



## Official Constitution

### Preamble

We, the members of Newsong Fellowship, hereby adopt the following Constitution, which is based on biblical principles. This Constitution is neither a substitute for nor a supplement to the Word of God. It is simply a systematic review of the doctrines and their application to practical matters as taught by Newsong Fellowship, Edwardsville, Illinois. It is a guide to aid in the application of biblical principles to church polity. The Word of God shall be the first and final authority on all church matters, and any issue whereon this Constitution or the Newsong Bylaws are silent shall be governed by the clear statement of the Word of God.

### Article I

#### **Name of Corporation**

- Section 1.** The name of this congregation shall be Newsong Fellowship of Edwardsville, Illinois.
- Section 2.** Corporate offices shall be located in Madison County, Illinois.
- Section 3.** The congregation shall be incorporated in accordance with the laws of the State of Illinois.

### Article II

#### **What We Believe**

##### **About Scripture:**

We believe the entire Bible is the inspired Word of God and that men were moved by the Spirit to write words of Scripture. Therefore, the Bible is without error.

##### **About God:**

We believe in one God who exists in three distinct persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). We believe that Jesus Christ is the second member of the Trinity (the Son of God) who became flesh to reveal God to man and to become the Savior of the lost world.

##### **About Mankind:**

We believe that man was created in the image of God to have fellowship with Him, but became alienated from that relationship through sinful

disobedience. As a result, man is totally incapable of coming back into a right relationship with God by his own effort.

**About Salvation:**

We believe that the shed blood of Jesus Christ on the cross provides the sole basis for the forgiveness of sins. Therefore, salvation only occurs when a person places his faith in the death and resurrection of Christ as the sufficient payment for his sin.

**About the Christian Life:**

We believe that every Christian should live for Christ and not for himself. By obedience to the Word and daily yielding to the Spirit, every believer will mature and become conformed to the image of Christ.

**About the Church:**

We believe that the church is the body of Christ of which Jesus Christ is the Head. The members are those who have trusted by faith the finished work of Christ. The purpose of the church is to glorify God by loving Him and by making Him known to a lost world.

**Article III**

**Vision Statement**

Our vision is to build the body of Christ by developing spiritually mature Christ followers and equip them to lead the unchurched into a relationship with Christ in a culturally relevant way.

**Article IV**

**Membership**

Membership in this Church shall consist of all persons who have met the qualifications for membership and are listed on the membership role.

**Article V**

**Church Government**

**Section 1. The Church**

The Church shall be strictly self-governing in all matters, and shall never be under the control of any denomination or federation of churches. The Church may seek fellowship with other congregations of like faith and practice.

## **Section 2. Board of Elders**

The Board of Elders shall consist of eight men. The Board of Elders may include two staff members in addition to the Senior Pastor who shall be a permanent member of the Board of Elders. The primary function of the Board of Elders is that of discerners and shepherds. They are the conscience and guardians of the Church. They are not expected to oversee specific projects or ministry areas in their capacity as Elder. The Board of Elders will evaluate matters of the church according to the church's vision statement, resources and statement of faith.

## **Section 3. Senior Pastor**

The senior pastor shall conduct the services of the church. He shall be a permanent voting member of the Board of Elders. He shall preach the Word of God, shepherd the Church and lead it in the fulfillment of its sacred task in accordance with the constitution and bylaws. He shall maintain at all times a godly deportment so that no reproach may come through him upon the Body of Christ.

## **Section 4. Staff Leadership Team**

The Staff Leadership Team shall consist of the Senior Pastor and Staff Members selected by the Senior Pastor. The Staff Leadership Team will determine programming, provide vision to the various ministries of the church, and be charged with the day-to-day operations of the church.

## **Section 5. Stewardship Team**

The Stewardship Team shall oversee all financial and personnel matters. The Stewardship Team's primary function is to insure that the church is not compromised financially. The role of the Stewardship Team is not in the selection of personnel, but in the stewardship issues related to hiring decisions.

## **Section 6. Ministry Team Representative**

Representatives shall be chosen from each ministry and team to represent that group on the Ministry Team. Ministry Team Representatives shall serve as a channel of communication between the various ministries of the church. The primary function of the Ministry Team Representative meetings shall be to facilitate an open exchange of ideas, to give and receive general updates, and to present new ministry ideas and opportunities. The meetings shall always include a question and answer session.

## **Section 7. Pastor Accountability Team**

The Pastor Accountability Team shall consist of three men to whom the Senior Pastor is accountable. These men may or may not be members of Newsong Fellowship. The primary function of the Pastor Accountability team shall be to serve as the Senior Pastor's confidants and as an avenue of appeal for members to address concerns about the Senior Pastor. If the Pastor Accountability Team deems it necessary, they can meet with the Senior Pastor about the concern. Should the Pastor Accountability Team determine there are grounds for discipline, they shall take their complaint and recommendations to the Board of Elders for consideration of further action.

## **Article VI**

### **Affiliation**

Newsong Fellowship is and shall remain autonomous and shall maintain the right to govern its own affairs. Recognizing, however, the benefits of cooperation with other churches in accomplishing God's purposes, Newsong Fellowship may choose to affiliate with other churches, organizations, or associations of likeminded faith and practice.

## **Article VII**

### **Church Business Meetings**

Church Business Meeting shall be held quarterly. The quarterly meetings shall provide a forum for conducting church business not specifically reserved for a specific ministry, team or individual by the Church Constitution or the Church Bylaws. Those members present and voting at a meeting duly noticed and called shall constitute a quorum. All official church issues shall require a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote to pass. Special meetings may be requested for matters requiring immediate action as outlined in the bylaws.

## **Article VIII**

### **Amending the Constitution**

This constitution may be amended by presenting the proposed amendment to the Board of Elders in writing for consideration. The proposal shall contain the signatures of no less than twelve church members who support the amendment. The Board of Elders shall appoint a committee to study the issue in question. The committee shall provide a written recommendation to the Elders who, upon a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote, shall present the

amendment to the membership for a vote at the next church business meeting. The amendment will be adopted with a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote by the members. If the Elders do not approve the change, the issue will either go back to the committee for further consideration, or be dismissed.