



*"Members One of Another"*

Romans 12:5

NEW LIFE BIBLE CHAPEL MEMBERSHIP WORKBOOK



Trusts in  
Christ as  
Lord &  
Saviour

Baptized  
as a  
believer

Desires to  
be a  
member of  
NLBC

Seeks to  
grow & to  
serve

Actively  
disciples  
others

Takes on  
leadership  
roles as  
called  
upon

Membership Pathway

Welcome to New Life Bible Chapel (NLBC).

We are glad you are considering becoming a member of our family.

We are a Church that worships the Triune God, revealed in Jesus Christ and preach Him from the Bible - which is inspired, infallible and authoritative. We seek to mature together by knowing Christ more and more (Ephesians 4:13).

We see the need to share a common vision and agreement on what brings us together to best serve God and His purpose. This Biblical basis for membership can be seen most clearly in:

1. The activity of the early church (Acts 2:41-47);
2. The existence of church government (Acts 20: 28);
3. The exercise of church discipline (Matthew 18:15-17); and
4. The exhortation to mutual edification (Hebrews 10:24-25).

A member is therefore,

*“A believer in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, who has publicly confessed his or her faith in the believer’s baptism by immersion (baptized under the confession – in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit), upon which continues in active and continuous fellowship in the local church with an intent to be responsible and accountable for growth both of oneself as well as of the church.”*

Additionally, NLBC is a registered charity. To remain compliant with the Canada Revenue Agency and its insurance policies, a certain level of participation and compliance is required by members of NLBC. This workbook sets out to address both the Biblical principles of practice and the legal expectations of a member of New Life Bible Chapel.

We join you in prayer as you do this for the glory of our Lord.

Elders of New Life Bible Chapel

“A vibrant  
Bible-believing  
church  
that seeks to  
glorify God  
among the  
multi-ethnic  
communities in  
Mississauga, Ontario.”

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Three areas of membership discussed are:

1. An understanding of the beliefs and practices of NLBC;
2. Biblical purposes and expectations of being a member; and
3. Exploring your areas of ministry and service at NLBC.

“Until we all attain  
to the unity of the faith  
and of the knowledge of  
the Son of God,  
to maturity,  
to the measure of the  
stature  
of the fullness of Christ,”  
Ephesians 4:13.

## OUR STORIES

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On September 30, 2007 at 9:30 a.m., we met for the first time as a church in the basement of a Daycare Centre in Mississauga, at 2909 Gananoque Drive.

We are the first church plant of Bethany Chapel in Yorkdale. The Chapel had reached capacity and the elders in agreement with the members at Bethany prayed and financially supported this God-led initiative. One of the elders at Bethany Chapel, Rajan John, joined us for the first three years as we established our testimony in Mississauga.

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*“O God, make us visible!”*

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We spent the first three years hidden away in the basement. It was two floors down, where we did not even have cell phone reception. Our prayer through those times was, “O God, make us visible!” This prayer was appropriate in two ways. One, that God would provide us a place that was visible with good signage. Second, that God would give us spiritual visibility among those around us. God has been faithful in making both of these a reality.

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*Reflect Christ to the community and reflect the community within the church.*

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The focus of the church from the beginning has been to reflect Christ to the community and to reflect the community within the church. This meant outreach and relational evangelism would be integral to our DNA.

Through the years we have reached out to the community in variety of ways. It will be a joy to share with you some of these wonderful opportunities.

Also, our missional zeal extends beyond the borders of our country.

In the past we have supported missionaries in Philippines, India and Africa. Our partnerships have supported the construction of church buildings and relief & development with the intent to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) through the practice of the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:35-40), all for the glory of God (Colossians 3:17).

We, however, reserve our greatest effort and energies for the spiritual growth of those within the church.

Our desire is to *“attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ”* (Ephesians 4:13).

Our teaching time is therefore intentional, expository and systematic, providing the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27).

It is our desire at NLBC to *“equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ”* (Ephesians 4:12).

*We’d love to know how you became a Christian. In short bullet points please cover three areas – Your life before you met Christ; how you came to trust Christ; and your life since you have come to believe in Christ as your Lord and Saviour.*

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## **WHAT CHANGES WHEN YOU BECOME A MEMBER**

1. **Accountability:** Church membership is a way of identifying oneself with a local body of believers and of making oneself accountable to the body.  
(Matthew 18:15-20)
2. **Shepherding:** Church membership means your elders are accountable for your soul before God.  
(Hebrews 13:17)
3. **Responsibility:** Church membership is a statement of solidarity and like-mindedness (Philippians 2:2) and it provides you with privileges and responsibilities in the church not granted to non-members.
4. **Participation:** Church membership is an opportunity to plan and participate in the general working of NLBC.

## WHY JOIN US IN THE GOD-STORY

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### IT COMMITS YOU, THE CHRISTIAN:

- You show your willingness to be accountable to the local body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 11; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Hebrews 10:24-26).
- You show your commitment to love and serve others. (2 Corinthians 8:5; 1 Peter 4:8-11).

### OTHERS AT NLBC ARE COMMITTED TO YOU:

- It allows the local body of Christ at NLBC to be committed to you, as they have covenanted to watch over *each other* spiritually.

### TO GROW AND MATURE TOGETHER:

- It allows each of us to use our God given gifts to help the other to maturity, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. [Ephesians 4:11-13].

### SHEPHERDING:

- As a member of NLBC, the elders are accountable to God for how they lead you (Hebrews 13:17). As elders and pastors, they are committed to care, pray, counsel and teach the congregation (Titus 1:9; Acts 20:28; Luke 22:26).

### DISCIPLINE AND SAFETY NET:

- As a member, you show your willingness to Biblical discipline in the event of persistent sin and unwillingness to repent. Knowing the deceitfulness of sin, this is an immensely comforting, encouraging and Biblical safety net. (Hebrews 3:12-13).

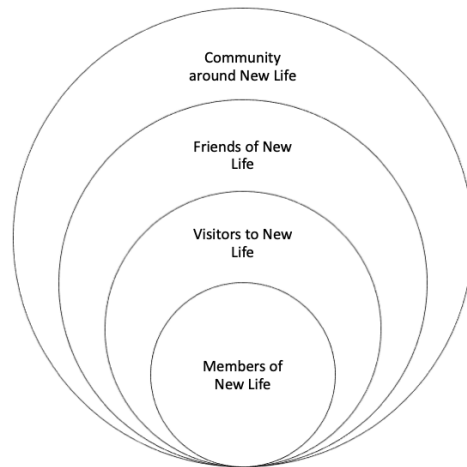
### ASSURANCE:

- Membership is the church's affirmation of the validity of someone's profession of faith (Matthew 16:19, 18:18).

### LIABILITY COVERAGE:

- Some of the ministries and activities of the church require the church to take a liability insurance for participants. As a member, this coverage is automatically applied to you.

There are four groups of people who attend NLBC.



1. Community or neighborhood:

- Those who drop in to check us out or visit during our community events.

2. Visitors at New Life:

- Those who are frequent attendees, who are disciples of Jesus Christ but have not yet committed to join the family of New Life as members.

3. Friends of New Life:

- Those who look to belong to and even consider New Life their home but are still not committed disciples of Jesus Christ. We pray that by interacting with us and through godly influence they are led to believe in our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 6:32-33).

4. Members of New Life:

- Those who are disciples of Jesus Christ, who have been baptized as believers and meet regularly around the Lord's Table for worship. They are committed to mutual service, accountability, edification and church discipline.

As you move towards the fourth group, we believe that God has a specific purpose for you within this community at NLBC.

So, ask yourself; what part will you play in the God-Story that He is writing at NLBC:

1. What is God’s purpose for you at New Life?

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2. How do you intend to grow in maturity in Christ within the community?

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3. In what ways will you serve God as you serve His people?

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## WORKBOOK SECTION

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## BIBLICAL REASONS FOR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

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There are two specific reasons for membership – effectiveness of faith and the pattern found in the New Testament.

### A. BEING PART OF A CHURCH ALLOWS THE CHRISTIAN TO BE EFFECTIVE IN HIS OR HER FAITH.

As a community we have four directions of impact:  
*(Check the references to fill-in the blanks below).*

#### 1. GODWARD: (Worship)

To G \_\_\_\_\_ *God (Ephesians 3:21).*

#### 2. INWARD: (Maturity)

To promote spiritual G \_\_\_\_\_ *(Ephesians 4:12).*

To exercise spiritual G \_\_\_\_\_ *(Romans 12:4-8).*

#### 3. OUTWARD: (Missional)

To reach others with the G \_\_\_\_\_ *(1 Thessalonians 1:8).*

#### 4. TOWARD: (Fellowship)

We are members of the B \_\_\_\_\_ *of Christ (1 Corinthians 10:17; 12:12-13).*

B. THE PATTERN OF THE NEW TESTAMENT BELIEVERS IS  
A GODLY TEMPLATE FOR US TO PRACTICE:

1. By being part of a local C\_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 10:25).
2. Participating in the privileges and responsibilities of the local church.
  - *In the breaking of B\_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17);*
  - *Doctrine, fellowship, P\_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 2:42);*
  - *S\_\_\_\_\_ (Philippians 1:5; 4:3);*
  - *T\_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 20:7);*
  - *Encouraging and E\_\_\_\_\_ (1 Thessalonians 5:11), and*
  - *G\_\_\_\_\_ (Galatians 6:6; 1 Corinthians 16:2).*
3. Recognized Spirit appointed leadership (Acts 20:28).
  - *The members H\_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 13:17; 1 Timothy 5:17), R\_\_\_\_\_ (1 Thessalonians 5:12f.) and were S\_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 13:17) to those who did the work of elders and deacons without treating them as infallible (1 Timothy 5:20) or in the place of Christ (Matthew 23:8-12).*

- *The elders had the responsibility as servant-leaders (Luke 22:25-27) to*  
*E\_\_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 4:11), G\_\_\_\_\_ (Acts*  
*20:28) and T\_\_\_\_\_ (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9) the*  
*members.*
  - *The congregation of believers as a body have the final authority under the*  
*L\_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 18:17; 1 Corinthians 5:4; Acts 6:3; 15:22).*
4. Accepted the D\_\_\_\_\_ that was exercised (Matthew 18:15-19; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13).
  5. Supported the work of the M\_\_\_\_\_ (2 Corinthians 8:1-2; Philippians 4:10)
  6. P\_\_\_\_\_ for the members of the local church (Acts 12:5; James 5:16)
  7. Cared and l\_\_\_\_\_ for one another as a family (John 13:34-35; Galatians 6:2).

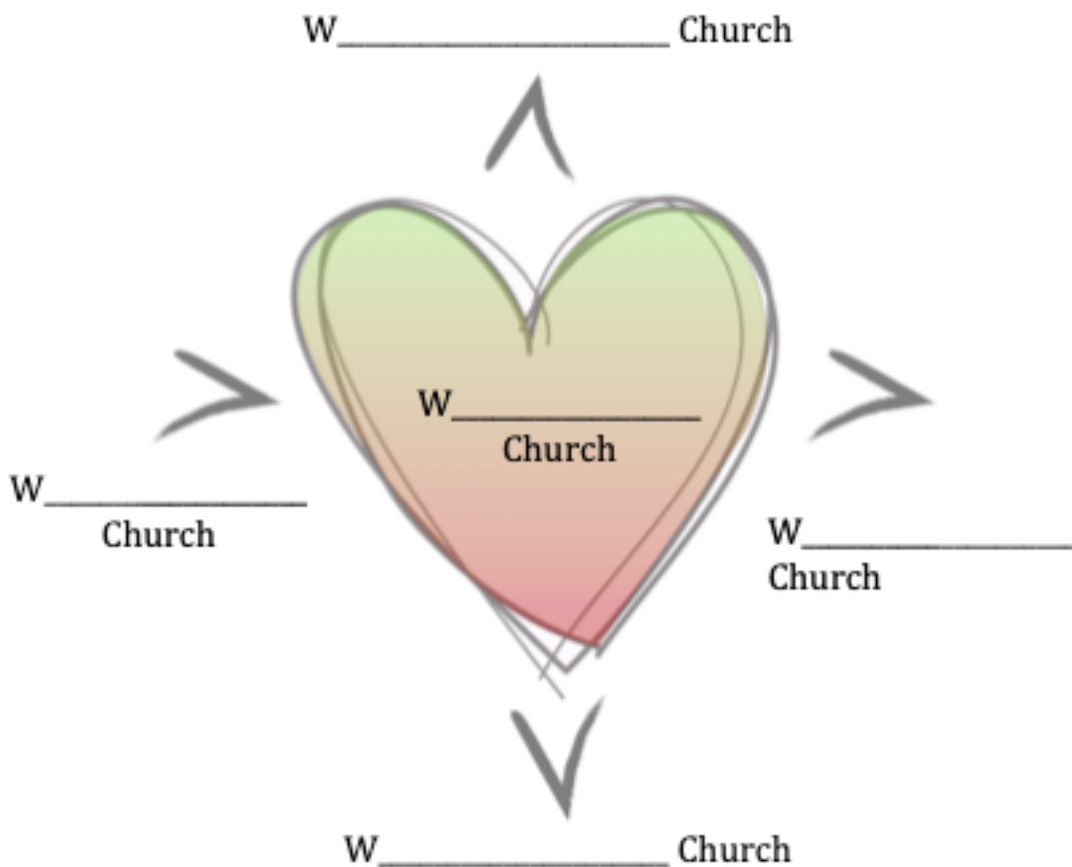
Thus, it is apparent that the growth of each individual and the exercise of Christian privileges and responsibilities are intended to happen in and through the local church.

It is God's intention that each of His children belong to and are involved actively in the local, visible witness of His community.



Our desire is for NLBC to be a welcoming, warm-hearted, witnessing, working and worshipping church. We are here for a God-ordained purpose and we wish to fulfill it faithfully to the best of our ability.

One of the elders will explain what the picture below means for you as a member.



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# BELIEFS & PRACTICES

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## WHAT WE BELIEVE

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*Read 'OUR BELIEFS' on the New Life Bible Chapel website and write down the main point for each of the paragraphs of the Statement of Faith.*

*New Life Bible Chapel website > About > Our beliefs.*

*(<https://www.newlifebiblechapel.com/beliefs>).*

### THE WORD OF GOD

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### THE TRINITY

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### GOD THE FATHER

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### JESUS CHRIST

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### HOLY SPIRIT

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HUMANITY

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SALVATION

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THE CHURCH

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CHRISTIAN CONDUCT

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LAST THINGS

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I agree with the Statement of Faith held to be true at the New Life Bible Chapel.

Signature

Name

Date



## NLBC FAMILY COMMITMENT

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I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following, in and through the strength He has promised to provide. So, help me God:

**I will love this group** of disciples of Christ who form this local church- New Life Bible Chapel. (1 Peter 4:8; 1 Timothy 1:5).

- I will honor the group's desire to glorify our Lord Jesus Christ. (Colossians 3:23; 1 Peter 2:17; 2 Timothy 2:21).
- I will support the church in its mandate to make disciples. (Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 10:17).

**I will give grace** to people just as I myself have received from the Lord.

- I will love and forgive those in the church as we grow together (Luke 6:36; Hebrews 12:15).
- I will seek opportunities and share the good news of the gospel with the lost. (Colossians 4:6; 2 Peter 3:9).

**I will grow** in my walk with God.

- I will grow through personal, family and church study and practice of Gods' Word. (2 Timothy 2:14-15; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- I will grow by attending the regular meetings not through compulsion but in love for God and for each other and for mutual encouragement. (Hebrews 10:25).

**I will stir-up and use my God-given gifts** in the work of the ministry.

- I will use my gifts in the various ministries and activities of NLBC. (Romans 12:3-8).
- I will encourage and provoke others to good works for God's glory. (Hebrews 10:24).

**I will give** of my financial and other resources to extend Christ's kingdom through the local church.

- To honor God by giving cheerfully and sacrificially. (2 Corinthians 9:6-12).
- I will not turn a blind eye to those in need, especially to those in the household of God. (Matthew 25:35).

I agree by signing this document together with His people at NLBC.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Member Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Read 'OUR PRACTICES' on the New Life Bible Chapel website and briefly write down your understanding or any questions you might have.

New Life Bible Chapel website > About > Our practices > New Testament Pattern-Objectives-Ordinances-Participation of members.

(<https://www.newlifebiblechapel.com/operating-principles>)

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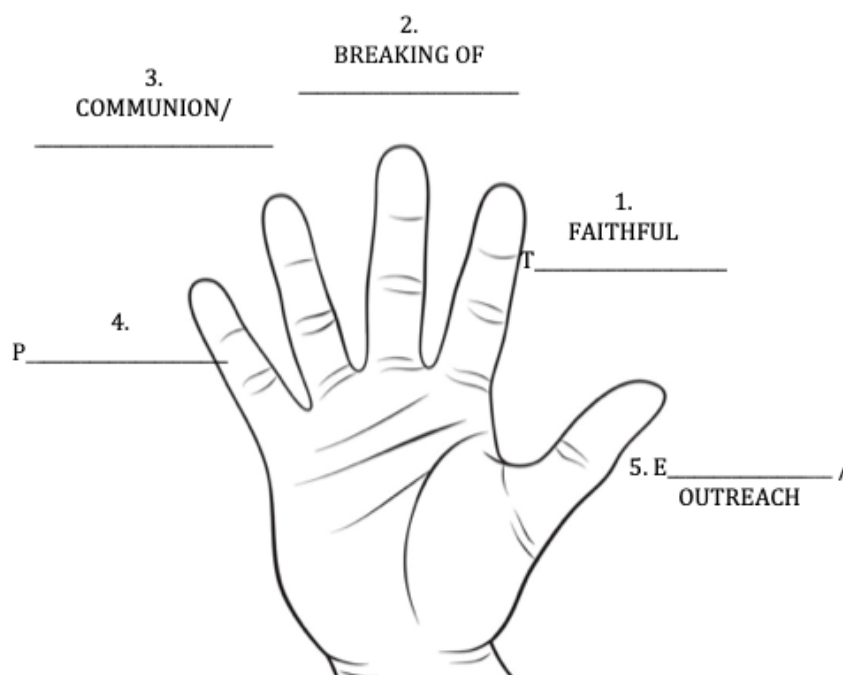
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## OUR PRACTICES

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Our **A.B.C.D.E** Model is taken from Acts 2:42 (vv. 41-47).



What may be the logical reasoning for these five fingers to represent the various functions of the church?

1. Index finger : \_\_\_\_\_
2. Center finger : \_\_\_\_\_
3. Ring finger : \_\_\_\_\_
4. Little finger : \_\_\_\_\_
5. Thumb : \_\_\_\_\_





## CHURCH GOVERNMENT

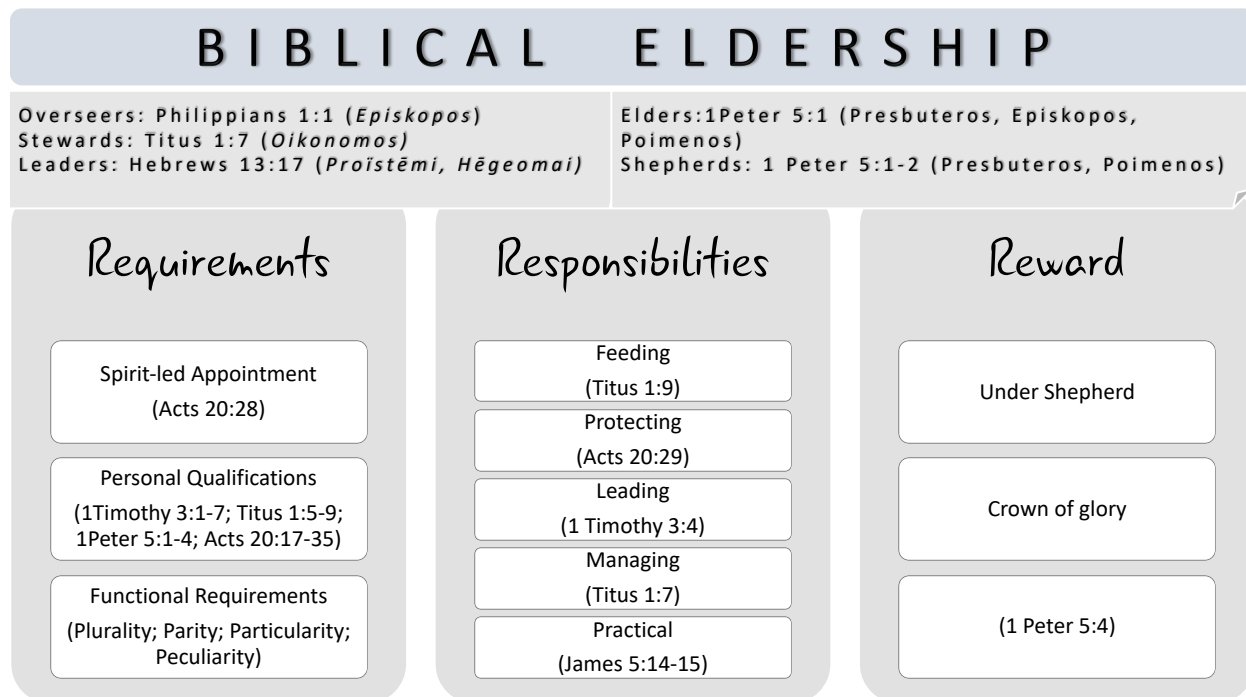
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We are an elder-led church but do not maintain a clergy-laity distinction. Decisions are not made by a congregational vote, however, God’s leading is realized in the church on a day-to-day basis in the consensus of the members.

You will notice that those in leadership are not called “Pastors” but by their names. This practice follows the pattern seen in the epistles. While this might appear unique, the underlying principle is that we would like the focus to be on the pastoral ‘work’ rather than on the pastoral ‘office’.

*We believe that the pastoral work in the local church is given to a plurality of men who are Spirit-appointed and are Biblically qualified.* Below is a graphical representation of the Biblical elder. (An elder will explain this for you).

Deacons are men who meet Biblical qualifications and manage the day-to-day operations of the church (1 Timothy 3:8-13).



*Read 'OUR DISTINCTIVES on the New Life Bible Chapel website and briefly write down your understanding or any questions you might have. Specially note the resulting church practices. New Life Bible Chapel website > About > Our distinctives. ( <https://www.newlifebiblechapel.com/our-distinctives>)*

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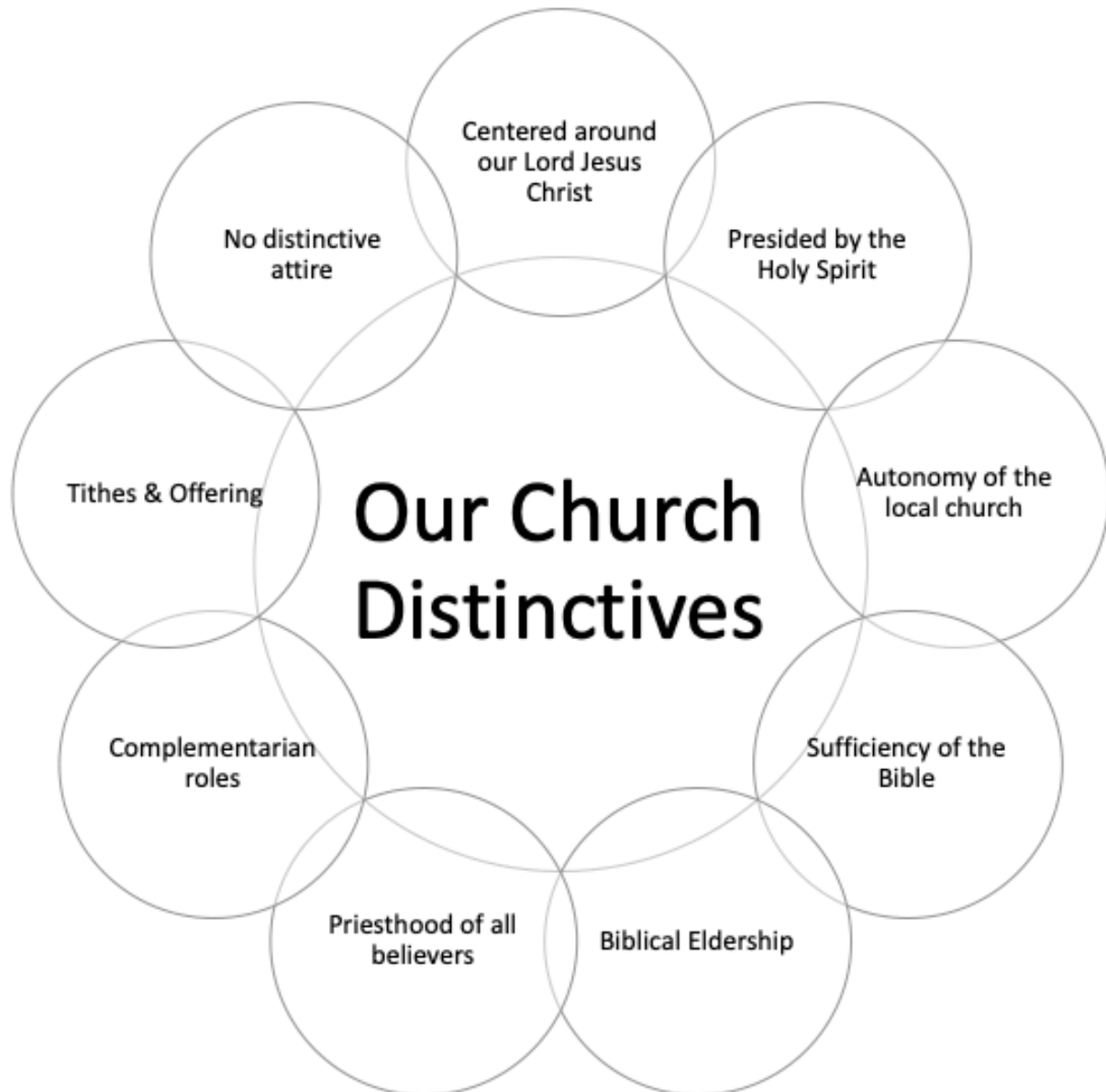
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## OUR DISTINCTIVES

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This answers the question, “What makes you different?” It may be summarized as shown below:



*Read 'CHURCH DISCIPLINE AND RESTORATION PROCESS' and briefly write down your understanding or any questions you might have.*

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## CHURCH DISCIPLINE AND RESTORATION PROCESS

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Church discipline involves the spiritual care of its members. It predominantly takes place as we meet as a body to learn God's Word and build each other. For it is His Word that transforms our heart, our understanding and our behaviours (Hebrews 4:12). Despite this when a member continues in sin, God desires that the church be involved -- in warning and working to restore the person in love. The steps of escalation are as follows (Matthew 18:15-17):

### **Step #1: A private conversation. (Matthew 8:15).**

- It begins with a private confrontation "just between the two."

### **Step #2: Take one or two others along (Matthew 18:16).**

- It might be appropriate for one of the elders to go along with the member making the charge. Also, consider taking another member of the church—perhaps a trusted friend—to speak into the person's life.

### **Step #3: Involve leaders or elders by informing them of the situation.**

- Jesus does not speak of the involvement of elders in Matthew 18, but given the responsibility over the church the elders will get involved at this stage.

### **Step #4: Adequate notice.**

- The elders will make formal contact with a goal to explain the charges and express their love and concern. If the person remains unrepentant, then it's necessary to notify them of when this will be shared with the congregation.

### **Step #5: Tell it to the church (Matthew 18:17, 20; see 1 Corinthians 5:4).**

- In more difficult cases, the elders might consider holding a forum for members of the church to bring questions.

### **Step #6: Removal from membership (Matthew 18:17).**

- If the individual continues to refuse to listen "even to the church," then the elders should update the congregation on the situation, and bring a formal motion for the congregation to remove him from the membership of the church.

LEGAL

## OUR DUE DILIGENCE

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NLBC ensures that it is legally compliant with Canada Revenue Agency and other statutory requirements. The members are also insured to counter any unforeseen threats in the discharge of its ministries, including nursery and children's outreach programs.

The annual insurance covers. (Details can be provided upon request).

- Property, including additional insured endorsement of the property owner.
- Machinery Breakdown
- Crime
- Liability, including abuse and officers' liability.

We also have a phone-in legal assist program to provide legal guidelines.

## PREVENTION THROUGH POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

We believe that the first step safety is prevention. The trustees have documented policies and procedures that help guide our processes for compliance, safety and due diligence. Some of these include:

- Fire policy
- Child safety policy
- Church benevolence policy
- Volunteer screening and confidentiality agreement

## CHARITY CONSTITUTION

Our constitution lays out in detail membership definition, church discipline, definition of an elder, statement of faith, meetings of members, elders and special committees. These will be provided separately.



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# MEMBER EXPECTATIONS

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## CRITERIA AND PROCESS FOR MEMBERSHIP

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Those who desire to join as members of New Life Bible Chapel are required to:

- Have personally trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour, and are living a consistent Christian life in accordance with the principles laid down by Christ and His apostles in the New Testament.
- Have been baptized as a believer in Jesus Christ according to the confession in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).
- Believe that everyone who has received the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour becomes a member of the universal church.
- Believe that a Christian need to be identified with, and be committed to, a particular group of believers that meet as a local church in accordance with clear, irrefutable teaching in the New Testament.
- Desire to partake of the Lord's Supper every Sunday in fellowship with the NLBC community. The Lord's Supper is celebrated on the first day of each week (Acts 20:7). Since the Lord Himself requested that we should celebrate this supper in remembrance of Him (Luke 22:19-20, 1 Corinthians 11:20-34), it should be the desire of every member of NLBC.
- Be involved in the encouragement and edification of the body. This may be through involvement in a church ministry or other opportunities as intimated.
- Accept that church membership brings a person under the accountability of the congregation, the oversight of the elders and the possibility of church discipline.

These are affirmed by signing the New Life Bible Chapel Membership Acknowledgement, indicating agreement with the New Life Bible Chapel Constitution, along with its appendices. The Statement of Faith should be signed annually as a commitment to the body of Christ at NLBC.

*(An elder will provide you with the copy of the Constitution and the corresponding Acknowledgement).*



**Membership  
requires commitment.**

**It clarifies in Biblical  
terms what it means to  
be part of the church.**

**It is a promise to love,  
care and pray for the  
church.**



**New Life**  
Bible Chapel

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