

# “WHAT WE ARE ALL ABOUT”



# “NEWCOMER’S BOOKLET”

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## **WELCOME TO ALL OF OUR "NEWCOMERS"**

We are very happy you have chosen to find out more about Life's DESTINY Church and its Congregational Church Plant, Yeshua Ha'Mashiach Messianic Congregation. We hope this will prove to be a fun-filled introduction to our multi-congregational family. Since we do have members from many different religious and spiritual backgrounds, we have designed this time together to:

- 1) Fellowship with you, while you get to know us better.
- 2) Provide you with information that explains who we are & what we believe.

### **Meet Our Leaders:**

Sr. Pastors: Dr. William & Gina Hepfner

Pastor Jim & Sara Trout

Pastor Carl & Nina Carpenter

Elders: Chuck & Annette Eberhardt

Pastor Kevin & Tammi McCarthy

**Now that we have had an opportunity to meet our Leaders,  
let's introduce our Guests.**

Ephesians 2:19

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

### **Key Truths**

1. Both Congregations are **a spiritual family**.
2. God expects you to be **part of** a spiritual family.

### **WHAT MAKES US A FAMILY?**

#### **Four things unite us:**

- Our Salvation (What God has done for us)
- Our Statement (Why we exist as a church)
- Our Strategy (How we fulfill our purpose)
- Our Structure (When and where we fulfill our purpose)

### **WE ARE GOING TO COVER THREE SECTIONS IN THIS BOOKLET:**

#### **Section One: Our Belief Statements**

- A) Our Purpose Statement
- B) Our Faith Statement
- C) Our Lifestyle Statement

#### **Section Two: Congregational Strategy**

- A) Who We Wish to Reach
- B) Our Plans to Reach Our Goals
- C) Our "Spiritual Growth Track"

#### **Section Three: Congregational Structure**

- A) How Our Congregations Are Structured
- B) What it Means to Be a Member
- C) The Membership Covenant

# SECTION ONE:

## OUR BELIEF STATEMENTS

1 CORINTHIANS 1:10

NOW I BESEECH YOU, BRETHREN, BY THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THAT YE ALL SPEAK THE SAME THING, AND THAT THERE BE NO DIVISIONS AMONG YOU; BUT THAT YE BE PERFECTLY JOINED TOGETHER IN THE SAME MIND AND IN THE SAME JUDGMENT.

## **OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT:**

**"To reach people in the East Valley area with the life-giving message of Jesus (Yeshua), that they might become fully devoted followers of Christ (Messiah)."**

This purpose statement gives us our reason for **assembling together**,  
and we base this on two key scriptures:

### **1) Based on The Great Commandment**

Matthew 22:36-40 Jesus said, '**Love the Lord** your God with all your heartsoul...and mind mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it; **Love your neighbor** as yourself. All the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments.

### **2) Based on The Great Commission**

Mark 16:15-20 "He said unto them, 'Go into all the world and **preach the good news** to all creation. **Whoever believes and is baptized** will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And **these signs will accompany those who believe...**' Then **the disciples went out** and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it."

- |   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| ■ " <u>Love</u> God with all your heart" and to<br>" <u>Love</u> your neighbor as yourself" are | <b>MOTIVATION</b> |
| ■ " <u>Preach</u> the good news" is   | <b>EVANGELISM</b> |
| ■ <u>Seeing</u> "believers baptized" is   | <b>CONNECTION</b> |
| ■ " <u>Signs accompanying</u> those who believe" is   | <b>TRAINING</b>   |
| ■ "The disciples <u>went out</u> " is   | <b>OUTREACH</b>   |

### **Therefore, We Believe That We Need . . . :**

- |                         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. To Worship God       | <b>MOTIVATION</b> |
| 2. To Preach The Gospel | <b>EVANGELISM</b> |
| 3. To Pastor Believers  | <b>CONNECTION</b> |
| 4. To Train Disciples   | <b>TRAINING</b>   |
| 5. To Develop Leaders   | <b>OUTREACH</b>   |

**(1) "To WORSHIP GOD"**

**"Worship** the Lord your God, and serve Him only." Matthew 4:10

JOHN 4:23-24                      BUT THE HOUR COMETH, AND NOW IS, WHEN THE TRUE  
WORSHIPPERS SHALL WORSHIP THE FATHER IN SPIRIT AND IN  
TRUTH: FOR THE FATHER SEEKETH SUCH TO WORSHIP HIM. GOD  
IS A SPIRIT: AND THEY THAT WORSHIP HIM MUST WORSHIP HIM  
IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH.

1 JOHN 4:11                      BELOVED, IF GOD SO LOVED US, WE OUGHT ALSO TO LOVE ONE  
ANOTHER.

**Expressions of Worship**

**Standing** . . . . . (2 Chronicles 20:19, Nehemiah 8:5, Revelation 7:9-10)

**Shouting** . . . . . (Psalm 33:3, 47:1)

**Lifting Our Hands** . . . . . (Nehemiah 8:6, Psalm 63:3-4; 134:2, 1 Timothy 2:8)

**Kneeling** . . . . . (Psalm 95:6-7, Romans 14:11, Philippians 2:9-11)

**Singing** . . . . . (Psalm 92:1; 96:2-3, Colossians 3:16-17)

**Clapping** . . . . . (Psalm 47:1)

**Musical Instruments** . . . . . (Psalm 150:3-5, 1 Chronicles 23:5, Revelation 14:2)

**Our Worship Style**

**"Celebration"**                      Psalm 122:1  
I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the  
house of the Lord.

**"Inspiration"**                      Isaiah 40:31  
But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their  
strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles;  
they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk,  
and not faint.

**"Preparation"**                      Ephesians 4:11-12  
And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets;  
and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and  
teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work  
of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

## (2) "TO PREACH THE GOSPEL"

- Ephesians 3:10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be **known by the church the manifold wisdom of God**,
- Romans 10:13-14 For **whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved**. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

### SUCCESSFUL WAYS TO SHARE THE GOSPEL CAUSING GROWTH:

#### A. **By loving** all people.

- 2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; **but is longsuffering** to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

#### B. **By reaching** out to all people.

- Luke 14:23 And the lord said unto the servant, **Go out** into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.

(See also: 2 Corinthians 5:14, Luke 15:3-10, Matthew 9:12-13)

#### C. **By giving** our testimony of faith.

- Colossians 2:19 And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands **having nourishment ministered**, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.
- Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: **and ye shall be witnesses unto me** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

### SOME **UNBIBLICAL EXCUSES** FOR NOT GROWING:

- "God isn't interested in numbers"
- "Our congregation wants quality not quantity"
- "Large congregations are impersonal"

**Therefore, we believe our congregation must  
grow larger and smaller ... at the same time**  
Larger – as in planting trees      Smaller – as in sowing seeds  
We accomplish this via developing Friendship Groups

### (3) "TO PASTOR BELIEVERS"

To truly Pastor or Shepherd believers, we must **show we love them.**

John 13:35                      By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have **love one to another.**

Ephesians 4:16                From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, **maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.**

1John 3:16-17, Matthew 25:34-40, Hebrews 13:16, Romans 12:13

### (4) "TO TRAIN DISCIPLES"

We prepare disciples by increasing their knowledge of who they are in Christ.

Hebrews 6:1                    Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; **not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works,** and of faith toward God,

2 Peter 3:18                   But grow in grace, and **in the knowledge of** our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever.

1 Cor 12:4-5, 27              Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. Now **ye are** the body of Christ, and members in particular.

All Our Congregation members must understand that ...

...every member is **a minister**

...every member is **important**

...every member is **a "10" in some area**

Ephesians 4:11-13            And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **unto a perfect man,** unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

### (5) "TO DEVELOP LEADERS"

We develop Leaders by giving training for equipping them in their ministries.

Ephesians 2:10                For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **unto good works,** which God hath before **ordained** that we should walk in them.

Acts 20:24                    But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so **that I might finish my course** with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

## **OUR FAITH STATEMENT**

■ **In essential beliefs, we have Unity.**

Ephesians 4:4-6

There is one Body and one Spirit...there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of us all...

■ **In practicing our beliefs, we give Liberty.**

Romans 14:1, 4, 12, 22

**Accept him whose faith is weak**, without passing judgment on disputable matters...Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls...So then each of us will give an account of himself to God...So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.

■ **In living our beliefs, we show Charity (Love).**

1 Corinthians 13:2

And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

### **The Essential Beliefs:**

The sole basis for our belief is the Bible, which is uniquely God-inspired, without error, and the final authority on all matters on which it speaks. As the Bible teaches, there is one God, eternally existing in three persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - each possessing all the attributes of deity.

**God** created humans to have fellowship with Him, but they defied God by sinfully going their own way. As a result, we need God's saving grace to end our alienation from Him. Salvation comes only through God's grace - not human effort - and must be received personally by repentance and faith.

**Jesus Christ**, (Yeshua) second Person of the Trinity, lived a sinless life on earth and voluntarily paid for our sin by dying on the cross as our substitute. This accomplished salvation for all who receive grace by trusting in Him alone. He rose from the dead and is the only mediator between God and us. He baptizes believers in the Holy Spirit. He will return to earth to consummate history.

**The Holy Spirit** draws sinners to Christ and equips believers for personal growth and service to the church. The church's role is to glorify God and serve those in need. At the end, everyone will experience bodily resurrection and the judgment. Only believers will enjoy eternal fellowship with God.

MARK 16:17-18

AND THESE SIGNS SHALL FOLLOW THEM THAT BELIEVE; IN MY NAME SHALL THEY CAST OUT DEVILS; THEY SHALL SPEAK WITH NEW TONGUES; THEY SHALL TAKE UP SERPENTS; AND IF THEY DRINK ANY DEADLY THING, IT SHALL NOT HURT THEM; THEY SHALL LAY HANDS ON THE SICK, AND THEY SHALL RECOVER.

## OUR LIFESTYLE STATEMENT: WHAT WE PRACTICE

Beliefs are not worth much unless they are translated into actions. Based on what the Bible teaches, we feel very strongly about the following practices:

### **The Bible is our Sole Authority.**

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All scripture is **given by inspiration of God**, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Since God's Word is the only completely reliable and truthful authority, we accept the Bible as our manual for living. Our first question when faced with a decision is, "What does the Bible say?" We practice daily Bible reading and Bible study. The Bible is the basis for all we believe.

### **Christ is the Head of our Congregation.**

Ephesians 4:15-16

States that Christ is the head of his Body, the church. He is the source of the Body's life. (Paraphrased by Pastor)

Christ is the recognized head of our congregation, not any person, group, or religious organization. While we do recognize the value of associating and connecting with other groups or organizations of Christian believers, we strongly expect our congregation to be spiritually self-governing, with full authority to handle its' own business and spiritual affairs. In the relationships to our "daughter congregations", which we train and sponsor, we will continue to encourage each congregation to determine its' own depth and requirement of spirituality, strategy, structure, style, and service to their local community.

### **Every believer is a Priest.**

Revelation 1:6

And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 2:9

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

The Bible teaches that every "believer" is called to a "full time" ministry of serving and proclaiming our Lord as Savior, regardless of his or her vocation.

We practice this basic truth: **Every believer is a called minister.**

Therefore, we encourage each member to find a place of service where they may operate, through a personal relationship with our Messiah, Jesus, in their God given ministry.

## Committed believers tithe of their income.

Leviticus 27:30-33 And **all the tithe** of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's: it is holy unto the Lord. And if a man will at all redeem ought of his tithes, he shall add thereto the fifth part thereof. And **concerning the tithe** of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, **the tenth shall be holy unto the Lord.**

We **practice tithing** for the support of Christ's Body, as God commands. We recognize that giving 10% of our income is the Biblical standard of giving. Anything over that amount is biblically considered an offering.

Many people love to give to God, but need to have confidence in the methods and purposes used by the organization to which they give. Therefore there are a great number of people willing to give if they are able to see honesty, integrity, and genuine spiritual values reflected in the lifestyles of their congregational leaders.

The giving of tithes and offerings is considered as worship to Jesus Christ and is our expression of the relationship between the individual giver and the Lord. That is why we don't have people fill out pledge cards or make faith promises. Funds are not "income only," they are worship, and must not be considered as a business transaction, but as an expression of gratitude toward God.

## Believers can be Spirit-filled and Spirit-led.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you:..."

Ephesians 5:18 . . . be filled with the Holy Spirit;

Rom 8:9-11 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

We believe the **only way possible** to live a truly successful Christian life is by **God's power within us**. Every believer can be filled with the Holy Spirit by simply asking. Just like in tithing, we need to practice a daily dependence on God's Spirit in order for Him to enable (and empower) us to do what is right.

## We have the privilege & responsibility of sharing the Good News.

1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and **be ready always to give an answer** to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

It is the responsibility of every Christian to share the Good News with those God brings us into contact with. We are intentional about developing redemptive relationships, and in bringing and including friends in the life of the church.

## **SECTION TWO:**

# **CONGREGATIONAL STRATEGY**

To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak:  
I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.  
And this I do for the gospel's sake,  
that I might be partaker thereof with you.

1 Corinthians 9:22-23

## WHO ARE WE TRYING TO REACH?

1 Corinthians 9:22

To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

KJV

**Un-churched** people need an explanation.

**Un-churched** people need an invitation.

**Un-churched** people need a motivation.

(Graphic used by permission)

### Un-churched Charley

□

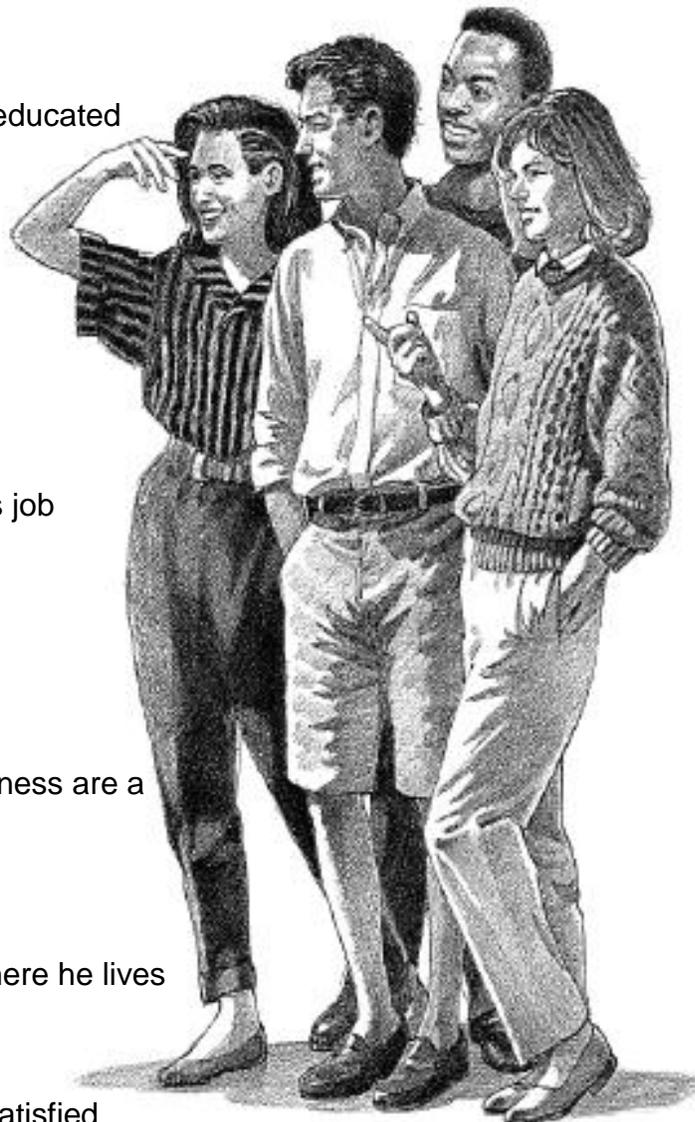
✓ He is well educated

✓ He likes his job

✓ Health & fitness are a priority

✓ He likes where he lives

✓ He is self-satisfied



✓ He'd rather be in a large group than a small one

✓ He prefers the casual and informal over the formal

✓ He likes contemporary music

✓ He is over extended in both time and money

## OUR "SPIRITUAL GROWTH TRACK" WILL HELP YOU GROW

### 1<sup>st</sup> Step – Knowing Christ

#### WATER BAPTISM

The immediate goal after someone is saved is to baptize them. Baptism services are held throughout the year.

#### NEWCOMER'S DINNER AND RECEPTION

New believers and prospective new members of our congregations attend this one evening seminar. Definitely an evening of food, fun, and fellowship!

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Step – Growing in Christ

#### DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

This is an excellent foundational course. Discipleship is for both the beginning and advanced believer. We hope to develop a believer's understanding of how "growing in discipleship" really helps one in their daily life.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Step – Discovering Christ's Gifts In You

#### DISCOVERY SEMINAR

This seminar is held Quarterly, and is designed to help believers discover their Spiritual gifts and personal ministry specialty.

- Discovering Your Personality
- Discovering Your Gifts
- Discovering Your Purpose

### 4<sup>th</sup> Step – Sharing Christ's Gifts With Others

#### LEADERSHIP TRAINING

This 12-Lesson Training is extremely beneficial for developing Leadership principles and practical Ministry skills that are an important part of honing each of your Spiritual gifts.

#### LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION

Once the Spiritual Growth Track has been completed, we encourage members to begin their ministry. Pastors recognize these new leaders in a weekend service and pray over their ministry. First, we pray for each person's Ministry, that God has so graciously given to him or her. Second, we focus on the impartation of anointing, through the laying on of hands. Then, we send them forth.

## Special Note: Tonight, You Are Taking the First Step!

You have started on the "Spiritual Growth Track"

### **An overview of "Spiritual Growth Track"**

1 <sup>st</sup> Step:	<i>Newcomer's Informal Dinner and Reception</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Step:	<i>Discipleship Training</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Base:	<i>Discovery Seminar</i>
4 <sup>th</sup> Step:	<i>Leadership Training</i>

# **SECTION THREE:**

## **CONGREGATIONAL STRUCTURE**

For God is not a God of disorder; but of peace . . .  
Let all things be done decently and in order.

1 Corinthians 14:33 & 40

## HOW WE STRUCTURE OUR CONGREGATIONS

### We Believe The Nature Of A Congregation Determines its Structure

#### 1. The congregation is a community that is united by fellowship.

Acts 2:42                      And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

#### A top priority in a fellowship is harmony and unity.

Ephesians 4:3                Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Romans 14:19                Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.

ANY attitude that causes disunity is sin.

Colossians 3:15; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 2 Timothy 2:14; Proverbs 17:14; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Philippians 1:27, 2:1-3; Colossians 2:2; Philippians 4:2; 1 Peter 3:8; 1 Corinthians 14:33; John 13:34-35; 2 Timothy 2:23; Romans 15:5-6; Romans 12:16-18; Colossians 3:13-14; Psalm 133:1

**Implication:** Good structure should promote unity, therefore, we are very careful to create an atmosphere of harmony.

Ephesians 4:13              Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

#### 2. The congregation should feel more like a family.

1 Peter 3:8                      Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:

Galatians 6:10                As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Hebrews 2:11-12              For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.

#### Therefore, we operate on the basis of relationships.

1 Timothy 5:1-2                Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren; The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.

1 Timothy 3:4-6                One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

### 3. The congregation is a true body of believers.

1 Corinthians 12:27, Ephesians 5:23, Ephesians 1:22-23, Colossians 1:18, 2:19

We are a Body - NOT - a business!

We are an organism - NOT - an organization!

Therefore, we function on the basis of spiritual gifts.

Romans 12:4-6 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us,

**In an organization, "maintenance" becomes the focus.**

**In an organism, "ministry" is the main focus.**

In our congregations, we have a simple structure, so we will be able to maximize ministry and minimize maintenance.

Ephesians 4:11-12 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

- The People are the "ministers"
- The Pastors are the "administers" Calling themselves "add-ministers"

### 4. The church is a flock.

(Jesus' favorite description of our Congregations)

John 10:1-30, Matthew 26:31, Matthew 25:33

**Therefore, it should be cared for and led by shepherds.**

John 21:15-17 When Jesus asked Simon Peter, 'Do you really love me?' He told Peter: Feed the lambs, Shepherd the Sheep, Feed the Sheep (Greek Translation by Pastor)

There are three different terms used in the New Testament which refer to a congregation leader:

- "Poimen": pastor/shepherd
- "Presbuteros": elder
- "Episcopos": overseer or bishop

1 Peter 5:1-2 "To the elders I say...Be **shepherds** of God's flock, serving as overseers..."

Acts 20:17-18, 28 "Paul sent to Ephesus for the **elders** of the church. When they arrived he said to them...Guard yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**. Be **pastors** of the church of God..."

See also Titus 1:5-7, 1Timothy 5:17, 1 Peter 2:25

## OUR CONGREGATIONAL GOVERNMENT

### **Life's Destiny Church & Yeshua HaMashiach Messianic Congregation:**

Believers who invest their hearts, time, families and finances in the building of a local Congregation, definitely deserve to have confidence in their leadership team. People are looking for leaders who conduct themselves with integrity and respect when making decisions that affect their lives. Here is our Governmental breakdown:

Life's Destiny Church (LDC) is a legal 501(c)3 Non-Profit Church Organization, and has Membership with the International Pentecostal Holiness Churches, (IPHC.org). Yeshua HaMashiach Messianic Congregation (YMMC) is legally covered by the LDC Corporation as a Church Plant, but has Membership in both the IPHC and Tikkun Ministries (TikkunMinistries.org). So far, YMMC is the only Congregation in the world that is recognized in both Christian and Messianic worldwide organizations. We therefore are breaking down the walls of Christianity and Messianic Judaism. Note: The IPHC has just recently joined the Towards Jerusalem Council 2 (tjc2.org) organization. Thus, the IPHC is the first denominational organization to allow Messianic congregations to promote Messianic Judaism within their congregations -and- to give them Full Membership status and voting privilege.

Because of this amazing and wonderful balance, believers are free to grow in faith and in relationships within either body, without the burden of an over-extensive or "legalistic" form of modern day Church Government, as they both support Biblically sound principles of congregational disciplines and selections.

### **The role of the Ministry Team (Elder Council):**

LDC and YMMC Congregations both promote Elder/Pastoral leadership in all ministry matters (as seen in Acts 20:17-28 on the previous page). The Ministry Team refers to a Congregational Staff Team, hereinafter will be referred to as the "Elder Council", and is Chaired by the Senior Pastors. The Elder Council oversees the day-to-day ministry and operations of the Congregation, while the LDC Corporate Board handles the legal and financial matters.

The Elder Council serves the Congregation for the development of the spiritual life of its members, while making every effort to develop each members ability to become a "minister" of our Lord's gospel. The Ministry Team is held responsible to model a Godly lifestyle, provide a prayer shield for the members, defend and protect the integrity of the church, pray for the sick, mediate disputes, counsel, and represent the Congregation to the surrounding communities.

### **The role of the Trustees:**

The Trustees are two members of the congregation, appointed by the current Senior Pastors to oversee provisions for the physical facilities needed by the body. They provide counsel, along with the Elder Council, to the Senior Pastor regarding the major financial commitments of the Congregation.

Note: Any, and all, Title transfers are allowed only with the signatures of the Trustees.

### **The role of Overseers:**

The Overseers of both Congregations consist of the Leaders designated by the IPHC and Tikkun organizations. Their delegates love both Life's Destiny Church, and Yeshua Ha'Mashiach Messianic Congregation, their Pastor(s), and are willing to provide spiritual protection and counseling to Leadership and the Members of the Congregations whenever needed. They are willing to be called in to help in accountability matters relating to any and all Leadership matters if so requested by the Elder Council or Trustees.

## WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MEMBER

The difference between "Attenders" and "Members" can be summed up in one word: "**Commitment**"

Why? Because an "Attender" is a **consumer**.

Whereas, a "Member" becomes a **contributor**.

**Our Congregation recognizes the need for a formal membership.  
We ask you to please consider membership for 4 reasons:**

**A Biblical Reason:** We are to assemble and encourage one another.

Hebrews 10:25

Not forsaking the **assembling of ourselves together**, as the manner of some is; but **exhorting one another**: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

**A Cultural Reason:** It is an antidote to our society.

We live in an age where very few want to be committed to anything...a job...a marriage...our country. This attitude has even produced a generation of "church shoppers and hoppers". Membership swims against the current of America's "consumer religion." It is an unselfish decision. Commitment always builds character.

**A Practical Reason:** It defines who can be counted on.

Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Every business has a payroll. Every army has an enlistment. Even our country requires a voter to pre-register. Membership simply identifies our family.

**A Personal Reason: It produces spiritual growth.**

The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for their spiritual growth. You cannot be accountable when you're not committed to any specific congregational family.

## WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME AS A MEMBER?

We never ask our members to do more than the Bible clearly teaches.

We only expect our members to do what the Bibles instructs every Christian to do.

These responsibilities are spelled out in the Membership Covenant:

**NEWCOMER'S COVENANT**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Having received Jesus, the Messiah, as my Lord and Savior, and having been baptized, and being in agreement with the following Newcomer's Covenant statements, strategy, and structure, I \_\_\_\_\_ do now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with this Congregation of Believers. In so doing, I now stand before the Lord, and commit myself to enter the Spiritual Growth Track's (SGT) training program, and after completion of the program's Discipleship Training Phase, may apply for membership to either Congregation. Also, during the Training phase, I also agree to faithfully participate in the following:

**1. I will protect the unity of my congregation...****...by acting in love toward other members****...by refusing to gossip****...by following the leaders**

- Romans 14:19** Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.
- Ephesians 4:29** Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs...
- Heb 13:17** Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be no advantage to you.

**2. I will share responsibilities of my congregation...****...by praying for its growth****...by inviting the un-churched to attend****...by warmly welcoming those who visit**

- 1 Thessalonians 1:2** To the church...we always thank God for you and pray for you constantly.
- Luke 14:23** Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.
- Romans 15:7** Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.

**3. I will serve in the ministry of my congregation...****...by discovering my gifts and talents****...by being equipped to serve by my pastors****...by developing a servant's heart**

- 1 Peter 4:10** As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.
- Ephesians 4:11-12** And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:
- Philippians 2:3-4, 7** Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. . . . But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

**4. I will support the testimony of my congregation...****...by attending services****...by living a godly life****...by financially supporting the ministry regularly**

- Hebrews 10:25** Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approach.
- Philippians 1:27** Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: