

# Long Island Abundant Life Church

## Church Membership Policy

### I. Statement of Purpose

The difference between being a Christian and belong to a church family (membership) is the understanding of “commitment.” A Christian is by committing his/her life to Christ. Members of a local church are by committing themselves to the other Christians and the manifestation of the universal church.

At LIALC we would not ask our active members to do more than the Bible clearly stated. We only expect our members to do what the Bible expects every Christian to do (LIALC – membership covenant.)

#### Local Church & church ordinance

*“And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” (Acts 2:42 NAS)*

*“For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. .”(1 Corinthians 12:12 NAS)*

#### Worship

*“If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, From doing your pleasure on My holy day, And call the Sabbath a delight, The holy day of the LORD honorable, And shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, Nor finding your own pleasure, Nor speaking your own words...” (Isaiah 58:13 NKJ)*

#### Fellowship

*“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-- and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:25 NIV)*

*“ what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, that you also may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.” (1 John 1:3 NAS)*

#### Service

*“4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit...7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good...11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills. 12 For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. “ (1 Corinthians 12 NAS)*

#### Giving

*“And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own; but all things were common property to them. “(Acts 4:32 NAS)*

- Practical reason- it defines who can be counted on. Membership identifies who is in our family and who is not part of the local church. It helps the LIALC church to be accountable as body of Christ (Eph. 4:1-6, 12; Heb. 10:25; Mat. 18:15-17)
- Personal reason – as Christians, we are accountable to each for spiritual growth. You can not be accountable when you are not committed to any specific church family.

Therefore, LIALC will recognize the need for a formal membership in our local church. By fulfilling the biblical responsibilities of the local church, the local church will manifest their gifts and the universal church what God intended. (1 Cor. 12:27-28a; Eph. 4:11-13)

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## ***II. Becoming a LIALC member***

- *Profess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior*
- *When you baptize into the LIALC or transfer membership*
- *All LIALC baptize members will only receive a church baptism certificate (no church letter.)*
- *At the age of 18.*

### ***Transfer membership***

- *You will need to meet the standing of the active membership*
- *A notice send to your previous church that you had become a transfer member to LIALC.*

### ***Active membership***

- *Completed the membership class*
- *Observe the teaching of this membership policy*
- *Receive the right of the LIALC constitutional privileges*
- *Constitute the voting body of the church*
- *Regularly attending LIALC worship service and/or Fellowship is necessary. Although your presence at the fellowship gathering is needed, observing Sabbath Sunday worship should not be overlook.*
- *Observing of church special meeting. (Baptismal service, Good Friday Service, pastoral issues, financial...etc.)*
- *Must attend annual meeting, cannot miss two consecutive years.*
- *After 2 years in a row using Absentee ballot, member will need a written request for the absentee ballot.*

### ***Inactive membership***

- *Away from the local church due to schooling or outreach ministry w-permission.*
- *Did not fulfill your active-membership obligation within 3 months. You will forfeit the church constitutional privileges of an active member.*
- *Missing Annual meetings, 2 years in a row.*

### ***Dismissal -membership***

- *LIALC does not hold dual local church memberships. LIALC encourage you to serve and belong to a local church so you can witness to the kingdom. Please inform us when you had transferred your membership.*
- *Terminated by death*
- *Leading a life dishonoring to Christ and His church*
- *Fail to comply church discipline policy*

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## **III. The course of action of the membership status changed from active membership**

- The church purpose is to restore inactive member to an active member.
- The church will issue a letter or a visitation of following up concern about the spiritual health of the individual and his/her absence.
- Finally, another letter will issue to them and inform the status of membership changed
- No membership status change during the month of September or during the two weeks prior of a special meeting.

## **IV. Petition of your membership status – to reactivate your membership**

Let us know (office) of your return, that you are willing to recommit your biblical responsibility to LIALC. After satisfying your active membership requirement for 3 months, the church would re-establish your membership with a notice.

## **V. Church Membership List:**

- The Board of Deacons is required to review and updated membership listing at minimum three times a year. There will be no revise membership status during the month of September.
- The maintenance of membership records will be part of the stewardship department.

## **VI. Documentation forms:**

1. Baptism Membership & Transfer Membership Application
2. Reactivate Membership Application

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## Membership Covenant

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized, and being in agreement with the Constitution by laws of Long Island Abundant Life Church, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Long Island Abundant 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 toward other members
- by refusing to gossip
- by following the leaders

- *“Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.” Romans 14:19*
- *“Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.” 1 Peter 1:22*
- *“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.” Ephesians 4:29*
- *“Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.” Hebrews 13:17*

**2. I will share the responsibility of my church**

- by praying for its growth
- by inviting the un-churched to attend
- by warmly welcoming those who visit

- *“Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you. We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers.” 1 Thessalonians 1:1-2*
- *“Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full.’” Luke 14:23*
- *“Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.” Romans 15:7*

**3. I will serve the ministry of my church**

- by discovering my gifts and talents
- by being equipped to serve
- by developing a servant’s heart

- *“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10*
- *“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ...” Ephesians 4:11-12*
- *“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others...But made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.” Philippians 2:3-4,*

**4. I will support the testimony of my church**

- by attending faithfully
- by living a godly life
- by giving regularly

- *“Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.*
- *Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel.” Philippians 1:27*
- *“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.” 1 Corinthians 16:2*
- *“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” Hebrews 10:25*
  - *“A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.” Leviticus 27:30*

# Long Island Abundant Life Church

## BAPTISM MEMBERSHIP & TRANSFER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Please Print)

Today's date:											
<b>CANDIDATE INFORMATION</b>											
Last name:		First:		Middle:		<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs.		<input type="checkbox"/> Miss <input type="checkbox"/> Ms.		Marital status (circle one) Single / Mar / Div / Sep / Wid	
Chinese Name:			City and State of Birth:			Birth date: / /		Age:		Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	
Street address:					Home phone no.: ( )			Cell phone no.: ( )			
City:			State:		ZIP Code:		Email:				
Occupation:			Father Name:				Mother Name:				
<b>CHURCH MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION</b>											
Date of Baptism: / /			Church of Baptism:			Church of Baptism Address:					
<b>FOR TRANSFER CHURCH MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION</b>											
Date of Baptism: / /			Church of Baptism:			Church of Baptism Address:					
			Current Church Membership:			Current Church Membership Address:					
<b>Testimony of conversion &amp; Christian growth (Please write on back page, 250-400 words)</b>											
<p>I hereby express my desire to join the Long Island Abundant Life Church as a member. By the grace of God, I will steadfastly hold to the Statement of Faith, observe the Constitution of the church, and the church membership policy &amp; membership covenant. I will accept the privilege which will come to me as well as the obligations, as a member of this church.</p>											
Applicant's signature:					Date						
Sponsor's name (print):			signature:			Date					
Sponsor's name (print):			signature:			Date					
<i>Note: Sponsors must be active members of LIALC</i>											
<b>OFFICE EVALUATION</b>											
Education/Membership Teacher:					Date						
Interviewing Member (1):											
Interviewing Board Member (2):											
Baptism Pastor or pastoral Staff:											

# Long Island Abundant Life Church

## ACTIVATE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Please Print)

Today's date:									
<b>INFORMATION UPDATED</b>									
Last name:		First:		Middle:		<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs.	<input type="checkbox"/> Miss <input type="checkbox"/> Ms.	Marital status (circle one) Single / Mar / Div / Sep / Wid	
Chinese Name:		City and State of Birth:			Birth date: / /		Age:	Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	
Street address:				Home phone no.: ( )		Cell phone no.: ( )			
City:		State:		ZIP Code:		Email:			
Occupation:									

### MY CHURCH MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Date was Inactive:    /    /		Reason was inactive:			
		<input type="checkbox"/> Under age of 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Away from School & ministry <input type="checkbox"/> Moving <input type="checkbox"/> Absent of Annual Meeting (2 or more)		<input type="checkbox"/> lack of attendance <input type="checkbox"/> others: _____	

**I hereby express my desire to reactivate the Long Island Abundant Life Church as a member. By the grace of God, I will steadfastly hold to the Statement of Faith, observe the Constitution of the church, and the church active membership expectations. I will accept the privilege which will come to me as well as the obligations, as an active member of this church. After satisfying your active-membership requirements for the length of the time (please read the church membership policy & membership covenant), the church would re-establish your membership with a notice.**

Applicant's signature: _____		Date _____	
Sponsor's name (print): _____		signature: _____	
		Date _____	
Sponsor's name (print): _____		signature: _____	
		Date _____	
<i>Note: Sponsors must be active members of LIALC</i>			

### OFFICE EVALUATION

Assigning Board Member (1): _____		Date _____	
Assigning Board Member (2): _____		_____	
Pastoral Staff: _____		_____	
Approval Board member signature: _____		Date _____	

# Long Island Abundant Life Church

Prepared by Pastor Wayne Cho

Date: January 26, 2008

	December,2008
	Draft-1 March,2009
Approved by Board of Deacons	Date: March 19, 2009