitable solution is reached.

- 1) Consultation with Pastor(s)
- 2) Consultation with Church Elders
- 3) Resignation
- 4) Dismissal and released from employment
- 5) mediation/arbitration for any challenged dismissal

**Elders:**

For any conduct on and off duty that is illegal, unethical or immoral and/or is not in accordance with the Membership Covenant and/or otherwise hinders the work and ministry of The Church and/or brings reproach to the name of Christ and The Church.

Progression of Discipline-may stop at any point a suitable solution is reached.

- 1) Personally confront said Elder
- 2) Bring a witness and present the issue to the Elder Board
- 3) *\*(Titus 3:10-11; Matt 18:15-20; 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 11, 14-15; 1 Timothy 1:20; 1 Corinthians 5:4-6; James 5:19-20)*
- 4) Church Elders disciplinary meetings will require full attendance
- 5) A unanimous vote of the Church Elders can remove an Elder
- 6) If more than 1 Elder is involved then the issue is immediately forwarded to the DEACON BOARD for discipline
  - An emergency Deacon Board meeting with ALL deacons in attendance shall address the discipline of said elders
  - A UNANIMOUS vote of all deacons is required to carry out such discipline

Dismissed Elders shall be replaced in accordance with the selection process

## **Deacons**

For any conduct that is illegal, unethical, or immoral and/or not in accordance with the Membership Covenant and/or otherwise hinders the work and ministry of The Church and/or brings reproach to the name of Christ and The Church.

Progression of Discipline-may stop at any point a suitable solution is reached.

- 1) Personally confront said Deacon
- 2) Bring a witness and present complaint to Elder Board
- 3) Elder Board disciplinary meeting will require ALL Elders in attendance
- 4) A unanimous vote of the Elder Board is required to discipline/remove a Deacon

## **Replacing the Senior Pastor**

- **Extenuating Circumstances**  
When extenuating circumstances such as mental, emotional, or physical problems arise that prohibit the Pastor from fulfilling his personal responsibilities to The Church, the Elder Board shall be responsible for finding a suitable replacement. They may, but are not required, to utilize the Associate Pastor for this role.
- **Permanent Replacement:**  
The permanent replacement of the Pastor will be the responsibility of the Elder Board with congregational affirmation. Suitable candidates shall meet for at least two interviews with the Elder Board. One should be alone and address the spiritual suitability of the candidate. This would include personal salvation testimony, call to ministry, sound doctrine, review of The Church's mission and statement of faith. The second interview should include the pastor's wife. Questions should solicit her personal salvation testimony, call to support her husband's ministry, and suitability of their family household. Candidates satisfactorily completing the interview process should then be required to preach no less than two messages before the congregation before being selected. Official selection shall require:
  - 1) Unanimous vote of the Elder Board
  - 2) Pastor and his wife to sign a Membership Covenant Agreement
  - 3) Majority Vote (75%) of congregation in a meeting with two (2) weeks prior notice

## **Congregational Voting Rights**

The Elder Board reserves the authority to make full and final decisions on all issues within or on behalf of The Church, with the following *EXCEPTIONS* which will require a sufficient congregational notice and subsequent vote.

- 1) Acquisition or sale of real estate
- 2) Assuming or taking on debt
- 3) Hiring of Senior Pastor
- 4) Amending bylaws