

Agenda for Governing Board Meeting February 28, 6:30 PM New Life Methodist Church

All documents for meeting are placed on: <https://newlifemethodistchurch.org/governing-board/>

Governing Board Members in Attendance:

*Absent members

Church Leaders	Trustees	Finance Committee	Nominating Committee
Milanda Taylor (Lay Leader)	Apryl Emmons (Chair)	Regina Filmore (Chair)	Kathy Giles (Chair)
Joey Croft (Pastor)	Rod Eddleman (Co/SPRC)	Scott Chandler	Sherry Newton
	Robert Godsey (GB Chair)	Keith Hamby (Sec)	Lana Bruno

Others in attendance:

Opening Prayer

GB Business Meeting Agenda

1. Review, update & approve meeting minutes from: NLMC GB Minutes 1.17.2022.
2. Committee Updates
 - a. Steering Committee
 - b. Kathy to report from the steering committee.
 - c. Finance Committee
 - d. update on budget and approve budget for 2023
 - e. Trustees Committee
 - i. Lighting Updates
 1. Replaced all of the hallway lighting in the hallways with new LED bulbs for brighter lighting. The cost was around \$120. 10 year bulbs.
 2. Power Company I have talked to them about getting lights changed to LED
 - a. They said they have LED lights on backorder
 - b. We have one light out that is over the basketball court, if we agree I would like to see about getting that moved to the pole in the parking lot by the scout hut near the trash receptacle.
 3. Additional lighting that has been requested better lighting at the kitchen door.
 4. Light at the exit by the daycare replacing the one above the door and adding new light.
 - a. Put a new light, cost \$65 + \$20 = \$85
3. Additional lighting changes
 - i. Other signage or symbols that need to be updated around the church
 1. Putting labels on the hymnals cost:
 - a. Price for labels: 5.5" x 4" - 200 to 300: \$1.68 each (200 - \$336)
 - b. 1.5 x 2.25 - 200 to 300: 49¢ each (200 - \$98)
 - c. These are printed in house at H&H printing, they might get them a little cheaper if we order minimum quantity of 500 each.
4. Community Outreach budget \$3000 in 2023
 - a. Do we need to write guide lines for how to handle outreach; example: the last request to help someone with their power bill, cost was high.
5. Discussion on bylaws
 - a. Sign Deeds for name change need to be completed, and file for church exemption.
 - b. At some point we will need to dissolve the corporation of New Life United Methodist Church Inc (future date) NCLL will work on this for us.
 - c. Bylaws approved, by GB, what are the next steps does the board want to do?
 - d. Bylaws reviewed by the lawyers @ NCLL

- i. Please review from NCLL of our bylaws. We need to meet to talk about making changes based on this review.

- 6. Offering collection, do we need any changes in the process?
 - a. See attached current instructions.

- 7. Security update for the Church
 - a. Apryl is working on having the Grant Police come by and review our building to make recommendations, the person she is working with has been doing this review for other churches in our area.
 - b. We need a volunteer to head this up, she thinks Stan may take this on.

- 8. Open Discussion and/or Outstanding Business.
 - a. Do we have an update on what NLCA will pay for phone and internet going forward?
 - b. Update on printer/copier for daycare?
 - c. other

Next GB meeting Tuesday March 21st 2023 @ 6:30 PM

Closing Prayer

Minutes for Governing Board Meeting January 17th, 6:30 PM New Life Methodist Church

Governing Board Members in Attendance:

*Absent members

Church Leaders	Trustees	Finance Committee	Nominating Committee
Milanda Taylor (Lay Leader)	Apryl Emmons (Chair)	Regina Filmore (Chair)	Kathy Giles (Chair)
Joey Croft (Pastor)	Red Eddleman (Co/SPRC)	Scott Chandler	Sherry Newton
	Robert Godsey (GB Chair)	Keith Hamby (Sec)	Lana Bruno

Others in attendance:

Opening Prayer: Joey Croft

GB Business Meeting Agenda

- 1) Review, update & approve meeting minutes from:
 - a. NLMC GB Minutes 12_13_2022
 - b. Kathy made a motion to approve the minutes. Keith seconded. Motion passed unopposed.
- 2) Outreach: Joey stated Naomi Herbert would like for us to start a Pastor's discretionary fund for people in need.
 - a. Robert stated the Community Outreach budget is \$3000 in 2023.
 - b. Robert stated we had more requests than we helped last year.
 - c. Kathy stated that an Outreach Coordinator would be needed to handle those requests. Robert suggested the Steering Committee find someone to be the Outreach Coordinator.
 - d. Committee agreed Steering Committee would take care of that.
 - e. Pastor Joey talked about how excited he is about everything going on at New Life and the Men's group that he is organizing. Looking for a man to lead the men's group. First meeting will be in February.
- 3) Worship Leader: Need to make decision on position and decision on salary
 - a. Apryl made a motion to pay the Worship Leader \$12,000 per year. Keith seconded. Motion passed unopposed.
 - b. Robert asked, do we increase the budget or take it from another area? Regina stated that there will be a finance committee to determine the best way forward.
 - c. Milanda will update the Job Description with at least one hymn per Sunday and tracking CCLI information; Joey will share the salary and the job description with Jim.
- 4) Re-evaluate service to church: Robert asked: Are you doing what you need to do to serve our church; everyone should reevaluate each year?
 - a. Vote on GB chairman for 2023? It can be anyone on the GB.
 - b. Kathy nominated Robert Godsey to be the GB Chairman. Regina seconded. Motion passed unopposed. Robert agreed to be GB chair for one more year.
 - c. Apryl stated the job was extensive and needed to be filled by someone who was retired with extra time.
- 5) Committee Updates
 - a. Finance Committee
 1. update on budget and church funds for 2023
 - a. New Hope Phone bill: \$168.80.
 1. Host 37.84
 2. Internet 79.99


3. Security 38.97

- b. Kathy made a motion for daycare to pay for half of the internet and half of security. Apryl seconded. Motion passed unopposed.
 - b. Trustees Committee**
 - 1. Apryl did not have any new business for the Trustees committee. They will meet separately and report back to the GB.
 - c. Steering Committee**
 - 1. Kathy stated we have some new members helping out in needed areas.
 - a. Kathy asked Scott Chandler to be a part of the GB and be a member of the Finance committee. Kathy made motion for Scott Chandler to fill the open position of the governing board. Lana seconded. Motion passed unopposed.
 - b. May Patterson: children's church
 - c. Bailee Sutphin: acolyte leader.
 - d. Glenda May: keep pews neat with pencils, envelopes, tissues.
 - e. Claudia Taylor: projection assistant
 - f. Sydney Emmons: bulletin board
 - g. Volunteers for 2023 is complete.
 - h. Naomi Herbert: Prayer shawl ministry.
 - 2. Lana – Children's Ministry:
 - Sunday, March 12th after church: March Madness – game day for kids.
 - a. Vacation Bible School –June 23-24 weekend (Fri night and Sat morning). Theme: "Pets Unleashed: Jesus Cares Fur You"
 - d.** Apryl question for steering committee: do we have any members who are police/military or ex-police/military as possible volunteers for a security committee? Fire: Robert Patterson and Mitch McCullough. Trustees will work on getting a church security team together for worship services.
 - e.** Worship Committee meeting minutes were shared by Milanda.
- 6) Discussion on bylaws**
- a.** Robert stated the bylaws need to be reviewed and approved, by and then (1) sent to NCLL lawyers for review and (2) given to First State Bank (FSB) for setting up account under New Life Methodist Church. Governing Board members signed bylaws in the board meeting.
 - b. Bank**
 - 1. Signature Cards: The bank requested the new bylaws prior to setting up signature cards.
 - a. Kathy made a motion that the following persons are added for signatures on the checking and saving and the listed persons are removed. Scott seconded. Motion passed unopposed.
 - i. Checking & Saving Account:
 - 1. Regina Filmore
 - 2. Susie Carnes
 - 3. Apryl Emmons

4. Rod Eddleman
 5. Robert Godsey
 6. Removing
 - A. James Kuykendall
 - B. Carol Godsey (do not add)
 - ii. Changes for Safe Deposits Access. Kathy made a motion that following persons be on the Safe Deposit access list and Robert Patterson be removed. Regina seconded. Motion passed unopposed.
 1. Kathy Giles
 2. Susie Carnes
 3. Robert Godsey
 4. Removing
 - A. Robert Patterson
 2. Robert stated we will need new checks with new name after we get the banking changes made. We are trying to keep same bank account number.
 - c. Church Name Change
 1. Updated accounts:
 - a. Wayne's pest control: UPDATED
 - b. Alfa insurance: UPDATED
 - c. First State Bank (not 100% completed need bylaws)
 - d. Credit card
 - e. Republic Services (need to call them again; not correct yet)
 - f. The Hartford Insurance (Paperwork to fill-out)
 - g. Power: Robert requested update when added power the new storage building.
 - h. Phone & Internet
 - i. Etc.... Admin will contact vendors.
 2. New church email.
 3. Other signage or symbols that need to be updated around the church
 4. New church deeds
 5. Will need to get new deeds from NCLL that will have to be filed
 6. Will need to file for church to not pay taxes on new property.
 7. At some point we will need to dissolve the corporation of New Life United Methodist Church Inc (future date) NCLL will work on this for us.
- 7) Open Discussion and/or Outstanding Business.
- a. Old Business Items
 1. Updated on recommendations for NLCA phone line & internet (currently est. NLCA is paying \$10/mo for both)
 2. Update commercial printer/copier for daycare
 3. Robert stated the quitclaim deed was registered on Fri Dec 16
 4. Sample for new offering envelopes were passed around in board meeting.

5. Sample for church sign reviewed by board. Apryl stated a concern for too much information on the sample for the space. GB agreed to just have the church name and the physical address. Remove phone and mailing address. GB recommended asking the sign-maker for suggestions based on sign size.
 6. Sample of Hymnal stickers were removed by board: Robert passed around a hymnal with a sticker on the front and the binding covering references to United Methodist.
- 8) Next GB meeting February 21, 2023 @ 6:30 PM

Closing Prayer: Kathy Giles

From: Barbara Weller bweller@gibbsfirm.com 
Subject: Re: NCLL sample Methodist Bylaws
Date: February 4, 2023 at 2:02 PM
To: Robert Godsey rjgodsey@me.com

BW

TO: Mr. Robert Godsey, New Life Methodist Church, Grant, AL

Thanks for forwarding your Bylaws-in-progress. I congratulate you for taking this process so seriously as you are making this document your own. I have several comments below—many of which are related to the comments made in your document.

1. With regard to why we include a specific statement of faith on the LGBT issues—1) this is one of the primary reasons you are leaving the UMC, 2) as Francis Shaeffer once said, the most important issues for a church to deal with are the key cultural (or doctrinal) issues of the day, which in our day are the LGBT and life issues, and 3) courts will recognize a church's beliefs in this area (i.e., not marrying same sex couples, not allowing a biological male with gender dysphoria to use the ladies bathrooms or sleep with female teens on a youth group trip, etc.); however, the church must clearly state those beliefs. I have attached alternate marriage policies that the church GB could enact. Article 12, D refers back to this type of Statement of Faith or policy.
2. People interpret the Bible in different ways—generally to suit what they already believe. So the UMC church will still say that the Bible supports same sex marriage and ordaining same sex or transgender clergy. Again, this is one of the reasons you are leaving the UMC. Therefore, it is important to state how your church interprets the Bible in these matters. The same would be true of abortion and euthanasia. Different churches interpret the Bible differently in these areas.
3. With regard to euthanasia, there is both active and passive euthanasia. A patient can just refuse additional treatment and die naturally—that is passive euthanasia (or not euthanasia at all). Active euthanasia involves a doctor removing food and water or injecting morphine or other drug to actually cause the death of a person who otherwise would not die—and that is active euthanasia and is what we are addressing here.
4. Of course you can omit any of these cultural beliefs that you don't want to include.
5. You can decide for yourselves what you want to do about a church membership class or other membership requirements. Churches do different things in this regard.
6. Your voting age or age of membership can also be whatever you want to make it, but 16 is probably the lowest you should go.
7. I have attached a church Trespasser Policy for you. In these days when you never know whether some nut job will enter the church to cause a disruption, you need to have some way to deal with that. However, since the church building is your church's private property, and the law permits anyone to ban someone from their private property for any reason, this does not need to be included in the Bylaws in order for the church to legally take this action when/if necessary.

8. Your reasons for dismissing someone from membership can be whatever you want them to be. Generally, they include disruption or no longer identifying as a Christian—perhaps saying bad things about the church on Facebook or other social media.
9. The church discipline of a member (which would generally lead to dismissal) can be whatever you want it to be. Some churches have their Governing Board make this decision. Others allow the pastor to dismiss members. The problem comes when churches will only dismiss someone after a membership vote. That generally requires all the members to be given too much information about that person. Churches have been sued for defamation, slander or violation of privacy rights if all members are given too much information about a situation (primarily money or sex or other family problems).
10. We include affiliated members as a substitute for an inactive membership list. Normally, only active church members (whoever you consider those to be) can vote at church meetings. This avoids having a lot of inactive members show up to vote on (and determine) a controversial issue when they haven't been to church in 5 years or they actually live somewhere else. And obviously, you would not want anyone who is not yet a full church member to vote at church meetings.
11. An active member eligible to vote is a qualified member. Sometimes a church accepts members at 16 but doesn't allow them to vote until 18.
12. Since you are now a registered corporation, as well as a church, you are required to have at least a president, secretary and treasurer of the corporation. You can elect those people any way you like. And the corporation treasurer could merely be a figurehead, while you hire a CPA to actually keep the books. The same could be true of a secretary—a figurehead while you hire someone to do actual secretarial work. Quite often the chairman, secretary and treasurer of the GB would also serve as the corporate officers. These are the people who would sign outside legal documents— things like mortgages, etc.
13. Your Governing Board members can serve as long as you like. The key is to state how and when they are elected in your Bylaws. You can also replace them however you like. The key is to be able to vote a GB member out if they become disruptive, senile, etc. with or without cause.
14. Pulpit committees can be organized as you like but should include a cross-section of membership.
15. Generally only an ordained pastor administers the sacraments. And only an ordained pastor can marry. But some churches allow lay members to assist with communion.
16. Churches determine for themselves what are the duties of the pastor and the duties of the GB.
17. Some churches have Deacons and some don't. Same with Trustees or Elders. Once the church corporation owns the property, there is no need for Trustees. Most churches have only one governing board to handle all church business—although a church can choose to

have several different governing boards with differing duties. Again—your choice.

18. With regard to counting offerings, more than one person should always be involved to avoid fraud and embezzlement (or such allegations).
19. We recommend no motions from the floor to avoid controversy and give the GB and pastor time to consider any motions ahead of the meeting to make recommendations. However, some churches do allow motions at the end of the meeting from the floor or even during the meeting. Again—your choice
20. Churches generally only want teachers who support the church's Statement of Faith. Teaching is a position of authority, so why have someone teaching something the church does not believe?
21. Churches are permitted to engage in political lobbying about issues of concern to the church, but should not use more than 7-10% of their time and money for that. What churches may not do is to officially endorse a candidate during an election. This IRS rule was not enforced under Pres. Trump, who believed churches should be able to freely engage in politics (which is what America's Founders thought as well). This IRS candidate endorsement prohibition rule was made by House Speaker Lyndon Johnson in the 1950s to punish nonprofits who objected to his fraudulent elections in Texas, but our Founders expected churches to be active in electing America's leaders. Biden put that IRS rule back in place (although the IRS does not enforce it these days for Democrat-leaning churches). If Pres. Trump is re-elected again in 2024 and has a GOP Congress, this IRS prohibition might be removed altogether.

I hope this addresses all your concerns and I congratulate you again for so carefully considering all of this. Let me know if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Weller
Ministry Consultant
Attorney | admitted in Florida

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Trespasser Policy NCLL Sample

Sample Trespasser Policy:

Although the general public is invited to all the church's worship services, the church property remains private property. The pastor (or in his absence, an individual designated by the board) has the authority to suspend or revoke the right of any person, including a member, to enter or remain on church property. If after being notified of such a suspension or revocation, the person enters or remains on church property, the person may, in the discretion of the pastor, (or in his absence, an individual designated by the board), be treated as a trespasser.

Additional guidelines/suggestions for implementing a trespasser policy:

- If a disruption in church services/scheduled event, etc., is anticipated, the ministry should notify law enforcement ahead of time.
- Protestors have an absolute legal right to peacefully protest on public sidewalks outside the church or ministry. Under such circumstances, consider offering protestors water, coffee, donuts, etc., as a witness to the community; however, this should only be done if the protestors are acting peacefully.
- Trespass charges may only be brought if protestors come onto the church's private property or if the protest is not peaceful.
- Persons who become disruptive should be asked to leave the property and police should be notified/called if such persons refuse. Have a plan in place for how to manage the congregation or other large group if the disruption occurs during a church service or other official function (e.g., plan to have the music director lead the congregation in singing until police arrive and resolve the situation)
- It is up to the ministry whether to allow known or potential disruptors to enter the ministry property and only to treat them as trespassers if they actually become disruptive.

Marriage Policy & Bylaws for Churches

In light of the current trend of states enacting laws to allow same sex marriages, churches should now act to protect their theological integrity regarding marriage ceremonies and other related activities.

A church planning to adopt a marriage policy should review the following Model Marriage Policy for Churches and then edit it to make it fit what that church believes about marriage. The policy adopted by the church need not be included in the church bylaws, but should be adopted by the appropriate church body and made a part of that adopting body's business meeting minutes. It is also important that the church's Statement of Faith accurately reflects the church's Biblical view of marriage, homosexuality, and transgenderism.

To legally protect the church from a potential lawsuit or other legal action against the marriage policy, the church must follow its bylaw procedures for adopting amendments to the Statement of Faith and other pertinent bylaws. The following sample language may be used by a church to bring its policies and Statement of Faith up-to-date and to offer the optimum protection for the church in maintaining it right to take a Biblical stand on these politically charged issues.

Model Marriage Policy for Churches

Marriage is a union ordained by God. It was first instituted by God in the early chapters of Genesis and codified in the Levitical law. Old Testament prophets compared marriage to a relationship between God and his people. Historical narratives give many examples of marriages and wisdom literature discusses the unique unity of the marriage relationship. Jesus explained the original intention for and the core elements of marriage, and several New Testament Epistles give explicit instructions on this union. Since marriage is considered by the church to be a typology of Christ and His Church, churches hold marriage to be a profound spiritual institution established by God. Due to the importance of marriage in the Biblical witness, [ministry name] adopts the following policy:

Clergy:

1. Only duly ordained clergy shall officiate at marriage ceremonies conducted on church property.
2. Clergy employed by the church shall be subject to dismissal and/or loss of ordination for officiating a same gender marriage ceremony.

Applicants:

1. Applicants wishing to have a ceremony performed by a member of the clergy employed by the church, or to use the church facilities, shall affirm their agreement with the Articles of Faith and shall conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent therewith.

2. Applicants shall receive _____ hours of premarital counseling by clergy or counselors employed by the church or other persons who, in the sole opinion of the pastoral staff of the church, have appropriate training, experience, and spiritual understanding to provide such counseling.

Premises:

1. Any marriage performed on church premises shall be officiated by a member of the clergy.
2. Clergy officiating marriage ceremonies on church premises, whether or not employed by the church, shall affirm their agreement with the Articles of Faith and shall conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent therewith.
3. The clergy assigned by the church to implement the procedures contained in this Marriage Policy may, in his or her sole discretion, decline to make church facilities available for, and/or decline to officiate at, a ceremony when, in his or her judgment, there are significant concerns that one or both of the applicants may not be qualified to enter into the sacred bond of marriage for theological, doctrinal, moral or legal reasons.

Model Human Marriage and Sexuality Language for Churches, Religious Schools and Other Faith-Based Organizations (*add to Statement of Faith*):

- a. We believe that the term “marriage” has only one, legitimate meaning, and that is marriage sanctioned by God, which joins one man and one woman in a single, covenantal union, as delineated by Scripture. Marriage ceremonies performed in any facility or space owned, leased, or rented by this church will be only those ceremonies sanctioned by God, joining one man with one woman as their genders were determined at birth. Whenever there is a conflict between the church’s position and any new legal standard for marriage, the church’s statement of faith, doctrines, and biblical positions will govern. (Gen. 2:24; Eph. 5:22-23; Mark 10:6-9; I Cor. 7:1-9)
- b. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage as defined in (a) above. We believe that any other type of sexual activity, identity or expression that lies outside of this definition of marriage, including those that are becoming more accepted in the culture and the courts, are contradictory to God’s natural design and purpose for sexual activity. (Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1: 26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9-10; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4)
- c. We believe that God creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, unchangeable genders together reflect the image and nature of God, and the rejection of one’s biological gender is a rejection of the image of God within that person. (Genesis 1:26-27)
- d. Although our marriage and sexuality standards are firmly based on the Bible, we also believe that every individual must be treated with dignity and respect, free of threats or harassment.

Sample Church Marriage Policy Provision

(Consider including with the Church's Marriage Policy)

Because God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between a man and a woman, <CHURCH NAME> will only recognize marriages between one man and one woman, as biologically determined. <INSERT APPLICABLE SCRIPTURAL/BIBLICAL REFERENCES HERE>. Further, the ministers and staff of <CHURCH NAME> shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman, as biologically determined, and the facilities and property of <CHURCH NAME> shall only host weddings between one man and one woman, as biologically determined.



Updated: February 23, 2023

Offering Stewards

Preparing the Offering

1. Must have two people count the offering.
2. After collecting the offering, bring the offering into the Sacristy.
3. Both people should count the cash, number of checks and number of envelopes.
 - a. Note when counting do not look at the face of the checks.
4. On an envelope enter this information: cash amount, number of checks and number of envelopes.
5. Each person should then sign the envelope.
6. One of the offering stewards should put the money into the envelope and seal.
7. Put the envelope in the lock box in the Sacristy or give to Lisa Saylor.
 - a. Lock Box is in the lower cabinet.