

## **New Life church “Government”**

To govern is to conduct the policy, actions, and affairs of a group.

To exercise continuous sovereign authority, or final decisions.

A governor on a gas engine is to restrict or set limits so things don't get out of control! A group of people without government is chaos and anarchy.

The church should not be governed by a “dictator” (one who has gained control and authority by force) without accountability.

The church should likewise not be reduced to a democracy, mob rule or popular opinion by the majority vote.

**We are a Theocratic Republic.** Meaning that Jesus is the head of the church, God calls a Pastor, (Bishop or overseer) who is accountable to elders, and he appoints representatives who lead departments. Those leaders are confirmed (like a senate hearing) by the congregation who follow and support those leaders.

When someone is not able to follow or support a leader, they must appeal wisely (Matt 18:15-20). Biblically we must go to the individual privately. Other leaders should be involved if a resolution cannot be reached.

A spirit of rebellion, manipulation or division is never tolerated. Unity is always the goal. No leader is perfect, no Pastor is perfect, no church member is perfect.

Governing is often messy. Written policy and procedure is mandatory for paid staff. Job descriptions, and budgets are guides with boundaries and consequences.

Leading is always from a servant's heart motivated by love for people, and not about “jockeying” for title and position.

The team of leaders is always sharpened and improved by brutally honest transparency to define weaknesses and find solutions. If leaders are emotionally self-aware, they do not take offense (or feel attacked) from criticism, complaints, and suggestions.

In Acts 15:19 James (the leader of the council in Jerusalem) listened to different views and finally said, **“I thus judge”** which set the precedent handed down to the church.