

Church Government

How is Word of Life Organized?

a. Flow of Anointing

Smith Wigglesworth

Kenneth Hagin

Jim Kaseman

Us

(Word of Life)

b. We are an AFCM Church (Association of Faith Churches and Ministers)

www.afcminternational.org (918)-392-0511

SPIRITUAL

GOVERNMENTAL

c. W/L Spiritual and Governmental Flow:

BISHOP – OVERSEER

ELDER BOARD

(Decision Making Board)

DEACON (s) (ness)

DEACON BOARD

(Department Heads – Leaders)

(Advisory Board)

TEAM MEMBERS

MINISTRY TEAMS

COVENANT PARTNERS

COVENANT PARTNERS

(Est. Relationships / Commitment)

(Volunteers / Support Ministers)

CROWD

COMMUNITY

- We are an IRS recognized – 501c3 organization.

Promoting by Establishing Clarity & Protecting:

Titus 1:5-2:1 (NIV)
Titus' Task on Crete

Promoting by Clarifying the Task:

[5] The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.

Promoting by Establishing Clarity:

[6] An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. [7] Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. [8] Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. [9] He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

Promoting by Protecting:

[10] For there are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision group. [11] They must be silenced, because they are ruining whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach—and that for the sake of dishonest gain. [12] Even one of their own prophets has said, “Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons.” [13] This testimony is true. Therefore, rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith [14] and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the commands of those who reject the truth. [15] To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. [16] They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good. [2:1] You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine.

JESUS

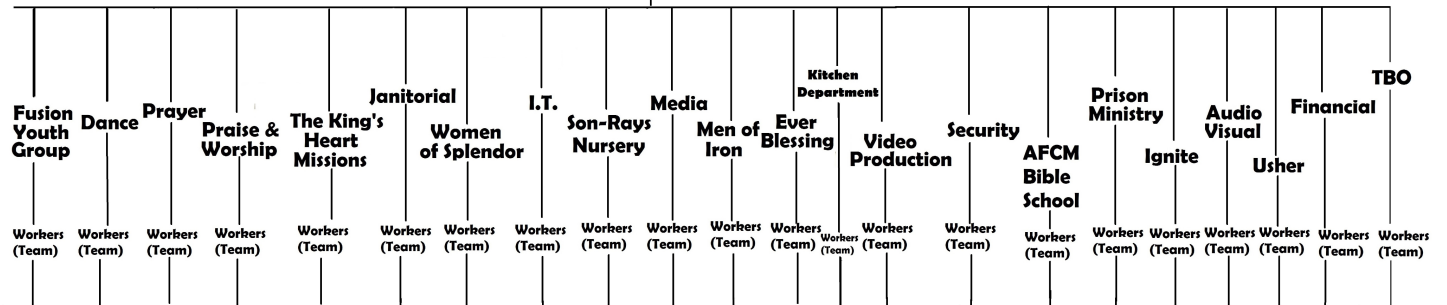
Jim Kaseman

Vision

Vern & Mary

Pastoral Staff

Elder



COVENANT PARTNERS

ATTENDERS

COMMUNITY

GOVERNMENT

AMENDMENT TO BY-LAWS AND CONSTITUTION

(Amendment #1)

Deacons - Elders - Bishops

24. Deacons/Deaconess

24. The word Deacon is used 5 times in the scripture. (KJV). The Title Deaconess is not used at all in scripture. (KJV)

B. Gr. – Diakonos/Diakoneo

1. To serve, be servants
2. Translated into English (KJV) as:
 - a. Deacon
 - b. Minister
 - c. Ministry
 - d. Servant

C. Two general scriptures used for Deacons:

1. Acts 6:1-7
 - a. “Ministry of the Word”
-Gr.- Diakonia tou Logou
“Deaconship of the Word”
2. I Timothy 3:8-13

D. Other scriptures the words Diakonos/Diakoneo are used:

1. Matthew 23:26; 23:11 - To be the greatest, you must be the servant.
2. Matthew 22:13 – Servants to Kings
3. John 2:5, 9 – Servants at Feasts
4. Romans 13:4 - Officers of Civil governments are servants
5. Matthew 23:11; Romans 16:1; Matthew 8:15 – Men and women servants of churches
6. Philippians 1:1; I Timothy 3:10-13; Acts 6:1-7; I Timothy 4:6 – Deacons of churches.
7. Matthew 20:26; Mark 10:43 – Ministers of Churches
8. I Corinthians 3:5; II Corinthians 3:6; Ephesians 3:7; Colossians 1:23, 25; I Thessalonians 3:2 – Preachers of the Gospel
9. John 12:26; II Corinthians 6:4-10; Ephesians 6:21; Colossians 1:7 & 4:7 – Ministers of Christ
10. Matthew 4:11, Mark 1:13; Hebrews 1:14 – Angels

*** Practically anyone who serves in any way is a Deacon/Deaconess.

*** It is considered to be the bottom level of authority in church government.

II. Elder

- A. The word Elder/Elders is used 69 times in the New Testament. (KJV)
- B. Gr. - Presbuteros/Presbuterion
1. Elder
 - a. In the sense of age - Oldest.
 - b. In the sense of authority - Overseer.
- C. --- In the Old Testament it referred to the heads and rulers of:
- Tribes
 - Cities
 - Nations
- The Gospels and Acts it referred to was the Sanhedrin
- In the early church it referred to:
- Ministers
 - Deacons
 - Business Elders/Deacons
 - Preaching Elders/Deacons
- D. An Elder is a servant (Deacon) in a position of:
- Authority
 - Ruler-ship
 - Overseeing/Overseer
- E. Scriptures concerning the Elder:
1. Acts 14:23 - Elders are appointed.
 2. Acts 20:17 - Elders are summoned.
 3. I Timothy 5:17, 19 - Directors/Overseers (Both Business and Preaching)
 4. Titus 1:5 - Elders appointed
 5. James 5:14 - Elders summoned for prayer
 6. I Peter 5:1-4 - Elders serving as shepherds, overseers, servants
- F. This is the second level of authority.
1. To be an Elder, you must first be a servant. (Deacon)
 2. There is a:
 - Business Elder/Deacon (Acts 6:3; I Timothy 5:17)
 - Preaching Elder/Deacon (I Timothy 5:17)

III. Bishop

- A. The word Bishop/Bishops appears 5 times in the New Testament.
- B. Gr. - Episkopos
 - 1. Superintendent/Overseer/Bishop
- C. A Bishop is known as a Preaching Elder.
- D. Scriptures concerning Bishop/Bishops:
 - 1. Acts 20:28 - The Holy Spirit makes Bishops.
 - 2. I Timothy 3:1-7 - Qualifications of Bishops
 - 3. Titus 1:7 - God's work is entrusted to a Bishop; and qualifications.
 - 4. Philippians 1:1 - Definite difference between Bishops and Deacons.
 - 5. I Peter 2:25 - Christ is the chief Bishop.
- E. The bishop is the third level of authority in church government.
 - 1. The first and bottom level: *The Deacon.*
 - a. The Deacon is a servant in either a business or spiritual sense.
 - b. To be a servant (Deacon) is the basic requirement before any other levels of authority can be attained.
 - 2. The next step up in church governmental authority is: *The Elder*
 - a. The Elder is a servant (Deacon) who has been given the authority of an overseer or ruler in some area.
 - b. There are business Elders.
 - c. There are preaching Elders; more often known as Bishops.
 - 3. The highest level of authority in church government: *The Bishop.*
 - a. A servant (Deacon) who has been entrusted with a direct authority and responsibility for God's work.
 - b. A bishop works both as a business elder and as preaching elders.
 - c. The Bishop is the one directly responsible to God for the affairs of a church.

NOTE: The Deacon/Deaconess is definitely open to women in scripture. The Elder position can also be carried out by a woman. The Bishop position is not forbidden to a woman in scripture; however, the scriptures seem to indicate that man is God's first choice. If no man will answer to the call, it is not unscriptural for a woman to be called to the position of a Bishop.

Word of Life Ministries

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Background Check (Please Print)

By providing the information on this form, and signing it, I am authorizing Word of Life Ministries to do a background check on me. It is understood that all information will be held in confidence by Word of Life.

First Name: _____

Middle Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Gender: MALE FEMALE

SSN: _____

Date of Birth: _____

CURRENT ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

Sign & Date: _____

Word of Life

'Volunteer Agreement'

Revised:

11/25/14



In an effort to remain in agreement with our vision, we are asking that everyone who works at Word of life become familiar with our basic tenets of faith. We feel these tenets form a large part of the foundation that God has given us here at Word of Life.

Below you will find a copy of the tenants of faith for Word of Life. Please read these and if you have questions concerning any of them, please bring them up to your Leader or their administrator. Our desire is to culture an environment where anyone who feels God is asking them minister at W/L, can do so. Yet maintaining unity and direction, so that those we are ministering to will be protected from any contradictions, controversy, or disunity.

ARTICLE III

TENETS OF FAITH AND DOCTRINE

This Church (Word of Life Ministries) accepts the Scripture as the revealed will of God, the All Sufficient Rule of Faith and practice, and for the purpose of maintaining general unity, adopts these Statements of Fundamental Truths and Doctrine.

Section 1. The Scriptures Inspired.

**The Bible is the inspired Word of God, a revelation from God to man, the infallible rule of Faith and conduct, and is superior to conscience and reason, but not contrary to reason.
(II Timothy 3:15-17; I Peter 1:23-24; Hebrews 4:12)**

Section 2. The One True God-Head.

The triune God-head is comprised of 3 separate and distinct personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit - who are eternally self-existent, self-revealed and function as one entity. Jesus Christ, who is God manifested in the flesh, is the second member of the God-head; co-equal and co-eternal with the father and the Holy Spirit.

Section 3. Man, His Fall and Redemption.

**Man was created good and upright. For God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness.” But man, by voluntary transgression, fell and his only hope of redemption Is in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
(Genesis 1:26-31; Genesis 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-21)**

Section 4. The Salvation of Man.

- a. **Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. On the cross, Jesus Christ became sin and sickness providing both salvation and divine healing for all mankind; (Psalm 103:3) being justified freely by His Grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. For by Grace we are saved through faith. "The Word is near You, in your mouth and in your heart -- that is, the Word of Faith which we are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved. For with the heart man believes, resulting in salvation."
(Romans 3:24; Ephesians 2:8; Romans 10:8-10)**

- b. **The evidences of Salvation. The inward evidence to the believer of his salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit. (Romans 8:16). The outward evidence to all men is a life of Righteousness and true holiness. "And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us."

(I John 3:23)**

- c. **Faith and Works. Salvation is by faith in Jesus Christ and not by human works; However, our works will determine the rewards in eternity.
(Acts 16:3; Romans 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-7; Romans 14:10-12, II Corinthians 5:10)**

Section 5. Baptism in Water

**The ordinance of baptism by a burial with Christ should be observed as commanded in the Scriptures by all who have really repented, and in their hearts, have truly believed on Christ as Savior and Lord. In so doing, they declare to the world that they have died with Jesus and That they have also been raised with Him to walk in the newness of life.
(Matthew 29:19; Acts 10:47; Acts 10:48; Romans 6:4)**

Section 6. The Lord's Supper.

**"And when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'This is my body which is for you; do this in remembrance of me. In the same way he also took the cup after supper saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. Let a man examine himself and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.'"
(I Corinthians 11:24, 25, 28)**

Section 7. The Promise of the Father.

All Believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the Promise of the Father, the Baptism in the Holy Ghost and Fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus

Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian church. With it comes the Endowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry.

(Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-8; I Corinthians 12:1-31) This wonderful experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth.”

(Acts 2:38; Acts 10:44-46; Acts 11:14-16; Acts 15:7-9)

Section 8. The Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

The full consummation of the Baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is evidenced by the Initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, and by the subsequent manifestation of spiritual power in public testimony and service.

(Acts 1:8; Acts 2:4; Acts 10:44-46; Acts 19:2, 6)

Section 9. The Church.

The Church is the body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine

appointments for the fulfillment of her Great Commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit is, is an integral part of the general assembly and Church of the firstborn, which are written in Heaven.

(Ephesians 1:22; Ephesians 2:19-22; Hebrews 12:23)

Section 10. Sanctification.

The Bible teaches that without holiness, no man can see the Lord. We believe in Sanctification as a definite yet progressive work of grace, commencing at the time of regeneration and continuing until the consummation of salvation.

(Hebrews 12:14; I Thessalonians 5:23; II Peter 3:18; II Corinthians 3:18; Philippians 3:12-14; John 17:17; Romans 15:16; I Peter 1:2)

Section 11. Divine Healing

Divine Healing is provided for in the redemption of Christ and it is the privilege of every believer today. Divine Healing is an integral part of the gospel.

(Mark 16:18; James 5:14-20; I Peter 2:24; Matthew 8:17; Isaiah 53:4-5)

Section 12. Total Prosperity.

a. Spiritual - John 3:3, 11; I Corinthians 5:17-21; Romans 10:9-10

b. Mental - II Timothy 1:7; Romans 12:2; Isaiah 26:3

c. Physical - Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:17; I Peter 2:24

d. Financial - III John 1:2; Malachi 3:10-11; Luke 6:38; II Corinthians 9:6-10; Deut. 28:1-14

e. Social - Proverbs 3:4; Luke 2:52; Acts 2:47

Section 13. Blessed Hope

**Jesus is coming again to gather all His Saints to Heaven.
(I Corinthians 15:51-52; I Thessalonians 4:16-17; II Thessalonians 2:1)**

Section 14. The Lake Of Fire.

**Those who have not accepted the redemptive work of Jesus Christ will suffer eternal separation from the God-head. The devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, and anyone whose name was not found written in the Book of Life shall be consigned to Everlasting punishment in the lake of fire which burns with brimstone. This is the 2nd Death, the lake of fire.
(Revelation 19:20; Revelation 20:10-15)**

Section 15. The Millennial Reign of Jesus.

**The return of our Lord Jesus Christ with His Saints from Heaven to rule and reign for one thousand years on earth as the scripture promised.
(Romans 11:25-27; II Thessalonians 1:7; Revelation 19:11-16; 20:1-7)
After this there shall be a New Heaven and a New Earth. (Revelation 21)**

Section 16. Human Sexuality.

We believe that God instituted monogamous marriage between male and female as the foundation of the family, the basic structure of human society (Genesis 2:24). God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of the context of marriage between a man and a woman. (Genesis 19:5; 26:8-11; 5:1; 6:9; I Thess. 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4). Hence, sexual activities such as, but not limited to adultery, fornication, incest, homosexuality, pedophilia, and bestiality are inconsistent with the teachings of the bible, the Church, and a Christian life. (Lev. 18:22; Lev. 20:13)

We stand fast on the scriptures in Romans 1:25-27, I Corinthians 6:9-11, and I Timothy 1:9-10 and believe the homosexuality is as sin. We determine to show compassion to all, with however, no compromise.

Accordingly, neither this organization, its churches or its members shall conduct any marriages between persons of the same sex and shall not condone, support, or facilitate any activities that conflict with this tenet of faith.

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a. Definition of Marriage

We believe the original definition of marriage came from God

Genesis 2:24 – “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”

We believe Jesus Christ upheld this definition of marriage

Matthew 19:4 "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female',⁵ and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? ⁶ So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

We believe the Early Church upheld this standard of marriage between male and female

Ephesians 5:31 – “For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

We believe the Bible in its entirety condemns any form of sexual activity outside of the biblical definition of marriage

Hebrews 13:4 – “Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

b. Defined Sexual relationships strictly forbidden by God

Adultery = Sexual union between male & female while married to another. Exodus 20:14

Proverbs 6:32, Matthew 5:28

Fornication = Sexual union between individuals prior to marriage 1 Corinthians 6:9

Homosexuality = Sexual union between males 1 Corinthians 6:9 Romans 1:27

Lesbianism = Sexual union between females Romans 1:26, 27

Bestiality = Sexual union between human beings and animals Leviticus 18:23

Incest = Sexual union between members of same biological family Leviticus 18:6-17

c. We believe same sex unions are forbidden by God in any context

Romans 1:26 – “Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. ²⁷ In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.”

Why?

2. The natural needs of children is best served by the healthy role modeling of a father and mother in a healthy loving relationship covenant as designed by God, this has been proven to give children security, significance, and confidence for civilizations and centuries past.
3. Marriage of this nature is typified by God to demonstrate HIS relationship with HIS church typified as bride and bridegroom. *Ephesians 5:32 – “This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.”*

We reserve the right for our staff or approved wedding officiate to only perform marriages where the union would conform to the scriptural definition of marriage

We reserve the right for our facility to be used only in facilitating marriages that conform to our beliefs and practices about marriage as defined by scripture.

By signing below you are indicating that you are in agreement with the Tenets of Faith for Word of Life Ministries. And that you will conduct yourself at all times in accordance with those Tenets of Faith.

Any volunteer can have their status terminated at any time and for any reason including but not limited to a breach of the Tenets of Faith. All decisions will be made at the sole discretion of the Board of Elders of Word of Life.

Our goal is to work together with all volunteers and anyone who ministers at Word of Life. Our heart is to foster an atmosphere of relationships that will do nothing but bring glory to God.

We are required to do background checks on those serving at Word of Life. Attached is a form for you to sign. This gives Word of Life Min. your permission to do the background check.

By signing you are indicating you are in agreement with these requirements.

(Signature)

(Date)



Team Member Form

We are excited to have you join the team!

Word of Life's Vision is to be a "How To" Church. We want to protect and enhance this Vision. Team Members are in the eye of the public. They will look for Christ in you. We want you to feel that you are ready to represent God's Kingdom and Word of Life's Vision.

NAME PRINTED: _____

DEPARTMENT: _____

LEADER: _____

Protecting & Enhancing the Vision

We want to be sure you are...

- | | | |
|---|---------------------|----------------|
| Born again/Saved (made a public confession of your Faith?) | Aiming for it _____ | Achieved _____ |
| Baptized with Water? | Aiming for it _____ | Achieved _____ |
| Baptized with in the Holy Spirit? | Aiming for it _____ | Achieved _____ |
| In an active/living relationship with Jesus Christ? | Aiming for it _____ | Achieved _____ |
| Try to have personal devotions 3-4 times a week? | Aiming for it _____ | Achieved _____ |
| Living free from willful disobedience/sin towards God? | Aiming for it _____ | Achieved _____ |
| Willing to keep open communication with your leader or Pastor pertaining to this Ministry? Be accountable & submit to them? | Aiming for it _____ | Achieved _____ |



- | | | | |
|--|-----------|----------|----------------|
| Do you understand Word of Life's Vision? | Yes _____ | No _____ | > Reason _____ |
| Do you agree with the Vision/Support it? | Yes _____ | No _____ | > Reason _____ |
| Do you feel you could explain it to others? | Yes _____ | No _____ | > Reason _____ |
| Do you understand Word of Life's Tenants of Faith? | Yes _____ | No _____ | > Reason _____ |
| Are you in agreement with Word of Life's Tenants of Faith? | Yes _____ | No _____ | > Reason _____ |
- Some departments require a background check... is it okay if we do a background check on you? Yes _____ No _____
(Results will be seen only by Word of Life Eldership Board)

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|----------------|
| I have been attending Word of Life regularly for at least 6 months | Aiming for it _____ | Achieved _____ |
| I am a Covenant Partner at Word of Life | Aiming for it _____ | Achieved _____ |
| Did you get training from your leader / do you feel ready to serve? | I don't feel ready _____ | Achieved _____ |

I understand that serving on a ministry team means...

- | | | |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Attending Word of Life on a regular basis? | I plan to do so! _____ | Not able > Reason _____ |
| Attending one service a week in which you aren't serving? | I sure can _____ | Not able > Reason _____ |
| Attending 2 corporate prayer meetings a month? | I sure can _____ | Not able > Reason _____ |
| Watching services that you miss on Youtube? | I sure can _____ | Not able > Reason _____ |

**We desire for you to attend services and prayer as much as possible. If you are out of service due to ministry needs, messages are available for you to listen to online. We encourage you to stay involved and keep up to date on sermons because we care about your spiritual growth and needs! You are very important to us.*



Turn Over

I understand that serving on a ministry team means... (Continued)

Being at your ministry station 15 minutes before ministry begins? I plan to do so _____ Not Sure > Reason _____
Being neat & hygenical in your appearance every service? I sure can _____ Not Sure > Reason _____
Being Faithful to your tithing at Word of Life? I sure can _____ Not Sure > Reason _____
Trying to make it to all your teams meetings? I plan to do so _____ Not Sure > Reason _____
(Unless: on vacation, at work or dealing with an illness)
Giving 30 days notice before you resign your position? I sure can _____ Not Sure > Reason _____
Informing your leader 1 week in advance if you plan to be absent? I sure can _____ Not Sure > Reason _____

Guarding the Vision

Bare in mind that to be a leader is to have people looking up to you and following your example. Remember, people are always watching, our goal at Word of Life is to set an example of excellence in attitude, speech & conduct.

We want to do all that we can to help Word of Life remain a reputable place. Our personal life will reflect on Word of Life. Personal accountability is an important aspect of this. If you see something that needs to be confronted be sure it is NEVER done in front of others (those whom it isn't their business and they don't understand the situation). Please go directly to the person to talk in private or talk to the person that is over you in authority. Talking to other people who have no authority in the situation is gossip. Speak to the person privately, inform a leader, or speak to one of the Pastors. If you have any doubts about anything just go straight to Pastors Vern or Mary.

Are you willing to abstain from and inform your leader when you see the following things happening at church?
- Gossip, strife, abusive behavior, addictions, unwholesome speech, ungodly conduct, etc.

I agree _____ I disagree _____

Signature _____

Date: _____

Department Head Signature _____

Date: _____

If you answered “no”, “not able” or “I don’t feel ready” or “aiming for it” to any of the questions above, your team leader will help you turn those answers into “Achieved” and “Yes”.

FOR DEPARTMENT HEAD ONLY:

After applicant filled form out,
we then went over this form together on the date of _____

NOTES:

WORD OF LIFE MINISTRIES 'DEPARTMENT HEAD' QUALIFICATIONS

(Updated – 6/30/2010)

A Department Head is someone who is going to be leading, or heading-up an area of ministry. They are directly responsible to the Elders and Pastors for their area of ministry and Team of Lay Ministers. ('Workers')

Once an individual reaches the point where they want to be a 'Department Head', there is a very deep level of commitment to the Elders, Pastors, other Team Members, and the Congregation. We are requiring this level of commitment because if God is really asking you to fill a Department Head position at W/L, you need to understand the responsibility you have to the people when you take on this position. The church body is open to a tremendous amount of confusion when those in charge get into division or separation. In an effort to stop it from happening at Word of Life, the guidelines for these area's of ministry, (Dept. Heads) are very stringent.

You have grown in spiritual maturity to the point where you can work with and through situations, (pleasant or unpleasant) – without leaving W/L to go to another church, or simply stop going to church, should a disagreement or problem arise, you are agreeing to working through the situation. You will meet with whomever necessary TO RESOLVE the issue, and help fix anything that would cause division or separation. (When an issue cannot be resolved between individuals, it will be taken to a meeting of all the Department Heads/Board of Elders so that resolution can be found.) It is understood and agreed upon: RESOLVE IS MANDATORY, IT IS NOT AN OPTION.

Our goal is: Long Term Ministry. We want to learn, grow, mature, and change so that the cause of Christ will be moved forward, not hampered.

It is a distinct possibility that God may move you out of your current position of ministry, or into an entirely different area of ministry within W/L. However, even if that happens, we expect that W/L remains your home church. (This avoids a tremendous amount of confusion and division from developing in the body.)

The criteria that will be looked at by the Elders and other Dept. Heads of W/L in determining if you are ready for a 'Department Head' position are:

- (1) Scriptural Directives Concerning Deacons (Timothy & Titus)
- (2) Biblical Knowledge
- (3) Maturity
- (4) Credibility

Should the day come when you feel you are to leave Word of Life, yet remain in the geographical area, we expect the following process to be followed.

- (1) Communication with the Department Heads/Elders, before you reach your conclusions. They are part of the process involved in your decision making.
- (2) A Witness in the Spirit and Agreement by the Department Heads/Elders. (This is for your protection, not to control you.)
- (3) Official Resignation.
- (4) The purpose is to keep from affecting the body in a negative way. We want to keep Unity and the Bond of Peace. (See point #27)

Christians who are in places of responsibility in the church are required to be examples in Faith, Conduct, and Business Affairs. In an effort to obtain a standard of ministry which exemplifies excellence, we are making the following guidelines a common goal for those ministering at Word of Life.

1. You need to be Born Again/Saved and have made a public confession of it.
2. You need to be Baptized in water.
3. You need to be Baptized in the Holy Spirit.
4. You need to have an active and living relationship with Jesus Christ.
5. You're expected to have a habitual devotional life. (3-4 times a week)
6. You need to be living free from "Willful Disobedience" toward God.
7. Each Department Head needs to attend church at W/L on a regular basis. If your W/L church duties take you out of regular church services, it is required to attend one service/week in which you do not minister.
(EXCEPTIONS: Vacations, Illnesses, & Employment)
8. If you are out of services on a consistent basis because of ministry, recordings of said services are available for you (free of charge) to stay abreast with the messages. (These are available digitally.) If the Elders, and/or Department Heads feel that a certain segment of messages need to be listened to, it will be required for you to do so.
9. You must have attended the church for one year, as well as passing the Elder Board Review. (Leadership must recognize there is an Anointing for you to accomplish what you are applying for.)
10. You must have become a 'Covenant Partner' of Word of Life.
11. You must have completed all the pertinent training courses.
12. When filling a position, your goal should be a 3 year (or longer) commitment.
13. Be submissive to and follow the Pastor and your Leaders.
14. Remain faithful to your ministry. It's your responsibility to keep this area of ministry operating and flowing as smoothly as possible.
15. Attend all "Department Head" meetings whenever they pertain to your area of ministry.
16. Always give advance notice if you are going to be absent from your ministry.
(Preferably – 1 week – minimum)
17. Be at your ministry position – 15 minutes before starting time.
18. Always be neat in your appearance. You are representing Jesus and W/L.
19. Be willing to submit to and be accountable to those over you in authority when something in your life is obviously out of order/or is needing help spiritually. Your life is now going to set an example to others following you. Your life will be open to more intense observation and scrutiny. We believe in being accountable to the Elders and other Dept. Heads of the body. Obvious areas of concern in your personal life/ministry will first be addressed individually. If this is not productive, these areas can be also addressed at a Department Head meeting. If they are not resolvable, these areas will be grounds for removal from any and all ministry positions.
20. Our goal is to maintain a Christ-like witness in our lives. (Examples: Avoid gossip, strife, abusive behavior, addictions, unwholesome speech, Un-Godly conduct, etc. Cultivate a Godly attitude, unity, respectful behavior/speech, a loving attitude and manner, etc.)
21. Department Heads are required to attend 2 corporate prayer meetings per month.
(EXCEPTIONS: Vacations, Illnesses, Employment)
22. Be faithful in your tithing to W/L. Your giving will be checked.
23. Be in agreement and support of the basic tenants of faith of W/L.
24. Be in agreement and support of the purpose and vision of W/L.
25. Understand that your job is to make the people you submit to at W/L "Remain Reputable". This does not in any way condone sin that may be in their lives; but it does include following the given procedure for offering a complaint or disagreement. It's NEVER to be done in front of others, or with the support of others. If you have a complaint or issue with someone or how something is being done, talk to them or someone 'over them in authority'. Talking to anyone other than your spouse or a person who can actually do something about the problem is gossip.
26. I understand in an effort to protect the church, the Elders of W/L will do a background check on me. I agree to this. I also understand that any negative findings in the background check will be held in confidence among the Elders and Lay Ministers.

- 27. You are agreeing to place the best interests of the body, the ministry, and Word of Life above your individual views, opinions, beliefs and reputation.
- 28. You agree to give 90 days notice when resigning a position.
- 29. All meetings that pertain to your Department are required attendance.
(EXCEPTIONS: Vacation, Illnesses, Employment)

I have read the above qualifications, and agree to them. I will do my best to adhere to them. I understand that failure to abide by these requirements will cause a process to begin which can lead to dismissal from my ministry position.

Signature of Applicant

Date

'Elder' Signature

Date

Word of Life

Covenant Partner Commitment

'PRIVILEGE OF THE GOSPEL'

'ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE GOSPEL'

'RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE GOSPEL'

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized in water, and having attended Word of Life for 6 months so I am somewhat acquainted with the church, and sensing that I want to make Word of Life my church home, and being in agreement with Word of Life's statements, strategy, and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Word of Life Church Family. In doing so, I commit myself to god and to the other members to do the following:

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

“So let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony, and on the growth of our fellowship together.” (Rom. 14:19 Phillips)

“Have a sincere love for other believers, love on another earnestly with all your heart.” (I Peter. 1:22 TEV)

“Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be no advantage to you.” (Hebrew. 13:17)

- 2. I will share the responsibility of my church**
 - by praying for its growth
 - by inviting the unchurched to attend.
 - by warmly welcoming those who visit.

“To the church - ...We always thank God for you and pray for you constantly.” (I Thes. 1:1-2 LB)

“The Master said to the servant, Go out to the roads and country lanes and urge the people there to come so my house will be full.” (Luke 14:12 NCV)

“So, warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified.” (Romans 15:7 LB)

- 3. I will serve the ministry of my church**
--- by discovering and using my gifts and talents.
--- by being equipped to serve my pastors.
--- by developing a servants heart.

“Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you.” (I. Peter. 4:10 Phillips)

“(God) gave...some to be pastors, teachers, evangelists, apostles, and prophets, to prepare God’s people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up.” (Eph. 4:11-12)

“Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interest of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. Who...(took on) the very nature of a servant.” (Phil. 2:3-4,7)

- 4. I will support the testimony of my church.**
--- by attending faithfully.
--- by living a Godly life.
--- by giving regularly.

“Let us not give up meeting together... but let us encourage one another.” Heb. 10:25

“Whatever happens, make sure that your everyday life is worthy of the gospel of Christ.”
(Phil. 1:27 Phillips)

“Each one of you, on the first day of each week, should set aside a specific sum of money in proportion to what you have earned and use it for offering.” (I. Cor. 16:2 LB)

“A Tenth of (all your) produce...is the Lord’s, and is holy.” (Lev. 27:30 NCV)

Commitment Encompasses: Our Time
: **Our Treasure**
: **Our Talent**

Applicant

Date

Pastor

Date

Word of Life

Covenant Partner Application

The purpose of this application is to fulfill the requirements set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws, Article IV, Section 2-a, which states:

“Any person interested in become a Partner of the congregation of the church shall submit a written and signed application, on a form approved by the Pastor. Each application shall be considered by the Board of elders at its regular meeting or at any special meeting of the Board; and either approved, disapproved, or tabled. Applicants whose applications are so approved shall be come active Partners of the congregation of the church.”

I have been through the study course that is required before becoming a Covenant Partner of Word of Life Ministries. I feel that I understand the Constitution and Bylaws, and am in agreement with them. As stated in Article IV, Section 1-a,

(1) I am born-again.

(2) I understand the purpose of the Constitution and Bylaws and the Government of this church and willfully submit myself to it and agree with it.

I hereby apply for Covenant Partnership with Word of Life Ministries. It's my desire to become part with God's working in this church. I am aware of the fact that this is a organization that operates through humans, and I will work with my leaders, pray for my leaders, support my leaders as they endeavor to lead this congregation in serving God. I also expect my leaders to Love me, consider and respect my opinions, and minister to me to the best of their ability - with the ultimate purpose as it is stated in the Constitution and Bylaws always being at the forefront of our service to God. The purpose is that we would live in Unity and Harmony with each other, and that Jesus Christ will be Glorified and Honored above all else.

OUR PURPOSE IS THAT TOGETHER WE MIGHT DO OUR PART IN ADVANCING THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND THE WORK THAT HE HAS US TO DO IN THESE LAST DAYS BEFORE HIS RETURN!!!

(Signature)

(Date)

Communicate

Communicate

Communicate

(Ep 4:11-16 (NIV))

[11] It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, [12] to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up [13] until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

*[14] Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. [15] Instead, **SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE, WE WILL IN ALL THINGS GROW UP** into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. [16] From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*

***Our Maturity Level is Seen
by
How Well We Communicate.***

Let's Strive for Maturity and Communicate.