**Bylaws**

**TRUE LIFE CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

**January 2003**

**ARTICLE I NAME AND PURPOSE**

**Section 1**

This congregation shall be known as the True Life Christian Church.

**Section 2**

This autonomous body of believers will strive to honor Christ in congregational and personal life in order to promote the kingdom of Christ by “making disciples” of all peoples. We shall work for the unity of all Christians by restoring New Testament Christianity.

**Section 3**

The sacred constitution of the Church is the New Testament of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The New Testament is the authoritative norm for this sacred institution and shall be the final authority in all matters. These bylaws are but an aid in “doing all things decently and in order.”

**Section 4**

The purpose of this Christian organization shall be to conduct a Church which is known among religious bodies as the new denominational church of Christ (Christian), whose members are known as Christians only and which church shall be strictly congregational in form of government controlled by the current Elders; having no creed or articles of faith other than those contained in the New Testament in which Church the practices of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper shall be observed, the former by immersion only, the latter each Lord’s day. This Church shall be legally and ecclesiastically independent of, and beyond control of any and all, real, actual, or advisory, religious denominations. This section cannot be amended or removed.

**Section 5**

We believe that the Bible teaches that God established marriage as only between a man and a woman (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-5) and that all sexual conduct outside the bonds of marriage is sin (1 Corinthians 6:9-10) with fornication, adultery, incest, homosexuality and bestiality all being described by God as detestable (Leviticus 18:6-30). We further believe that the physical condition in which a person is born, including their gender, is established by God (Exodus 4:11); (John 9:3), therefore any change of God’s original gender design for each person is detestable before God (Deuteronomy 22:5). We further believe that declaring God’s word and warning people of the temporal and eternal consequences of their sins, including sexual perversions, is an act of loving concern. God’s word remains true and His prohibitions, including those on sexual perversions and immoralities, cannot be satisfied or amended by any human government authority. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of the church.

(Gen. 2:24); (Lev. 18:1-30); (Rom. 1:26-32); (1 Cor. 5:1-2, 6:9); (1 Thess. 4:1-8); (Heb. 13:4);

(1 Cor. 7:10); (Eph. 5:22-23); (Mark 10:6-9)

**ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP**

The invitation to membership in the True Life Christian Church shall be extended to all, whosoever will believe with honesty and sincerity that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, the Son of the living God, and so confess this faith before men and subsequently be immersed in water into the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for the remission of sins; and/or by reaffirmation of faith and transfer of membership from another church where said candidate for membership has been previously immersed in water, “into the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.” A membership will be granted upon completion of the stated above items and upon the completion of True Life Christian Church’s course(s) for membership and a covenant is signed.

All members must be a regular attendee and follow the New Testament of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ requirements of a Christian. A membership may be revoked due to non-support of True Life Christian Church in any respect, and/or non-conformance to the precepts as set forth in the New Testament. The current Elders will review and oversee any revoke of memberships.

**ARTICLE III LEADERSHIP**

**Section 1 The Elders**

1. The Elders shall be male members of the congregation who are selected by the existing Elders on the basis of the Scriptural qualifications of 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. The congregation may submit recommendations to the Elders concerning the calling of an Elder for a period of 30 days prior to the current of Elders selection. A majority of the current Elders is needed to affirm the calling of a new Elder. All nominees will be presented to the congregation prior to his installation into the office. If within (2) weeks no member of the congregation has a biblical objection presented to the Elders to a nominee relative to Scriptural qualifications of 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9, the nominee will be appointed an elder. If there is objection(s): **1)** it must be presented to the Elders in writing **2)** the nominee will be presented with the objection(s) by the Elders **3)** should it be necessary, the objecting member will be asked to appear in person. The Elders will determine the legitimacy of the objection(s) and whether the nominee’s name should be withdrawn from consideration.
2. The term of service for an Elder shall be 3 (three) years, subsequent year(s) can be requested only with unanimous approval of the current sitting Elders. The term will commence at of the time of approval. He is to be ordained before his term begins. He must take a one year “sabbatical” following each term of service before being considered to serve again by the elders. Upon return from his “sabbatical”, a review for reappointment by the current elders will take place to determine reinstatement for service.
3. The Senior Pastor/Minister is an Elder throughout the length of his service as Senior Pastor/Minister. In addition, one other Pastor/Minister shall be eligible to be an Elder throughout the length of his service as a Pastor/Minister. The Senior Pastor/Minister and any other Pastor/Minister is exempt from the one year sabbatical as stated in Article III, Section 1, Paragraph C.
4. The Elders shall generally meet monthly with additional meetings called as needed.
5. The oversight of the True Life Christian Church shall be vested in the plurality of the current Elders as provided in the Word of God. The Elders shall act in accordance with the scriptures and the existing bylaws.
6. If a vacancy occurs, the current Elders may appoint a successor to fill the remainder of the vacant term. This can include an elder on sabbatical that can be called back to finish the remaining amount of their term.
7. An Elder may be removed from the body of Elders by a 2/3 majority vote only of the existing current Elders according to Roberts Rules
8. The Chairman of the Elders shall be elected by the majority vote only of the current Elders and shall serve for a term of 1 (one) year.
9. A Chairman of the Elders can be removed from the Chairman position by a 2/3 majority vote only of the existing current Elders.
10. Any individual whose vote would be subject to an issue of “conflict of interest” must abstain from casting his vote.

**Section 2 The Deacons**

1. Activating the position of “Deacon” in the True Life Christian Church will be determined by the current sitting Elders. The activation of this position, selection of person or persons to hold this position, and the purpose and duration the position to be held, will be determined by the current-sitting Elders.
2. Deacons shall be male members of the congregation who are selected by the Elders on the basis of the Scriptural qualifications of 1 Timothy 3:1-13. The congregation may submit recommendations to the Elders concerning the calling of a Deacon. All Deacons are to be confirmed by a majority vote only of the current Elders. In ministry to Christ, the Deacons shall work under the oversight of the Elders and in conformity with responsibilities consistent with the teaching of the New Testament.
3. The term of service for a Deacon shall be determined by the Elders in consideration of service required for said responsibilities, commencing on the appointed day following approval. He is to be ordained before his term begins. He may take a one year “sabbatical” following each term of service.
4. If a vacancy occurs, the current Elders may appoint a successor to fill the vacancy.
5. Newly approved Deacons will be expected to familiarize themselves with their assigned area(s) of responsibility. The areas of service needing Deacon supervision will be determined by the Elders as needed.
6. The Deacons will meet the Elders as needed for mutual exchange of ideas and mutual encouragement.
7. A Deacon can be removed from the position by a majority vote only of the existing current Elders.

**Section 3 Ministry Team Leaders**

1. All Ministry Team Leaders shall be members of the Christian Church and must believe without reservation in the full and final inspiration of the Bible as infallible. All Ministry Team Leaders are responsible for fulfilling the responsibilities of a member.
2. Ministry Team Leaders shall be members of the Church who are approved by the current Elders by a majority vote. All Ministry Team Leaders shall be a team oriented, compassionate, spiritually mature, financially mature person. Ministry Team Leaders shall be an example to others, should always look to develop his/her successor. In ministry to Christ, Ministry Team Leaders shall work under the oversight of the Elders and in conformity with responsibilities consistent with the teaching of the New Testament.
3. The term of service for a Ministry Team Leader shall be 3 (three) years commencing at the beginning of the fiscal year of the time of approval. He/she must then take a one year sabbatical from a leadership role. The Elders may approve a longer term limit under special circumstances; this may be approved by a majority vote. Paid staff is exempt from term limits.
4. If a ministry team leader resigns the current Elders may appoint a successor to fill the vacancy.
5. Newly approved Ministry Team Leaders will be expected to familiarize themselves with their assigned area(s) of responsibility.
6. The Ministry Team Leaders will meet with the Elders as needed for mutual exchange of ideas and mutual encouragement.
7. A Ministry Team Leader can be removed from the position by a majority vote only of the existing current Elders.

**Section 4 Pastors/Ministers**

1. All Pastors/Ministers shall be members of the Christian Church and must believe without reservation in the full and final inspiration of the Bible as the infallible and inerrant Word of God and, therefore, the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice. They must also believe unreservedly in the Deity and Supreme Authority of Jesus Christ.
2. The calling of the Senior Pastor/Minister shall occur only through the recommendation of the current Elders. Following careful screening, the current Elders shall present a candidate to the congregation. A majority affirmation of the board of current Elders is required. All candidates will be presented to the congregation prior to his installment into the office. If within 2 (two) weeks no member of the congregation has a biblical objection presented to the Elders of a candidate relative to Scriptural qualifications, the candidate will be affirmed as the Senior Pastor/Minister. If there is an objection: **1)** it must be presented to the current Elders in writing **2)** the candidate will be presented with the objection(s) by the current Elders **3)** should it be necessary, the objecting member will be asked to appear in person. The current Elders will determine the legitimacy of the objection(s) accordance to the Word of God and whether the candidate’s name should be withdrawn from consideration. All Senior Pastors/Ministers are to be confirmed by a 2/3 majority vote only of the current Elders.
3. All other Pastors/Ministers shall be called by a majority affirmation of the board of current Elders.
4. A Pastor/Minister may be dismissed by a 2/3 majority vote only of the current Elders. The Pastor/Minister shall be entitled to 60 (sixty) day notice of the termination of his contract with full current pay and benefits during that period. The Elders reserve the right to cancel a Pastor’s/Minister’s contract immediately with 60 (sixty) days severance pay.
5. A Pastor/Minister shall give a 60 (sixty) day notice for his resignation to the current Elders unless both parties agree upon a lesser time period.

**Section 5 Trustees**

1. A body of 3 (three) Trustees shall be maintained as a minimum and shall consist of scriptural qualified Elders only. A Trustee must be a current Elder. If a Trustee vacancy occurs, the Elders may appoint a Trustee for the vacant term for the remainder of the current term. Standard Elder term of service will apply.
2. A Trustee or Trustees, at the discretion of the Elders, shall exercise the corporate power of the Church. They shall exercise all legal documents and discharge such duties, as the appropriate laws of the State of Ohio shall enjoin them.
3. The Chairman of the Elders shall also be the Chairman of the Trustees unless there is a 2/3 majority vote for another Trustee to obtain the role.
4. A Trustee can be removed from the position by a 2/3 majority vote only of the existing current Elders.

**ARTICLE IV CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS**

1. An annual informational meeting shall be held each year with the time and date to be set by the Elders. Additional meetings may be called as needed by only the current Elders.
2. The current Elders can submit the proposed operating budget at the informational meeting for informational purposes only. The proposed operating budget will be affirmed by a majority vote only of the current Elders. Amendments to the budget, following the affirmation, may be made by a 2/3 majority vote only of the current Elders. In such a case, the congregation shall be made aware of the amendments.
3. The Chairman of the Elders (or a designate from the current Elders) shall preside at all informational meetings.

**ARTICLE V MISCELLANEOUS**

1. The church fiscal year shall be August 1st – July 31st.
2. The Chairman of the current Elders or his designee shall preside over all meetings and shall generally follow Roberts Rules of Order.
3. All auxiliary organizations shall be organized under the guidance of the Elders.
4. Conduct of any visitor, member, or attendee of any church activity, meeting, or gathering is to be in accordance with the New Testament of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Any visitor, member, or attendee of any TLC activity, meeting, or gathering which does not conduct themselves in this manner or disrupts any TLC activity, meeting, or gathering, will be asked to leave and/or escorted from the TLC activity, meeting, or gathering. Misconduct of any member may result in their membership being removed upon the discretion of only the current sitting Elders.

**ARTICLE VI AMENDMENTS**

These bylaws may be amended only at a current Elders meeting. A 2/3 majority vote only of the current Elders will be required for passage including valid absentee ballots. Article 1, Section 4 may not be removed and/or amended at all.

**ARTICLE VII DISSOLUTIONMENT**

In case of dissolution of this congregation, all the church property and assets of whatever nature or description shall be consigned to one or more non-denominational Christian church or related mission agencies of such churches as judged to be in harmony and consistent with the identity and purpose of the True Life Christian Church.