

# **River of Life**

## **Fellowship Church**

*Constitution  
and  
Membership Packet*

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**12/4/16**

## Statements

**MISSION/VISION:** To be a loving example, of the living God, for a watching world.

**WORSHIP:** Celebrate God's grace and active presence in our lives.

**DISCIPLESHIP:** Prepare people to live Christ-centered lives.

**EVANGELISM:** Lead people into salvation through a relationship with Christ.

**FELLOWSHIP:** To show God's loving care through interaction and cooperation.

**SOCIAL CONCERN:** Be actively involved in our community.

**GUIDING SCRIPTURAL REFERENCE: 1 Peter 3:15** *“but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to give a reason to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and respect.”*

## CONSTITUTION

### Article 1: Title

The name of this church shall be *River of Life Fellowship, inc.*

### Article 2: Purposes and powers:

1. To establish and maintain a place of Christian worship.
2. To establish and maintain such departments as it may deem useful. These may include:
  1. Schools for children.
  2. Schools for Ministerial Students.
3. To govern itself to the standards of the New Testament. Therefore, all authority relative to this church and its property shall be exercised by this church and the decisions thus made are subject to no reversal or amendment by any other ecclesiastical body whatsoever.
4. To have a membership that is to be determined by this Constitution, and to discipline its members accordingly.
5. To purchase or acquire by gift, bequest or otherwise - either directly or as trustee and to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of any real estate or chattels as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purposes - all in accordance with the Constitution or as the same may be hereafter modified or amended.
6. To borrow and to loan money and to give and receive evidence of indebtedness and security therefore; to draw, make, accept, endorse, execute and issue promissory notes,

warrants and debentures of the corporation or otherwise to make guarantees of every kind, and secure any or all obligations of the corporation by mortgage, trust, deed or otherwise

7. To license and ordain ministers.

### **Article 3: Tenets of Faith:**

1. We believe the Bible – in its entirety – to be the inspired word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and conduct.
2. We believe in one God, maker of all things and being in Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. We believe that the Son of God, Jesus Christ, became incarnate, was begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin and is true God and true man.
4. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, the eternal life of the saved, and the eternal punishment of the lost.
5. We believe in the personal salvation of believers through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.
6. We believe in water baptism by immersion for believers.
7. We believe that the work of the Holy Spirit as taught and experienced in the New Testament is available today to all believers. This work includes divine healing and the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
8. We believe in the Christians' hope – the imminent personal return of the lord Jesus Christ.
9. We believe in Biblical tithing as taught throughout scripture. (Lev 27:30, Mal 3:10)
10. We believe that sexual purity is the necessary expression for all of God's children, and that He requires that we abstain from adultery, fornication, incest, homosexuality and all other sexual relationships and practices that are forbidden by Scripture. (Hebrews 13:4, 1Corinthians 6:18, Leviticus 18:1-13)
11. We believe that marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime, and a sacred institution established by God. (Matt:10:4-6)

### **Article 4: Fellowship and Participation:**

1. The fellowship of this church shall be open to all people.
  1. Those who do not know our Lord Jesus Christ – that they may come to know Him.
  2. Those who do know Him – that they may be strengthened in their Christian lives.
2. Participation in the business affairs of this church shall be open only to those who have been born again and evidence a consistent Christian life. They shall also, without reservation, subscribe to the tenants of faith, as listed in this constitution, and have been in regular attendance.

3. Said participation shall be considered a privilege not a right.
4. Heretofore the total of those who have the privilege of participating in the business affairs of this church shall be referred to as the approved voting list.
  1. The removal from the approved voting list on the grounds of behavior or conduct shall be the prerogative of the Pastor and Elders of this church.
  2. The removal from the approved voting list on the grounds of attendance, missing 20 or more weeks consecutively, shall be the decision of the church council.

## **Article 5: Officers**

1. The offices of this church shall be: Pastor, Elders, and Deacons (which serve also as Trustees). The Pastor, Elders and Deacons together shall constitute the Church Council.
2. The office of Deacon and Trustee shall be held jointly by same person.
3. The Pastor and Elders shall have the general oversight of the church.
4. The Deacons shall have the responsibility for the care and maintenance of the church buildings and properties.
  1. The Pastor shall be chosen by the Elders, with approval by a majority vote of those on the approved voting list constituting final acceptance.
  2. Elders shall be appointed by the Pastor.
5. The Deacons shall be chosen at meeting of members on the approved voting list.

## **Article 6: Business Meetings**

1. There shall be an annual business meeting of those on the approved voting list held on the third Sunday following Thanksgiving. Due notice of this meeting will be given two Sundays prior to the meeting date. At said meeting all annual reports shall be given and officers elected or appointed.
2. Trustees or any ten qualified voting members upon written request may call a special business meeting at any time – due notice being given two Sundays prior to the date of the meeting.
3. The Church Council shall meet monthly for the transactions of routine business.
4. The Pastors and Elders shall meet whenever it is deemed necessary.
5. All meetings herein shall be chaired by the Pastor.

## **Article 7: Property**

1. All property – real or chattel – shall be taken, held, sold, transferred or conveyed in the name of the church.
2. No real property of the church shall be purchased, sold, leased, mortgaged or otherwise alienated unless it has been authorized by at least a majority of those on the approved voting list.

3. Upon dissolution of the corporation, the Church Council shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all of the liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all the assets of the corporation exclusively for the purposes of the corporation in such manner, or to such organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under section 501 (c)(3) of the internal revenue code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Church Council shall determine. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

### **Article 8: Amendments**

Amendments to this constitution may be made by a two-thirds vote at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose where those in attendance constitute a quorum. Due notice of that purpose shall have been given at all services at least two weeks prior to the date of that meeting.

Effective Date: 12/4/16



## **Membership Application**

Members of River of Life Fellowship receive many blessings and benefits as a result of their commitment to the church and the ministry of our Lord in the community church. When an individual makes this commitment the church, the church in turn makes a commitment to the individual. This application highlights some of these expectations related to membership.

### **What can a member expect from the church?**

Pastoral Care: Members receive priority attention in regard to counseling, visitation, weddings, funerals, and other such services.

Accountability: Members can expect to be held accountable with regard to their spiritual welfare, personal conduct, and relationship to other members of the church.

Teaching: Members can expect to receive practical bible teaching and preaching.

Support: Members can expect to receive spiritual, emotional and physical support from the church.

Ministry Opportunities: members can expect to have opportunities to discover and exercise their gifting and talents both in the church and in the community.

Access: Members can participate in the nomination and election of deacons. You will also have the opportunity to and responsibility of sharing your ideas, opinions, and concerns with the leadership.

### **What does the church expect from a member?**

Regular Attendance: Membership in a church is very much like being a part of a family. Regular attendance is essential to maintaining your understanding of the vision and direction of the church. As well as maintaining your own healthy growth as a Christian. Fellowship is essential to this growth. Although prolonged absence (20 weeks or more) is not a direct cause for loss of membership, prolonged absence may cause your membership status to be moved into the inactive category. This is temporary revocation of voting privileges.

Service: All church members should be willing to contribute their service to the corporate well being of the church. Service to each other is an essential part in the life of a believer. As well as service to the community as a representative of the Gospel.

Support: Simply put, the church is a self supporting entity. All that we do and all that we need is done through the contributions of our members a those who give to the work of the church. It should be known that the giving of an individual will never be monitored or tracked in any way other that to give an accurate tax deductible giving statement at the end of the year. We do believe that the scripture teaches giving and tithes as a principle to be upheld in the life of a believer. That being said it is also to be left up to the personal conviction of the individual.





## Membership application

Please remove this section and return it to the church office.

The application should be filled out for every individual seeking membership.

I have read the church constitution, and I understand the doctrine and practices of this church and will abide by them while I am a member.

How and when I became a Christian:

I was water baptized on:

I agree to endeavor to live in such a way as to bring glory to God and honor to our local church.

I understand membership to be a privilege and not a right and that my membership is conditional upon my continual commitment to the Lord Jesus and this local church.

I agree to cooperate with the pastor and elders of this church and submit to their direction and guidance as long as it is Biblical and consistent with the church's constitution and practice.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Elder: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_