

Lighthouse Baptist Church

CONSTITUTION

Adopted: November 17, 1993

Revised: May 28, 1998

This Constitution was adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present and voting at a duly-called meeting of the Church in which the quorum was present.

This Constitution supersedes any other constitutions and/or by-laws of the Lighthouse Baptist Church.

Preamble

We, the members of the Lighthouse Baptist Church hereby voluntarily adopt the following Constitution, which is based on Biblical principles. This constitution is neither a substitute for, nor a supplement to the Word of God. It is simply a systematic review of the doctrines, and their application to practical matters as taught by the Lighthouse Baptist Church. It is a guide to aid in the application of Biblical principles to church government. The Word of God shall be the first and final authority on all church matters, and any issue whereon this Constitution is silent shall be governed by the clear statement of the Word of God.

Article One

Creed

This congregation accepts the Bible as its absolute authority in matters of faith and practice. We believe in the verbal, plenary inspiration of Scripture; in one God eternally existing in three Persons; in the creation of all things, including man, as the direct act of God; in an eternally secure salvation by grace through faith in the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ; in the incarnation and virgin birth of Christ, and in His bodily resurrection; in the personal, bodily, pre-tribulational return of the Lord Jesus Christ and His millennial reign on earth. We believe in a literal Heaven and a literal Hell, and that Satan is a person. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead. We believe in the autonomy of the local church, in baptism by immersion in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, and in the celebration of the Lord's Supper by all obedient believers. We are a fundamental, separated, missionary-minded group of Bible-believing Christians, striving to maintain a balanced, Spirit-filled life.

Article Two

Name

The name of this organization, as incorporated under the laws of the State of Ohio, shall be Lighthouse Baptist Church.

Article Three

Articles of Faith

I. **Scriptures** - We believe that the Bible is the Word of God; that it was written by men who were moved by the Holy Spirit, so that their writings, in the original, were supernaturally and verbally inspired, and free from error. They are the complete and final revelation of the Will of God to man and is the supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. We believe that we have His infallible, inerrant Word preserved for us in English.

II. **God** - We believe in one God, eternally existing in three Persons. God the Father; Creator of Heaven and earth, perfect in

holiness, infinite in wisdom, rich in grace, supreme in love, and measureless in power. We rejoice that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of all mankind, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. We believe in God the Son, Jesus Christ, begotten Son, conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, sinless in His life, ever obedient unto the Father, and the only atonement for the sin of this world by His death (through the shedding of His blood) on the cross. We believe that He arose bodily after the third day, ascended into Heaven on the fortieth day, and even now is seated at the Father's right hand, as our High Priest and only Mediator, making intercession for His own. We look for His personal, visible, pre-millennial, pre-tribulational, and imminent return to the earth according to His promises, that is our Blessed Hope. We believe in God the Holy Spirit; a Person, coequal with the Father and Son, in all His attributes. He was sent by the Lord Jesus Christ from God the Father to reprove the world of sin, of righteousness, of judgment, and to regenerate all who receive Christ as personal Lord and Savior, and to indwell, guide, and teach them the things of God. He empowers the believer to live in victory over sin, self, Satan, and the world. He helps our infirmities and intercedes for us according to the Will of God the Father.

III. Man - We believe that man was created in the image of God but because of Adam's transgression (disobedience) that the whole human race fell. Because of this, all men are totally depraved and without Christ, spiritually dead and lost. All men everywhere are sinners, both by nature and by choice. To die in this condition is to be damned forever and eternally separated from God.

IV. Satan - We believe in a personal devil (Satan) who is presumptuous, proud, powerful, wicked, malignant, subtle, deceitful, religious, and fierce. He was cast out of Heaven and is now the prince of the air and this world system. He is the enemy of God, hater of Christ, and for this he perverts the Scriptures, opposes the work of God, hinders the Gospel, and works lying miracles (wonders). He has already been judged and someday will be cast into the lake of fire to be tormented day and night, forever and ever.

V. Salvation - We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures. We believe that in Christ only is salvation. To obtain this salvation is to repent as a sinner before God and to have faith in Christ (Acts 20:21). This salvation is by grace, a free gift, through the merits of the shed blood of the Son of God. The blood of Jesus Christ was shed for the sins of all mankind, not merely for a selected few. When one obtains salvation, he can never be lost. This is what Christ called the new birth, being born again from above by the Word of God (the Instrument) and the Spirit of God (the Person).

VI. Church - We believe in the church (the Body of Christ) who is made up of all blood bought, born again believers. The church will be together for the first time at the Rapture. We also believe in the local assemblies (or churches). These local churches consist of regenerated believers who have been Scripturally baptized and are banded together for worship, work, and spiritual fellowship, spreading the Gospel to the ends of the earth, according to the specific teachings of the New Testament. Christ is the Head of the church. We believe that immersion in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit is the only true Scriptural baptism. The prerequisite to Scriptural baptism is the new birth. We believe that the Lord's Supper consists of unleavened bread, and unfermented fruit of the vine, and that they are mere symbols of His body and of His blood that were broken and poured out on the cross for our sins. The prerequisites to Scriptural observance of the Lord's Supper are the new birth, immersion in water (baptism), and membership in a local New Testament church. Baptism and the Lord's Supper are the only ordinances of the New Testament assemblies and are not for believers apart from the assemblies. We believe that God has laid upon the church the task of preaching the gospel to every creature, and the edification of the individual members of the Body of Christ.

VII. Last Things - We believe in the bodily resurrection of all the dead. All those who have been saved (born again) shall live eternally with God. All those without Christ (devoid of spiritual life) shall abide in the lake of fire forever, eternally separated from God. Heaven and Hell are literal places, prepared of God as the only eternal abodes.

VIII. Church and State - We believe that each church is to be independent, autonomous, and free from political authority or ecclesiastical hierarchy. We believe in religious liberty, in separation of church and state (by separation of church and state, we are referring to the principles that we are not to have a State Church, and that the government is not to interfere with the operation and teachings of the churches), and in Christians being good citizens.

IX. Christian Living - We believe in Bible separation, that is, to be set apart from the world, sin, self, and Satan, and to be separated unto the praise of His glory and the furtherance of the Gospel. We believe in being separated from both the sins of the flesh and of the spirit.

Article Four

Church Covenant

Having been led by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with each other as a local assembly of the body of Christ. We shall ever seek to allow the Holy Spirit full freedom to do His work of convicting, converting, cleansing, empowering, teaching, comforting, and guiding.

We determine, by the power of the Holy Spirit, that ours shall be a faith that is balanced in every area of life; that we shall maintain a spiritual walk in practical matters as well as spiritual matters. With the help of God, we shall strive for our services to be fervent and scriptural; for every member to be a witness, and every preacher to be a prophet of the whole counsel of God.

We determine to walk together in Christian love; to work for the advancement of this church in holiness, knowledge of God's Word, and witnessing; to be faithful in its worship, ordinances, discipline, preaching of the truth and doctrines; to give cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, to the relief of the poor, and to the spread of the gospel throughout the world.

We determine to maintain personal and family devotions and to train our children in the fear of the Lord; to seek the salvation of our loved ones and acquaintances; to live separated from that which is worldly; to be honest and faithful in our business; to walk daily in a manner that honors the Lord Jesus Christ, and to avoid participation in activities that would bring reproach to His name; to be zealous in our love and service for the Lord; to discern our spiritual gifts and employ them in this local church.

We further determine to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation.

We moreover determine that if we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the principles of the Word of God.

Article Five

Standing Resolutions

The positions and procedures of Lighthouse Baptist Church not specifically stated or explained in the Creed, Articles of Faith, and Covenant of this assembly shall be included as standing resolutions, which shall be adopted by the church body at its discretion. Standing resolutions may be adopted or rescinded at any time by the action of two-thirds (2/3 rd's) of the active voting membership. These standing resolutions, when in effect, shall be considered as a part of Article Five of this Constitution.

I. Statement of Purpose - Resolved, that this congregation, which shall be known as the Lighthouse Baptist Church, shall have as its primary purpose the fulfillment of the Great Commission given in Matthew 28:19-20; to go, disciple, baptize, and teach believers until Jesus returns.

A. Go: We believe it is the responsibility of the church to reach the lost through every scriptural means, such as personal witnessing and tract evangelism, and not to rely merely on evangelism from the pulpit. It is the responsibility of every Christian to seek opportunities to witness for Christ.

B. Disciple: Witnessing is not a responsibility reserved for the pastors and deacons, but is to be accepted as the responsibility of all members of this church. Witnessing is not merely testifying, but is making disciples of Christ.

C. Baptize: Immersion in water is a testimony of the believer's identification in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and should be the first act of obedience following salvation. Those believers saved through personal witnessing efforts or in the public invitation during the preaching services should be baptized as soon as they are able to give a clear testimony of their salvation.

D. Teach: Regular services and classes shall be held for the purpose of teaching the Word of God to the believers. Teaching shall include doctrines, principles, commandments, and facts found in the Word of God. The King James Version shall be used in all public reading of the Scriptures.

II. Church Government: Resolved, that we believe in the autonomy of the local church and shall never submit to the ecclesiastical authority of any man or group of men (other than the prayerfully chosen pastors of this local assembly), or to any ecclesiastical or human decree that is contrary to the Word of God.

A. Concerning Authority: The Word of God shall be the supreme law of this church. The Will of God shall be the supreme guide. All members in full fellowship shall have opportunity to express their desire without fear of intimidation or coercion. The Will of God shall be determined by the clear statement of Scripture, when possible, or by the leadership of the pastor(s) under the direction of the Holy Spirit. Decisions, both spiritual and temporal, will be made in "one accord"; not self-willed, but seeking God's Will. When there has been genuine discernment of God's Will and sufficient

teaching of God's Word, there will be one accord among the pastors and a majority of the assembly.

B. Concerning Officers of the Church: We believe the Scripture teaches that there are two offices of the local church; pastor (also called "elder" and "bishop") and deacon. The pastors have the spiritual authority and responsibility of the church and shall be the directors of the corporation. The senior pastor shall be the president or chief executive officer, and the pastors shall select the other corporate officers. The deacons are ministering servants under the authority of the pastors. Although these are the only offices discussed in Scripture, other offices shall be authorized, as necessary, for the proper administration of church business. These officers, while not mandatory, may include clerk, treasurer, and trustee. All officers of the Church shall annually affirm their agreement with the Statement of Faith. Only Church members are eligible for election or appointment to any Church office or position. No Church officer or teaching position shall be a member of any secret organization. All Church officers must be approved initially and thereafter annually by the senior pastor in order for them to commence or continue in their offices. The term of service for all offices and positions in the Church, except the pastors, shall be one year, at the expiration of which they may be re-appointed. All officers shall surrender any records in their possession to the Church clerk at the close of their term of office to be filed as a permanent record of the work of the Church. All records are the property of the Church and must be kept in the Church office.

C. Concerning Pastors: While the Bible does not command a plurality of elders for the local church, it is permissible and advisable for the leadership of a larger local church to be provided by more than one elder (pastor). The qualifications for elders are given in I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, and I Peter 5:1-4. The ruling elder (pastor) leads and teaches the congregation (I Timothy 5:17-18), and receives the "double honor" of being an elder and receiving material compensation sufficient to meet his needs. There shall be a senior pastor and, as necessary, other pastors. Although the congregation shall have opportunity to express their desire on any issue and to vote on certain issues, the leadership of this assembly shall be provided by the pastors.

1. Calling or Dismissal of the Senior Pastor and Associates: The senior pastor and associates shall be generally recognized Baptist ministers who believe, without reservation, the creed, articles of faith, covenant and standing resolutions of this church. A call or dismissal shall be by the vote of 75% of the voting members present. A quorum for the call or dismissal of a senior pastor shall be 75%. When the office is vacant, a competent pulpit committee consisting of any existing pastors and/or spiritual men selected from among the deacons shall present to the congregation no more than one name at a time for consideration by the congregation. This is to ensure that the selection of a pastor is not a comparison of two men or a popularity contest, but a deliberate seeking of God's will and direction for that particular man. The relationship between the senior pastor and the Church shall be permanent unless dissolved at the option of either party by the giving of a month's notice, or less by mutual consent. The severance of the relationship between the Senior pastor and the Church may be considered at any specially called meeting by the deacons, provided that reconciliation has been first proceeded according to the disciplinary process and that notice to the effect is posted in the Church for a minimum of two Sunday's. Disciplinary removal of a pastor automatically terminates his membership.

2. Senior Pastor's Authority and Responsibilities: The senior pastor shall be a preacher and teacher of the Word of God, a shepherd over the local congregation, and shall have the oversight of the church. He shall preside over the gatherings of the church and act as the leader of the congregation. He shall have the complete and final authority, under God, in any matter directly affecting the spiritual program of the church.

3. Responsibility of the Church to the Senior Pastor: The deacons shall determine, with all due consideration for his private affairs, a reasonable rate of compensation and benefits for the senior pastor. The senior pastor shall have the authority to establish and/or monitor the compensations of all other pastors or employees, within the constraints of the church budget.

D. Concerning Deacons: The congregation shall select prospective deacons for approval by the pastors. Their qualifications are listed in I Timothy 3:8-13.

1. The Selection or Dismissal of Deacons: After having been interviewed by the pastors, those names receiving unanimous approval of the pastors, they shall be appointed publicly before the congregation. The term of office shall be for a period of three years. The terms of the deacons shall be staggered to ensure continuity, so that at no time shall the entire board of deacons are to be elected at one time. Re-selection to the office of a deacon may occur after a sabbath of one year. This term of office shall be terminated by resignation, failure to fulfill his duties under the pastors, violation of any of the deacon qualifications, or a change in position concerning the constitution of this assembly. Dismissal shall be performed by the pastors after prayerful counsel.

2. Authority and Responsibilities: The deacons are servants and have no scriptural authority to establish matters of policy. They are not corporate officers. They shall function as practical ministers by taking care of the physical aspects of the ministry to free the pastors to give full attention to their responsibilities as listed above, and by providing research and recommendation on committees, when necessary. They are to serve, preach, and contend for the faith as demonstrated in Acts 4-8.

3. Deacons' Meetings, Committees, Etc.: The pastors shall determine when it is necessary for the deacons to act in concert and shall outline to them the agenda of business to be discussed. Committees of deacons for research and recommendation shall be authorized and shall work under the leadership of one or more pastors.

E. Concerning a Church Clerk: The clerk shall be a pastor or deacon, whose duties shall be to ensure that accurate records of business meetings and an up-to-date membership roll are maintained. He shall sign financial and church documents as "clerk." Staff secretaries will generally perform the routine duties of the clerk.

F. Concerning a Treasurer: The treasurer shall function as the business manager of the church and appointed by the pastors. The term of office shall be indefinite. The treasurer shall have the authority to receive, disburse, and manage all money belonging to the church, or committed to its trust in accordance with the budget or approved programs of the church. The treasurer shall keep accurate records of all receipts and expenditures and post regular monthly expense reports to the church. The treasurer shall insure that the financial records are audited annually. The treasurer shall prepare financial reports for the senior pastor and project budget adjustments, when necessary. The treasurer shall collect and verify information necessary for the preparation of the church budget, and shall have the assistance of staff secretaries or bookkeepers as available and necessary. This term of office shall be terminated by resignation, failure to fulfill his duties under the pastors, violation of any of the qualifications of a deacon, or a change in position concerning the constitution of this assembly. Dismissal shall be performed by the pastors after prayerful counsel.

G. Concerning Trustees: The deacons shall be the official trustees of the church, three of which will be signing trustees as required by the laws of the State of Ohio, except in the case where there are not enough eligible men to meet the qualifications of a deacon. If this be the case, then the trustees shall come from the men of the church until the time qualified deacons are available. Trustees shall not have any authority, either privately or cooperatively, to sell, lease, give away, or dispose of any church property. The signing of any official legal paper, instrument, mortgage, etc. shall require the signature of three trustees, who shall act on the behalf of and in compliance with the will of the church. No trustee shall be individually responsible for any papers signed by him as a trustee of the church. The trustees shall exercise all powers necessary for the dissolution of the Church corporation, if such action is mandated by a vote of the Church membership.

H. Concerning Business Meetings of the Church: Business will be handled through the pastor(s), trustees, deacons and employees of the church or members as applicable to the sphere of responsibility. Voting members shall be at least eighteen (18) years old. All business shall be handled through prayer and humility of spirit. When major decisions are being made, such as those involving budget approval, mission support, major expenditures, election of officers, adoption, or rescension of standing resolutions and calling or dismissing the senior pastor and/or associates, the senior pastor shall call the general business meeting. The dates and times of all business meetings shall be announced in a regular service preceding the business meeting. One third (33%) of all active voting members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

I. Concerning Dissolution of Corporation and Liquidation of Property: In the event that the dissolution of Lighthouse Baptist Church should ever become necessary, the elected officers and active members remaining at the time of dissolution shall have full authority to enforce this provision. Assets may be distributed only to organizations that agree with the Church's Articles of Faith.

1. Concerning Authority to Dissolve: All active members shall be notified in writing, at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting called for dissolution of the corporation.

2. Concerning the Dispensation of Assets: In the event of dissolution, the residual assets of the corporation will be turned over to one or more churches or other religious organizations, which they themselves are exempt as organizations as described in Sections 501(c)(3) and 170(c)(2) of the internal code of 1954 or corresponding sections of any prior or future internal revenue code for religious purposes. No income or assets shall go to any individual except through reasonable salaries, nor to any organization which engages in substantial political activity. No individual associating with this corporation may derive benefit or gain from this assignment of assets.

3. Concerning Selection of Recipient of Assets: In the event of dissolution, the elected leaders remaining, or an authorized group from within the active membership shall propose a worthy recipient to be approved by majority vote of those attending the meeting called for dissolution of the corporation. Should any ministry of the church be able to continue as a separate corporation, it shall receive priority in this consideration.

III. Concerning Personnel and Employees of the Church: Resolved, since no man can serve two masters, there must be a clear line of authority for each employee of the church. The senior pastor will establish the organizational structure for the church employees. He will work in conjunction with the other pastor(s) and with the consideration of the budget in the establishment of working schedules, vacations, rates of compensation, and benefits for the employees and other related matters.

A. Concerning Hiring and Dismissal Personnel: The senior pastor shall have the authority to employ needed personnel at his discretion within the approved budget of the church. He may hire and/or appoint pastoral assistants. He shall have the authority to dismiss or replace any employee of the church. He may delegate this responsibility to other managers as necessary.

B. Concerning Loyalty, Complaints, and Appeals: The leadership of Lighthouse Baptist Church stands for internal harmony and while friendly to constructive criticism from employed staff will not tolerate destructive criticism. Every employee will be notified that at any time he or she has any calls for complaint, the employee may come to the senior pastor, or one of the other pastors involved, and make his complaint. No complaint is to be made to anyone with whom he associates in this church or anyone away from the church, as long as this person is employed by the church or it's related ministries. No employee will criticize the administrative policies of the church except to the pastor or proper executive to whom he or she is responsible.

1. If after presenting a complaint and after the matter has been discussed, and the pastor or other executive has made a decision, if the decision is not satisfactory, the employee must be loyal to the pastor and to the policy of the church if he is to remain as an employee. If he cannot remain as an employee and be loyal to the pastor and the administrative policies, then his relationship as an employee ends immediately. This policy will be part of the agreement that every person enters into when he is employed by Lighthouse Baptist Church or it's related ministries.

2. The senior pastor of the church (or any other pastor holding his authority in his absence) is directed to discharge anyone who, by the employment of this church, criticizes the administrative policies or fails to cooperate to maintain the position of the church, regarding doctrine, evangelism, and discipline.

3. If at any time an employee is discharged and feels that he has not been treated justly, such a person may present his complaint to the pastor(s) and deacons in a meeting called for that purpose. The employee is assured that the case will be judged in a frank and unbiased way by the pastor(s) and deacons, but there will be no appeal beyond the decision of this group.

4. The wife or husband of an employee of Lighthouse Baptist Church or it's related ministries is to be as loyal to all the positions set forth in the creed, covenant, and standing resolutions as the employee is and if it is found that the husband or wife of the employee has a critical attitude towards the church, or it's related ministries, and is not cooperating in maintaining the position set forth therein, the employee shall be discharged.

IV. Finances of the Church: Resolved, the entire program of this church shall be supported by free-will tithes , offerings, and other financial support (i.e. tuition, material fees, etc.); and no time may this church be permitted to use any unscriptural

method(s) for raising funds. This outlaws all suppers for gain, all profitable sales of tickets, chances, or merchandise and all other profit-making methods that are not supported by God's Word. Real property or equipment owned by the church may be sold for replacement or liquidation. We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to support his local church financially. We believe that God has established the tithe as a minimum for giving but that every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the Church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all rights to direct the use of the tithe or offering once the gift has been made.

A. Concerning the Financial Records: The financial records of Lighthouse Baptist Church shall be open for inspection by any member, for any reason, at any time; consideration for normal business activities being given.

B. Concerning an Audit or Review: Financial statements shall be audited or reviewed by a competent, certified public accountant, or other qualified individual annually.

C. Concerning Contributions: A systematic record of contributions will be maintained by the treasurer or his authorized representative. These records will be sent to the contributors upon request. No records can be maintained for a single contribution but a receipt will be sent for any gift upon request from the contributor. Funds may be received and distributed for designated purposes in accordance with the approved program of the church. All gifts received for any purpose, are received as charitable contributions to Lighthouse Baptist Church and its related ministries. The duly elected authorities of this non-profit organization shall have final authority for the distribution for all contributions received.

D. Concerning Finances: Extreme restraint shall be exercised whenever it becomes necessary to secure financing for any church project. Tithes and offerings, and as well as other property, belongs to God and will be treated as His property. Every available means in securing necessary funds for approved projects will be exhausted prior to borrowing money. Money shall not be borrowed for depreciating items, unless the cost analysis shows the investment be profitable despite the depreciating of the actual value of the item requested. Money should not be borrowed on the basis of projected growth or increase in income alone.

E. Concerning an Annual Budget: An annual budget shall be presented to the pastor(s) by the treasurer of the church, using information provided by the individuals responsible for the various ministries of the church. Projected budget should include all existing and projected ministries. Although growth may be occurring, the budget shall not exceed the clearly indicated growth pattern. The annual budget and adjustment shall be approved by the pastor(s) and congregation and shall guide the expenditures and moneys received by the church.

V. Membership: Resolved, we believe that just as the ordinances are physical representations of spiritual truths, so is membership in a local church, a physical representation of a spiritual truth. Every believer that has been scripturally baptized into the spiritual body of Christ should be physically baptized into a local body. Since the Bible teaches that all true believers are baptized into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit, let it be determined that Lighthouse Baptist Church shall seek to have fellowship with all believers of like mind and doctrine and that we will abstain from the fellowship of that which is ungodly, worldly, or otherwise contrary to the Word of God.

A. Concerning Reception of Members: All applicants for membership must give public testimony of their salvation and must be living a life consistent with this profession. They must be in agreement with the creed and covenant of Lighthouse Baptist Church. They must be (or must have been) baptized by immersion following salvation. Baptized believers desiring membership in this church are to present themselves as candidates for membership in the public invitation at the end of the service. They will be presented to the church as candidates for membership and received by letter of transfer from another church of like faith and practice or by testimony of faith. A new member packet, consisting of the Church's constitution and other relevant information, shall be given to the prospective member at this time. The church, having given its positive response to their membership application, they will, on the following Sunday, become official members with full privileges and responsibilities. Every believer baptized by a pastor of Lighthouse Baptist Church becomes a member at the time of his/her baptism.

B. Concerning the Duties of a Member: On becoming a member of this Church, in addition to the covenant, each one further covenants to love, honor, and esteem the Pastor(s); to pray for him; and to recognize his authority in spiritual affairs of the Church; to cherish a brotherly love for all members of the Church; to support the Church in prayer, tithes, offerings, and with other financial support as the Lord enables; and in accordance with Biblical commands to support through a lifestyle walk affirmation of the beliefs and practices of the Church.

C. Concerning the Privileges of Membership: 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. Membership in this Church does not afford those individuals with any property, contract, or civil rights based on the principles of democratic government. Determination 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 as requested by him. The membership of the Church has certain limited areas of exercising a vote. Members may not vote to initiate any Church action, but rather the vote of a member is to confirm and ratify the direction of the Church as determined by the Pastor.

D. Concerning Discipline of Members: Members who persist in sin after the scriptural procedures found in Matthew 18:11-22 have been exercised are to be excluded from the church and from the Lord's table as commanded in II Thessalonians 3:6-15, Titus 3:10-11, and I Corinthians 5:4-8. Mere termination of membership is not scriptural discipline. All excluded brethren are to be held up in prayer and encouraged to repent at every contact with another member of this church, counting him not as an enemy but admonishing him as a brother. All excluded brethren may be restored to membership upon majority vote of the congregation after confession is made publicly before the Church membership of the sin(s) involved, and satisfactorily evidencing repentance to the pastors and deacons.

1. There shall be a Discipline Committee consisting of the Pastor(s) and the Deacons. These men shall have sole authority in determining heretical deviations from the Statement of Faith and violations of the Church Covenant. If the pastor or a deacon is subject of a disciplinary matter, he shall not sit as member of the Discipline committee. He shall be entitled to the same steps as other Church members and be subject to the same discipline.

2. Members are expected to demonstrate special loyalty and concern for one another. When a member becomes aware of an offense of such magnitude that it hinders spiritual growth and testimony, he is to go alone to the offending party and seek to restore his brother. Before he goes, he should first examine

himself. When he goes, he should go with a spirit of humility and have the goal of restoration.

3. If reconciliation is not reached, a second member, either a deacon or the Pastor is to accompany the one seeking to resolve the matter. This second step should also be preceded by self-examination, and exercised in a spirit of humility with the goal of restoration.

4. If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined above have been taken, the Discipline Committee, as the Church representatives biblically responsible for putting down murmuring, shall hear the matter. If the matter is not resolved during the hearing before the Discipline Committee, the Committee shall recommend to the members of the Church that they, after self-examination, make an effort personally to go to the offending member and seek that member's restoration.

5. If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined above have been taken, such members who refuse to repent and be restored are to be removed from the membership of the Church, upon a majority vote of the membership present at a meeting called for the purpose of considering disciplinary action.

6. No matter may be heard by the Discipline Committee or the Church unless the steps outlined in (1) and (2) have been taken, except in the case of public offense.

7. If an unrepentant offending party is removed from the Church membership, all contact with him from that point forward must be for the sake of restoration (except family members).

E. Concerning the Dismissal of Members: Upon request a letter of dismissal to another church of like faith and practice will be granted to any member in fellowship and not under the disciplinary process. Any member who absences himself from the services of this church for six months, unless providentially hindered, having notified the church of his intentions, shall be automatically removed from the membership of this church. Upon good cause being shown to the Senior Pastor, this provision of termination may be waived in the case of any individual member at the discretion of the Pastor. Prior to this removal, they shall be notified that they are in jeopardy of losing their membership. 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 the membership in this church. The only exception would be in the case of a church holding "watchcare" membership while a member is temporarily absent (such as college, etc.). A member may resign at any time, but no letter of transfer or written statement of good standing will be issued upon such a resignation, except at the discretion of the pastor.

VI. Ministries of the Church: Resolved, in order to fulfill the scriptural purpose of this church, various ministries must be necessary other than the general public services. The following resolution shall be the guidelines for these ministries. Any ministry established by Lighthouse Baptist Church are integrated auxiliaries sharing a common program, common standards, and a common structure of financial accountability and/or budget.

A. Concerning the Preaching Ministry: The preaching ministry is to be conducted by the pastor(s) under the direction of the senior pastor. Preaching of the Word of God is the primary ministry of the church. No other ministry or activity is to take precedent over preaching, and no pastor is to neglect his responsibility to pray, to study the Word of God, regardless of his other responsibilities. All other obligations shall be subordinate to this primary responsibility.

B. Concerning Ministry Priorities: Witnessing and discipleship shall have priority in the schedule and finances of the church under the direction of the Holy Spirit through the pastor(s) of the church. Specialized ministries to reach the lost in accordance with the Word of God may be organized or discontinued as necessary.

C. Concerning Education: The Bible teaches that the proper education of children is the responsibility of the parents and a concern of the church. Education shall be accomplished in the following manner.

1. Teaching from the Pulpit: The pulpit ministry of the church shall be aimed at the goal of teaching the whole counsel of God through Biblical exposition, topical emphasis, and Bible content studies. Practical application shall be an important aspect of the preaching. Although evangelism shall be included in most messages from the pulpit, the primary thrust shall be to teach and preach the Word of God.

2. Teaching in the Sunday School: The Sunday School is advantageous and should be utilized to the fullest extent to reinforce the father's or spiritual guardian's teaching in the home. Graded or specialized classes and curricula can be used profitably when competent and willing instructors are available to teach and to set an example and are not to be neglected when it is possible to use them. Curriculum materials are most effective when prepared locally, but curricula that is true to the principles of the Word of God and is consistent with the philosophy presented in this constitution may be considered, if necessary. The evangelistic thrust of the educational ministries of the church will be centered primarily in the Sunday School and non-members shall be encouraged to attend.

3. Teaching by other Means: Day Care Centers, Kindergartens, Church Schools, offering graded classes through secondary education, Bible Institutes, Colleges, etc., for both normal and specialized groups, are within the responsibility of the local church and may be organized and operated as necessary. Whenever a directing body or board is required to govern the activities of any educational ministry of the church, the senior pastor shall appoint qualified persons.

D. Concerning Missions: Any missionary or missions enterprise supported in part or in whole by this church must be of like faith and practice.

1. Responsibilities of Missionaries: Only faith missions which strengthen or build indigenous local churches shall be considered for support.

2. Mission Support: The senior pastor shall invite supported and perspective missionaries to speak at the church at his discretion. Total missions support shall be maintained at a minimum by a faith promise giving.

E. Concerning Music: The music ministry of the church should be under the authority of the senior pastor and shall be conducted in a manner that glorifies God, rather than attracting attention to man, or his fleshly nature.

F. Concerning Other Ministries: This church shall have the authority to establish any other necessary ministry in accordance with procedures outlined in this constitution. This includes bookstores, bus ministries and support activities for any other ministries.

VII. Separation and Standards: Resolved, that because the Bible teaches “...in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron,” we believe that it is necessary to state our sincerely held beliefs on certain issues that lead people astray and divide the brethren. As Baptists we believe in soul liberty. That is, that each man must give an account of himself to God and in no way intend by clarifying these beliefs to deprive any person of his liberty or rights under God or the laws of the United States of America.

A. Concerning the Ecumenical Movement: We believe that attempts for church unity, such as the National and World Council of Churches and Denominationalism which foster a combination with the Roman Catholic Church are satanic in origin and objective that we call upon all born-again believers to separate from apostasy.

B. Concerning Neo-Orthodoxy: We believe that any theology that teaches that the Bible contains the Word of God rather than the clear statement that the Bible is the Word of God is a false theology.

C. Concerning New Evangelicalism: We believe that new evangelicalism has encouraged disobedience to the plain teachings of scripture, concerning separation and that it has changed the message, mood, method, morals and music of those who formally were known as fundamentalists and is to be rejected. New evangelicalism is characterized by an attitude of infiltration rather than separation.

D. Concerning Formalism, Modernism and Liberalism: We reject all trends toward formalism, modernism, and liberalism which are characterized by Roman practice and false doctrine.

E. Concerning the Charismatic Movement: We believe that the so-called Charismatic Movement is a counterfeit of true Christianity and a catalytic agent in the formation of the one world church of the antichrist.

F. Concerning Calvinism and Armenianism: We reject the position which negates or eliminates human responsibility in the proclamation of or the reception of the gospel, whether this position is openly taught or subtly suggested. We also reject the teaching that a man can lose his salvation or the suggestion that, “believing” is a merit of salvation. We are neither Calvinistic nor Armenian.

G. Concerning the King James Version: We believe the teaching that proclaims the inspiration of the King James translation of the Bible is an over reaction to the trend of mistranslations and perversions of the Scripture by the modernist and is to be rejected. We do believe that the King James Version of the Bible carries the full authority of the original autographs.

H. Concerning Humanism: We believe that by its own statement, in the Humanist Manifestos of 1933 and 1973, secular humanism is a religion and that according to the Word of God is satanic in origin. We hold to the traditional, dogmatic, and authoritarian position condemned by humanism and we are intolerant of any acceptance of any contrary doctrine. This movement can be known also by the name of, the New Age Movement.

I. Concerning Worldliness: We believe that worldly activities practiced by some believers are a reproach to the Lord and are to be avoided by the membership of this church. These activities include the use of alcohol as a beverage, activities that emphasize the sensual nature, more than the spiritual, such as dancing, attendance at Hollywood movies, viewing immoral or worldly movies or television programs, gambling, and other activities which are generally associated or identified with these.

J. Concerning Lawsuits between Believers: We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians as individuals or the Church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the Church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members.

K. Concerning Human Sexuality: We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity should be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of sodomy (commonly called homosexuality), lesbianism, bisexuality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex and marriage.

Addendum - Listing of Scripture Verses Within Constitution

These listing of verses are not inclusive but are listed to further define our application of the Word of God. As stated, the Word of God, as a whole, forms our practices and procedures as outlined within this constitution.

Matthew 18:11-22 *11 For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. 12 How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? 13 And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. 14 Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish. 15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. 16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. 17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. 18 Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. 19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. 21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? 22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.*

Matthew 28:19-20 *19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

Acts 20:21 21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 5:4-8 4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, 5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. 6 Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? 7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: 8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

2 Thessalonians 3:6-15 6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us. 7 For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you; 8 Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you: 9 Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us. 10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. 11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. 12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread. 13 But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing. 14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. 15 Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

1 Timothy 3:1-7 1 This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. 2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; 3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; 4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; 5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) 6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

1 Timothy 3:8-13 8 Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; 9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. 10 And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless. 11 Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. 12 Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. 13 For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy 5:17-18 17 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. 18 For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.

Titus 1:5-9 5 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee: 6 If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly. 7 For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; 8 But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; 9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

Titus 3:10-11 10 A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; 11 Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth,

being condemned of himself.

1 Peter 5:1-4 *1 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: 2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.*