

2011

LIGHT OF YESHUA FELLOWSHIP

Rick Gibson, DD, Founder

MINISTRY BYLAWS VERSION 1.4.1.240114

This document records the Ministry Bylaws for a Bible-Based, Teaching Ministry known as “Light of Yeshua” Fellowship, as afforded by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America, to wit, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances. This document reflects the strong belief of the founders to ensure our Constitutional right to organize and operate this free Ministry of Yeshua (Jesus) WITHOUT securing permission from any State or Federal agency, and to operate as a “free ministry”, unencumbered by either State Incorporation overhead or the Internal Revenue Service

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Bylaws of Light of Yeshua Fellowship

Forward

We, the Founders of this free Ministry of Yeshua, known as “Light of Yeshua Fellowship (LOY)”, hereby submit these **Bylaws** knowing full well that a great problem within modern Churches, Assemblies and Biblical Fellowships is to over-legalize the organization of Yeshua’s Body of Believers. However, we also maintain ...

“YOU, CHILDREN, ARE FROM GOD AND HAVE OVERCOME THE FALSE PROPHETS, BECAUSE HE WHO IS IN YOU IS GREATER THAN HE WHO IS IN THE WORLD.” 1 JOHN 4:4 CJB

Given the above Scriptural passage as both reference and context, we (the Founders and Authors of this document) do not seek to augment nor deduct from the **Holy Word of God** (The Bible) in any way but do seek to clarify the necessary Operational Policies and Procedures of **Light of Yeshua Fellowship** (Collectively termed, “**Tactics**”) such that said Bylaws are both **Biblically** grounded and conducted. As a safety precaution (a “check-and-balance”), any portion of these **Bylaws**, which is subsequently revealed to conflict with the **Word of God** (*in any way*) shall, upon discovery of such discrepancy, be removed or adjusted by the **Ministry Leadership** to align with our **Primary Reference** (**The Word of God** – **Holy Bible**). Therefore, we recognize that **constant vigilance** by both the **Ministry Leadership** (Assembly of Elders and the Deaconry) and **Ministry Membership** is required to ensure **Biblical** compliance of all **Ministry Policies and Procedures**. Note that **any registered Fellowship Member, in good standing, may petition (in writing) the Ministry Leadership to consider a change to these Bylaws.** Said Petition for Change will be subsequently and carefully examined by the “Collective Ministry Leadership”, and a written response to both the Petitioner and the entire **Ministry Membership** will be compiled for public review and discussion.

Article I – Constitution of the Free Ministry and the Fellowship’s Articles of Association

The **Free Ministry Association** of **Light of Yeshua Fellowship** was organized and constituted by the **Articles of Association**, filed with the ministry on (or about) March 2011. An excerpt from that document follows:

This document records the Ministry Bylaws for a Bible-Based, Teaching Ministry known as “Light of Yeshua” Fellowship, as afforded by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America, to wit, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances. This document reflects the strong belief of the founders to ensure our

Constitutional right to organize and operate this free Ministry of Yeshua (Jesus) WITHOUT securing permission from any State or Federal agency, and to operate as a “free ministry”, unencumbered by either State Incorporation overhead or the Internal Revenue Service

To incorporate or make The Fellowship subservient to the IRS (e.g. seek 501c 3 status) or any other governmental body is a violation of the Word of God, by placing governmental agencies in a position higher than God, the Creator.

Section A – Name of the Free Ministry

The name of the Free Ministry shall be Light of Yeshua Fellowship (abbreviated LOY).

Section B – Purpose of the Free Ministry

The purpose of the Free Ministry will be to:

1. First and foremost, to Provide Biblical Teaching / Training (Referencing His Word, The Holy Bible)¹
2. Provide both an open forum and a place of fellowship for believers and seekers of God’s Teachings in His Holy Word.
3. Teach, Observe and Practice (Rehearse) the Biblical Feasts of God, as set forth in His Word
4. To continually pray in the “... unity and knowledge of the Son of God...”, Yeshua ²
5. To engage in those Biblical outreach activities that assist our Fellowship, their Guests and our Community in acquiring knowledge of Yeshua Ha Mashiach (Jesus the Messiah) as their personal, spiritual Savior.

Section C – Vision for the Free Ministry

The vision of any organization (or association) of individuals is to articulate the dreams and hopes of that organization; that is, “what” they want to see changed, over time. **PROVERBS 29:18** points out that “...WHERE THERE IS NO VISION, THE PEOPLE ARE UNRESTRAINED, BUT HAPPY IS HE WHO KEEPS THE LAW (“Law” properly translated is “**TORAH**” or “Teachings for proper living” from God) ...”

Therefore, the Vision of Light of Yeshua Fellowship (LOY) is best illustrated in the words of **YESHUA (JESUS) HIMSELF**, when he began His Earthly ministry:

- **MATT 6:33** - “BUT SEEK FIRST HIS KINGDOM AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND ALL THESE THINGS WILL BE ADDED TO YOU.” NASU

We at Light of Yeshua Fellowship (LOY) envision an improved world, where the application of **BIBLICAL** principles is properly and lovingly applied by an increasing number of Bible

¹ Acts 2:42

² Eph 4:13, Mat. 21:13, Mark 11:17, Lu. 19:46

practitioners (those that **study, understand** and **apply Biblical** principles) that whole-heartedly seek a **Relationship** with **YHVH-GOD** (the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob) and **HIS SON YESHUA (JESUS)**.

Further, we (those **YESHUA** is in the process of saving daily) ardently desire to become **ever-better servants of YESHUA and YHVH-GOD (THE FATHER)**, so others will see the unfathomable grace of **YHVH-GOD (THE FATHER)**.³

It is hereby established that the **Assembly of Elders** are responsible to maintain the **Vision of Light of Yeshua Fellowship**, according to **GOD'S HOLY WORD (THE BIBLE)**, thereby fostering Unity within the Fellowship.

Section D – Mission of the Free Ministry

The Mission of any organization describes (in summary) “WHY” that organization exists or continues to exist. In short, we exist to **Proclaim** the **GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION (FATHER-GOD'S PLAN)** to those around us that desire a closer relationship with **YHVH-GOD** (the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob) and **HIS SON YESHUA (JESUS)**.⁴

Further, we firmly recognize we are commissioned by **YESHUA (JESUS)**, as recorded in the **GOSPELS** to share **HIS TEACHINGS** with those desiring to learn.

- **MATT 28:19-20** – “**THEREFORE GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES (STUDENTS) OF ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, 20 AND TEACHING THEM TO OBEY EVERYTHING I HAVE COMMANDED YOU.**” NIV
- **MARK 16:15** - “**GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE GOOD NEWS TO ALL CREATION.**” NIV

We whole-heartedly believe the **motivation** for this **Mission** is declared by **YESHUA** in **SCRIPTURE**:

- **JOHN 4:34-38** – “**YESHUA SAID TO THEM, “MY FOOD (YESHUA'S VERY EXISTENCE) IS TO DO WHAT THE ONE WHO SENT ME (FATHER GOD – YHVH) WANTS AND TO BRING HIS WORK TO COMPLETION.**” CJB

³ 1 Cor. 2:2, “For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ (Yeshua Ha Mashiach), and Him crucified” NASU

⁴ 2 Peter 3:9b – “... for it is not his (The Lord's) purpose that anyone should be destroyed, but that everyone should turn from his sins.” CJB. Acts 16:10b – “... for we concluded that God had called us to proclaim the Good News to them.” CJB

An example of *properly implementing* this **Mission** from **Paul**, the **Apostle**⁵, would be:

1 TIM 4:6-7 – “IF YOU POINT THESE THINGS OUT TO THE BROTHERS, YOU WILL BE A GOOD MINISTER OF CHRIST JESUS, BROUGHT UP IN THE TRUTHS OF THE FAITH AND OF THE GOOD TEACHING THAT YOU HAVE FOLLOWED.” NIV

It is the responsibility of every **Ministry Member** to implement the above **BIBLICALLY** based **Mission**, to the best of their abilities and understanding, with the assistance, guidance and counsel of:

- The teachings of the **WORD OF YHVH-GOD**
- The Spiritual guidance of the **HOLY SPIRIT**
- The counsel and mentorship of:
 - **Ministry Elders**
 - **Ministry Deacons**
 - **Ministry Teachers**
 - **fellow Believers as Ministry Members**

Section E – Initial Goals of the Free Ministry

With the **Ministry’s Vision** and **Mission** clearly stated, the following initial strategic⁶ goals are established:

1. To create, promote and extend the Teaching Ministry of **YESHUA HA MASHIACH (JESUS THE CHRIST)** according to the **INSPIRED WORD OF GOD, (THE HOLY BIBLE)**;
2. To unite those seeking **GODLY** direction in their lives with their **HEAVENLY FATHER, YHVH-GOD, His only Son (YESHUA, a.k.a. JESUS)**, and the **HOLY SPIRIT (THE GREAT COUNSELOR / COMFORTER)**;
3. To disseminate information about **YESHUA HA MASHIACH (JESUS THE CHRIST)** to the membership and attendees of this **Ministry** and to the interested public;
4. To engage in those ministerial and outreach activities prescribed by the **WORD OF GOD (HOLY BIBLE)** that will educate members and the public to the **SPIRITUAL PLAN OF SALVATION AND REDEMPTION (GOSPEL)** found only in **YESHUA (JESUS)** and **HIS** teachings.

⁵ Apostle Definition – “one sent on a mission: such as. a : one of an authoritative New Testament group sent out to preach the gospel and made up especially of Christ's 12 original disciples and Paul. b : the first prominent Christian missionary to a region or group”, www.meriam-webster.com, extracted September 2019.

⁶ Strategic definition, “Relating to the identification of long-term or overall aims and interests and the means of achieving them. Designed or planned to serve a particular purpose”, <https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/strategic>, extracted September 2019

5. To pursue any other ministerial purposes which are not in violation of the United States Constitution or Colorado State law that, from time to time, shall be agreed upon by **LOY Collective Leadership**, with the support of **LOY Membership**.
6. To acquire and own such property as may be necessary for any or all the foregoing purposes;
7. To eventually provide for the education of school-age children, whose Parents desire both:
 - i. A quality education for their children and...
 - ii. A sound **BIBLICAL** education in addition.
8. To offer Parents of pre-school and school-age children quality, safe, clean, **BIBLICALLY** aligned day care services.
9. To provide for advanced (post-secondary, collegiate and graduate) **BIBLICAL** education for High School Graduates desiring a deeper understanding of Biblical teaching. We expect this goal to be in the form of a **Bible College**⁷, established under and guided by **Light of Yeshua Fellowship (LOY)**.

Article II – Membership (known as the “Body of Yeshua”)

Section A - Overview

Any person⁸, having attained the age of at least 18, that has an interest in the **WORD OF GOD (THE HOLY BIBLE)** and desires to serve as a follower of **YESHUA (JESUS)** shall be eligible for **Membership**. Upon either verbal or written Application for membership, said application will be presented to:

- Firstly, the **Assembly of Elders**, who will schedule a time to meet with the candidate, where the Elders will hear the candidate’s:
 - Confession of Faith / Testimony
 - Reasons for desiring to associate with **Light of Yeshua Fellowship**.

Additionally, and although not strictly required, it is advisable that the **Assembly of Elders** and the candidate schedule a dedicated prayer time together to seek **THE HOLY SPIRIT’S** guidance, prior to proceeding with the **Membership Application Process**. The **Assembly of Elders** will subsequently record their recommendation, to be presented to the **Body of Yeshua** (greater **LOY Membership**).

⁷ Bible College definition,” a Christian college offering courses in religion and specializing in training students as ministers and religious workers”, <https://www.meriam-webster.com> ,extracted September 2019

⁸ No Age Restrictions are due to Yeshua’s words to Mark 10:14-16, “But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, “Permit the children to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 15 ‘Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all.’ 16 And He took them in His arms and began blessing them, laying His hands on them. “NASU”

- Secondly, the candidate's Application will be presented to the Body of Yeshua (**Ministry Membership**) present at any "Regular" or "Special" meeting or "Assembly" to which the **Body of Yeshua (Ministry Membership)** has been given proper notice⁹. Upon **simple majority indication (a show of hands)** of those Members present, tallied, and recorded, the applicant will become a member of the Ministry in good standing, and shall so be Recorded.

Section B – Withdrawal, Suspension, Expulsion

Be it clearly known among all Members and Attendees, that **LOY Fellowship** does not desire to invoke the criteria established in this Section, but will labor to **Advise, Counsel** (from a **BIBLICAL** perspective) and **Assist** any struggling Member or Attendee, as we recognize and recall our own individual histories and difficulties, as well as the **GRACE OF YHVH GOD** and **HIS SON** to be **merciful, patient, kind** and **long suffering**. In all Ministry activities and undertakings, we seek only to implement the example of the Apostle Paul, as delineated in **EPHESIANS 4:11-16**:

“... **AND HE GAVE SOME AS APOSTLES, AND SOME AS PROPHETS, AND SOME AS EVANGELISTS, AND SOME AS PASTORS AND TEACHERS, 12 FOR THE EQUIPPING OF THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF SERVICE, TO THE BUILDING UP OF THE BODY OF CHRIST; 13 UNTIL WE ALL ATTAIN TO THE UNITY OF THE FAITH, AND OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SON OF GOD, TO A MATURE MAN, TO THE MEASURE OF THE STATURE WHICH BELONGS TO THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST. 14 AS A RESULT, WE ARE NO LONGER TO BE CHILDREN, TOSSED HERE AND THERE BY WAVES AND CARRIED ABOUT BY EVERY WIND OF DOCTRINE, BY THE TRICKERY OF MEN, BY CRAFTINESS IN DECEITFUL SCHEMING; 15 BUT SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE, WE ARE TO GROW UP IN ALL ASPECTS INTO HIM WHO IS THE HEAD, EVEN CHRIST, 16 FROM WHOM THE WHOLE BODY, BEING FITTED AND HELD TOGETHER BY WHAT EVERY JOINT SUPPLIES, ACCORDING TO THE PROPER WORKING OF EACH INDIVIDUAL PART, CAUSES THE GROWTH OF THE BODY FOR THE BUILDING UP OF ITSELF IN LOVE. ...**” NASU

However, we recognize the natural ambition of many, especially those “new in **YESHUA**” (recent converts), as well as the weaknesses of our fleshly desires. We therefore establish this “**Disciplinary Article**” and its criteria as an action of “**Last Resort**”.

Section C – Voluntary Withdrawal

Any member may voluntarily **Withdraw** their membership at any time by providing written notice to any **Elder** or **Deacon**. Said withdrawal will be announced at the next “Regular” or “Special” meeting or “Assembly” of the **LOY Membership**, and from that time, the once-Member is considered removed from the Ministry, and so shall be recorded.

⁹ “Proper Notice” shall be defined as “sufficient Written / Published details as to afford making an informed, individual decision”

Section D-Involuntary Suspension or Expulsion

Suspension and **Expulsion** (which are extreme **Disciplinary Measures**) can occur for any of the following reasons:

1. Deliberate and Intentional, and / or continued, un-repentant violation of the **WORD OF GOD (THE HOLY BIBLE)**,¹⁰ that is detrimental to the Ministry, or casts the Ministry in a negative light to the Public or other Biblical Ministries.
2. **Intentional** and/or **continued violation** of the **Ministry Bylaws**, that is detrimental to the **Ministry**, or casts the **Ministry** in a negative light to the Public or other Biblical Ministries.
3. Intentional and/or continued conduct deemed detrimental to the Ministry¹¹.

A member may be **Suspended** (*Temporary* condition) or **Expelled** (*Permanent* condition) according to the following process:

1. **Step One:** **Simple Majority Vote** (summarized and submitted *in writing*) of the Body of Yeshua (Ministry Membership) to *recommend* an individual for Suspension or Expulsion to the Assembly of Elders for their consideration.
 - a) Note-a complete **BIBLICALLY based Expulsion / Suspension Letter**, to include the reasons why **Expulsion / Suspension** is believed to be warranted, will be *provided by those Members* calling for the **Suspension** or **Expulsion** of an individual, *to the Assembly of Elders*.
 - b) Subsequently, the Assembly of Elders, **after prudent research** of the **“Expulsion / Suspension Request”** details, will:
 - Take the Expulsion / Suspension Letter into consideration at the next Regular or Special Meeting of the **Assembly of Elders**. Upon fully understanding and validating the “issue” listed in the **Expulsion / Suspension Letter**, shall *diligently* and *dispassionately* search the **WORD OF GOD (HOLY BIBLE)** to determine the **BIBLICAL BASIS** for the “issue” under review.
 - Once (and only-if) a **BIBLICAL BASIS** is *established*, the **Assembly of Elders** shall *prayerfully consider* the details listed in the **Expulsion / Suspension Letter**, then *confer, debate* and *interview* pertinent individuals (to *include the one under Suspension or Expulsion* review) and (most importantly), *pray* for wisdom and guidance from the **GREAT COUNSELOR (HOLY SPIRIT)**. This constitutes the **Evaluation Period**. There is no minimum nor maximum period specified for the **Evaluation**

¹⁰ Ex. 29:14, Lev. 4:11-12, Lev. 4:21, Lev. 10:14, Lev. 24:14, Num. 5:3, Mt. 11:20-24, 1 Cor. 5:13

¹¹ Mt. 11:20-24

Period but is to be established by the Assembly of Elders on a case-by-case basis.

2. **Step Two:** Following all activities delineated in Step 1 a) and 1 b) above, a **three-fifths (3/5 or 60%)** majority **Vote** of the **Assembly of Elders** in favor of **Expulsion** / **Suspension** of the individual will be sufficient to **Suspend** or *remove* the individual from the **Membership**.
 - a) For situations in which a **Suspension** is deemed appropriate by the **Assembly of Elders**, a *time period* for the suspension will be established (**Suspension Period**). **Conditions** for *removal* of the **Suspension** must be *clearly identified* for *presentation* to the **Member** for which **Suspension** is recommended.
3. **Step Three:** Following all activities delineated in Steps 1) and 2) above, *appropriate documentation* will be generated and *presented, in person*, to the **Member** considered for **expulsion** / **suspension**, *by at least 2 Elders*.
4. **Step Four:** Following all activities delineated in Steps 1), 2), and 3) above, the appropriate documents will be *filed* with the **Assembly of Elders**, and the **Member** will be considered **Suspended** / **Expelled**.

Section E – Reinstatement of a Suspended or Expelled Member

Suspended Members or Expelled Individuals may Petition the Assembly of Elders for Reinstatement, according to the following:

- In the case of a **Suspension**:
 - If a Member under Suspension fulfills the criteria established in their Suspension Letter, to the satisfaction of the Assembly of Elders, then they enter a period of Probation, as determined by the Assembly of Elders on a case-by-case basis.
 - During the Probation Period, one of two possible outcomes will occur:
 - Probation Period completes to the satisfaction of the Assembly of Elders and the Individual is considered “Fully Restored” to Ministry Membership, which will be so recorded.
 - The individual either:
 - Voluntarily Withdraws from the Ministry
 - Or fails to complete the conditions of their Probation (based on the Criteria expressed in their original Suspension Letter).

In either of these latter two cases, the Individual is Removed from Ministry Membership / Expelled, and so shall be recorded.

- In the case of a previous Expulsion, the Individual may submit a Request to be Reconsidered for Ministry Membership, according to Article II Section A of this document. However, the Assembly of Elders are responsible to ensure the Individual has worked through and will not repeat the actions which resulted in the original Expulsion.

Section F- Transferability

Membership shall ***not*** be transferable and both **Membership** and rights to the use of **Ministry** property shall ***cease*** and ***terminate*** upon:

- ***Death*** of a Member
- Voluntary ***Withdrawal*** of Membership
- ***Expulsion***
- ***Suspension*** (until the individual is restored, according to the documentation filed with the Assembly of Elders)
- Other ***Written Termination of Membership***

Article III – Voting Rights

Voting within **LOY** is defined as either **written** (using formal written, secret Ballots) or **tallied / recorded** (known as a “**show-of-hands**”) as a formal expression of choice. All ***written*** voting shall be done ***personally*** and ***privately***, by members in good standing; ***no proxies*** shall be allowed.

Situations requiring Ministry Membership voting shall be called by the **Assembly of Elders**.

Each **Member** ***entitled to vote*** with respect to the subject matter of an issue submitted to the **Members** by the **Assembly of Elders**, shall be entitled to **One Vote** upon **Each Such Issue**.

When votes are to be cast on issues before the **Ministry Body**, **Simple Written Ballots** will be distributed during any **Regular** or **Special Meeting** or **Assembly** in sufficient time to permit **Members** to cast their vote. Ballots will be placed in an appropriately designated and monitored **Ballot Box** by the member casting said vote. **Ballot Boxes** will be monitored by a **Collective Leadership** Designate.

Voting within the **Collective Leadership** (**Assembly of Elders** and **Deaconry**), and any Teams or Committees duly established by said **Collective Leadership**, is handled in the same manner as described above. A simple “show of hands” or “yea-nay” (verbal) votes are not considered official. **All Collective Leadership voting (by definition) is to be privately done with a written ballot, placed into an appropriately designated Ballot Box, and Results are Shared with the Fellowship Body / Membership at a later, appropriate time.**

Article IV - Fiscal Year

Section A – Fiscal / Financial Calendar

The fiscal year and the year for the collection, management, usage and distribution of tithes, offerings, donations, gifts and the installation of officers shall be the standard Gregorian Calendar year, which is in keeping with standard accounting practices.

Section B - Religious Calendar

Separate from the “Fiscal Calendar”, which is implemented for convenient and standardized accounting purposes, Light of Yeshua Fellowship (LOY) observes the **BIBLICAL moadim** (meaning “Appointed Times”) of the Bible. These “Appointed Times” (commonly referred to as “Feasts” or “Festivals”) are (in order):

1. Shabbat / Sabbath
2. Pesach
3. Matzot / Unleavened Bread
4. Bikkurim / First Fruits
5. Shavuot / Feast of Weeks / Day of Pentecost
6. Yom Teruah / Day of Trumpeting
7. Yom Kippur / Day of Atonement
8. Succot / Feast of Tabernacles / Feast of the In-gathering

Meeting Times for both the Membership and the Collective Leadership tend to revolve around the events associated with and leading up to the above “*moadim*”. Therefore, although we schedule dates and times according the common / Gregorian Calendar in the United States, we are ever mindful of God’s teachings regarding His “Appointed Times” in the Biblical / Hebrew Calendar.

Article V - Meetings

Section A- Annual Meetings

The “**Annual Meeting**” of the **Ministry Membership (Body of Yeshua)** is for the following purposes:

1. **Presentation** of all **Leadership** positions and votes to **Ministry Membership (Body of Yeshua)**
2. Receiving **Annual Reports** from the:
 - a. **Assembly of Elders**
 - b. **Deaconry**
 - c. Other Ministry Teams or Committees and sub-organizations as may be defined by the **Collective Leadership**
3. **Voting** on issues that have been presented by the **Collective Leadership** to the **Ministry Members (Body of Yeshua)** and *have not previously come to a deciding vote.*

It shall be held during a **Regular** or **Special Meeting** or **Assembly** of **LOY Membership (Body of Yeshua)** in the **first Gregorian Calendar quarter of each Fiscal year**. **Notice** of the “Annual Meeting” must be submitted to the **Membership (Body of Yeshua)** in writing, at least

seven (7) days prior to said meeting. The Ministry Bulletin, Newsletter, or Special Bulletin (electronic delivery or hardcopy) *shall be deemed a satisfactory* method of written notification.

Section B – Regular Meetings and Assemblies

Regular Meetings and **Assemblies** are to *bring together* the **Body of Yeshua (Ministry Members)** so that the **LOY** may *fulfill its various purposes*. **Regular Meetings** and **Assemblies** are determined by the **Collective Leadership (Assembly of Elders, Deaconry)** combined.

The “**Regular Meetings**” and “**Assemblies**” of the **Ministry Body** shall be held *as determined by the Assembly of Elders*, at a time and place to be determined by the **Assembly of Elders**, to include “Virtual” venues.

A change in the established date, time and location of these “**Regular Meetings**” and/or “**Assemblies**” may be made by *simple majority vote* of the **Members present** at any **Regular Meeting** or **Assembly**, *having first been approved for said vote by the Collective Leadership (Assembly of Elders, Deaconry) of LOY*, and *subsequently upon written notice* to the **Membership** of such change in the form of the **Ministry Bulletin** or **Other Notice (Electronic or Hardcopy)** *as deemed appropriate*.

Section C - Special Meetings

Special Meetings are called by **Leadership** for various **Impromptu Events** or **Needs** not already covered by **Regular Meetings** and **Assemblies**.

“**Special Meetings**” may be called by one or more of the following:

- (1) **Two or more agreeing** members of the **Assembly of Elders**,
- (2) **Two or more agreeing** members of the **Deaconry**,
- (3) A *simple majority* vote (51%), **in writing**, of the **Ministry Membership (Body of Yeshua)** *presented for review and approval to* the **Collective Ministry Leadership (Assembly of Elders and the Deaconry)**.

These “**Special Meeting**” **Requests** will be presented, *in writing*, to the **Collective Ministry Leadership**, who will subsequently set the **Agenda**, **Date**, **Time** and **Location** of said meeting within 30 Gregorian Calendar days of the original, written **Special Meeting Request**, subject to the approval of the *simple majority* of **Collective Ministry Leadership**.

Should **Collective Ministry Leadership (Assembly of Elders and Deaconry)** determine that broad attendance by the **Ministry Membership (Body of Yeshua)** is *necessary* for said Special Meeting, *written notice* to the Ministry Membership (Body of Yeshua) will be provided at least seven (7) days *in advance* of such meeting.

If a simple majority (51%) of the **Membership** is present at such **Special Meetings**, any **Ministry** issues normally done only at **Regular Meetings** may be transacted. Notice of **Special Meetings** must include an agenda / summary of any issues to be acted upon.

Article VI. Quorum for any Meetings or Assemblies where Votes are to be cast

Section A - Overview

Fifty One percent (or greater) of the Ministry Members (Body of Yeshua) shall constitute a **Quorum** at any **Regular** or **Special Meeting** of the **Membership** where a vote on issues has been previously scheduled, in writing.

For meetings of the individual bodies comprising the **Collective Ministry Leadership**, three-fifths (3/5 or 60%) or greater of either the **Assembly of Elders** or the **Deaconry** shall constitute **Quorum** where a formal vote on issues is required.

For those meetings of the **Entire Collective Ministry Leadership (Assembly of Elders and the Deaconry)**, three-fifths (3/5 or 60%) or more of both governing bodies will constitute **Quorum**.

Section B – Ministry Leadership Override when Quorum Cannot be Achieved

In the event of failure to achieve Quorum within the **Entire Collective Ministry Leadership (Assembly of Elders and the Deaconry)** for issues brought before said **Entire Collective Leadership** that are determined by the **Assembly of Elders** to be **Critical** in nature, then the available members of the **Assembly of Elders** will decide on the Critical issue after serious, reverential **BIBLICAL** Study (on the Critical issue) and dedicated prayer..

Article VII – Alteration and/or Amending the Ministry Bylaws

Since the By Laws are the currently codified understanding of the governance of **YESHUA** manifested in **GOD’S WORD** and **GOD’S HOLY SPIRIT**, it may become necessary to **Amend**, **Clarify** or **Otherwise Alter** these By Laws, as new understanding of either the **WORD OF GOD (HOLY BIBLE)** or the **HOLY SPIRIT** becomes known. Subsequent to that “new understanding” (in writing) a **two-thirds (2/3 or 66%)** majority vote (or greater) of the **Collective Ministry Leadership (Assembly of Elders and the Deaconry)** is required. Within 90 Gregorian-Calendar days of the Entire Collective Leadership (Assembly of Elders and the Deaconry) vote, the Changes to the Ministry Bylaws will be presented to the **Ministry Membership (Body of Yeshua)**.

These high percentages of required votes do not reflect the founders value of “public” or even “popular” opinion *over* the **WORD OF GOD** or the leading of **HIS HOLY SPIRIT**, but *reflect our faith that YESHUA, via the two primary sources of guidance (WORD OF GOD and LEADING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT), will motivate dedicated Individuals to achieve the significantly high votes when and if a change within the Ministry becomes necessary.*

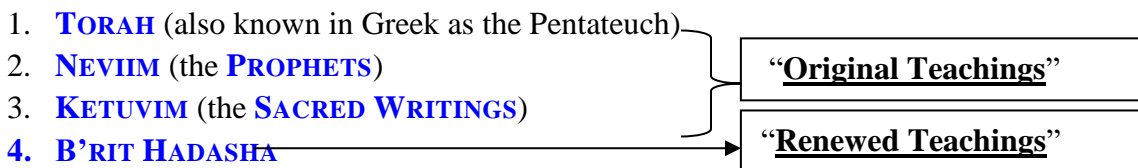
Let all Members know their responsibility in seeking the Guidance of our **LORD** and **SAVIOR**, **YESHUA (JESUS)**, by dutifully searching **HIS WORD (HOLY BIBLE)** and then praying for the guidance of **HIS HOLY SPIRIT**.

Article VIII – Leadership Structure (“Collective Ministry Leadership”)

Light of Yeshua Fellowship is under **the Supreme Headship of YESHUA, our SAVIOR**, and we diligently strive to seek **HIS** direction within the **Ministry**. With that context, the following Human-level organizational structure seeks to Operate in carrying out the “GREAT COMMISSION” of our LORD and SAVIOR.¹²

Section A – Collective Ministry Leadership Overview

Governance of the **Ministry** is under the **Supreme Headship** of **YESHUA HA’ MASHIACH (JESUS THE CHRIST)**, whose **HEAVENLY FATHER** has *provided throughout the ages* of human history, the **GOD-BREATHED “MIRACLE DOCUMENT”** known as the **WORD OF GOD (HOLY BIBLE)** consisting of the following sections:



Therefore, this **Ministry’s “Guidance Hierarchy of Reference”** will be:

1. The **First source** is the **WORD OF GOD (HOLY BIBLE)**.
 - a) **Positional Statement:** Knowing that these Scriptures were not originally codified in the current English language, we acknowledge that *all English BIBLES* are *translations* and may suffer from inaccuracies (relative to the original text). Therefore, where possible, the **Founders** recommend that all **Members** (as good Bereans¹³), *check as many translation resources as possible*, including, when possible, the actual Hebrew (**TANAKH, ORIGINAL TEACHINGS**) and Greek (**B’RIT HADASHA, RENEWED TEACHINGS**).
 - b) We do not place any English Translation over the other, but rather, value both deep and broad study of **HIS WORD**, across all translations, while simultaneously praying for HOLY SPIRIT illumination as to the application **HE** would have for a particular portion of study / issue. All **Members (Leadership included)** are strongly encouraged to *check as many translations as possible* to reach understanding of a particular passage.

¹² Mk. 16:15

¹³ Acts 17:11

2. The Second source will be to *diligently seek* the **INSPIRATIONAL** and **DEEPLY PERSONAL GUIDANCE** of **OUR HEAD (YESHUA)** via the **GREAT COUNSELOR**¹⁴, the **HOLY SPIRIT**. Significant time in Prayer, both *privately and corporately*, is required of all **Members** of **Leadership** and the **Body of Yeshua**.¹⁵
 - a) Documentation of Collective Leadership findings and decisions from their Prayer Time and research, relative to Ministry Operation, shall be provided by the individual **Leadership Members**, in *writing*. (aka, “Minutes”)
3. The Third source (and least significant) is the **By Laws of this Ministry**, which are the current, codified understanding of sources (1) and (2), above. It is therefore the least priority reference of governance and will only be used in those circumstances where Sources (1) and (2) yield more flexible, less precise options than an issue or situation require, in order to resolve.

In the context of what has thus far been described, **LOY's** Leadership is further organized into 2 main bodies that oversee Ministry operations.

Section B - Assembly of Elders Overview

The **Assembly of Elders** are at the top of the **Human, Operational Authority** within the **Ministry**, but *do not “lord over” anyone their beliefs, opinions or training*.¹⁶ **Elders** seek *the Strategies of their Ministry Head, YESHUA*, by diligently searching **YHVH-GOD'S HOLY WORD (BIBLE)** for answers to questions and situations that will arise during the normal operation of the **Ministry**. They are then expected to dutifully seek any additional illumination of the **HOLY SPIRIT** through both private and corporate prayer.

LOY *acknowledges* the **Pauline-Teaching** of the “**5-fold Ministry Gifts of YESHUA**”, as recorded in both **EPHESIANS 4:11** and “Other Gifts” as recorded in **1 CORINTHIANS 12:28**. It would be an *ideal situation* (but not a requirement) for the **Elders** to operate in *one (or possibly more)* of the following Ministerial Gifts prescribed by Yeshua in these Scriptures:

1. Apostle¹⁷
2. Prophet¹⁸
3. Evangelist¹⁹
4. Pastor / Shepherd²⁰
5. Teacher²¹

¹⁴ Is. 9:6, John 14:16, John 14:26, John 15:26, John 16:7

¹⁵ Dt. 4:29, Dt. 12:5, 1 Ki. 22:5, 1 Chr. 16:11, 1 Chr. 28:8,-9, 2 Chr. 7:14, 2 Chr. 18:4, Ezra 8:22, Ps. 9:11, Ps. 27:8, Ps. 34:11, Ps. 63:2, Ps. 105:4, Ps. 119:2, Ps. 119:10, Ps. 119:94, Pr. 2:4-5, Pr. 8:17, Pr. 28:5, Is. 8:19, Is. 55:6, Jer. 29:13, Dan. 9:3, Hos. 3:5, Hos. 10:12, Am. 5:4, Zep. 2:3, Mt. 6:33, Lu. 12:31, Col. 3:1, Heb. 11:6, Heb 13:14

¹⁶ The qualifications for Deacon or Deaconess are clearly delineated in 1 Tim. 3:8-13. Also deaconess is Rom. 16:1

¹⁷ {Def and duties of Apostle}

¹⁸ {def and duties of Prophet}

¹⁹ {Def and duties of Evangelist}

²⁰ {Def and duties of Pastor}

6. Helpers
7. Administrators

Although this is *not a requirement for the position of Elder*, we believe it to be the desire of **YESHUA**, since these are **HIS MINISTERIAL GIFTS** within the **Body of Yeshua**.²²

To distinguish an Elder from a Deacon / Deaconess, according to the pattern found in **ACTS 6:1-6**, Elders (acting with the gift of “Apostleship”) “...**WERE DEVOTED TO PRAYER AND TO THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD**...”. This ties very closely with the Statement that “**Elders are the Keepers of the Ministry Vision**, and the **Vision** is implemented in the **Ministry Mission**. The Primary Targets of Implementing the **Ministry Mission** are manifested in its **Primary Goals**. Without faithful, prayerful Elders, the **Vision of the Ministry** is lost to *daily operations*, which are *Supervised* by **Deacons** (**Servants**) faithfully, truthfully, equally executing the routine Ministry Operations under the direction of the **Vision** / **Mission** / **Goals** “Keepers” – the **Elders**.

To further elaborate, these are NOT “**Titles**” nor “**Offices**” (as commonly believed in other Ministries), but rather **Ministerial** “**Functions**” of sincere Service, within the **Body of Yeshua**. Note – **1 SAMUEL 8:6-9** speaks of the “**OFFICES OF MEN**” (like a King), in a *negative light*. In summary, **Elders** are to be

- **Prayer Warriors** and **Intercessors**,
- **Firm** but **Gentle Teachers, Mentors**
- **Peacemakers** in every situation,
- **Loving Disciplinarians**, when and where needed,
- **Leaders-by-Example** within the **Ministry**
- Loving **Guardians** of the Ministry **Vision**, **Mission** and **Goals**

Section C - Deaconry Overview

The **Deaconry** is the *second level* of **Operational Authority** within the natural (**Human**) Organizational Hierarchy of the **Ministry**, *serving under the oversight and guidance of the Assembly of Elders*. In **ACTS 6:2**, we see why these **POSITIONS OF SERVICE** within the **Ministry** are *desired*, which is just and equally applied standards of serving within the Fellowship. Functionally within the **Ministry**, **Deacons operate in specific areas of service**, relying on the **WORD OF YHVH-GOD** and the **GUIDANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** to make known, counsel, guide and train those with both a *Talent* and *the Heart of YESHUA to serve* in one of the following **Ministry Operational Counsels** (note- “Counsel” is chosen over the term “Council” purposely) for which a **Deacon** is called:

²¹ {def and duties of Teacher}

²² Eph. 4:11-13

1. **Stewardship Counsel** – the **BIBLICALLY** appropriate Supervision of ministry assets, finances, and associated tasks
2. **Commissions Counsel**– the **BIBLICALLY** appropriate Supervision of ministry activities that implement the Great Commission of Yeshua²³, and associated tasks
3. **Discipleship Counsel** – the **BIBLICALLY** appropriate Supervision of **Ministry Activities** that spiritually **equip** and **train LOY Members** to **become co-ministers** of **YESHUA’S GOOD NEWS**, relative to their own gifts and callings.

Additional **Operational Counsels** in addition to the original (above) 3 may be added in the future, as deemed necessary by the **Collective Ministry Leadership**, once properly implemented according to the **Ministry Bylaws**, Article VII, “Alteration of Ministry Bylaws”.

The **Deaconry**, with the guidance, support and approval of the **Assembly of Elders**, may establish and subsequently guide various **Cadres**²⁴ / **Teams** of work within the Ministry. **Cadres** and **Teams** are not part of **Collective Leadership** but implement operational tasks established by the **Collective Leadership**. **Cadres** and **Teams** are responsible to and directly overseen by the **Deaconry**.

Section D – Filling Leadership Positions

All leadership positions within the **Ministry** are:

1. **Chosen and Installed** by the existing (“outgoing” or “previous”) **Assembly of Elders**, since they are “**Ministry Vision Keepers.**”
2. However, any Ministry Member may suggest, recommend or nominate a Candidate for a Leadership Position by presenting their “suggestion, recommendation, or nomination”, in writing, to the **Assembly of Elders**.

In this sense, **Light of Yeshua Fellowship** is *somewhat* of a *congregational ministry*, but still subject to the approval of the then-acting **Assembly of Elders**, who are to **Maintain** the **Vision**, **Mission** and **Goals** of the **Ministry** across elections and generations of Members. **LOY** is **NOT** governed as a democracy nor a republic, but *under the* **HEADSHIP OF YESHUA (JESUS)**, **GUIDED BY THE WORD OF GOD (HOLY BIBLE)** and the *situational leading of* the **HOLY SPIRIT**.

Members of the **Assembly of Elders** are **annually reviewed** by the current **Collective Leadership** (**Assembly of Elders** and the **Deaconry**) for both *qualifications* and *fitness and desire / ability to serve* (prior to the **Annual Meeting**). Upon completion of this **Annual Review**, the existing **Assembly of Elders**, after considerable **research** and **prayer** regarding the

²³ Mk. 16:15

²⁴ Cadre definition, “a nucleus or core group especially of trained personnel able to assume control and to train others; broadly, a group of people having some unifying relationship.”, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/cadre>, extracted August 26, 2021

qualifications, motives, and background of each candidate, will choose the Candidates they determine to be most appropriate to occupy the position of Elder for the coming year.²⁵

As the only Exception to this process, the Original Founders may remain Voting, Consulting Members of the Assembly of Elders, provided they are physically and mentally able to do so.

Members of the Deaconry are Chosen Annually by the Assembly of Elders (as described in the previous paragraph) with significant input from the existing members of the Deaconry and the Ministry Members (Body of Yeshua). As with Elders, Ministry Members may suggest, recommend, or nominate a Candidate for the Deaconry by presenting their nomination, in writing, to both the Assembly of Elders and the Deaconry.

Section E - Specific Rules for the Assembly of Elders

The Assembly of Elders shall consist of at least three (3) members, with the goal of at least five (5) members, over time. More than five (5) members is permitted by:

- 1) 3/5 (60%) majority vote of the existing Assembly of Elders
- 2) AND a simple majority (greater than 50 %) “Vote of Confidence” of the Ministry Membership (Body of Yeshua).

There are two (2) explicit exceptions to the “3 Member” clause for the Assembly of Elders, above:

- 1) At the Startup of the Ministry, and for a continuing period, as deemed appropriate by simple (greater than 50 %) majority vote of the Ministry Membership, the Founding Members (who codified this document) can serve as an Acting Elder/s until the Ministry grows to a point where proper installment of Elders is possible. This is intended to permit as close to normal operation of the Ministry as possible during its initial Startup and Growth Phase.
- 2) At any time in the Ministry’s history that normal selection of Elders is limited by overall Ministry Membership (population), Rule 1), above, can be invoked by a simple majority vote of the existing Assembly of Elders and a simple majority (greater than 50%) “Vote of Confidence” from the Ministry Membership (Body of Yeshua).

Sub-Section F – Qualifications of Elders

The Qualifications for the Assembly of Elders are clearly delineated in the WORD OF GOD (HOLY BIBLE) as follows:

- 1 TIM. 5:17-19
- TITUS 1:5-9

²⁵ Scriptural Reference is Exodus 18

- **1 PET. 5:1-4**

Therefore, an **Elder** is qualified as follows:

1. Must have a **Strong Calling** for this service to Yeshua.
2. Must hold **strongly** to the **TRUSTWORTHY MESSAGE OF SALVATION**, as taught by the **WORD OF GOD (HOLY BIBLE)**
3. **Lovers of good** (as exemplified in the **WORD OF GOD-HOLY BIBLE**)
4. Hospitable
5. Self-controlled
6. Holy and Disciplined
7. **Voluntarily and lovingly act as Shepherds** (Greek: *poimen*) that properly “feed” God’s Flock
 - a. In this aspect, Elders serve as an **Overseer.**
 - b. **WITHOUT Lording their position over those entrusted, BY GOD, to them**
8. Not greedy for money
9. Blameless
10. **Husband of but one wife**
11. Their children (that are still in their home) are believers.
12. Not overbearing
13. Not quick-tempered
14. Not given to drunkenness
15. Not violent
16. Not pursuing dishonest gain

Please note that LOY does NOT interpret the original Greek writings of the Apostle Paul to indicate that women are forbidden from serving as Elders. We believe the more detailed / proper translation would be referring to “domineering women”, which seemed a specific problem in a parish of Paul. Therefore, Paul was speaking to the need for “domineering women” to learn in submission, not that women, in general, could not serve as Elders.

Sub-Section G – Nomination of Candidate Elders

The process for nominating Ministry Members as Candidates for an **Elder** position is as follows:

1. Candidates for the **Assembly of Elders** are submitted **in writing** by any **Ministry Member** to the existing **Assembly of Elders**, at least **10 days prior to any scheduled election** (usually the **Annual Meeting**).
2. The existing / acting **Assembly of Elders** will privately review each candidate’s qualifications and ability to serve.
 - a. The existing **Assembly of Elders** may seek an interview with the nominee.
 - b. Nominees not meeting qualifications will be privately notified, in writing, of the existing **Assembly of Elder**’s findings. NOTE – it is expected that, after the **Assembly of Elders** notifies a member of their lack of qualifications, that **an offer of Counseling and/or Mentorship** be made to that nominee, should they truly

have a Calling for service as an Elder. *The point is that we at LOY desire to have all Members grow in their individual ministry callings and service. Elders, above all others, are available to help the maturing of the Ministry Members.*

- c. Nominees that meet all qualifications and fitness criteria will be compiled into an *Initial Candidate List* that is to be distributed to the existing *Assembly of Elders*, for their final approval.
3. Once the *Initial Candidate List* is received by the *Assembly of Elders*, each individual *Elder* is asked to prayerfully seek the Holy Spirit's guidance for recommended Candidates (that appear on the *Initial Candidate List*) to present to the *Collective Leadership* for the Final Phase of generating a *Final Candidate List* to ultimately present to the *Assembly of Elders*. This time of "seeking **HOLY SPIRIT'S** Guidance" shall continue for *no less than 7 days*.
4. *After the minimum 7 days* (to seek the **HOLY SPIRITS** guidance on each of the Candidate Elders) a meeting of the *Assembly of Elders* is scheduled so the *Final List of Candidates* can be discussed and ultimately compiled. For those *Leaders* that cannot attend this meeting, they may submit their *written recommendations* to the *Assembly of Elders* prior to this meeting.
5. The *Final Candidate Elders List* is then published to the *Assembly of Elders at least seven (7) days prior* to the *Annual Meeting* of *LOY*.
6. The *Assembly of Elders* will then *choose* the Candidates they *prayerfully believe to be the best equipped*.
7. At the Annual Meeting of the *Ministry Membership*, a "*Vote of Confidence*" will be taken to either accept or object to the *Assembly of Elders* chosen candidates.
 - a. A simple majority vote (50%) by the *Ministry Membership (Body of Yeshua)* is sought following Steps 1-6 above to achieve a successful "*Vote of Confidence*", which expresses the *Ministry Membership's* concurrence with the *Assembly of Elders* choices for upcoming year's Elders.
 - b. If a "*Vote of Confidence*" by the *Ministry Membership (Body of Yeshua)* is NOT achieved, then the above Process (steps 1-6) will be re-executed one (1) more time.
 - c. If after a second iteration of the process (Steps 1-6 above) does not produce a *Ministry Membership Vote of Confidence*, then the selection of Elders by the *Assembly of Elders* during the *Second Pass of the Process* (steps 1-6) *will stand as the upcoming year's Assembly of Elders*.

The founders wish to strongly advise each Ministry Member of their duty to **YESHUA**, their Head, during these selections and their possible delay. *Time to prayerfully consider each candidate Elder has been built into the Ministry Bylaws. This is not a time for secular-style electioneering, but for dutiful prayer as to the candidate desired by the HOLY SPIRIT* (not the spirit of men).

Section H – Term of Office for the Assembly of Elders

The term of the members of the Assembly of Elders shall be 4 years and is aligned to even-numbered years on the Gregorian Calendar beginning with the Gregorian Year 2010 (New Elder Selection Years will be 2010, 2014, 2018, 2022, etc.). There is no maximum number of terms that an Elder can serve, provided they are physically and mentally able.

Section I – Regular and Special Meetings of the Assembly of Elders

The Ministry strongly urges four (4) quarterly meetings as a minimum for the Assembly of Elders but does not require them. Regular and Special meetings of the Assembly of Elders may be called by:

- two or more current Assembly of Elders members
- a simple majority of the Deaconry, who then requests a meeting of the Collective Leadership of LOY (Assembly of Elders & Deaconry)
- a written request for the Assembly of Elders to consider an issue, brought by any Ministry Member

Written notice must be provided to the Assembly of Elders for all meetings not less than three (3) days prior to the desired meeting, or as soon as possible. These meetings may be held at any time or place agreed upon by the simple majority of the Assembly of Elders, virtual meetings included.

Section J – Duties of the Assembly of Elders

- 1) Act as the main, Natural (human) source of counsel in the proper application of the Word of God and the Guidance of the Holy Spirit for each Ministry Member, other Ministry Leaders, and Cadre and Team members that will, from time to time, have need.
- 2) Seek to provide long-term consistency (across generations of believers) in the historical application of the **WORD OF GOD** within the Ministry. The goal of this function is to prevent loss of Spiritual Identity in Yeshua from generation to generation and for newcomers to the Ministry (recall the Children of Israel, both in the multi-generational wanderings in the Desert and their loss of identity in Y-H-W-H, after they had occupied their inherited lands).
- 3) Sense the Spiritual climate of the Ministry Membership (Body of Yeshua) and make recommendations to the Collective Leadership regarding potential operational adjustments.
- 4) To be in constant prayer for the Ministry and to intercede, as the Holy Spirit directs.
- 5) Judge (come to an actionable decision) on issues of dispute and/or concern among Ministry Members (both the Collective Ministry Leadership members and the Ministry Membership (Body of Yeshua)).
- 6) Provide for proper installation of Collective Ministry Leadership, such as Elders, Deacons, Cadre Members, and various Co-Ministers as deemed necessary by the Ministry and its Collective Leadership.

- 7) In the proper "...Spirit of unity in the knowledge and faith in the Son of God..." counsel, guide, and potentially correct the other Leadership Bodies in the completion of their respective functions.
- 8) Provide for proper Spiritual correction for all Ministry Members, remembering that "... all have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God...", and will require correction and discipline that show forth the Love of Yeshua.
- 9) To pray for, visit, console, and encourage the sick and those in physical and spiritual need within the Ministry.
- 10) To provide for the Godly and loving discipline of all Members when other Biblical mechanisms have proved unsuccessful.
- 11) At each meeting of the Assembly of Elders, and on a rotational basis (per meeting), the first order of Business is to Choose (by simple majority show-of-hands vote) the "Assembly Chair" for that meeting. The "Assembly Chair" will call the meeting to order and preside as "Designated Responsible Individual" to following proper Parliamentary Procedure (Roberts Rules of Order) within the meeting, thereby preserving "Order" within the meeting. The "Assembly Chair" may also seek volunteers for the rotational-duty of "Scribe". If Volunteers for Scribe are not forthcoming, then the "Assembly Chair" may either assume that Scribe-Role themselves or Delegate.

Section K - Specifics of the Deaconry

The Deaconry shall consist of at least two (2) members, with the goal of at least three (3) members, over time. More than three (3) members is permitted by:

- 1) 3/5 (60%) majority vote of both the Collective Ministry Leadership
- 2) and a simple majority (greater than 50 %) "Vote of Confidence" by the Ministry Membership (Body of Yeshua).

Candidates for the Deaconry are submitted in writing by Ministry Members that perceive a strong calling for service in this Ministry, to both the existing Assembly of Elders and the existing Deaconry. The combined Assembly of Elders AND the Deaconry will privately review each candidate's fitness to serve, and then discuss and prayerfully seek the Holy Spirit's guidance in generating a List of Deaconry Candidates to present to:

- Firstly, the Collective Leadership (Assembly of Elders and the Deaconry)
- Subsequently, the Ministry Membership (Body of Yeshua).

All members of the Deaconry will be selected from the List of Deaconry Candidates submitted to the Ministry Membership (Body of Yeshua), subject to Final Approval by the Assembly of Elders.

The Term of a Deacon / Deaconess shall be 1 year. No maximum term limits are imposed on Deacons / Deaconesses.

Two (2) explicit exceptions to the above Deaconry Election Process are permitted:

- 1) At the startup of the Ministry, and for a continuing period, as deemed appropriate by **simple majority vote (greater than 50 %)** of the **Ministry Membership**, the **Founding Members** (who codified this document) can serve as an **Acting Deacon / Deaconess** until the Ministry grows to a point where proper election and installment of **Deacons** is possible. This is intended to permit as close to normal operation of the Ministry as possible during its initial startup phase.
- 2) At any time in the Ministry's history that normal election of Deacons is limited by overall Ministry Membership (population), Rule 1), above, can be invoked by a simple majority vote of the **Assembly of Elders**.

Section L – Qualifications of Deacons

The qualifications for a **Deacon** / **Deaconess** are found in **1Timothy 3:8-13::**

- Men of Dignity
- Not Double-Tongued
- Not Addicted to Much Wine
- Not Fond of Sordid Gain
- Holding to the mystery of the Faith with a Clear Conscience
- Must Also First Be Tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach.
- Women must likewise be:
 - Dignified
 - Not Malicious Gossips
 - Temperate
 - Faithful in all things.
- Husbands of only One Wife
- Good Managers of their Children and their own Households.
- For those who have served well as Deacons obtain for themselves a **high standing** and **great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.**

Section M – Nomination of Candidate Deacons

Any Ministry Member may suggest, recommend, or nominate a candidate for the position of **Deacon** / **Deaconess**, in writing to both the **Assembly of Elders** and the **Deaconry** at **least seven (7) days prior** to the **Annual Meeting** or **Selection** to the **Deaconry**. **Deacons** / **Deaconesses** serve for a period of **one (1) Gregorian-Calendar year**.

Section N – Duties of the Deaconry

The currently documented scope of the Deaconry is distributed, by definition, across three (3) Operational Divisions known as “Counsels” (spelling purposely chosen to indicate the action of Biblical Counseling in the Supervision by the Deaconry of these Operational Divisions). The 3 Operational Divisions / “Counsels” are:

1. **Stewardship Counsel** - the **BIBLICALLY** appropriate Supervision of **Ministry** assets and finances and associated tasks
2. **Commissions Counsel** - the **BIBLICALLY** appropriate Supervision of ministry activities that implement the Great Commission of Yeshua²⁶, and associated tasks
3. **Discipleship Counsel** - the **BIBLICALLY** appropriate Supervision of **Ministry Activities** that spiritually **equip** and **train LOY Members** to **become co-ministers** of **YESHUA'S GOOD NEWS**, relative to their own gifts and callings

Ideally, each Deacon will Supervise one of these **Counsel** Areas, which will then eventually consist of one or more **Cadres** or **Teams** as deemed appropriate by the **Collective Ministry Leadership**. No rule exists to prohibit Multiple Deacons / Deaconesses from Serving a Single Counsel, with different Deacons / Deaconesses taking responsibility for a single **Cadre / Team** within the respective **Counsel**. Indeed, the Founders envisioned that, over the growth of the Ministry, the Deaconry will grow to Multiple **Deacons / Deaconesses** supervising **one or more Cadres / Teams** within a **Single Counsel**. There exists no rule as to the maximum number of Deacons / Deaconesses, as this would generally be determined by both Ministry Population and Operational needs of the Ministry. However, to establish an additional Counsel, **3/5 (60%)** approval of the **Collective Ministry Leadership** is required:

1. First, within the **Deaconry**, which will then submit their Recommendation for additional Counsel/s to the **Assembly of Elders**
2. Second, within the **Assembly of Elders**, as they will have the final decision as to whether to approve additional **Counsels**.

Note, any **Ministry Member** may submit, in writing, to the **Deaconry** their belief and **BIBLICAL** justification of the need of an additional **Counsel**, **Cadre**, or **Team** at any time.

Article IX - Approval & Amendments to the Bylaws

These bylaws may be approved or amended by a **Written Vote** of:

1. First, **three-fourths (3/4 – 75%)** of the **Collective Leadership**:
 - a. Firstly, **3/4 - 75%** of the **Assembly of Elders**, which **is initially required to proceed**.
 - b. Secondly, **3/4 - 75%** of the **Deaconry**
2. **Followed by three-fifths (3/5-60%) "Vote of Confidence"** of the **Ministry Membership** present at any meeting of the membership provided proper notice of said meeting is given, in writing, as specified in these bylaws.
3. The full text of the bylaws, or amendments thereto, which are proposed must be provided, in writing, to each member at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting at which such bylaws or amendments are to be voted upon.

²⁶ Mk. 16:15

Any Ministry Member may propose to the Assembly of Elders Proposals for amendments to the bylaws, however, only the Assembly of Elders can initiate the Change / Amendment Process and codify the actual written text of the Change / Amendment. This Limitation exists since the Elders are the “Vision / Mission / Goals Keepers” and prayerfully watch over any changes that might lose the original intent of those declarations (Vision / Mission / Goals).

In the event the above High-Percentages of Votes cannot be achieved, the Assembly of Elders will have final decision authority regarding any Amendments to the Bylaws

Article X - Property rights of members

The property of this Ministry is irrevocable; dedicated to the objects and purposes of the Ministry as outlined in Article 1, Section B of these Bylaws and in the Articles of Association.

In the event of the dissolution of the Ministry, its properties and moneys shall not revert to the possession of the membership but shall be given to another non-profit religious or Biblical education entity, which is to be chosen by the membership of the Collective Leadership, and whose aims and purposes are similar to those of Light of Yeshua Fellowship (LOY). No part of any net earnings or assets of the Ministry shall inure to the private benefit of any member or individual.

Article XI – Proper Meeting Behavior and Authority

All Ministry Members are reminded that the “FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT” (GALATIANS 5:22-23) is:

- LOVE
- JOY
- PEACE
- PATIENCE
- KINDNESS
- GOODNESS
- FAITHFULNESS
- GENTLENESS
- SELF-CONTROL

In dealing with one another in this Ministry, the Founders and Collective Ministry Leadership will endeavor to act according to the HOLY SPIRIT’S guidance, and thereby demonstrate the “FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT” toward one another, suspending all passions and alliances associated with one’s actions, proposals, suggestions, recommendations, alterations, complaints, and disciplinary duties. No one in this Ministry is immune from the works of the flesh, and we all must endeavor to assist any Member who may, from time to time, driven by their passions for issues, may need the “FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT” assistance (give your brother and sister the “Benefit of Doubt” as often as practical).

As a *Final Human-Delimiter* to control *Passionate Discussions* / *Debates* within Meetings, *IF NECESSARY, Any Member of the Assembly of Elders and/or the Deaconry may call for "Order" and invoke Robert's Rules of Order (revised.)* This document shall govern all meetings and proceedings of this Ministry providing they are not in conflict **THE HOLY WORD OF GOD (BIBLE)** or these Bylaws. At the time of Installation to either the *Assembly of Elders*, the *Deaconry*, a *Counsel*, *Cadre* / *Team* or any other duly established Ministry sub-organization, each *Leadership Member* will be provided with an "up-to-date" copy of "*Roberts Rules of Order*". It is the responsibility of each Member to familiarize themselves with said Rules and apply them in a **BIBLICAL, GODLY, FRUIT-OF-THE-SPIRIT** manner.

Article XII – Offices and Location

The *Principal Office* of the *Ministry* shall be located at its principal place of business or such other place as the *Collective Leadership (Assembly of Elders plus the Deaconry)* shall designate. The *Ministry* may have such other offices, either within or without the State of Colorado, as the *Collective Leadership (Assembly of Elders plus the Deaconry)* may designate or as the *Ministry of Light of Yeshua Fellowship (LOY)* may deem appropriate from time to time.

At the *time of the Founding* of the Ministry, the *Principal Office* was generously provided, free of on-going charge at:

5027 Ten Bears Court
Suite 101
Laporte, Colorado
80535
Office: 970 672-3754
Cell: 970 732-1811
www.loyfellowship.org

