**BYLAWS OF**

Real Life Church

New Albany, MS

Adopted this 5th day of January, 2020

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Real Life Church, Inc.

1023 Hwy 348

New Albany, MS 38652

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. Name.

 The name of this corporation shall be Real Life Church, Inc.

Section 2. Non Profit Status.

 Real Life Church, Inc. shall be organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law in order to:

1. Minister the Word of God.
2. Conduct regular religious worship services through various forms of ministries.
3. Promote and encourage, through ministries of the organization, cooperation with other organizations ministering within the community.
4. Spread the Word of the Gospel by ministering to all through seminars, radio, television, and other forms of mass media.
5. Conduct a local and international church by the direction of the Lord Jesus Christ and under the leadership of the Holy Spirit in accordance with all the provisions as set forth in the Bible.
6. Maintain local church and missionary facilities.
7. Conduct a school for ministers and leaders.
8. License and ordain qualified individuals including graduates of ministerial schools.
9. To have the right to own, hold in trust, use, possess, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or dispose of such property, real or chattel, as may be needed for the prosecution of its work.

Real Life Church, Inc. is not organized, nor shall it operate, for pecuniary gain or profit, and it does not contemplate the distribution of gains, profits, or dividends to its members and is organized solely for non-profit purposes. The property, assets, profits and net income of this church are irrevocably dedicated to charitable, educational, and religious purposes and no part of the profits or net income of this church shall ever inure to the benefit of any individual. On the dissolution of this church, its assets remaining after payment, or provision or payment of all debts and liabilities of this church shall be distributed to a non-profit fund, foundation, or corporation that is organized and operated for charitable, educational, ecclesiastical, or religious purposes and that has established its tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

Section 3. Prohibition Against Sharing in Corporate Earnings.

 No member, Trustee, officer, employee, committee member, or person connected with the church, or any other private individual shall receive at any time any of the net earnings or pecuniary profit from the operations of the church, provided that this shall not prevent the payment to any such person of such reasonable compensation for services rendered to or for the church in effecting any of its purposes as shall be fixed by the church leadership, and no such person or persons shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the church assets upon dissolution of the church. All members of the church shall be deemed to have expressly consented and agreed that upon such dissolution of the affairs of the church, whether voluntary or involuntary, the assets of the church, after all debts have been satisfied, then remaining in the hands of the leadership shall be distributed, conveyed, delivered and paid over, in such amounts as the leadership may determine or as may be determined by the court of competent jurisdiction for public safety, literary or educational organizations which would then qualify under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and its regulations as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended.

Section 4. Exempt Activities.

 Notwithstanding any other provision of these Bylaws, no member, Trustee, officer, employee, or representative of Real Life Church, Inc. shall take any action or carry on any activity by or on behalf of the church not permitted to be taken or carried on by an organization exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and its regulations as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended, or by an organization, contributions to which are now deductible under Sections 170(c)(2) and 509(a (1) of such codes and regulations as they now exist or as they may hereafter be amended.

Section 5. Affiliation.

While maintaining its inherent rights to sovereignty in the conduct of its own affairs as herein set forth, Real Life Church is a sovereign church, who declares itself to be voluntarily in full cooperative fellowship with all other churches affiliated with the Mississippi District Council, and The General Council of the Assemblies of God, with headquarters in Springfield, Missouri; and shares in the privileges and assumes the responsibilities enjoined by this affiliation.

1. As a member of the General Council this assembly agrees to:

1. Cooperate by every possible means in the extension of God's work and kingdom throughout the world.

2. Support the missionary program agreed upon by the District and General Councils.

3. Participate in District and General Council sessions via duly chosen delegates.

4. Invite the counsel of the district officiary in the event of church difficulty and when changing pastors.

5. Share in support of the District and General Council.

(See General Council Bylaws, Article XVIII, Section 1.

c.(2), and Section 2.c.)

6. Recognize that the District Council or The General

Council of the Assemblies of God Shall have the right and authority to:

a. Approve scriptural doctrine and conduct;

b. Disapprove unscriptural doctrine and conduct, as

stated in Article III, paragraph f., of the General Council constitution; and

c. Withdraw its certificate of membership if deemed

necessary.

ARTICLE 1

Offices

 The principal office of Real Life Church, Inc. herein after referred to as the corporation, shall be located at the address set forth in the Articles of Incorporation. The corporation may have such other offices, either within or without the State of Incorporation, as the Board of Trustees, herein after referred to as the Trustees, may determine.

ARTICLE 2

Church Membership

Section 1. Members.

 Paragraph 1. Church members shall be all people who officially covenant together and agree, in writing to fulfill the vision of Real Life Church. The word "Member" shall not be deemed to hold any legal ownership in Real Life Church. Likewise, the word "Membership" referenced herein reflects only a spiritual unity and shall not be deemed to have any legal status under State law.

 Section 2. Eligibility of Individuals at Real Life Church may become Members in good standing if they satisfy the following criteria:

(a) Be born again, giving evidence of a consistent Christian life in line with the moral principles of Scripture.

(b) Complete and adhere to the standards of the Leadership/Membership Course, as administered by the leadership of the church at various opportunities in the calendar year. Membership is granted and recognized once a person has attended, completed, and signed the “Church Membership Covenant" commitment form and has made sufficient contributions.

(c) Fully subscribe to the Statement of Beliefs as set forth in Article 3.

(d) Regularly attend the weekly worship services, and has attended atleast one service in a 3 month period.

(e) Having reached at least 16 years of age.

(f) Contribute financial support to the corporation (Real Life Church.)

 (e.1) Members or Non-Members who contribute financially in tithes, offerings or other monetary support are not entitled to any refunds nor do we give any refunds.

 Section 2.1 Members Responsibility to the Lead Pastor/President and Church

1. To show sensitivity to the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of the Pastor and family.
2. To pray for, affirm and work with the Lead Pastor/President toward the end of accomplishing God’s purposes in the Church and the Community.
3. To allow the Lead Pastor/President full responsibility for the preaching ministry of the Church with the privilege of calling on other speakers as the Holy Spirit leads.
4. To allow the Lead Pastor/President responsibility for the administration of the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper and for receiving new members and assisting in their orientation.
5. To be a functioning church member, defined as one who actively contributes to the mission of the church through various functions and parachurch ministries and give careful consideration to the Pastor’s counsel and guidance in the implementation of the programs and ministries of the church.
6. To be a unifying church member defined as: one who communicates openly and honestly with the Pastor so that misunderstandings can be avoided. If such misunderstanding/conflict does arise, resolution will be sought through the Assistant Pastor.
7. To be an engaged member defined as: one who exercises their voting privileges in a manner consistent with scripture for the election of elders/deacons, the installation/removal of Lead Pastor, and amendments to constitution and bylaws by a 2/3 majority.
8. Any subsequent items that may be at odds with the congregation require a 2/3 supermajority to override the decision of the Pastor and Deacon Board. A meeting must have 2 weeks notice for special voting to take place. Decisions can be requested to be put on hold by immediate written notice by 1/10 of membership, until special members voting meeting adjourns. Meetings must be concluded within 1 month of special meeting notice given to pastor and board.

Section 3. Appointment and Removal. Individuals who possess the above qualifications and desire to officially participate in the vision and mission of Real Life Church as a Member shall attend all required classes and or meetings as determined by the Pastoral Lead Team, then present their names to the Pastoral Leadership Team for approval. Their names will be added to the Membership roster after they have met the requirements of Membership.

The Pastoral Leadership Team shall have the right to remove any Member that fits into the following criteria:

a) A member's conduct and lifestyle is violating Biblical standards and the individual refuses correction.

b) A member leaves the church as a result of relocation or other reason.

c) A member requests to be removed.

d) A period of 3 months has passed without any record of contribution or attendance. In this case the member is telling Real Life Church that he is resigning his membership due to inactivity.

(e) A member is not in harmony with the vision or leadership of Real Life Church.

Section 4. Mutual Interest.

 The behavior of anyone in fellowship with this church, or on church grounds is of common interest to the Elders, Trustees and membership. (Gal. 6:1) This church requires every Board member and Congregational member to adhere to a life style that is consistent with the doctrines of this church as taught in the Holy Scriptures. Therefore, this church reserves the right to refuse service to any individual, whether member or not, that is not submitting their life style to this Scriptural mode of conduct. This refusal would include services, benefits and any use of church assets.

 Section 4.1 Right of Refusal (see also section 5 for clarification of terms.)

 Right of refusal shall be defined as following

1. Use of gender Specific bathrooms as defined in scripture being two genders only; male and female. Whatever gender a person is naturally born with shall be assigned the corresponding bathroom.
2. Any and all facilities and/or property shall be used in accordance scripture concerning weddings. Only weddings of opposite sexed couples shall be allowed on property, as assigned at the birth of the individuals involved.
3. Membership shall be restricted to heterosexual married couples, and heterosexual single individuals not cohabitating with partner, as defined by scripture.

Section 5. Lifestyle.

 Paragraph 1. This church is prohibited from engaging in activities which violate its written doctrines.  This church is also prohibited condoning, promoting or allowing any of its assets to be used for activities that violate its written doctrines.

 Paragraph 2. The Bible clearly declares that “marriage” has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union. Sexual relations outside marriage or between individuals of the same sex violate Biblical standards. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

 We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography or any attempt to change one’s sex, or disagreement with one’s biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God.

 Accordingly, the Church and Property, It’s Pastor’s, staff and members will not participate in or perform same-sex unions or same-sex marriages, nor shall its property or resources be used for such purposes. (Genesis 2:18, 24; Leviticus 18:22; Leviticus 20:12-16; Romans 1:26, 32; 1 Corinthians 6:9, 18)

Section 6. Policy and Procedures.

 To establish an efficient leadership infrastructure, the Lead Pastor/President shall be responsible to clearly articulate in clear, concise and simple language, a policy and procedures document.  The purpose of this document is to create a consistent and logical framework which empowers staff and volunteers to participate in the decision making processes that reflect the Lead Pastor/President’s heart and vision for the church.

Section 7. Privacy.

 This church shall diligently watch to keep private all records concerning polity, doctrine, counseling and information on individuals in fellowship with this church. This church must not disclose any records that may compromise information about a member’s attendance, membership status, giving and counseling records.

 Many aspects of communications between pastors and their members, pastors and staff, and in board meetings are confidential. This means that the contents are not to be disclosed to another person including spouses and family members. Breaching confidentiality is considered a breach of fiduciary duty of the due care and can be destructive to pastors, members, and the church as a whole. Breach of confidentiality will be taken seriously.

ARTICLE 3

Statement of Faith

STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS

The Bible is our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. This Statement of Fundamental Truths is intended simply as a basis of fellowship among us (i.e., that we all speak the same thing. (I Cor.1:10; Acts 2:42). The phraseology employed in this Statement is not inspired or contended for, but the truth set forth is held to be essential to a full Gospel ministry. No claim is made that it contains all biblical truth, only that it covers our need as to these fundamental doctrines.

1. The Scriptures Inspired

The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct (2 Tim. 3:15-17; I Thess. 2:13; 2 Peter 1:21).

2. The One True God

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent “I AM,” the Creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. (Deut. 6:4, Isaiah 43: 10-11, Matthew 28:19, Luke 3:22)

THE ADORABLE GODHEAD a. Terms Defined

The terms 'trinity' and 'person', as related to the Godhead, while not found in the Scripture, are words in harmony with Scripture, whereby we may convey to others our immediate understanding of the doctrine of Christ respecting the Being of God, as distinguished from "gods many and lords many."

We, therefore may speak with propriety of the Lord our God, who is One Lord, as a Trinity or as one Being or three persons, and still be absolutely scriptural (examples, Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; John 14:16-17).

* + 1. Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead Christ taught a distinction of Persons in the Godhead which He expressed in specific terms of relationship, as Father, Son and Holy Ghost, but that this distinction and relationship, as to its mode is inscrutable and incomprehensible, because unexplained. (Luke 1:35; I Cor. 1:24; Matt. 11:25-27; 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; 1 John 1:3,4).
		2. Unity of the One Being of Father, Son and Holy Ghost According, therefore, there is that in the Son which constitutes Him the Son and not the Father; and there is that in the Holy Ghost which constitutes Him the Holy Ghost and not either the Father or the Son. Wherefore, the Father is the Begetter, the Son is the Begotten; and the Holy Ghost is the one proceeding from the father and the Son. Therefore, because these three persons in the Godhead are in a state of unity, there is but one Lord God Almighty and His name one (John 1:18; 15:26:17:11, 21; Zech. 14:9).
		3. Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead The Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost are never identical as to Person; nor confused as to relation; nor divided in respect to the Godhead; nor opposed as to cooperation. The Son is in the Father, and the Father is in the Son as to relationship. The Son is with the Father and the Father is with the Son, as to fellowship. The Father is not from the Son, but the Son is from the father, as to authority. The Holy Ghost is from the Father and the Son Proceeding, as to nature, relationship, cooperation and authority. Hence, neither Person in the Godhead either exists or works separately or independently of the others (John 5:17-30, 32,37; John 8:17-18).
		4. The Title, Lord Jesus Christ The appellation, "Lord Jesus Christ," is a proper name. It is never applied, in the New Testament, either to the Father or to the Holy Ghost. It therefore belongs exclusively to the Son of God (Rom. 1:1-3, 7; 2 John 3).
1. The Lord Jesus Christ, God with us The Lord Jesus Christ, as to His divine and eternal nature, is the proper and only Begotten of the Father, but as to His human nature, He is the proper Son of Man. He is, therefore, acknowledged to be both God and man; who because He is God and man is "Immanuel," God with us (Matt. 1:23; I John 4:2, 10:14; Rev. 1:13, 17).
2. The Title, Son of God Since the name "Immanuel" embraces both God and man in the one Person, our Lord Jesus Christ, it follows that the title, Son of God, describes His proper deity, and the title Son of Man His proper humanity. Therefore, the title, Son of God, belongs to the order of eternity, and the title, Son of Man to the order of time (Matt. 1:21-23; 2 John 3; 1 John 3:8; Heb. 7:3; Heb. 1:1-13).
3. Transgression of the Doctrine of Christ Wherefore, it is a transgression of the Doctrine of Christ to say that Jesus Christ derived the title, Son of God, solely from the fact of the incarnation, or because of His relationship to the economy of redemption. Therefore, to deny that the Father is a real and eternal Father, and, that the Son is a real and eternal Son is a denial of the distinction and relationship in the Being of God; a denial of the Father and the Son and a displacement of the truth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh (2 John 9; John 1:1, 2, 14, 18, 29,49; 1 John 2:22,23:4:1-5; Heb. 12:2).
4. Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord The Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, having by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the majesty on high; angels and principalities and powers having been made subject unto Him. And having been made both Lord and Christ. He sent the Holy Ghost that we, in the name of Jesus, might bow our knees and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father until the end, when the Son shall become subject to the Father that God may be all in all. (Heb. 1:3; 1 Peter 3:22; Acts 2:32-36; Rom. 14:11; 1 Cor. l5:24-28).
5. Equal Honor to the Father and to the Son Wherefore, since the Father has delivered all judgment unto the Son, it is not only the express duty of all in heaven and on earth to bow the knee, but it is an unspeakable joy in the Holy Ghost to ascribe unto the Son all the attributes of Deity, and to give Him all the honor and the glory contained in all the names and  titles of the Godhead (except those which express relationship. See paragraphs B, C, and D), and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father (John 5:22, 23; 1 Peter 1:8; Rev. 5:6-14; Phil. 2:8, 9; Rev. 7:9, 10; 4:8-11).

3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. The Scriptures declare;

1. His virgin birth (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31, 35).
2. His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; I Peter 2:22).
3. His miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38).
4. His substitutionary work on the cross (I Cor. 15:3; 2 Cor. 5:21).
5. His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1 Cor. 15:4).
6. His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9,11; 2:33; Phil. 2:9-11 Heb. 1:3).

4. The Fall of Man

Man was created good and upright; for God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." However, man by voluntary transgression fell and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God (Gen. 1:26.27: 2:17; 3:6; Rom. 5:12-19).

5. The Salvation of Man

Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

1. Conditions to Salvation: Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life. (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11, 3:5-7.
2. The Evidences of Salvation The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit (Romans 8:16). The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness (Eph. 4:24; Titus 2:12).

6. The Ordinances of the Church

* Baptism in Water The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in the newness of life (Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47; Romans 6:4).

Holy Communion The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements - bread and the fruit of the vine, is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:4), a memorial of His suffering and death (I Cor. 11:26) and a prophecy of His second coming (I Cor. 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers "till He comes.'' 7. The Baptism in the Holy Ghost

7. The Baptism in the Holy Ghost

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian Church. With it comes the enduement of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-8; I Cor. 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:12- 17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9). With the baptism in the Holy Ghost come such experiences as an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), a deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Heb. 12:28), an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work (Acts 2:42), and a more active love for Christ, for His word and for the lost (Mark 16:20).

8. The Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Ghost

The Baptism of believers in the Holy Ghost is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance (Acts 2:4). The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues (I Cor. 12:4- 10, 28), but different in purpose and use.

9. Sanctification

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God (Rom. 12:1, 2; I Thess. 5:23; Heb. 13:12). The Scriptures teach a life of "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord." (Heb. 12:14). By the power of the Holy Ghost we are able to obey the command: "Be ye holy, for 1 am holy."(I Peter 1:15, 16).

Sanctification is realized in the believer by recognizing his identification with Christ in His death and resurrection, and by faith reckoning daily upon the fact of that union, and by offering every faculty continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 6:1-11, 13; 8:1, 2, 13; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 2:12, 13; I Peter 1:5).

10. The Church and Its Mission

The Church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the General Assembly and Church of the First-born, which are written in heaven (Ephesians 1:22, 23; 2:22; Hebrews 12:23).

Since God's purpose concerning man is to seek and to save that which is lost, to be worshipped by man, and to build a body of believers in the image of His son, the priority reason-for-being of the Assemblies of God as part of the Church is:

1. To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15, 16).
2. To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (I Corinthians 12:13).
3. To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints, being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16; I Corinthians 12:28; I Corinthians 14:12).

The Assemblies of God exists expressly to give continuing emphasis to this reason-for-being in the New Testament apostolic pattern by teaching and encouraging believers to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. This experience:

* Enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 4:29- 31; Hebrews 2:3,4).
* Adds a necessary dimension to worshipful relationship with God (I Corinthians 2:10-16; I Corinthians 12, 13, 14).
* Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament time for the edifying of the body of Christ (Galatians 5:22-26; I Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:11, 12; I Corinthians 12:28; Colossians 1:29).

11. The Ministry

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the threefold purpose of leading the church in: (1) Evangelization of the world (Mark 16:15-20). (2) Worship of God (John 4:23, 24). (3) Building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16).

12. Divine Healing

Divine Healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement and is the privilege of all believers (Isaiah 53:4, 5; Matt. 8:16, 17; James 5:14-16).

13. The Blessed Hope

The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the Church (I Thess. 4:16, 17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; I Corinthians 15:51, 52).

14. The Millennial Reign of Christ

The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on the earth for one thousand years (Zech. 14:5; Matt. 24:27, 30; Revelation 1:7; l9:11-l4; 20:1-6). This millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel (Ezekiel 37:21, 22; Zephaniah 3:19, 20; Romans 11:26, 27) and the establishment of universal peace (Isaiah 11:6-9; Psalm 72:3-8; Micah 4:3, 4).

15. The Final Judgment

There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together with the devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, will be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death (Matt. 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 19:20; 20:11-15; 21:8).

16. The New Heavens and the New Earth

"We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness" (2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:22).

ARTICLE 4

Government

 Real Life Church, Inc. seeks to be led by the Holy Spirit in all its decisions. The Lead Pastor/President, the congregation, the Elder/Deacons, the Elders, and the Trustees all have a role in leadership. The Lead Pastor/President’s office is responsible for developing and communicating the vision and overseeing the day to day ministry of the church. The congregation influences the spiritual tone, strength and direction of the church. The Elder/Deacons are to protect the church through counsel, prayer, and if required, the discipline of the Lead Pastor/President, as described in Article 7. The Elders are to serve the church as described in Article 8. The Trustees are to serve the church by assuring compliance with church corporation management policies and by approving the major financial commitments for the church as described in Article 9. For all intents and purposes, Elders are by definition Trustees and/or Deacons. The offices of Elder/Deacon/Trustee are to be held by the same individuals.

ARTICLE 5

Lead Pastor/President of the Church,

Lead Pastor/President and Chief Executive

Officer (CEO) of the Corporation

Section 1. The Office of the Lead Pastor/President.

 Paragraph 1.The Dual Role.

 Because Real Life Church, Inc. has two (2) complimentary branches; the spiritual body of believers and the legal corporation, it is the Lead Pastor/President that administratively bridges the gap between the two (2) branches. The Lead Pastor/President is primarily responsible for the spiritual life of the Church; therefore, he must be in a position corporately to insure that financial strength is directed toward the ministries of his choice.

 Paragraph 2. Responsibilities of the Lead Pastor/President.

* It is the Lead Pastor/President's responsibility to:

1. Provide Biblical vision and direction for the congregation.

2. Define and communicate the Church's purpose.

3. Oversee and coordinate the day to day ministry of the congregation and administration of the church.

4. Appoint Elder/Deacons pursuant to Article 7.

5. Recognize and enlist apostolic, prophetic, evangelistic, pastoral and teaching ministries, along with that of Elders, deacons, and additional staff members as he deems Biblical and necessary for the healthy and balanced spiritual ministry to the body of believers.

6. Select Trustees pursuant to Article 9 who will help oversee the business of the corporation.

7. Staff the church as he deems necessary to help administrate the affairs of the corporation.

* Paragraph 3. The Lead Pastor/President's Spiritual Leadership.
* In his role as Lead Pastor/President, he may work with Elder/Deacons, Elders, Trustees, or anyone serving in any five-fold ministry offices as outlined in Ephesians 4:11-13 in any way that he determines is Biblical. In addition, he may budget monies, hire staff, develop projects or ministry, and create small groups or other specialized ministries according to his convictions and Biblical understanding. He shall have the authority to appoint and approve any assistants that are necessary to properly carry on the work of the church.

Paragraph 4. The Lead Pastor/President's Responsibility for Services.

* Times, order of services, and the leadership of services are to be determined by him or by the spiritual church structure that he establishes. No person shall be invited to speak, teach or minister at a service held in Church-owned facilities, or in the name of the church, without the approval of the Lead Pastor/President or the appropriate member of the established church pastoral ministry team.

Section 2. The Office of The Lead Pastor/President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

* Paragraph 1. The Lead Pastor/President Shall Serve as the Lead Pastor/President and CEO of the Corporation.
* The Lead Pastor/President and CEO are herein after, in most instances, referred to as the Lead Pastor/President. The corporation finds its headship under the Lord Jesus Christ and in its Lead Pastor/President. If possible, the Lead Pastor shall preside at all meetings of the Trustees and shall see that all orders and resolutions of the Trustees are put into effect. He shall execute in the name of the corporation all deeds, bonds, mortgages, contracts, and other documents authorized by the Trustees. He shall be an ex-officio member of all standing committees, and shall have the general powers and duties of supervision and management usually vested in the office of the Lead Pastor/President of a corporation.
* Paragraph 2. The Lead Pastor/President's Role with the Board.

With the exception of those circumstances discussed in Article 14, herein below, the Lead Pastor/President is a voting chairman of the Trustees. He calls meetings and determines the agenda in consultation with the Elders.

* Paragraph 3. The Lead Pastor/President's and CEO's Role in Administration.
* The Lead Pastor/President is the senior administrator of the church. He is ultimately responsible for all day-to-day administrative decisions of the church.
*
* Paragraph 4. The Lead Pastor/President's Role with Staff.

The Lead Pastor/President hires, directs and dismisses staff. As the Lead Pastor/President, his call is confirmed to the church through the congregation, and those hired through him are to assist him in fulfilling this calling. The Lead Team shall be appointed by the Lead Pastor/President and serve at his discretion. The day-to-day operations and administration of the church shall be carried out by the Lead Team.

4.1 Participation of Spouses. Spouses of Pastoral Leadership Team and Staff members are encouraged to participate in all relevant meetings, activities and functions, unless otherwise requested by the Lead Pastor due to the nature of the meeting, activity, or function.

* Paragraph 5. The Lead Pastor/President’s Role in Establishing Salaries.

The Lead Pastor/President determines all salaries and writes pay scales for full-time salaried employees. Pay scales shall be explained to new full-time salaried employees and, should they ever be changed, they will be given in writing to the affected employees. If there is a severance pay agreement, that too must be given to the employee in writing. In addition, all part-time salaries and hourly wages are variable and are to be determined between the Lead Pastor/President and the employee.

* Paragraph 6. The Lead Pastor/President's Salary Exceptions.

6.1. Lead Pastor/President's Compensation Team. The Council of Elder/Deacons will serve as the Compensation Team for the function of the review of salary packages for the Lead Pastor/President and will determine the Lead Pastor/President’s salary and benefits. This shall also constitue a monthly housing allowance expenditure at the request of the Pastor for a non-taxable salary.

6.2. Lead Pastor/President's Compensation Approval. Compensation paid to the Lead Pastor/President shall be approved on an annual basis by a majority vote of the non-employee, independent Lead Pastor/President's Compensation Team. In so doing, the non-employee, independent Lead Pastor/President's Compensation Team shall consider duties, performance evaluations, compensation, comparability data, and other relevant information. Such information will be provided by the Church Treasurer. In no event shall the Lead Pastor/President's salary and benefits be less than it would be according to the pay scale established for the other members of the pastoral team, unless voluntarily established by Pastor.

* Paragraph 7. Optional Benefits.

After the Lead Pastor/President has served for a minimum of five (5) consecutive years, the trustees may provide additional benefits which are unique to the Lead Pastor/President position. They may, for example, choose to provide an additional retirement benefit. They may also choose to reduce the amount of time the Lead Pastor/President is required to keep a vehicle before it is replaced. These benefits or any others like them must be initiated by the trustees and not the Lead Pastor/President because these benefits are optional and not required to be provided. They are purely an attempt to reward many years of faithful service.

* Paragraph 8. Budget.

After the church is one (1) year old, an annual budget must be prepared. The budget is to be based on 90% of the previous year’s undesignated income. The budget is to be approved by the Board of Trustees and follow the percentages of operating as stated in the corporate policies.

Paragraph 9. Expenditures

Budgeted amounts are not to be considered actual monies available. Nothing can be spent by the Lead Pastor/President except actual funds that are available, and those monies are to be spent according to the budget. The Lead Pastor/President may not borrow money, sign leases, buy or sell real estate, or make any agreements that could force indebtedness upon the church. Should the church borrow, the trustees may give the Lead Pastor/President authority to spend those monies on the project for which the funds were borrowed. All undersigned monies that are available to the corporation above budgeted amounts are deemed discretionary and are available to be spent by the Lead Pastor/President, but he may only obligate funds currently on hand.

* Paragraph 10. Installation of New Lead Pastor/President When Departing Lead Pastor/President..
* 10.1. If the Lead Pastor/President vacates office for any reason or dies while in office, a new Lead Pastor/President shall be selected through the following process. The Lead Pastor/President may nominate a new Lead Pastor/President for consideration if he so desires (only if Pastor leaves in good standing), (in a previously signed writing in the event of death) a Conformation Committee shall be formed. The Confirmation Committee shall then confirm such nominee by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the Confirmation Committee and then be brought before the congregation with a two-thirds supermajority confirmation vote. In the event that the Confirmation Committee does not confirm such nominee the process shall repeat until a nominee is confirmed.

10.2. The Lead Pastor/President is in "Good Standing" if: (1) he is not under discipline by the Elder/Deacons, (2) he is not under investigation by the Elder/Deacons, and/or (3) he has not engaged in any conduct that could subject the Lead Pastor/President to discipline by the Elder/Deacons.

* 10.3. The Confirmation Committee shall consist of all three Elders/Deacons designated for the Confirmation Committee pursuant to Article 8, Paragraph 5, and three (3) members of the pastoral staff designated for the Confirmation Committee. There shall be no less than three (3) total members of the Confirmation Committee.

10.4. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Lead Pastor/President due to disability, death, or other absence while the Lead Pastor/President is in good standing, the acting Lead Pastor/President shall be a person named by the Lead Pastor/President in a signed writing to the Elder/Deacons in advance of such disability or absence. Such acting Lead Pastor/President shall serve until such time as a new Lead Pastor/President is nominated and confirmed pursuant to Paragraph 10.1. The acting Lead Pastor/President shall be eligible for nomination and confirmation as Lead Pastor/President.

ARTICLE 6

Congregation

 The congregation shall consist of all Members of the church as defined in Article 2. Members of the Church may be appointed to serve as Elders.

ARTICLE 7

Elder/Deacons/Trustee

Section 1. Terms and Definition

The office of Deacon is an electable position by the church body, which shall also fill the functions of Elder and Trustee. All three titles are henceforth interchangeable as the offices are the same, with varying functions.

Section 2. Minimum Requirements

The office of Elder/Deacon/Trustee is only applicable when a minimum of 3 elders and 20 or more active voting members are present in the congregation to carry on daily functions of the church body. At such a time when the minimum requirements cannot be met, the Mississippi District assumes all responsibility for Real Life Church, and RLC becomes a supervised church subject to the District Office for the appointment of new staff and future direction of the church as noted in the General Council Bylaws of the Assemblies of God until such a time as the church may regain its sovereignty.

ARTICLE 8

Elders

* Paragraph 1. Spiritual Role.

The Elders are to covenant together with the congregation and the Lead Pastor/President for the development of the spiritual life of the church. These men and their spouses are to be the primary protectors and encouragers of a positive spiritual climate within the church body. They serve in neither a governing nor a corporate capacity, but a spiritual capacity to create and maintain stability in potentially negative situations.

Paragraph 2. Definition.

The Elders are men/women who function within the local church. They are men/women who meet the Biblical qualifications for Elders and function in that calling, but the majority of the Elders derive their income from sources other than the church. The number of Elders shall be determined by the Lead Pastor/President.

* Paragraph 3. Functions.

 The functions of the Elders are:

1. Maintain and teach by living a godly, Christian lifestyle.
2. Provide a prayer shield for the pastoral team and the local church.
3. Defend, protect and support the integrity of the pastoral team and the local

church.

1. Pray for the sick and the members of Real Life Church.
2. Mediate disputes among the brethren.
3. Counsel.
* Paragraph 4. Qualifications for Elders.
* 1. “An Elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Since an Elder is entrusted with God’s work, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursing dishonest gain. Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, and who is self- controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.” (Titus 1:6-9 NIV)
	+ - 2. Be a member for at least six months.
1. Contribute to the tithes and offerings to the vision and mission of Real

Life Church.

1. Must be atleast 23 years of age.

Paragraph 5. Nomination and Appointment of Elders.

New nominations of Elders can be made by the Lead Pastor/Church body at annual business meetings. This nomination can occur as often as an Elder’s term expires or the Lead Pastor/President feels that it is necessary for new Elders to be added. After Elders are nominated, the Pastor shall present the nominations to the church for voting. Elders are elected by Two-Thirds (2/3) of voting quorum. A quorum being a majority (51%) of eligible voting members must be present at meeting. A quorum must have a minimum of 20 members, but can be more. Voting shall be done by secret ballot.

* Paragraph 6. Service Terms.

There shall be one (1), One year term elected to the office of elder

There shall be two (2), Two year terms elected to the office of elder

There shall be one (1), Three year term elected to the office of elder

Paragraph 6.1 There shall be a maximum of 4 (four) elders elected. A minimum of 3 elders must also be in office any given year. One (1) Elder shall be elected for every 1 year, 2 year, and 3 year terms, allowing for the rotation of members on the Elder board at least yearly. The 2 year term office must have atleast 1 elder elected every two years. If no elder is found to fill the second 2 year office, it shall remain vacant as long as elders fill the remaining 3 positions.

Paragraph 6.2 When presented before the church, the member has the option of removing their name from the ballot according to their discretion at a designated time immediately before the election by the congregation.

Paragraph 6.3 The Elder shall serve no more than 2 terms of office in the same Elder position, unless no other replacement is elected or electable.

* Paragraph 7. Removal of an Elder.

Should anyone in the congregation, including a staff member or another Elder, bring accusation against an Elder, charging that they do not qualify for Elders, the Lead Pastor/President and the remaining Elder Board shall discuss whether the Elder needs to be removed. They shall be removed upon the Pastors recommendation and do so with a majority vote of Elders. Any decision may be vetoed by supermajority of congregation.

* Paragraph 8. Replacement of Elders.
* During the terms of service, those Elders who are no longer able to serve for any reason, the Elder will be replaced by a qualified member, chosen by the Lead Pastor to serve the remaining term of the office.

Paragraph 9. Compensation.

 Elders shall not receive any salaries or remuneration for their services.

ARTICLE 9

Trustees of the Corporation

Section 1. General Powers.

 The major *financial affairs* of the corporation shall be managed by the Trustees (Financial Advisory Board) whose members shall have a fiduciary obligation to the corporation according to Sections 2 and 3 of this Article. (see article 8) Elders/Deacons will also serve as Trustees. In the event the Trustees cannot reach an agreement on an issue then the issue shall be brought before the church in a special business meeting, pending a two-thirds majority.

Section 2. Functions.

* Paragraph 1. Provide Facilities.

The Trustees vote in accordance with these Bylaws in order to conduct the major business decisions of the corporation. The Trustees oversee the provision of the physical facilities needed by the church body. They also coordinate any construction projects which require a loan.

* Paragraph 2. Exclusive Authority.

The Trustees are the only body within the corporation or church body with the authority to:

1. Buy and sell real estate.
2. Borrow money.
3. Secure real estate leases.
4. Monitor accounting and business practices.
5. Vote on mortgages, contracts, or major financial decisions.
6. Assure fiscal responsibility (both to the church and the I.R.S.).

Paragraph 2.1 Any decision may be vetoed by two-thirds 2/3 majority vote by congregation in special business meeting which may be called by the Lead Pastor or 10% of members with signatures on a written petition. All transactions/decisions will be held until a business meeting can be held no longer than two (2) weeks until special business meeting concludes.

Paragraph 3. Counsel.

The Trustees are to provide counsel, at the Lead Pastor/President’s request, regarding the major financial commitments of the church.

Section 3. Financial Guidelines.

* Paragraph 1. Audit Review Committee.

If an audit is conducted then the trustees shall appoint the Secretary/Treasurer and two (2) other members of the trustees to serve as an audit review committee. After reviewing the annual audit, they are to report their findings at a trustees’ meeting.

 Paragraph 2. Conflict of Interest.

In order to avoid any conflict of interest, all of the following criteria must be met for any business transaction to be made between a trustee and the corporation:

1. The trustee with whom the transaction is being considered is excluded from any discussions for approving the transaction.

2. The trustees consider competitive bids or comparable valuations.

3. The trustees act upon and demonstrate that the transaction is in the best interest of the corporation.

4. The transaction must be fully disclosed in the end-of-year audited financial statements of the congregation at annual business meeting.

Section 4. Appointment, Number, Term, and Qualifications.

* Paragraph 1 . Exclusive Role.
	+ Because the trustees are responsible for the major financial decisions of the church, they must resign their position as a trustee if they ever become a staff member or take any other paid position within the church. Volunteer work within the church is encouraged, but paid positions may constitute a conflict of interest.

Section 5. Meetings.

* Paragraph 1. Frequency of Meetings.
* A meeting of the Trustees shall be held at least once a year. The Lead Pastor/President or any Trustee may call a meeting at any time, under the condition that a majority [three (3) or more] of the Trustees attend the meeting.
* Paragraph 2. Leadership of Meetings.

If at all possible, the Lead Pastor/President should attend and lead each trustee’s meeting. If not possible, the Secretary/Treasurer shall lead the meeting. If neither the Lead Pastor/President nor the Secretary/Treasurer is able to lead the meeting, the Trustees must choose a leader for that meeting and proceed in order, with the appointed leader keeping minutes for the record. Any motions passed and recorded in a meeting without the Lead Pastor/President or the Secretary/Treasurer may not take effect until the following meeting with either the Lead Pastor/President or the Secretary/Treasurer present when the minutes of the previous meeting are approved. All business must be approved by Lead Pastor/President, or taken before congregation for voting.

Paragraph 3. Location of Meetings.

* Any meeting of the Trustees may be held at such place or places as shall from time to time be determined by the Trustees or fixed by the Lead Pastor/President and designated in the notice of the meeting.
* Paragraph 4. Written Notice of Meetings.

Whenever, under the provisions of a statute or the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws, a written notice is required to be given to any Trustee and the Pastor, and then presented to and voted on by the congregation at the next annual business meeting.

1. Such notice will require a minimum of four (4) days notice.
2. Such notice may be given in writing, by electronic mail, by fax, or by mail at such fax number or address as appears on the books of the corporation and such notice shall be deemed to be given at the time the notice is faxed or mailed.
3. The person entitled to such notice may waive the notice by signing a written waiver before, at, or after the time of the meeting.
* Paragraph 5. Regular Meetings.

The Trustees may establish regular meetings. No notice shall be required for any regular meeting.

Paragraph 6. Trustee Action by Unanimous Written Consent Without Meeting.

Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Board of Trustees under any provision of law may be taken without a meeting, if all members of the Board of Trustees shall individually or collectively consent in writing to such action.  Such written consent or consents shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Trustees.  Any certificate or other document filed under any provision of law which relates to action so taken shall state that the action was taken by unanimous written consent of the Board of Trustees without a meeting and that the Bylaws of this corporation authorize the Trustees to so act and such statement shall be prima facie evidence of such authority.

* Paragraph 7. Waiver of Notice.

Attendance of a Trustee at any meeting of the Board of Trustees will constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting except where such Trustee attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting, at the beginning of the meeting, to the transaction of any business because the meeting is not lawfully called or convened.

Paragraph 8. Meetings by Remote Communications Technology.

Subject to the notice provision aforementioned in this Article, the Trustees may also hold meetings by means of a remote electronic communications system, including video or telephone conferencing technology or the Internet, or any combination, only if each person entitled to participate in the meeting consents to the meeting being held by means of that system, and the system provides access to the meeting in a manner or using a method by which each person participating in the meeting can communicate concurrently with each other participant. Participation in such a meeting shall constitute presence in person at such meeting, except participation for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business on the ground that the meeting is not lawfully called or convened.

* Paragraph 9 .Quorum.

A simple majority of the Trustees (including the Lead Pastor/President) at an official board meeting constitutes a quorum of the board.

Section 6. Compensation.

There shall be no remuneration or salaried financial compensation for any trustee or deacon/elder.

ARTICLE 10

Officers

Section 1. Officers.

 The officers of the corporation shall be a Lead Pastor/President and a Secretary/Treasurer and any other officers that the Trustees may authorize and/or create from time to time.

Section 2. Appointment, Election and Term of Office.

* Paragraph 1. Appointment of the Lead Pastor/President.

The appointment and responsibilities of the Lead Pastor/President are listed in Article 5.

 Paragraph 2. Appointment of Secretary/Treasurer.

The Secretary/Treasurer is to be elected by the Church Body and approved by the Trustees. The term of this office is indefinite. Should the Trustees fail to approve of the nomination by the Lead Pastor/President, other nominations must be made until a suitable candidate is chosen.

* Paragraph 3. New Offices.

New offices may be created and filled at any meeting of the Board. Each officer shall hold office until his successor has been duly elected and qualified or the office dissolved.

Section 3. Removal of Officers.

Paragraph 1. Elder/Deacons Responsibility for the Lead Pastor/President.

The Elder/Deacons of the church may discipline or remove the Lead Pastor/President according to Article 7.

* + Paragraph 2. Trustees' Responsibility for All Other Officers.

Any officer elected or appointed by the Trustees may be removed by the Trustees when the best interests of the corporation would be served thereby, but such removal shall be without prejudice to the contract rights, if any, of the officer so removed.

Paragraph 3. Removal of any office, other than the Lead Pastor/President, may be removed by the Lead Pastor/President with the confirmation of the Council of Elder/Deacons.

Section 4. Powers of Officers.

* Paragraph 1. The Lead Pastor/President.

The powers of the Lead Pastor/President are listed in Article 5 above.

Paragraph 2. The Secretary/Treasurer.

The Treasurer can be, but is not limited to having to be a Elder as well as an officer of the corporation. The Treasurer can be any active member of the congregation. The Secretary must be a board member if the Secretary/Treasurer is filled by two persons. The Secretary shall act as clerk and record (or have recorded) all votes and the minutes of all proceedings in a book to be kept for that purpose. They shall oversee the keeping of the membership rolls of the corporation, and in general perform the duties usually incident to the office of secretary, and such further duties as shall be prescribed from time to time by the Trustees or by the Lead Pastor/President.

* Paragraph 3. The Secretary/Treasurer's Role Over Accounting.

(a). Treasurer

As Treasurer, the Treasurer shall oversee the keeping of full and accurate accounts of the receipts and disbursements in the accounting records of the corporation, and shall oversee the deposit of all monies and other valuable effects in the name and to the credit of the corporation in such banks and depositories as may be designated by the Lead Pastor/President. He does not determine expenditures, but he shall oversee the disbursement of the funds of the corporation as may be ordered by the Trustees or the Lead Pastor/President. He shall perform the duties usually incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as may be prescribed from time to time by the Trustees or by the Lead Pastor/President. The Treasurer can be any active church member, but if they are not an Elder, they are responsible to the office of Secretary which must be filled by an Elder/Deacon.

 (b.) Secretary

As Secretary, the office is a unique role in recording all activity in Trustee meetings, and being responsible for the dictation of annual business meetings and the recording thereof. One person may fill both Secretary and Treasurer positions of the Church, but the Secretary must be a trustee/deacon/elder, because of confidential information that may be shared and recorded in any business meeting. If the Secretary and Treasurer are two (2) individuals, the Treasurer is responsible for reporting directly to the Secretary for records and fulfillment of Paragraph 4 below, and/or to the Pastor/President for all financial matters.

* + Paragraph 4. Audited Financial Statements.

The Secretary/Treasurer shall serve on the Audit Review Committee and report to the Trustees after its review of the annual audit. If the church does not have an annual audit, the Secretary/Treasurer is to provide to the Trustees a report on the previous year's income and expenses.

* Paragraph 5. Cash Flow Statements.

The Secretary and/or Treasurer is to work with the Lead Pastor/President to provide an annual Cash Flow Statement that must accompany all contribution statements to members. A description of the salary scales used in determining the salaries for staff members will be provided upon written request.

Paragraph 6. Public Availability of Annual Financial Statements.

The Secretary/Treasurer shall insure that current audited financial statements are available to anyone upon written request and the approval of the Board of Trustees. Requirements of the request is to list exactly what the member wishes to review with a signed statement stating the reason for review and a signed statement stating the information will be kept in the strictest confidence. The previous year’s cash flow statements are available to all contributors to the church.

 Section 5. Trustee's Selection of Additional Officers:

In case of the absence of any officer of the corporation except the Lead Pastor/President, or for any other reason that may seem necessary, the Trustees, by a majority vote, may delegate the duties and powers of that officer for the time being to any other officer, or to any Trustee.

ARTICLE 11

Business Practices

Section 1. Fiscal Year.

 The fiscal year of the corporation shall be the calendar year.

Section 2. Contracts.

The Trustees may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents of the corporation, in addition to the officers so authorized by these Bylaws, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the corporation. Such authority may be general or may be confined to specific instances.

Section 3. Checks, Drafts, or Orders.

All checks, drafts, orders for the payment of money, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the corporation shall be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents of the corporation, and in such manner, as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Trustees. In the absence of such determination by the Trustees, such instruments may be signed by either the Secretary/Treasurer or the Lead Pastor/President of the corporation in accordance with their duties outlined in these Bylaws.

Section 4. Deposits.

All funds of the corporation shall be deposited to the credit of the corporation in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as the Trustees may select in accordance with these Bylaws.

Section 5. Gifts.

 The Lead Pastor/President may accept on behalf of the corporation any contribution, gift, bequest or device for any purpose of the corporation.

Section 6. Books and Records.

 The corporation shall keep correct and complete books and records and shall also keep minutes of the proceedings of its members, Trustees, committees having and exercising any of the authority of the Trustees, and any other committee, and shall keep at the principle office a record giving the names and addresses of all Trustees entitled to vote. Books and records of the corporation may be inspected by any church member for any proper purpose at any reasonable time as approved by a majority of the Trustees on a case-by-case basis.

Section 7. Refunds.

Real Life Church does not disburse any type of refunds for monetary support, tithes or offerings and none shall be given on any basis.

ARTICLE 12

Church Ministry

Section 1. Minister Ordination and Licensing.

* Paragraph 1.1. Role of the Lead Pastor/President.

The Lead Pastor/President must be a credentialed, or licensed, or ordained minister within the Assemblies of God.

 Paragraph 1.2. Ministerial Staff and Church Staff

Any and all staff, including ministers do not have to be credentialed, licensed or ordained, and may work under the Lead Pastors credentialing at the discretion of the Lead Pastor. Ministerial staff are encouraged to work towards credentialing, but only within the Assemblies of God if no other credentialing is held by staff. Staff may be hired if credentialing belongs to another denomination.

Section 2. Ministry Training.

The Lead Pastor/President and his staff may establish a School of Ministry, setting forth a prescribed curriculum and course of study leading to ordination and licensing of ministers as long as it complies with the Assemblies of God only. The School of Ministry shall prepare students in the knowledge of the Word of God and in ministering to people's needs through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE 13

Church Discipline

Section 1. Disciplining Church Members.

Only members are subject to church discipline. Mutual accountability and discipline within the church is commanded by God in Scripture and is an important responsibility of a Biblical Church. Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 2 Corinthians 2:5-11; Galatians 6:1; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; Titus 3:10.

Paragraph 1. Purpose

* + 1. To restore a fallen Christian to fellowship with God and the church.
		2. To preserve the honor and glory of God.
		3. To protect the integrity of the church.
		4. To prevent members from being tempted, misled, deceived, and otherwise harmed through the deceitfulness of sin.

Section 2. Disciplining the Lead Pastor/President, Pastoral Staff and Lead Team

Paragraph 1. Criteria for Discipline.

Should the Lead Pastor/President, any member of the Pastoral Staff or Lead Team demonstrate immoral conduct, illegal financial practices, or theological views that in the opinion of two or more Elders may require either personal correction or termination of his position, such Elders shall contact the Lead Pastor/President and/or person in question and then, if necessary, the Elder/Deacons for investigation and evaluation of any appropriate discipline. Should church discipline or removal need to take place, then it is necessary for the information to be shared to the Mississippi District Assemblies of God who will initiate removal of the Lead Pastor only.

Paragraph 2. Process for Investigation.

Should the Elder/Deacons be asked to investigate alleged pastoral misconduct, a consensus of two (2) of the three (3) Elder/Deacons is required to initiate an investigation, and a consensus of two (2) of the three (3) Elder/Deacons is required take disciplinary action. With such a consensus, the Elder/Deacon board shall assume complete authority over the Lead Pastor/President; they may decide to remove him from his position or to discipline him in any way they deem necessary. The Elder/Deacons have no authority in Real Life Church, Inc. unless contacted by such Pastoral Lead Team, and then only insofar as permitted under these Bylaws.

Appeal of misconduct may be issued to the Mississippi District Assemblies of God before final removal from office. At which time, the Mississippi District Assemblies will have final say on the Lead Pastors position only.

Paragraph 3. Motivation.

It is the intention of the corporation to protect the hearts of all involved in matters of pastoral discipline. With the method outlined above, the "sheep" never have to pass judgment upon their "shepherd.”

ARTICLE 14

Amendment of Bylaws

Bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed, and new Bylaws may be adopted at any regular meeting by both (1) simple majority affirmative vote of the Elders, and (2) an affirmative vote of the Lead Pastor/President. It will then be brought before the congregation at next annual business meeting, needing a two-thirds (2/3) majority for approval. At least five (5) days written advance notice of said meeting shall be given to each member of the Trustees. In the written notice, proposed changes must be explained. These Bylaws may also be altered; amended, or repealed and new Bylaws may be adopted by consent in writing signed by all of the Trustees.

Signed and certified, to be effective at approval at first annual business meeting.

Lead Pastor/President of Real Life Church, Inc.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer/Secretary of Real Life Church, Inc.

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Senior Elder of Real Life Church (or 3 year term elder)

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