

LIFE CHURCH KRV BYLAWS

(Updated 2-10-19)

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**LIFE CHURCH KRV
BYLAWS**

PREAMBLE

We declare and establish these bylaws to preserve and secure the principles of our faith, and to govern this Church in an orderly manner. These bylaws will preserve the liberties of each individual Church member and the freedom of action of this Church body.

**ARTICLE 1
NAME**

The name of this corporation is **Life Church KRV**. This corporation will be further referred to in these bylaws as "LIFE CHURCH."

**ARTICLE 2
PRINCIPAL OFFICE**

The principal office of LIFE CHURCH is 8505 Sugar Pine Ct, Lake Isabella, California. The Elder Board shall have full power and authority to change the principal office from one location to another. Any change to this location can be made without a vote by the Voting Body of LIFE CHURCH, and shall be recorded by the Secretary of the Corporation.

**ARTICLE 3
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND FAITH**

Section 1 - Purpose

LIFE CHURCH is a **RELIGIOUS CORPORATION** and is not organized for the private gain of any person. It is organized under the Nonprofit Religious Corporation Law exclusively for religious purposes.

The purpose of LIFE CHURCH is to glorify God by leading people to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ who are growing in their ability to love God and other people.

We accomplish this by:

- Connecting with Jesus Christ through corporate and private worship, preaching and teaching from the Bible, observing ordinances of Baptism, Communion, prayer, etc.
- Loving each other through fellowship and small groups, care and benevolence, mentoring, discipleship, etc.
- Impacting the world through our efforts in community outreach, local service, global mission, church planting, etc.

The corporation was initially formed for the specific purpose of planting and operating a Christian Church committed to advancing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in any and every biblically appropriate manner. We are committed to working under the Lordship of Christ and the authority of the Bible as God's inspired word to mankind. Our activities are all designed to work toward that end, including but not limited to: establishing places of worship, works of evangelism and discipleship, classes for Christian education, ministries to the needy, programs for the hurting, and other related endeavors as this corporation may deem appropriate, necessary, suitable, or convenient for the accomplishment of these purposes, or which are incidental thereto or connected therewith and which are consistent with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. This corporation is organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

As a non-profit religious organization LIFE CHURCH follows the IRS guidelines prohibiting its participation and intervention in any political campaign on behalf of a candidate for public office. LIFE CHURCH will, though, reserve its right from time to time to engage in political advocacy for or against issues and legislation that are in the public arena.

Section 2 - Mission and Values

Mission

To live like Jesus, together, in our everyday lives.

Values

- Accepting Everyone
- Family Style
- Community Servants
- God Led
- Empowering Spiritual Gifts
- Centered on Love
- Organic

Section 3 - Statement of Faith

At the center of Christian faith and practice stands the belief that God has spoken to the world through the person and work of Jesus Christ, which is accurately and authoritatively revealed in the Christian Bible (“the Bible,” “Scripture,” or “the Scriptures”). The Bible is the inspired, inerrant, and sufficient Word of God and is thus the ultimate authority for life, faith, and morals. Though the various theological statements of Life Church reflect succinct summaries of biblical boundaries, it is the Bible itself to which we are in ultimate submission.

The following Statement of Basic Belief and Faith represents the core orthodox beliefs of Life Church from a biblical and historical perspective. However, it does not exhaust the extent of our Faith. Members of the Voting Body have the responsibility and opportunity to engage the Elder Board and Church staff on areas of theological disagreement. However, participation in the Voting Body carries with it the implicit understanding that the Elder Board shall function as the interpretive authority on biblical application for the purpose of Church doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline.

We believe...

- The Scriptures are true, authoritative, and sufficient.
 - Psalm 12:6-7, 19:7-11, 138:2; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21
- There is only one true God.
 - Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 46:9-10; John 17:3, 1 Corinthians 8:4:-6; 1 Timothy 2:5
- The one true God eternally exists in three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are one God, co-equal and co-eternal, having precisely the same nature and attributes, and worthy of precisely the same worship, confidence, and obedience.
 - Genesis 1:26; Psalm 45:6-7; Psalm 110:1; Matthew 3:13-17, 28:17-20; John 1:14; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; 2 Corinthians 13:14
- Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, was born of a virgin, and is both fully God and fully human.
 - Matthew 1:20; Luke 2:52; John 1:1-4, 14; Colossians 1:15-20; Hebrews 1:1-3
- I am, along with all humanity (Christ excluded), by birth and action a sinner who is in need of a Savior.
 - Psalm 51:5; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:23, 5:8, 7:18; Ephesians 2:1-3
- The deserved penalty for sin is death, both physical and spiritual.
 - Genesis 2:15-17; Genesis 3:19, Romans 5:12, 6:23; James 1:14-15
- Jesus Christ died as my substitute to pay the penalty for my sin.
 - John 1:29; 10:1-18, Romans 5:8, 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 1:4; 1 Peter 3:18
- Jesus Christ physically rose from the dead.

- Matthew 28:1-20; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-53; John 20:1-29; 1 Corinthians 15:12-34
- Jesus Christ physically ascended into heaven, and will one day physically return.
 - John 14:3; Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Hebrews 9:28; 1 John 3:2; Revelation 1:7
- There will be a physical resurrection of the dead. Those who trust in Jesus Christ alone will be raised to eternal reward. Those who have not trusted in Jesus Christ will be raised to eternal punishment.
 - Matthew 25:31-46; John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15
- Only by faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ alone can I be reconciled to God and presented to God as holy, blameless, and above reproach in His sight. This is how I can experience true life, freedom, and joy.
 - John 3:16-18, 14:6, 20:31; Acts 4:12; Romans 3:21-28; Colossians 1:22; 1 Timothy 2: 5-6
- God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. Marriage sanctioned by God joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated by scripture.
 - Genesis 1:26-27, 2:18, 2:23-24; Matthew 19:4-6; Ephesians 5:21-33; Colossians 3:18-19; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7
- Every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual or group of people are to be repudiated, and are not in line with scripture or the doctrines of Life church.
 - Proverbs 24:17; Matthew 7:12; Luke 6:31; John 15:12; Colossians 3:12-14; Ephesians 4:29-32

**ARTICLE 4
DENOMINATIONAL AFFILIATION**

LIFE CHURCH is self-governing, independent, and autonomous, and therefore maintains the right to direct its own affairs, independent of any denominational control. However, recognizing the benefits of cooperation with other churches in carrying out its purpose, LIFE CHURCH voluntarily affiliates with the Southern Baptist Convention in its local, state, and national expressions. LIFE CHURCH may also cooperate with other like-minded churches and organizations from time to time as deemed appropriate in order to accomplish its purpose.

**ARTICLE 5
VOTING BODY**

Section 1 - Qualifications

The Voting Body of LIFE CHURCH shall consist of all persons who have made a profession of their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, have been baptized, and have been involved with Life Church consistently within the past two years, either by donating time or money.

Section 2 – Voting Rights

Every voter will have the right to vote on the following matters:

- A. Adoption or amendment of the Annual Budget
- B. Selection and dismissal of the Lead Pastor
- C. Election of the Elder Board
- D. Election of the Finance Team
- E. Acquisition of real estate property
- F. Approval of the purchase, sale, mortgage, lease, or transfer any property worth in excess of 20% of the annual budget
- G. The merger or dissolution of LIFE CHURCH
- H. Disposition of substantially all of LIFE CHURCH's assets
- I. Amendments to the Bylaws of LIFE CHURCH

Voting by proxy is not allowed.

ARTICLE 6 MEETINGS

Section 1 - Worship Services

- A. Sunday Worship. LIFE CHURCH shall meet regularly each Sunday to worship God, listen to preaching, engage in evangelism, and more. These meetings will be open to all people, and shall be conducted under the direction of the Lead Pastor, Elder Board, and Pastoral Staff.
- B. Worshipful activities. LIFE CHURCH shall meet on other designated days and times for worshipful activities such as prayer, baptism, communion, and Bible study.
- C. Weddings and Funerals. Weddings and funerals are considered Worship Services, and will be approved by the Elder Board.

Section 2 - Business Meetings

- A. Annual & Mid-Annual Business Meetings. LIFE CHURCH shall conduct at least two regular business meetings: annual and mid-annual. The agenda shall be circulated or made known to the LIFE CHURCH Voting Body one week prior to the business meeting by written or electronic communication. The dates of the meetings will be set by the Finance Team as part of the LIFE CHURCH calendar by November of the preceding year.
- B. Special called Business Meetings. A special called business meeting may be called by the Lead Pastor, the Elder Board, the Finance Team, or written request of 30% of the Voting Body. Such a meeting will be called to consider special matters of significant nature, and only those matters will be discussed and voted upon. The agenda shall be circulated or made known to the LIFE CHURCH Voting Body one week prior to the business meeting by written or electronic communication.
- C. Elder Board meetings. The dates of the elder board meetings will be set by the Elder Board and attendance will consist of the Elder Board members.

Section 3 - Quorum

The Voting Body present at a business meeting duly noticed and called shall constitute a quorum of the membership for the transaction of business.

Section 4 - Meeting Procedure

Democratic Rules of Order (Ninth Edition) is adopted as the authority for parliamentary rules of procedure for all business meetings of LIFE CHURCH and for

all other meetings that demand voting by LIFE CHURCH members, including committee meetings.

ARTICLE 7 GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP

LIFE CHURCH submits to the absolute authority of Jesus Christ as the Head of LIFE CHURCH. The structures and strategies for conducting the affairs of LIFE CHURCH are described below.

Section 1 - Lead Pastor

- A. Qualification: the qualifications for Lead Pastor shall be consistent with those listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7. Training, skills, and experiences are needed in the areas of leadership, preaching, and pastoral care.
- B. Responsibilities:
 - 1) These generally fall into the following areas: Preaching, teaching, pastoral care, administration, planning, and leading LIFE CHURCH to fulfill its purposes.
 - 2) They shall lead LIFE CHURCH, and all leaders of LIFE CHURCH, in performing their tasks in worship, proclamation, discipleship, and missions.
 - 3) They shall be the Chairman/leader of the Elder Board, the Chairman/leader of the LIFE CHURCH Staff, and a liaison between the Finance Team and Elder Board.
- C. Selection:
 - 1) In the absence of a Lead Pastor, the Elder Board will be appointed as the Pastor Search Team. If the Elder Board does not have a sufficient number to constitute a quorum, a Pastor Search Team shall be appointed by the LIFE CHURCH Voting Body. The Pastor Search Team will seek out a suitable individual, and this committee's recommendation will serve as a nomination. The Committee quorum will consist of at least five (5) persons.
 - 2) The Pastor Search Team will recommend only one candidate at a time.
 - 3) The Pastor's election shall take place at a special called business meeting called for that purpose.
 - 4) An affirmative vote of three-fourths of the Voting Body is necessary for LIFE CHURCH to extend an offer to the individual to become the Lead Pastor.
- D. Term of Service: the chosen pastor shall serve until the relationship is terminated by either their request or that of LIFE CHURCH.
- E. Termination: If a legitimate concern arises about the character or performance of the Lead Pastor, a member of the Voting Body needs to submit his or her concern to the Elder Board in writing. The elders will research the charge and concern. If two-thirds of the Elder Board, excluding the Leader Pastor and their immediate family, finds that the concern and charge are true and warrant the dismissal of the Lead Pastor, the Elder Board will take the matter to LIFE

CHURCH. A two-thirds affirmative vote of the Voting Body is necessary to remove the Lead Pastor from their role.

Section 2 – Elder Board

The Elder Board shall have as its members the Lead Pastor, other Pastors, and representatives from the Voting Body as elected by LIFE CHURCH. Each elder is to have one equal vote. Married elders (including Pastors) may be appointed to the Elder Board as an individual or a couple, but the vote of a married couple will equal one vote. The Elder Board must consist of no fewer than five (5) positions. The Elder Board must always have more elders selected from the Voting Body than the number of pastors on the elder board.

- A. Qualifications: An elder must meet the qualifications listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7. An elder shall demonstrate an exemplary Christian testimony in private, family, and public life; be a committed Christian leader and partner of the pastor; and be a supporter and promoter of LIFE CHURCH's faith, practice, programs, and ministries.
- B. Responsibilities:
 - 1) The Elder Board will serve as the Board of Directors as required by the California Corporation Code.
 - 2) The Elder Board will serve, alongside the Lead Pastor, as the spiritual overseers, guardians, and shepherds of LIFE CHURCH. The elders will have the responsibility and authority concerning the direction of LIFE CHURCH, evaluation of effectiveness of ministries, and issues of doctrine.
 - 3) The Elder Board shall recommend objectives and goals to LIFE CHURCH, LIFE CHURCH staff, ministry leaders/directors, etc.
 - 4) The Elder Board will hold the Lead Pastor accountable. All concerns and complaints about the Lead Pastor shall be handled by the Elder Board.
 - 5) The Elder Board is responsible for selecting individuals to serve on Pastoral staff. The Elder Board is responsible for the accountability and removal of Pastoral staff.
 - 6) The Elder Board is responsible for selecting church staff.
 - 7) The Elder Board is responsible for approving all Ministry Team Leaders/Directors and Bible teachers.
 - 8) The Elder Board will oversee the Finance Team.
 - 9) The Lead Pastor will serve as the Chairman of the Elder Board. The Elder Board will choose its own Vice-Chairman from among the elected members of the Elder Board.
- C. Meetings:
 - 1) The Elder Board will meet at least quarterly. Other meetings of the Elder Board may be set by the Lead Pastor alone or at the agreement of two or more other elders.
 - 2) For the purpose of the Elder Meetings, 80% of the current Elders present shall constitute a quorum.

- D. Selection: Should vacancies occur on the Elder Board, the Lead Pastor will solicit nominees from the Voting Body. The Elder Board will review the list of nominees while considering the qualifications and responsibilities. The Elder Board will then present the Voting Body of LIFE CHURCH with the names of qualified and eligible candidates. The Voting Body will vote, and the nominees with the most affirmative votes will be appointed to the Elder Board, according to the number of vacancies.
- E. Number:
- 1) The Elder Board will consist of at least five (5) individuals/couples, plus an additional elder/elder couple for every 250 members of the Voting Body.
 - 2) Additional elected elders from the Voting Body may be added in order to have more elected members than pastors.
 - 3) The Elder Board can decide to add a new elder position at any time.
- F. Term of Service: Elders, other than the Lead Pastor and other Pastors, will serve a two (2) year term, and may be re-elected to serve up to two consecutive terms. After the third consecutive two year term, the individual/couple must wait two years before they can become a part of the Elder Board again.
- G. Termination:
- 1) If the Elder Board discovers a legitimate concern about the character or performance of a member/members of the Elder Board, the rest of the Elder Board will research the charge and concern. If the concern is deemed valid, a two-thirds affirmative vote from the Elder Board - excluding the individual(s) in question and their immediate family - is required for removal.
 - 2) If a member of the Voting Body has a legitimate concern about the character or performance of a member/members of the Elder Board, they shall submit their concern to the Lead Pastor in writing. The Lead Pastor will then bring it before the rest of the Elder Board for investigation. If the concern is deemed valid, a two-thirds affirmative vote from the Elder Board - excluding the individual(s) in question and their immediate family - is required for removal.

Section 3 – Finance Team

The Finance Team shall have as its members: Lead Pastor, at least one elder, the Treasurer, and other Church voters as elected from the Voting Body. The Finance Team will consist of no fewer than four (4) persons. In consultation with the Finance Team, the Elder Board will determine the number of members on the Finance Team.

A. Responsibilities:

- 1) The Finance Team will serve under the direction of the Elder Board, overseeing all financial affairs of LIFE CHURCH.

- 2) The Finance Team will lead the budget process, and will recommend to the Elder Board an annual budget.
 - 3) The Finance Team will perform a bi-annual cash control review of LIFE CHURCH's financial records.
 - 4) The Finance Team will ensure that the offerings are properly received, counted, and deposited into LIFE CHURCH's bank account with proper accountability.
 - 5) The Finance Team shall ensure that LIFE CHURCH properly credit each contributor and their offerings, and shall be responsible to distribute annual records of contribution to donors. The Finance Team shall ensure that quarterly records are available to contributors online.
 - 6) The Chairman of the finance team will be the Treasurer.
- B. Selection: Should vacancies occur on the Finance Team, the Elder Board will solicit nominees from the Voting Body. The elders will review the list of nominees while considering the qualifications and responsibilities. The elders will then present the Voting Body of LIFE CHURCH with the names of the qualified and eligible candidates. The Voting Body will vote, and the nominees with the most affirmative votes will be appointed to the Finance Team, according to the number of vacancies.
- C. Term of Service: Members of the Finance Team, other than the Lead Pastor, the additional elder, and the Treasurer, will serve at least two (2) years.
- D. Termination: The accountability and removal of a member of the Finance Team will rest with the Elder Board. A simple majority vote from the Elder Board is required to remove an elected individual from the Team.

Section 4 - Corporate Officers

- A. All Corporate Officers must meet the qualifications listed in LIFE CHURCH's Policies and Procedures manual.
- B. President:
- 1) The President of the Corporation, Chief Executive Officer, and Chairman of the Board is the Lead Pastor.
 - 2) The President is responsible for leading the day-to-day operations of LIFE CHURCH, its ministries, and its business affairs.
- C. Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer:
- 1) The Treasurer will be recommended by the Finance Team to the Voting Body for approval.
 - 2) The Lead Pastor may not serve as the Treasurer.
 - 3) The Treasurer is responsible for maintaining timely and accurate records of all monies of LIFE CHURCH.
 - 4) The Treasurer shall keep an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements, and shall render a monthly and annually written report of this account to LIFE CHURCH.
- D. Secretary:

- 1) The Secretary will be appointed by the Elder Board, and must be an active member of the Elder Board.
 - 2) As Secretary they will be responsible for keeping accurate minutes of all regular and called business meetings of LIFE CHURCH.
- E. Trustees:
- 1) Trustees shall be comprised of the members of the Elder Board.
 - 2) Duties
 - i. It shall be the function of the Trustees to sign any and all legal documents involving the sale, mortgage, purchase, or lease of church property, or any other legal documents requiring the signature of the Trustees for, and on behalf of, LIFE CHURCH.
 - ii. They shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer any property worth in excess of 20% of the LIFE CHURCH annual budget without a specific vote by the LIFE CHURCH Voting Body authorizing each action.
- F. Vacancies:
- 1) In case of vacancy in any office, except that of the Lead Pastor, the vacancy shall be filled by LIFE CHURCH at a regular or special-called business meeting as soon as possible after such vacancy has occurred.

Section 5 - Church Staff

- A. Lead Pastor: See Article 7 Section 1
- B. Pastoral Staff
- 1) Pastoral Staff will be employed or volunteer individuals selected to assist the Lead Pastor in the duty of leading the ministries of LIFE CHURCH.
 - 2) Pastoral Staff shall be sought and selected by the Lead Pastor and the Elder Board.
 - 3) Pastoral Staff must be ordained ministers who meet the qualifications listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7.
 - 4) All pastors will serve on the Elder Board.
 - 5) The Elder Board has the responsibility of accountability and removal of Pastoral Staff. A simple majority vote from the Elder Board is required to remove an individual from the Pastoral Staff.
- C. Ministry Leader:
- 1) Ministry Leaders will be employed or volunteer individuals selected to assist the Lead Pastor and Pastoral Staff in their duties.
 - 2) Ministry Leaders shall be sought and appointed by the Pastor and the Elder Board.
 - 3) Ministry Leaders must meet the qualifications listed in LIFE CHURCH's Policies and Procedures manual.
 - 4) The Elder Board is responsible for the accountability and removal of Ministry Leaders. A simple majority vote from the Elder Board is required to remove an individual as a Ministry Leader.
- D. Support Staff

- 1) Support Staff will be paid or volunteer individuals that assist the Lead Pastor, Pastoral Staff, and Ministry Leaders in their duties.
- 2) Support Staff can include, but is not limited to: Administrative Assistants, Bookkeepers, Facilities Coordinator or worker(s), and Interns.
- 3) Support Staff shall be hired by the Elder Board.
- 4) The Elder Board is responsible for the accountability and removal of Support Staff. A simple majority vote from the Elder Board is required to remove an individual from the Support Staff.

ARTICLE 8 LICENSING AND ORDINATION

LIFE CHURCH reserves the right to ordain, license, or commission individuals as ministers of the gospel to perform the ordinances and ceremonies of LIFE CHURCH including, but not limited to, marriage, baptism, communion, and funerals. Individuals must be interviewed and approved by the Elder Board for ordination, license, or commissioning, before being presented to LIFE CHURCH.

ARTICLE 9 DISSOLUTION OF LIFE CHURCH

The property of LIFE CHURCH is irrevocably dedicated to religious purposes, and no part of the net income or assets of this corporation will ever be used to benefit any director or member of this corporation, or to benefit any private individual. Upon the dissolution of this corporation, and after paying or adequately providing for the debts and obligations of the corporation, the remaining assets will be distributed to the California Baptist Foundation, A California Non-Profit Corporation, organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes that has established and maintained its tax exempt status under Section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. These remaining assets must be used to assist in mission efforts through the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

ARTICLE 10 AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these Articles shall require a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Voting Body present in a regular or special business meeting. Proposed amendments shall be presented in writing at a regular or special business meeting and circulated to the Voting Body at least three weeks prior to a vote.