

Policy of New Life Christian Community
By the Approval of New Life Christian Community

Governance Process
Governing Style

Policy Number: GOV-05

Date of Adoption: 03/25/2020

Statement of Provision

The Council of Elders' style of governance will be Bible-centered with an emphasis on (a) reading the thoroughly understanding written Biblical counsel as provided in the Holy Scriptures (b) prayerfully listening for the further guidance of the Holy Spirit, which must be supported Biblically, (c) outward vision rather than an internal preoccupation, (d) collective rather than individual decisions (e) a focus on strategic leadership more than administrative detail, (f) clear Biblical understanding of the distinctions and hierarchical positions of authority of Pastor, Elder, Deacon and staff roles, (g) present and future directions rather than past, and (h) proactive rather than reactive.

Accordingly:

1. The Council of Elders will cultivate a sense of group responsibility. The Council of Elders, not the Pastor(s) alone, will be responsible for excellence in governing. The Council of Elders will be the initiator of policy, not merely a reactor to pastoral initiatives. The Council of Elders will not use the expertise of individual members to substitute for the voice of God nor for the judgement of the Council of Elders as a whole, although the expertise of individual members may be used to enhance the understanding of the Council of Elders as a whole.
2. The Council of Elders will direct the community through the careful establishment of policies reflecting the Council of Elders interpretation of Biblical mandates. The Council of Elders' major policy purpose and focus will be on the intended long-term impacts, not on the administrative or programmatic means of attaining those effects.
3. The Council of Elders will enforce upon itself whatever discipline is needed to govern with excellence. Discipline will apply to matters such as personal conduct and continued qualifications according to Biblical standards, regular and consistent attendance, and preparation for meetings, policy-making principles, respect of roles (including the Pastor), and ensuring the continuance of governance capability.
4. Continual Council of Elders development will include orientation of new leaders in the Council of Elders governance process and periodic Council of Elders discussion of process improvement.
5. The Council of Elders will not allow individual or committee of the Council of Elders to hinder or be an excuse for not fulfilling obligations of the Council of Elders as a whole.
6. The Council of Elders will monitor and discuss the Council of Elders' process and performance regularly. Self-monitoring will include comparison of Council of Elders' activity and discipline to policies in the governance process and Council of Elders-Pastor linkage categories. If there is an impasse due to conflict within the Council, outside

counselling or mediation shall be sought. Such help shall be through Christian organizations who are respected by the Council of Elders as a whole.

Attached Forms

FRM-02 Council of Elders Audit

FRM-03 New Elders Orientation Process