

**Constitution and By-Laws
of the
Lifepoint Baptist Church
of San Angelo, Texas**

Table of Contents

Preamble	1
Article 1 Name and Purpose	1
Section 1 Name	1
Section 2 Purpose	1
Charitable, Religious Purposes	1
Church Definition and Affiliations	1
Purpose Statement	1
Article 2 Articles of Faith and Membership Covenant	
Section 1 Articles of Faith	2
The Scriptures	2
The Holy Bible	2
Inspiration	2
The True God	2
The Person and Work of Christ	2
Deity of Christ	2
Substitutionary Atonement	2
Ascension and Intercessory Work	3
The Holy Spirit	3
The Devil	3
Creation	3
The Fall of Man	3
The Virgin Birth	4
Salvation	4
New Creation	4
Eternal Security	4
The Freeness of Salvation	4
Justification	4
Repentance and Faith	5
The Church	5
Definition	5
Mission	5
Baptism	5
The Lord's Supper	6
The Perseverance of the Saints	6
The Righteous and the Wicked	6
Civil Government	6
The Resurrection, Return of Christ and Related Events	6
The Resurrection	6
The Location of the Dead in Christ	7
The Location of the Dead without Christ	7
The Return of Christ	7
Missions	7

The Grace of Giving	7
Tithing	8
Marriage and Human Sexuality	8
Family Relationships	8
Men and Women	8
Husbands, Wives and Children	8
The Sanctity of Life	9
Section 2 Authority of Articles of Faith	9
Section 3 Membership Covenant	10
Article 3 Membership	
Section 1 Qualifications for Membership	12
Section 2 Duties of a Member	12
Section 3 Privileges of Membership	13
Section 4 Restoration and/or Discipline of a Member	14
Section 5 Transfer of Membership	15
Section 6 Termination of Membership	15
Article 4 Officers	
Section 1 Church Officers	16
Section 2 Designation of Corporate Officers	16
Section 3 Qualifications	16
Pastor or Associate Pastor(s)	16
Deacons	16
Section 4 Terms of Office	16
Pastor	16
Deacon	17
Section 5 Election of Officers	17
Pastor	17
Associate Pastors	18
Deacons	18
Article 5 Duties and Powers of Officers	
Section 1 Pastor	18
Section 2 Associate Pastors	19
Section 3 Deacons	19
Article 6 Meetings	
Section 1 Special Meetings	20
Section 2 Voting Qualifications	20
Article 7 Fiscal Year	20
Article 8 Finances	
Section 1 Fund Raising	21
Section 2 Unauthorized Spending	21

Section 3 Contributions	21
Section 4 Finance Committee	21
Article 9 Ordination	
Section 1 Ordination Qualifications	21
Section 2 Ordination Procedure	21
Article 10 Tax Exempt Provisions	
Section 1 Private Inurement	22
Section 2 Political Involvement	22
Section 3 Dissolution	22
Section 4 Racial Nondiscrimination	22
Article 11 Conditions of Service	22
Article 12 Designated Contributions	23
Article 13 Indemnification	
Section 1 Actions Subject to Indemnification	23
Section 2 Expenses Subject to Indemnification	24
Section 3 Limitations of Indemnification	24
Section 4 Timing of Indemnification	24
Section 5 Extent of Indemnification	24
Section 6 Insurance	24
Article 14 Policies and Procedures	25
Article 15 Amendments	25
Article 16 Epilogue	25

PREAMBLE

So that things may be done decently and in order in accordance with the Scriptures and accepted tenets of other churches of like precious faith, and that we may more readily help each other in our Christian service, we declare and establish this constitution to which we voluntarily submit ourselves.

ARTICLE 1 - NAME AND PURPOSE

SECTION 1.01 - NAME

This congregation shall be known as the Lifepoint Baptist Church of San Angelo, Texas.

SECTION 1.02 - PURPOSE

- (A) This congregation is organized as a church exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue Law), including, but not limited to, for such purposes, the establishing and maintaining of religious worship, the building, maintaining and operating of churches, and any other ministries that the church may be led of God to establish.
- (B) This church shall be an independent Baptist church whose instruments of government shall be the Bible, the Constitution and By-laws which contain the Membership Covenant and the Articles of Faith. This church shall be independent of all para-church organizations, but may fellowship and cooperate voluntarily with other churches of like faith as deemed appropriate by the pastor.
- (C) The church shall also ordain and license men to the Gospel ministry, evangelize the unsaved by the proclaiming of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; educate believers in a manner consistent with the requirements of Holy Scripture, maintain missionary activities in the United States and any foreign country, and engage in any other ministry that the church may decide, from time to time, to pursue in obedience to the will of God.
- (D) Our purpose is to win the lost to Christ, to build our relationship with God and with each other, and to send members into ministry and missionaries into the world.

Matthew 22:37-39, 28:18-20.

ARTICLE 2 - ARTICLES OF FAITH AND MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

SECTION 2.01 - ARTICLES OF FAITH

- (A) **Of the Scriptures.** We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men supernaturally inspired; that it has truth without any admixture of error for its matter and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the age, the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to man; the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

By "The Holy Bible" we mean that the collection of sixty-six books, from Genesis to Revelation, which, as originally written does not only contain and convey the Word of God, but IS the very Word of God.

By "inspiration" we mean that the books of the Bible were written by holy men of old, as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, in such a definite way that their writings were supernaturally and verbally inspired and free from error, as no other writings have ever been or ever will be inspired.

II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet. 1:19-21; Acts 1:16; Acts 28:25; Psa. 119:160; Psa. 119:105; Psa. 119:130; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17; Luke 24:44-45; Psa. 119:89; Prov. 30:5-6; Rom. 3:4; I Pet. 1:23; Rev. 22:19; John 12:48; Isa. 8:20; Eph 6:17; Rom. 15:4; Luke 16:31; Psa. 19:7-11; John 5:45-47; John 5:39.

- (B) **Of the True God.** We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, the maker and supreme ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

Ex. 20:2-3; Gen. 17:1; I Cor. 8:6; Eph. 4:6, John 4:24; Psa. 147:5; Psa. 83:18; Psa 90:2; Jer. 10:10; Ex. 15:11; Rev. 4:11; I Tim. 1:17; Rom. 11:33; Mark 12:30; Matt. 28:19, John 15:26; I Cor. 12:4-6; I John 5:7; John 10:30; John 17:5; I Cor. 2:10-11; Phil. 2:5-6; Eph. 2:18; II Cor. 13:14.

- (C) **Of the Person and Work of Christ.**

1. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men.

Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2, 14; 2 Cor. 5:19-21; Gal. 4:4-5; Phil. 2:5-8.

2. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; that His blood is the only atonement for the sins of mankind; and, that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead.

Acts 2:18-36; Rom. 3:24-25; I Pet. 2:24; Eph. 1:7; Heb. 9:12-15; I Peter 1:3-5.

3. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate.
Acts 1:9-10; Heb. 9:24; 7:25; Rom. 8:34; 1 John 2:1-2.
- (D) Of the Holy Spirit.** We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled; He convicts of sin, of judgment, and of righteousness; He bears witness to the Truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony; He is the agent in the New Birth; He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer.
John 14:16-17; Matt. 28:19; Heb. 9:14; John 14:26; Luke 1:35; Gen. 1:1-3; II Thess. 2:7; John 16:8-11; John 15:26-27; Acts 5:30-32; John 3:5-6; Eph. 1:13-14; Matt. 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; Acts 11:16; Luke 24:49; John 16:13; Rom. 8:14, Rom 8:16; II Thess. 2:13; I Pet. 1:2; Rom. 8:26-27.
- (E) Of the Devil or Satan.** We believe that Satan was once holy, and enjoyed heavenly honors; but through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty, fell and drew after him a host of angels; that he is now the prince of the power of the air, and the unholy god of this world. We hold him to be man's great tempter, the enemy of God and His Christ, the accuser of the saints, the author of all false religions, the chief power behind the present apostasy; the lord of the antichrist, and the author of all the powers of darkness - destined, however, to final defeat at the hands of God's own Son, and to the judgment of an eternal justice in hell, a place prepared for him and his angels.
Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:14-17; Rev. 12:9; Jude 6; II Pet. 2:4; Eph. 2:2; John 14:30; I Thess. 3:5; Matt. 4:1-3; I Pet. 5:8; I John 3:8; Matt. 13:39; Luke 22:3-4; Rev. 12:10; II Cor. 11:13-15; Mark 13:21-22; I John 4:3; II John 7; I John 2:22; Rev. 13:13-14; II Thess. 2:8-11; Rev. 19:11, 16, 20; Rev. 12:7-9; Rev. 20:1-3; Rev. 20:10; Matt. 25:41.
- (F) Of Creation.** We believe in the Genesis account of creation and that it is to be accepted literally, and not allegorically or figuratively; man was created directly in God's own image and after His own likeness; man's creation was not a matter of evolution or evolutionary change of species, or development through interminable periods of time from lower to higher forms; all animal and plant life was made directly by God whose established law was that they should bring forth only "after their kind."
Gen. 1:1; Ex. 20:11; Acts 4:24; Col. 1:16-17; Heb. 11:3; John 1:3; Rev. 10:6; Rom. 1:20; Acts 17:23-26; Jer. 10:12; Neh. 9:6; Gen. 1:26-27; Gen. 2:21-23; Gen. 1:11; Gen. 1:24.
- (G) Of the Fall of Man.** We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy state, in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint, but of choice; and therefore under just condemnation without defense or excuse.
Gen. 3:1-6, 24; Rom. 5:12; Rom. 5:19; Rom. 3:10-19; Eph. 2:1, 3; Rom. 1:18; Ezek. 18:19-20; Rom. 1:32; Rom. 1:20; Rom. 1:28; Gal. 3:22.

(H) Of the Virgin Birth. We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Spirit in a miraculous manner; born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can ever be born of a woman, and that He is both the Son of God, and God the Son.

Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:28-25; Luke 1:35; Mark 1:1; John 1:1; Psa. 2:7; Gal. 4:4; I John 5:20; I Cor. 15:47.

(I) Of Salvation.

1. We believe that in order to be saved, a sinner must be born again; that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; the new creation is brought about in a manner above our comprehension, not by culture, not by character, nor by the will of man, but wholly and solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life.

John 3:3; II Cor. 5:17; Luke 5:27; I John 5:1; John 3:6-7; Acts 2:41; II Pet. 1:4; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:1; II Cor. 5:19; Col. 2:13; John 1:12-13; Gal. 5:22; Eph. 5:9.

2. We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever.

John 6:37-40; John 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1; 38-39; I Cor. 1:4-8; I Pet. 1:4-5.

3. We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh.

Rom. 13:13-14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:11-15.

(J) Of the Freeness of Salvation. We believe in God's electing grace; that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by repentance and obedient faith. Nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth except his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel. This rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

I Thess. 1:4; Col. 3:12; I Pet. 1:2; Titus 1:1; Rom. 8:29-30; Matt. 11:28; Isa. 55:1; Rev. 22:17; Rom. 10:13; John 6:37; Isa. 55:6; Acts 2:38; Isa. 55:7; John 3:15-16; I Tim. 1:15; I Cor. 15:10; Eph. 2:4-5; John 5:40; John 3:18; John 3:36.

(K) Of Justification. We believe that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to those who believe in Him is justification; that justification includes the pardon of sin, and the gift of eternal life on principles of righteousness; it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done; solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood, His righteousness is imputed unto us.

Acts 13:39; Isa. 53:11; Zech. 13:1; Rom. 8:1; Rom. 5:9; Rom. 5:1; Tit. 3:5-7; Rom. 1:17, Hab. 2:4; Gal. 3:11; Rom. 4:1-8; Heb. 10:38.

(L) Of Repentance and Faith. We believe that repentance and faith are solemn obligations, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the quickening Spirit of God; thereby, being deeply convicted of our guilt, danger and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with genuine repentance, confession and supplication for mercy, at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ and openly confessing Him as our only and all-sufficient Savior.
Acts 20:21; Mark 1:15; Acts 2:37-38; Luke 18:13; Rom. 10:13; Psa. 51:1-4; Psa. 51:7; Isa. 55:6-7; Luke 12:8; Rom. 10:9-11.

(M) Of the Church.

1. We believe that a Baptist church is a congregation of baptized believers associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel, said church being understood to be the citadel and propagator of the Gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its offices of ordination are pastors and deacons* whose qualifications, claims, and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures.

1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9.

2. We believe the true mission of the church is found in the Great Commission: first, to make individual disciples; second, to build up the church; third, to teach and instruct as He has commanded. We do not believe in the reversal of this order; we hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit; that it is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel; every church is the sole and only judge of the measure and method of its cooperation; on all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final.

Acts 2:41; Acts 2:42; I Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22-23; Eph. 4:11; I Cor. 12:4, 8-11; Acts 14:23; Acts 6:5-6; Acts 15:23; Acts 20:17-28; I Tim. 3:1-13; Matt. 28:19-20; Col. 1:18; Eph. 5:23-24; I Pet. 5:1-4; Acts 15:22; Jude 3-4; II Cor. 8:23-24; I Cor. 16:1; Mal. 3:10; Lev. 27:32; I Cor. 16:2; I Cor. 6:1-3; I Cor. 5:11-13; Gal. 3:28; Eph. 5:22-23; Col. 3:18; I Thess. 4:1-8; I Tim. 2:8-15; I Tim. 3:4-15; Heb. 13:4.

* For purposes of this document, the term deacon, wherever used, refers exclusively to those men elected and serving as deacons in the "Current Fiscal Year".

(N) Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

1. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, with the authority of the local church, subsequent to salvation, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; it is prerequisite to the privileges of a

church relationship and to the Lord's Supper.
Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-43.

2. We believe that the Lord's Supper is to be observed by the members of the church, by the sacred use of bread and the fruit of the vine to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination.
Acts 8:36-39; Matt. 3:6; John 3:23; Rom. 6:4-5; Matt 3:16; Matt 28:19; Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12; Acts 2:41-42; Matt. 28:19-20; I Cor. 11:23-28.

(O) Of the Perseverance of the Saints. We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare, and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto eternal salvation.

John 8:31-32; Col. 1:21-23; I John 2:19; Matt. 13:19-21; Rom. 8:28; Psa. 121:3; Heb. 1:14; I Pet. 1:5; Phil. 1:6; John 10:28-29; Rom. 8:35-39.

(P) Of the Righteous and the Wicked. We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; only through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in unrepentance and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse, and this distinction holds among men both in and after death, in the everlasting bliss of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost.

Mal. 3:18; Gen. 18:23; Rom. 6:17-18; Prov. 11:31; I Pet. 1:18; Rom. 1:17; I Cor. 15:22; Acts 10:34-35; John 2:29; Rom. 6:16; I John 5:19; Gal. 3:10; Rom. 7:6; Rom. 6:23; Prov. 14:32; Luke 16:25; Matt. 25:34, 41; John 8:21; Luke 9:26; John 12:25; Matt. 7:13-14.

(Q) Of Civil Government. We believe that civil government is of Divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society; magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ; who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the coming Prince of the kings of the earth.

Rom. 13:7; II Sam. 23:3; Ex. 18:21-22; Acts 23:5; Matt. 22:21; Titus 3:1; I Pet. 2:13-14; I Pet. 2:17; Acts 4:19-20; Dan. 3:17-18; Matt. 10:28; Matt. 23:10; Phil. 2:10-11; Psa. 72:11.

(R) Of the Resurrection, the Return of Christ, and Related Events.

1. We believe in and accept the sacred Scriptures upon these subjects at their face and full value. Of the resurrection, we believe that Christ arose bodily "the third day according to Scriptures"; He ascended "to the right hand of the throne of God"; He alone is our "merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God". Subsequently, we believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and eternal punishment.

Matt. 25:46; John 5:28; John 11:25-26; Rev. 20:5-6, 12-13.

2. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord.
Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23, 3:21; 1 Thess. 4:16-17; Rev. 20:4-6.

3. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious punishment and torment until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited, they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment and torment.
Matt. 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Rev. 20:11-15.

4. We believe in that blessed hope, the personal, imminent return of Christ, who will rapture His saints prior to the seven-year tribulation period. At the rapture, the "dead in Christ shall rise first", the living saints "shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump". At the end of the Tribulation, Christ will personally and visibly return with His saints, to establish His earthly Messianic Kingdom which was promised to the nation of Israel. "That this same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven," bodily, personally, and visibly; "the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His Father David"; and that "Christ shall reign a thousand years in righteousness until He hath put all enemies under His feet."
Psa. 89:3-4; Dan. 2:31-45; Zech. 14:4-11; 1 Thess. 1:10; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Rev. 3:10; Rev. 19:11-16; Rev. 20:1-6.

(S) Of Missions. The command to give the Gospel to the world is clear and unmistakable and this Commission was given to the churches.
Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; Rom. 10:13-15.

(T) Of the Grace of Giving.

1. Scriptural giving is one of the fundamentals of the faith. We are commanded to bring our tithes into the storehouse (common treasury of the church) upon the first day of the week.
"Therefore as ye abound in everything, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also."
(2 Cor. 8:7)
"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gathering when I come." (1 Cor. 16:2)

2. Under grace we give, and do not pay, the tithe. "*Abraham GAVE the tenth of the spoils*". (Hebrews 7:2,4) This is four hundred years before the law, and is confirmed in the New Testament; Jesus said concerning the tithe, "*These ye ought*

to have done.” (Matt. 23:23)

3. We are commanded to bring the tithe into the common treasury of the church.
“The tithe . . . is the Lord’s.” (Lev. 27:30)
“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.” (Mal. 3:10)
4. In the New Testament it was the common treasury of the church.
“And brought the prices of the things that were sold and laid them down AT THE APOSTLES’ FEET.....Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it AT THE APOSTLES’ FEET.” (Acts 4:34-35, 37)

(U) Of Marriage and Human Sexuality

Since God created mankind into genders distinctly male and female, we believe that the only legitimate marriage is that between a man and a woman. He has commanded that no sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, pedophilia and pornography are sinful perversions of God’s gift of sex. We believe that God rejects any attempt to alter one’s gender by surgery or appearance.

Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5, 13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4.

(V) Of Family Relationships

1. We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home, and men are to be the leaders (pastors and deacons) of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the church.

Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18; 1 Tim. 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12.

2. We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church. The wife is to submit herself to the Scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the headship of Christ. Children are an heritage from the Lord. Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values and leading them, through consistent lifestyle example and appropriate discipline, including Scriptural corporal correction.

Gen. 1:26-28; Ex. 20:12; Deut. 6:4-9; Ps. 127:3-5; Prov. 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; Mk. 10:6-12; 1 Cor. 7:1-16; Eph. 5:21-33; 6:1-4, Col. 3:18-21; Heb. 13:4; 1 Pet. 3:1-7.

(W) Of the Sanctity of Life.

We believe that procreation is a gift from God, a precious trust reserved for marriage. At the moment of conception, a new being enters the universe, a human being, a being created in God's image. This human being deserves our protection, whatever the circumstances of conception.

Job 3:16; Ps. 51:5; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44.

SECTION 2.02 - AUTHORITY OF ARTICLES OF FAITH

The Articles of Faith do not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the foregoing Articles of Faith accurately represent the teaching of the Bible and, therefore, are binding upon all members. All curriculum used in the church shall be in complete agreement with the Articles of Faith.

SECTION 2.03 - MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

32 Core Commitments of a Lifepoint Baptist Church Disciple

Our church's mission is given only by God through the scriptures and is summed up in the Great Commission...

Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

(Matthew 28:18-20)

With the Great Commission in mind, we seek to be clear in our understanding of what is a disciple. If someone attends our church for years and then moves across the country, what do we want that person to take away in terms of values and beliefs and practices? What key commitments do we want to pass on to the next generation of disciple-makers? What features shape our plan of discipleship? The core answers to these questions are found in the profile below, "32 Core Commitments of a Lifepoint Baptist Church Disciple."

The format of each of these thirty-two commitments intentionally reflects the "I believe" format. To say "I believe" or "I choose" or "I participate" is not, in this context, to be understood as a statement of self-reliance or self-righteousness. Rather, as in all things, we only believe and respond and grow by the grace of our great God and His Son Jesus Christ. (2 Cor. 3:18) To Him alone be the glory!

Twelve Core Beliefs

*On the basis of what God the Father has spoken in His Word, we seek to disciple the mind:
hence, twelve core beliefs.*

1. Trinity: I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19-20
2. Authority of the Bible: I believe the Bible is God's Word and has the right to command what I believe and how I live. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
3. Creation: I believe God has created the world around me and continues to exercise care and control over it. Psalm 24:1-2
4. The reality of sin: I believe sin has entered God's created world through the Fall and has impacted every human being. Romans 3:23
5. The reality of suffering: I believe, as a result of the fall and the sin of man, suffering exists in the world. This suffering is not always a result of the individual's personal sin, but it is allowed that the work of God may be known. John 9:1-3
6. Salvation by grace: I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ. Ephesians 2:8-9
7. Identity in Christ: I believe that, as an outworking of being made a new creation in Jesus Christ, I am being transformed into Christ's image. Philippians 2:12-13
8. Humanity: I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. John 3:16
9. The church: I believe the church, in Jesus Christ, is God's primary way of accomplishing His purposes on earth today. Ephesians 2:19-22
10. Community: I believe God has called his children to live in meaningful relationships with

each other. Galatians 5:13-14

11. Eternity: I believe in heaven and hell, and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the world and establish his eternal kingdom. Hebrews 9:27-28
12. The Virgin Birth and Resurrection of Christ: I believe that Jesus Christ was virgin born, and that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven bodily. Luke 35:1 Acts 1:9-10

Ten Core Practices

In light of how God the Son has lived, we seek to disciple the life: hence, ten core practices.

1. Worship: I join other believers in worship of God for who He is and what He has done for us. Psalm 34:1-3
2. Prayer: I pray to God, on my own and with others, in order to know and love Him, ask Him for things, and join Him in what He is doing. Matthew 7:7-11
3. Bible study: I read, learn and reflect on God's Word and its teaching so that I may know Him better and find direction and strength for my life. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
4. Fellowship: I meet with other believers in order to strengthen and be strengthened in the faith. Hebrews 3:13
5. Service: I use my gifts and abilities, in partnership with my Christian brothers and sisters, to help those in need. 1 Peter 4:10
6. Stewardship: I sacrifice my time, money, gifts, resources, and life in order to fulfill God's purposes. Romans 12:1-2
7. Peacemaking: I respond to conflict in a way that demonstrates the redeeming love of God. Matthew 5:9
8. Evangelism: I wisely share the gospel with those who have not yet trusted in Jesus Christ. Colossians 4:5-6
9. Engagement: I interact thoughtfully with the culture around me so as to be salt and light on behalf of Christ. Matthew 5:13-16
10. Missions involvement: I participate in God's plan to make disciples of people all over the world. Matthew 28:19-20

Ten Core Attitudes

In light of how God the Spirit seeks to mold our affections, we seek to disciple the heart: hence, ten core attitudes.

1. Faith: I live my life and plan my future in light of the unseen God and His redeeming work in Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1:8-9
2. Hope: I cope with the hardships of life and the fear of death through confidence in the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1-5
3. Love: I love my neighbor with the kind of love that God has given to me. Ephesians 5:1-2
4. Contentment: I have peace, confidence, and purpose through Christ in spite of my circumstances. Philippians 4:11-13
5. Humility: I choose to esteem other people above myself. Philippians 2:3-4
6. Wisdom: I live out Christ's character and will in everyday situations by humbly connecting my choices to his truth. Colossians 1:9
7. Forgiveness: I extend to those who sin against me the forgiveness that Christ has freely given to me. Colossians 3:13
8. Compassion: I demonstrate to those in need the merciful compassion that God has revealed in Jesus Christ. Colossians 3:12
9. Righteousness: I promote the things that God calls "just" and "pure" in my personal life,

relationships, work and society. Psalm 82:3-4

10. Perseverance: I hold onto faith, hope, and love in both the good and the bad times.
Galatians 6:9

Having accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and having been scripturally baptized, and being in agreement with the constitution, bylaws, and articles of faith, I hereby join into covenant membership with Lifepoint Baptist Church. In so doing, I commit myself to God and the authority of the membership of Lifepoint Baptist Church in accordance with, and not contrary to, the 32 Core Commitments of a Lifepoint Baptist Church disciple.

ARTICLE 3 - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 3.01 - QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Upon a majority vote of the eligible members present at any regular church service, membership shall be extended to all who have had and whose lives evidence a genuine experience of regeneration through faith in and acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior; who renounce sin; who endeavor to live a consecrated life wholly unto the Lord; who fully subscribe to the Articles of Faith contained herein; who enter into the Membership Covenant contained herein; who agree in writing to the core commitments of a Lifepoint Baptist Church disciple contained herein; and upon compliance with any one of the following conditions:

- (A) By baptism (immersion) as a true believer in Jesus Christ as personal Savior;
- (B) By letter of transfer from another Bible-believing church of like faith, or other written statement of good standing from the prior church if the applicant has been baptized by immersion subsequent to a profession of faith;
- (C) By a statement of faith, having been baptized by immersion in a church of like faith;
- (D) By restoration, if having been removed from membership, upon majority vote of the congregation after repentance is made public before the church membership of the sin or sins involved.

SECTION 3.02 - DUTIES OF A MEMBER

On becoming a member of this church, as stated in the membership covenant contained in Article 2.03, each member covenants to love, honor, and esteem the pastor; to pray for him; and to recognize his authority in the spiritual affairs of the church; to cherish a brotherly love for all members of the church; to support the church in prayer, service, tithes, offerings and with other financial support as the Lord enables; and in accordance with Biblical commands to support through their life-style the beliefs and practices of the church.

SECTION 3.03 - PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP

- (A) Only members at least eighteen years of age who are physically present at a properly called meeting of the church shall be entitled to vote. There shall be no proxy or absentee voting unless by a missionary sent from this church engaged in missionary endeavors or a member of this church who is considered a shut-in. The eligible membership of the church has certain limited areas to exercise a vote. Members may not initiate any church action from the floor.
- (B) This congregation functions not as a pure democracy, but as a body under the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ and the direction of the pastor as the under shepherd with the counsel of the pastoral staff and deacons. Determinations of the internal affairs of this church are ecclesiastical matters and shall be determined exclusively by the church's own rules and procedures. The pastor shall oversee and/or conduct all aspects of this church. The deacons shall give counsel and assistance to the pastor.
- (C) Membership in this church does not afford the members with any property, contractual, or civil rights based on principles of democratic government. Although the general public is invited to all of the church's worship services, the church property remains private property. The pastor (or in his absence, an individual designated by an associate pastor or the chairman of deacons) has the authority to suspend or revoke the right of any person, including a member, to enter or remain on church property. If after being notified of such a suspension or revocation, the person enters or remains on church property, the person may, at the discretion of the pastor (or in his absence, an individual designated by an associate pastor or the chairman of deacons), be treated as a trespasser.
- (D) A member, upon five-business days prior written request made upon the church, may inspect or copy the prepared financial statements of the church, the minutes of the proceedings of church meetings, and the minutes of the proceedings of deacon's meetings.

 - 1. A member may not, under any circumstances, inspect or copy any record relating to individual contributions to the church, the list of names and addresses of the church members (except for periodically published church directories), or the accounting books and financial records of the church.
 - 2. The church may impose a reasonable charge, covering the costs of labor and material, for copies of any documents provided to the member before releasing the copies to the member.
- (E) Attendance at all special meetings of this church is a privilege for all members unless the meeting has been deemed closed by the pastoral staff and/or the chairman of the deacons.

SECTION 3.04 - RESTORATION AND/OR DISCIPLINE OF A MEMBER

- (A) The threefold purpose of church discipline is to glorify God by maintaining purity in the local church (1 Cor. 5:6), to edify believers by deterring sin (1 Tim. 5:20), and to promote the spiritual welfare of the offending believer by calling him or her to return to a biblical standard of doctrine and conduct (Gal. 6:1).
- (B) Members of this church who err in doctrine, or who engage in conduct that violates scripture as determined by the pastoral staff or the board of deacons, shall be subject to church discipline, including dismissal Mat. 18:15-18. However, before such dismissal,
1. it shall be the duty of any member of this church who has knowledge of the erring individual's heresy or misconduct to warn and correct such erring individual in private, seeking his or her repentance and restoration. If the erring individual does not heed this warning, then
 2. the warning church member shall again go to the erring individual, seeking his or her repentance; however they must be accompanied by one or two members who shall confirm that the sin has occurred or is continuing to occur, and/or that the erring individual has been appropriately confronted and has refused to repent. The first and second warnings may occur with no specified time interval. If the erring individual still refuses to heed this warning, then
 3. it shall be brought to the attention of the pastoral staff and the board of deacons. If the pastoral staff and the board of deacons determines after a thoughtful and prayerful review in accordance with the procedures prescribed by pertinent scripture, including Matt. 18:15-18 and 1 Tim. 5:19 that there is corroborating evidence that the erring individual has sinned or is continuing to sin, that he or she has been appropriately confronted, and that he or she has refused to repent, then the pastoral staff and the board of deacons shall inform the church and the congregation thereof at a regularly scheduled worship service in order that the church may call the erring individual to repentance. If the erring individual demonstrates repentance, then notice to that effect may be given at a regularly scheduled worship service. If, however, the erring individual does not repent in response to the church in its collective call to repentance, then
 4. he or she shall be publicly dismissed from the membership of the church and the congregation thereof at a regularly scheduled worship service. If the erring individual, after such dismissal, heeds the warning, demonstrates repentance, and requests reinstatement before the pastoral staff and the board of deacons, then he or she shall be publicly restored to all the rights, duties, privileges, and responsibilities of membership.
- (C) Notwithstanding the foregoing, the pastoral staff and board of deacons, in the exercise of their discretion may proceed directly to the third stage of church discipline (i.e. the informing of the church and the congregation thereof at a regularly scheduled worship service in order that the church may call the erring individual to repentance) or to the fourth stage of church discipline, (i.e. the dismissal from the membership of the church)

when one or more of the following have occurred:

1. Where the transgression and the refusal to repent have been public, i.e. openly and to the offense of the whole church (1 Cor. 5:13);
 2. Where the disciplined party has taught or otherwise disseminated doctrine deemed false or erroneous by the pastoral staff and board of deacons, then chosen to disregard the direction and reproof of the pastoral staff and board of deacons (Rom. 16:17); or
 3. Where the disciplined party has been warned twice to cease from factious and divisive conduct and has chosen to disregard that warning (Tit. 3:10-11).
- (D) The members of this church agree that there shall be no appeal to any court because of the dismissal or because of public statements to the congregation at the third or fourth stages of church discipline. Members of this church, who are under discipline by the church, as defined in the previous paragraphs, forfeit and waive the right to resign from this church. Resignations from membership are possible only by church members who are in good standing and who are not under any disciplinary action.
- (E) Separate and apart from the process of church discipline, but subject to the discretion and approval of the pastoral staff and/or board of deacons, a church member, non-member regular attender, or other individual may be notified that he or she is not to be present upon the church premises for such a period of time as is deemed necessary for the safety and well-being of others on church premises. Such required absence may, but need not, be concurrent with the church discipline of that person.

SECTION 3.05 - TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

Members, not under the disciplining process of Section 3.04, may request that letters of transfer be sent to another church of like faith.

SECTION 3.06 - TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- (A) No member of this church may hold membership in another church. If any member unites in membership with another church, that person is automatically terminated without notice from membership in this church.
- (B) A member may resign their membership at any time, but no letter of transfer or written statement of recommendation will be issued upon such resignation, except at the discretion of the pastor.
- (C) The membership of any individual member shall be automatically terminated without notice if the member in question has not attended a regular worship service of the church and contributed to the church in the preceding six months. This provision for termination may be waived in the case of any individual member at the discretion of the pastor or the chairman of deacons if the office of pastor is vacant or if the pastor is the subject of possible disciplinary action (i.e., *college students, military personnel, shut-ins, missionaries, evangelists or others who are legitimately unable to regularly attend services*).

ARTICLE 4 - OFFICERS

SECTION 4.01 - CHURCH OFFICERS

The officers of the church shall consist of pastor and deacons. The number of deacons shall be as many as deemed necessary by the church officers for the work of the ministry.

SECTION 4.02 - DESIGNATION OF CORPORATE OFFICERS

As an accommodation to legal relationships outside the church, the pastor shall serve as president of the corporation. All corporate offices shall be appointed by the pastor from the body of deacons. The deacon appointed as clerk shall serve as secretary of the corporation; the deacon appointed as treasurer shall serve as treasurer of the corporation; and the deacon appointed as chairman shall serve as vice president of the corporation.

SECTION 4.03 - QUALIFICATIONS

(A) Pastor or Associate Pastor(s)

A man holding the office of pastor or associate pastor shall give testimony of having trusted Christ as his personal Savior; shall subscribe to the Articles of Faith, the Membership Covenant and by-law provisions of this church; shall be a member of this church; shall be a regular and generous giver to the ministry of the church; and shall have a life that aligns with the qualifications of a pastor as described in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. A pastor shall also be ordained by a Baptist church and one whose gifts and abilities have been judged by this church. In the event that a candidate for pastor has not yet been ordained, he must be ordained by a Baptist church in a timely manner.

(B) Deacons

Men holding the office of deacon shall give testimony of having trusted Christ as their personal Savior; shall subscribe to the Articles of Faith, the Membership Covenant and by-law provisions of this church; and shall have a life that aligns with the qualifications of a deacon as described in I Timothy 3:8-13. Their Christian character must be exemplary in the church and in the community. These men must have displayed a servant's heart, be a regular and generous giver to the ministry of the church, and proved themselves to be a faithful member of this church for a minimum of two years.

SECTION 4.04 - TERMS OF OFFICE

(A) The relationship between the pastor and the church shall be permanent unless dissolved as described as follows:

1. Voluntary resignation of a pastor or associate pastor. Benefits shall be determined at the discretion of the deacons.
2. Disciplinary action of the pastor may occur as a result of the following:
 - a) Doctrinal departure from the Articles of Faith of this church,
 - b) Display of character contrary to and not in accordance with 1 Timothy 3:1-7, or
 - c) Failure to be in compliance with the Membership Covenant.

Such accusations must be substantiated in the mouths of two or three witnesses (1 Timothy 5:19-21). In the case of such accusations, the chairman of the deacons shall call the board of deacons to hear the witnesses. Upon investigation, should there be a substantiation of the accusation; the board of deacons shall present the matter to the membership in a properly called business meeting within a feasible timeframe. A 75% majority of the eligible members present and voting will be required for the disciplinary removal of the pastor.

(B) The term of service for the office of deacon shall be one year, at the expiration of which they may be re-elected. Disciplinary action, including possible removal from office, may be taken toward any deacon who does not fulfill his Biblical qualifications or duties, or is not in complete support of pastoral leadership.

1. Deacons may be removed from office for unbiblical conduct, as determined by the pastor and the other deacons, upon a majority vote of the remaining deacons.
2. A meeting to consider the removal of a deacon can only be called by the pastor or the chairman of deacons in the event that the office of pastor is vacant.

(C) A vacancy in the office of deacon may be filled by the next alternate determined by the previous election.

SECTION 4.05 - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

(A) THE PASTOR

1. In the event of the death, resignation, or dismissal of the pastor, a pulpit committee shall be formed.
 - a. The current chairman of the deacons shall serve as the chairman of the pulpit committee. This committee shall be made up of twelve members chosen by the deacon board.
 - b. No more than 25% of the pulpit committee can be related to each other by

blood or marriage.

- c. Members of the committee may be comprised of men and women, but more than 50% of the committee must be comprised of currently serving deacons.
 - d. It shall be the responsibility of the pulpit committee to determine the process in which candidates are to be considered; and to secure pastoral candidates to be presented to the church.
 - e. A secret ballot vote of 75% of the pulpit committee will be required before a candidate for pastor can be presented to the congregation for a vote (see Section 6.01 A).
 - f. A meeting for election of a pastor may be called by the pulpit committee no earlier than fourteen (14) days following the last service the candidate has personally appeared in view of a call.
2. By secret ballot, a 75% majority of the eligible members present and voting shall be necessary for the calling of a pastor.

(B) ASSOCIATE PASTORS

At the recommendation of the pastor, associates will be approved by a 75% majority of the deacons and subsequently approved by a 75% majority of the church membership during a regularly called meeting of the church body.

(C) THE DEACONS

1. The method of electing deacons shall be as follows: In advance of the election date, those men who are judged as potential candidates by the pastoral staff and deacon board shall be interviewed by the pastor and no less than two (2) other deacons, appointed by the chairman of the deacons, to determine his eligibility as set forth in Section 4.03 (B) prior to being placed on the ballot.
2. The annual election of deacons shall be conducted by secret ballot prior to December 1. The designated number of candidates who receive the most votes shall be elected. In the absence of pastoral staff, deacon elections will be suspended until after a pastor is called.
3. A deacon installation service shall be held on the first available Sunday night of the New Year. Deacons elected for the first time shall also be ordained at this time.

ARTICLE 5 - DUTIES AND POWERS OF OFFICERS

SECTION 5.01 - PASTOR

- (A)** The pastor shall preach the Gospel regularly and shall be at liberty to preach the whole

counsel of the Word of God as the Lord leads him. He shall be responsible for the administration of the church ordinances. The pastor or his appointee shall act as moderator at all church meetings for the transaction of church matters, supervise the teaching ministries of the church, and tenderly watch over the spiritual interests of the membership.

- (B) To assist the pastor in carrying out his God-given responsibilities, the hiring and firing of non-pastoral staff positions shall be at the discretion of the pastor. All church staff, whether paid or volunteer, shall be under the supervision of the pastor.
- (C) The pastor shall be free to choose the means and methods by which he exercises the ministry that God has given him.
- (D) The pastor shall be the ex officio chairman of all committees and meetings.

SECTION 5.02 - ASSOCIATE PASTORS

The church may call additional pastors whose relationship to the senior pastor is that of an associate.

Associate pastors:

- (A) Shall be recognized by the church as particularly gifted and called to the full-time ministry of preaching and/or teaching.
- (B) Shall assist the senior pastor in the performance of his regular duties and shall perform any other duties that usually pertain to the office of pastor, or as set forth in the constitution.
- (C) In the absence or incapacity of the senior pastor for defined periods of time (such as sabbatical or illness), the associate pastor(s) shall assume the responsibility for his duties in cooperation with the board of deacons.

SECTION 5.03 - DEACONS

Whereas the office of deacon was created for the primary goal of aiding the pastor in his ministry to the Lord and serving the congregation, deacons shall:

- (A) Faithfully complete the duties assigned by the pastor,
- (B) Make provision for observing the ordinances of the church,
- (C) Provide financial accountability to the church. As such, they shall:
 1. Set the salary of the pastor; approve the salaries of the church staff, grant raises, bonuses, retirement packages and reimbursements as needed,
 2. Review the quarterly church-financial statements,

3. Approve the annual church budget prior to its ratification by the church,
 4. Approve the policies and procedures at least annually prior to their ratification by the church.
- (D) The deacons shall comprise the board of trustees of the corporation. Upon a three-fourths majority vote of approval by the church, the board of trustees shall exercise only the following specific powers:
1. To purchase, hold, lease, or otherwise acquire real property on behalf of the church.
 2. To sell, convey, alienate, transfer, lease, assign, exchange, or otherwise dispose of, and to mortgage, pledge, to borrow money and incur indebtedness for the purpose and the use of the church, or otherwise encumber the real property of the church,
 3. To cause to be executed, issued, and delivered for the indebtedness, in the name of the church, promissory notes, bonds, debentures, or other evidence of indebtedness; and to secure repayment by deeds of trust, mortgages, or pledges,
 4. To exercise all powers necessary for the dissolution of the church corporation, if such action is mandated by a vote of the church membership.
- (E) Maintain the mission and ministries of the church until a pastor is called by the church.

ARTICLE 6 - MEETINGS

SECTION 6.01 - SPECIAL MEETINGS

- (A) The pastor (or the chairman of deacons if the office of pastor is vacant or if the pastor is the subject of disciplinary action) may call a special meeting by giving notice of such a meeting and the purpose for which it is called to the church from the pulpit at least one Sunday and not less than one week prior to said meeting.
- (B) An annual business meeting of the church will be held in December of each year for the purpose of approving the annual budget.

SECTION 6.02 - VOTING QUALIFICATIONS

Members who are at least eighteen years of age and present at any duly called business meeting are eligible to vote (see Article 3.03).

ARTICLE 7 - FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the church shall begin January 1st and end December 31st.

ARTICLE 8 - FINANCES

SECTION 8.01 - FUND RAISING

Fund raisers may be used to fund special ministries, activities or projects so long as they are deemed useful, appropriate, and necessary by the pastor.

SECTION 8.02 - UNAUTHORIZED SPENDING

All expenditures must be in accordance with the Financial Policies and Procedures as ratified by the church annually.

SECTION 8.03 - CONTRIBUTIONS

All contributions to the church become the sole property of the church and are non-refundable.

SECTION 8.04 - FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee shall consist of the corporate officers and such other members as deemed appropriate by the pastor. The purpose of this committee is to review all financial statements prior to their presentation to the deacon board and church body and to perform responsibilities as laid out in the Financial Policies and Procedures of Lifepoint Baptist Church.

ARTICLE 9 - ORDINATION

SECTION 9.01 - ORDINATION QUALIFICATIONS

Any male who is a member of this church or its mission churches, who gives evidence of a genuine call of God into the work of the ministry and possesses the qualifications stated in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9, may be ordained as a minister of the Gospel.

SECTION 9.02 - ORDINATION PROCEDURE

- (A) Upon a conference with the pastor and after the pastor has approved the candidate for ordination, the pastor shall call a council to examine the qualification of the candidate. The ordination council shall consist of ordained ministers of like faith invited to participate in the examination of the candidate.
- (B) If the candidate is found worthy of ordination by the council, they shall recommend the candidate to the church for ordination.

- (C) The pastor (or chairman of the deacons if the office of pastor is vacant) shall arrange for the ordination service.

ARTICLE 10 - TAX EXEMPT PROVISIONS

SECTION 10.01 - PRIVATE INUREMENT

No part of the net earnings of the church shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the church shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for the services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article 1.02 hereof.

SECTION 10.02 - POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT

No substantial part of the activities of the church shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. The church shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

SECTION 10.03 - DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of the church, the trustees shall, after paying or making provision for payment of all the liabilities of the church, dispose of all of the assets of the church to such organization or organizations formed and operated exclusively for religious purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the trustees shall determine. Assets may be distributed only to organizations which agree with the church's Articles of Faith.

SECTION 10.04 - RACIAL NONDISCRIMINATION

The church shall have a racially nondiscriminatory policy and therefore shall not discriminate against members, applicants, and others on the basis of race, color, or national or ethnic origin.

ARTICLE 11 - CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

- (A) We believe that homosexuality, bisexuality, trans-sexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex (*Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5, 13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:8*) and disqualifies any individual with this lifestyle from positions of leadership or service in the church. Therefore, no one will be considered for any position of

employment, leadership or service in this church who participates in such a lifestyle.

- (B) Any person acting in any official capacity for this church and found to be engaged in any of the lifestyles listed in this article shall be removed from their position immediately.
- (C) Anyone acting in any official capacity, (i.e., pastors, staff, deacons, departmental superintendents, teachers, workers, etc.) shall be in compliance with the Articles of Faith, Membership Covenant, and the Constitution and By-laws of this church.
- (D) Any employee found not to be in compliance with the Articles of Faith and Constitution and By-laws of this church may be terminated without recourse.
- (E) Only men shall be considered for any pastoral staff position in this church.
- (F) Only church members shall be eligible to hold any position of leadership in the church or act as a regular official agent of the church in any capacity (teachers, workers, etc.).

ARTICLE 12 - DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTIONS

From time to time the church, in the exercise of its religious and charitable purposes, may establish various funds to accomplish specific goals. Contributors may suggest uses for their contributions, but all suggestions shall be deemed advisory rather than mandatory in nature. All contributions made to specific funds or otherwise designated shall remain subject to the exclusive control and discretion of the pastor and the finance committee. No fiduciary obligation shall be created by any designated contribution made to the church other than to use the contribution for the general furtherance of any of the purposes stated in Article 1.02.

ARTICLE 13 – INDEMNIFICATION

SECTION 13.01 - ACTIONS SUBJECT TO INDEMNIFICATION

The church may indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative, including all appeals (other than an action by or in the right of the church) by reason of the fact that the person is or was a pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent of the church, against expenses, including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with the action, suit, or proceeding and if that person acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the church and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit, or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or on a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent, shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner that he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the church and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to

believe that his or her conduct was unlawful.

SECTION 13.02 - EXPENSES SUBJECT TO INDEMNIFICATION

To the extent that a pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit, or proceeding referred to in this Article, or in defense of any claim, issue, or matter in that action, suit, or proceeding, he or she may be indemnified against expenses, including attorneys' fees, actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with the action, suit, or proceeding.

SECTION 13.03 - LIMITATIONS OF INDEMNIFICATION

Any indemnification made under this Article, may be made by the church only as authorized in the specific case on a determination that indemnification of the pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent is proper in the circumstances because he has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in Section 1 of this Article. The determination shall be made (a) by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of the pastor and deacons who were not and are not parties to or threatened with the action, suit, or proceeding; (b) if the described quorum is not obtainable or if a majority vote of a quorum of disinterested deacons so directs, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion; or (c) by a majority vote of the members of the church.

SECTION 13.04 - TIMING OF INDEMNIFICATION

Expenses of each person seeking indemnification under this Article, may be paid by the church as they are incurred, in advance of the final disposition of the action, suit, or proceeding, as authorized by the board of deacons in the specific case, on receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent to repay the amount if it is ultimately determined that he or she is not qualified to be indemnified by the church.

SECTION 13.05 - EXTENT OF INDEMNIFICATION

The indemnification provided by this Article shall be deemed to be discretionary unless otherwise required as a matter of law or under any agreement or provided by insurance purchased by the church, both as to action of each person seeking indemnification under this Article in his official capacity and as to action in another capacity while holding that office, and may continue as to a person who has ceased to be a pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent and may inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors, and administrators of that person.

SECTION 13.06 - INSURANCE

The church may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a pastor, deacon, officer, employee, or agent of the church against any liability asserted against him and incurred by him in that capacity, or arising out of his status in that capacity, whether or not the church would have the power to indemnify him against liability under the provisions of this

Article.

ARTICLE 14 - POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A policies and procedures manual shall be developed in order to provide and organize written policies and procedures of the Church. The Policies and Procedures manual shall be reviewed and approved annually by the church in a regularly called business meeting. Changes to the Policies and Procedures Manual may be approved at any business meeting by a majority vote of members present and eligible to vote. Notice of proposed changes will be made available to the general membership of the Church a minimum of seven (7) days prior to the vote.

ARTICLE 15 - AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be revised or amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the eligible members present and voting at any regular church service, provided that said revision or amendment has been submitted in writing and announced from the pulpit at least seven (7) days before the vote is taken.

ARTICLE 16 - EPILOGUE

Anything not specifically covered by this Constitution can be ruled upon by a simple majority vote of the eligible members present at any regular church service.

ADOPTION

This constitution was adopted by a unanimous vote of the eligible members present and voting at a properly called meeting of the church held on Sunday, August 15, 2004.

This constitution and bylaws supersedes any other constitutions and/or bylaws of Lifepoint Baptist Church.



Church Clerk

This constitution was amended by at least two-thirds majority vote of the eligible members present and voting at a properly called meeting of the church held on Sunday, August 10, 2008.



Church Clerk

This constitution was amended by at least two-thirds majority vote of the eligible members present and voting at a properly called meeting of the church held on Sunday, February 7, 2016.



Church Clerk