

The Love Center Constitution

WHEREAS, God has in these last days founded His church upon Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:20; I Corinthians 3:11); built it through His people (I Corinthians 12:14), given it power and authority (Matthew 16:19), and unified it with internal structure (I Corinthians 12:28) and the Holy Ghost as the guide (John 16:13), that we, as the Body of Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23), might present His Gospel (Mark 16:15) and make disciples (Reference) by assisting in the implementation of the vision for this local church with the following constitution and bylaws of the church.

We, whose names appear as members of the board of directors, in order to establish and maintain a place for the worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, do hereby, recognize ourselves as a sovereign local church. We desire to provide for Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith, where the Holy Spirit may be honored according to our distinctive testimony; to assume our share of responsibility and the privilege of propagating the Gospel of Jesus Christ by all available means, both at home and in foreign lands; and for this purpose we do adopt the constitution and bylaws of the church and submit ourselves to be governed by them.

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this church shall be The Love Center, which will be in Maryland. The Love Center shall be herein referred to as the "church" unless otherwise noted.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

- A. It shall be the purpose of The Love Center, the "church" to know and make known the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the preaching and teaching of the Holy Bible, to bring the unsaved to Jesus Christ, to build up and disciple the saved in Christian grace and living, and to have a vital part in missions here and abroad. To this end, the church purposes
1. To establish and oversee places of worship under the guidance of the Holy Spirit (Titus 1:5; Ps. 107:3; Acts 2:42, 46, 47; Heb. 10:25).
 2. To conduct the work of evangelizing both home and foreign missions in obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ (Matt. 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15, 16; Luke 24:46, 47; John 20:21).
 3. To create departments as may be necessary in order to establish places of worship, to spread the Gospel, (including but not limited to educational, recreational, community, and social services) and to support missionary activity (Acts 6:1-7).



4. To have the right to own, hold in trust, use, possess, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or dispose of such property, real or chattel, as may be needed for the prosecution of its work.
 5. To license ministers of the Gospel and be their covering (1 Thess. 5:12; 2 Thess. 2:15; 3:4; Heb. 13:17).
- B. The Love Center, known as the "church" is under the law and commandments of God, the members are constituted to obey the guidance and leadership of the Holy Spirit. In connection therewith or incidental thereto, this church shall have the right to do any and all things necessary for the furtherance of its purpose, all in accordance with its bylaws as the same may hereafter be modified or amended.

ARTICLE III - STATEMENT OF FAITH

What we believe:

We believe the Bible as the divinely inspired Word of God, the revelation of his mind and will to man, our infallible and all sufficient guide for Salvation and Christian living (2 Tim 3:16 – 17, 2 Peter 1:20-21).

We believe in one God existing in three persons: The Father in Creation, The Son of God, Jesus Christ born of a virgin, and the Holy Spirit. The Holy Ghost is our intercessor and our inherent guide (Philippians 2:6, John 4:26)

We believe in the bodily resurrection and everlasting life of the saints, (John 3:16, 1 Thes 4:17) and the everlasting conscious punishment of the lost (Rev 20:11-15).

We believe in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary, through which he effectively completed the eternal redemption of mankind.

Almighty God, having raised Jesus Christ from the dead, and throne at his own right hand in heaven and making him the high priest after the order of melchizedek and the chief cornerstone of the church.

We believe in Salvation for everyone who believes on Jesus Christ by faith and the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross and that a Holy God can forgive sin (Romans 10:8 – 11, 1 John 3:3- 8)

We believe all who have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior must be born again of water and of the Spirit of God in order to enter into the kingdom of God (John 3: 5-7, Ephesians 1: 22-23, Col 1:18-19).



IV. Church History & Government

The Love Center is a ministry based upon the vision and global understanding of the New Testament Church. This vision is captured in KJV John 13:35, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples if you have love one to another." The New Testament church is a fulfillment of God's plan to embody a people that are committed to the principles of the Old and New Testament. The Love Center was rebirthed in June 2011 from its original church Holy One Temple Ministries with the clear understanding that it would be the model and pilot for the development of other churches and ministries around the world. This ministry shall operate in all nine gifts of the spirit being in concert to the nine fruit of the spirit. It is our endeavor that this vision shall be carried out to the fullest extent of the God head and always rehearsed in the minds and ears of the leadership and the people.

The Love Center, formerly Holy One Temple Ministries was established in June of 1998, during which Elder Tyrone Smith was consecrated as its Pastor by Bishop J. Lemuel Spence, Presiding Prelate of World Harvest International Fellowship of Churches. Its original location was 3303 Edgewood Road in Baltimore, Maryland.

The Love Center operates from a full gospel apostolic doctrine and traces its roots back to the birth of the New Testament church in AD 33. It is our endeavor to carry out this apostolic doctrine by the leading of the Holy Spirit maintaining our commitment to righteousness and holiness unto God. Our foundations is based upon Jesus Christ, who is the Son of the living God and Chief Cornerstone of the church who came in the flesh and embodied the sins of all mankind for the sake of redeeming mankind back unto God. Within the Love Center there are several components that encompass its government, administration, and commitment of the New Testament church. These are:

1. The Government – Twelve men and women who represent the governing body of the church.
 - a. The Senior Pastor
 - b. Assistant Pastor
 - c. Elders
 - d. Ministers
 - e. Deacons
 - f. Trustees
2. Ministries
 - a. Food and clothing bank
 - b. Christian Education
 - c. Priestly Etiquette and protocol
 - d. Health and Fitness
 - e. Entrepreneurship
 - f. Education
 - g. Finance
 - h. Marriage and family
 - i. Women and Men development (single)
 - j. Teen Peer groups and child development
3. The Staff - These individuals represent the support system that is governed by the heads of the Ministry.
 - a. Administrative Assistants
 - b. Trustees
 - c. Ushers
 - d. Nurses
 - e. Other support staff shall be named as needed



Like any organization or company, its infrastructure and responsibilities are a key component to growth and development. The understanding of responsibilities creates a harmony to the establishment and function of a church. As with any business, a business plan/vision must be outlined and implemented in order for the business to function properly.

These offices represent the infrastructure and function of the positions within this church

- Senior Pastor – This role is the key to the success of the ministry. The primary function is to be the senior voice of God to the church and its leadership. He or she must pray, study, and be willing to learn on a continual basis the evolution of the church. This individual is the direction of the ministry, having an ear to hear the voice of God and instruct the governing body on how God’s instructions shall be carried out. This individual is a major nucleus to the marketing of the ministry, its exposure to the community, its partnerships with state, local, and federal governing bodies, and other churches and ministries. This individual is the “Chief” amongst the elders and will fulfill at any given time the duties of an elder within the church.
- Assistant Pastor - This individual holds a very important role within the infrastructure of the church. If anything should ever happen that would incapacitate or expire the Senior Pastor whether by death or resignation, the Assistant Pastor, by default, will assume all governmental rights and responsibilities of the Senior Pastor. The Assistant Pastor is in fact the assistant to the Pastor and shall uphold the Senior Pastor in the fulfillment of the duties and responsibilities outlined in the role of the Senior Pastor.
- Elders – The Elders represent the pillars of the ministry. This office is considered the “first” among equals, meaning these individuals are the first line of authority that shall be exhibited within the church. It should be noted that an Elder should be a mature individual having a sobriety in all things pertaining to the church and their home. The duties of an Elder are as follows:
 - o Corporate prayer
 - o Bible teachings
 - o The liaison between the Senior Pastor and the parishioners (and should not be confused as a “barrier” between the Senior Pastor and the parishioner)
 - o Weekly communication to parishioners
 - o Support to the Pastoral staff
 - o Church growth and evangelism
 - o Baptism
 - o Funeral
 - o Weddings - *All marriages performed under this church shall follow the statutes of the HOLY BIBLE, which acknowledges the union between one man and one woman (Genesis 2:21-25)*
 - o Building dedication
 - o Church service and administration
 - o Community outreach and evangelism
- Ministers – The ministers of the church are the “arms and feet” of the ministry. These individuals are the assistants to the Elders and are the first tier of administration in the ministry. They are responsible for duties such as:
 - o General Cleaning and maintenance
 - o Hospital visits
 - o General hospitality
 - o Weekly communication to parishioners
 - o Assist with community outreach and evangelism
 - o Assist with church administration and daily functions
- Deacons – The deacon has a very similar role to the ministers. Their role is more than just the up keeping of the sanctuary and opening the doors of the church. According to 1Timothy 3, the deacon has a similar responsibility and accountability like the bishop. Deacons are an essential part of the foundation of the church and along with the ministers’ help with the daily administration of the church.
- Trustees – Trustees are the financial guidance of the ministry. Their role consists of the oversight of the financial direction of the church and work very closely with the senior pastor in the vision and scope of the ministry. They are the “checks and balances” of the ministry and ensure legal balance in accordance to state and federal laws.



ARTICLE V - MEMBERSHIP

Section A. Membership Standards

A person is eligible for membership in this church who gives evidence of his/her faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who voluntarily submits to teaching that's aligned to the Statement of Faith and who reads & agrees to be governed by the constitution and bylaws of this church as herein set forth and signified by signing the membership agreement and receiving the membership guide

The Love Center, known "church," subscribes to a membership that trusts its elders to make decisions and fulfill their roles that will prosper the church (Ephesians 4:11-13, 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Acts 6:4, 1 Timothy 5:17, James 5:14, 1 Peter 5:1-2, Titus 1:9, 2 Peter 2:1-2, Hebrews 13:7). Paul instructed elders to decide what should be taught, though to do this with gentleness (2 Tim. 2:24-25) and with patience and endurance (2 Tim. 4:2), 1 Peter 5:1-4). It also recognizes that some decisions are wisely made by the entire congregation (Matthew 18:15-17, Acts 6:2-5, 1 Cor. 5:4-5, 2 Cor. 2:5-6, Gal 1:6-9, 2 Tim. 4:3).

Section B. Membership Process

1. Persons desiring to become members in fellowship with the church shall make the fact known to the pastor or elder by a signed Membership Agreement and submitted to the church secretary.
2. Candidates for membership will review the Constitution, Bylaws, and Statement of Faith. This can occur in a group setting or an individual setting. The Pastor or Elders will evaluate the candidate after completion and determine if they meet the membership requirements.

Section C. Member Discipline

Any member found guilty of offenses counter to the Membership Agreement shall be subject to discipline and possible removal from church membership.

Section D. Membership Cancellation

The pastor and council of elders shall be authorized to revise the membership roll of the church at least once a year, and to remove from the list of active members those in fellowship under the following categories:



1. Issuance of Letter of Transfer.
2. Voluntary withdrawal from membership.
3. Deceased during the year.
4. Those in sin who have refused correction and restoration
5. Those who are absent from the church services for a period of three (3) months without reasonable excuse.

The council of elders reserves the right to remove any member which is deemed to be harming the flock or to be in purpose and willful contention with the church, supported by a 3/4 vote of the members of The Love Center.

Any person removed as a church member shall be notified of this action in writing by the church secretary and shall have the right to appeal to the elders for reconsideration of said action.

The elders may restore to membership any person previously excluded, upon request of the excluded person, and upon evidence of the excluded person's repentance and reformation. This should be done in the spirit of forgiveness and love (2 Corinthians 2:68).

ARTICLE VI - FINANCES

The church, a non-stock corporation, shall be financed by the freewill offerings of the members and friends of the church, by the established places of worship, by all other subordinate groups affiliated with The Love Center, the "church" and by fundraisers that are recognized by the pastor/president and council of elders/secretary, treasurer (1 Chronicles 29:6-9; 2 Chronicles. 24:10; 31:10).



ARTICLE VII - MEETINGS

Section A. Church Meetings

In any established place of worship, the pastor will be responsible for regular church services.

Section B. Corporation Meetings

The church year shall coincide with the calendar year beginning on January 1, and running through December 31.

The chairman of the board/president (pastor) will call the official board meeting to discuss the direction of the church. The pastor shall set dates and times for board meetings. A minimum of two-thirds of the officers including the pastor shall be present for an official board meeting to exist. The board may have invited guests present at any meeting so long as the pastor has approved it.

The secretary shall keep an accurate account of the minutes that were discussed at any board meeting. He/she then has to submit them at the next board meeting for discussion by the official board and approval by the pastor. Upon approval by the majority of the board of directors including the pastor, the minutes shall be adopted, and all policy and procedure in them will continue to be enforced.

ARTICLE VIII QUORUM

Two-thirds (2/3) of the board members, including the chairman of the board/president (pastor), at an official board meeting constitutes a quorum. The pastor is the only one who can call an official board meeting by notifying the board members verbally or in writing with 72 hours notice.

ARTICLE IX- AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this constitution are brought forward to the council of elders for review and discussion with the submitter before presenting to the congregation. The amendment may be made by a 3/4 vote of the members of The Love Center.

ARTICLE X - DISSOLUTION

Anyone on the council of elders may make a motion to dissolve The Love Center, the "church," for whatever reason(s) seem proper, for review and discussion before presenting to the congregation. The



dissolution may be made by a 3/4 vote of the members of The Love Center, known as "church." If the dissolution passes, disposition of funds and property may be made by a 3/4 vote of the members of The Love Center, known as "church."

Signed and certified this 15th day of March, 2017 to be effective immediately.

