

NLH's Approach to Ministry

Date: June 25, 2023



New Life for Haiti (NLH) is an independent, faith-based 501(c)(3) charitable organization. NLH is not organizationally affiliated with any church or denomination. NLH's Board of Directors provides oversight for all the organization's activities in the U.S. and Haiti. The NLH Board is made up of twelve members from various backgrounds and personal church affiliations. NLH is supported by an even wider network of individual donors and church partners.

The mission of New Life for Haiti is to minister to the needs of families and children in the Grand Anse River valley, sharing our love for Christ and His message, promoting self-sufficiency and hope for a sustainable future. In alignment with that mission, NLH is engaged in a variety of programs in rural Haiti that can loosely be categorized as community development. As an important part of that work, NLH partners with local churches in Haiti, helping to strengthen local leadership and equipping them with resources and training to carry out our shared mission among the poor. Additionally, NLH's commitment is to strengthen local churches in Haiti so that they are thriving, engaged, and equipped to support sustained spiritual and physical transformation of their respective communities. To that end, NLH has provided Pastor Training sessions in Haiti in the past and is currently developing a training program called Leading with Jesus that will be taught to an initial cohort of 12 students in Haiti.

NLH established an Editorial Review Team to review the program's curriculum and instruction. The Editorial Review Team is comprised of individuals from a variety of churches and includes a Board member who is a native of Haiti. The purpose of the Leading with Jesus program is to provide an opportunity for participant engagement through reflection and conversation while supporting spiritual formation in faithful young leaders in Haiti. The purpose of the program is neither to establish a church nor dictate theological perspective to program participants.

For NLH child education programs, such as the School of Hope and the Village of Hope School, faith-based programming and curriculum is developed by Haitian staff and is appropriate to the community's general Christian religious context and culture. For questions from students to staff and faculty which address topics outside of established curriculum, the policy of NLH is to refer the student to the student's family's church for answers or clarification. For NLH community engagement programs such as our cistern construction projects, the recipient community's existing local church is supported and affirmed by NLH staff.

NLH Board members and NLH staff are expected to represent the organization and its mission faithfully and accurately in support-seeking communications. NLH is a nondenominational Christian organization which seeks to work with others who are aligned with our mission and unified by Christian principles articulated in the Nicene Creed (<https://newlifeforhaiti.org/who-we-are/>) and in *Our Core Values & Unifying Principles* available on the NLH website. If an individual donor or NLH church partner wishes to engage in a conversation about New Life for Haiti's biblical, cultural, or political stance on an issue, it will be important for them to understand that NLH intentionally does not champion specific views on issues of a political or cultural nature, or on biblical or theological issues beyond the core Christian views expressed in the Nicene Creed and NLH's mission statement. NLH does not require donors or partners to subscribe to particular views on these things in order to share in our mission. This allows NLH to partner with people from a wide range of Christian traditions and to further the important work we are doing in Haiti.