

Lake Center Bible Church

CONSTITUTION

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ARTICLE I. DEFINITION OF CHURCH AND PURPOSE

For purposes of clarification in principle and operation, our church shall adhere to the view that a church

- is a company of believers, baptized on a credible confession of faith;
- has the New Testament offices of Pastors, Elders, and Deacons;
- celebrates the ordinances;
- is self-governing in policy;
- voluntarily bands together for
 - worship
 - teaching
 - fellowship
 - seeking the spiritual development of its members
 - ministering to its community
 - seeking the salvation of the lost through evangelism and missions at home and abroad.

ARTICLE II. PROFESSION OF FAITH

In the spirit of 1 Peter 3:15, “.. in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,” we set forth this summary of Biblical doctrine as the profession of faith upon which Lake Center Bible Church is anchored:

- 1) **The Scriptures.** We believe that the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments are the Holy Scriptures, and as originally written, were verbally inspired by the Holy Spirit, the product of Spirit-controlled men, and preserved by God through time. Therefore, they are Truth without any error. We believe the Scriptures to be the supreme standard and the final authority by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried (Matthew 5:18; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21).

2) **The True God.** We believe there is one and only one living and true God, an infinite spirit, the designer, creator, and supreme ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love. We believe that in the Godhead there are three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, equal in every divine attribute and executing distinct but harmonious offices (Genesis 1:1-31, 2:1-2; Exodus 20:2-3; Matthew 28:19-20; John 4:24; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 1 Timothy 6:13-16; Revelation 4:11, 21:6).

(a) **God the Father.** We believe that the Father:

- Is the ultimate designer and planner (Revelation 4-5);
- Has all knowledge (Matthew 24:36; 1 Peter 1:2);
- Is true light (1 Timothy 6:16; 1 John 1:5);
- Is the absolute authority and judge (John 5:19-30; 1 Peter 1:2; 1 John 2:1);
- Gives love and good gifts (John 3:16; James 1:17; 1 John 4:8-10); and
- Willingly adopts us, enabling us to call Him “Daddy” (Abba Father) (Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6).

(b) **God the Son.** We believe that Jesus:

- Is the eternal Son of God (John 1:1-2, 14; 3:16; 17:5);
- Did the work of creation (John 1:3; Colossians 1:15-16);
- Became man without ceasing to be God, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man (Luke 1:34-35; John 1:1-2, 14, 17:5; Hebrews 7:23-6; 1 John 2:1-2);
- Provided the only way to a right relationship with God, accomplishing our redemption through His death on the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice (John 14:6; Romans 3:23-25; Philippians 2:8-11; Colossians 2:13-14; 1 John 2:1-2);
- Ensured our eternal life by His literal physical resurrection from the dead (John 17:1-3; Acts 2:31-33; Romans 4:25);
- Is now in Heaven, exalted at the right hand of God where, as the High Priest for His people, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate (Acts 2:31-33; Romans 8:34; Hebrews 4:14-15; 7:23-26);
- Is the promised Messiah (in Hebrew) or Christ (in Greek), and is Lord of all creation (John 1:41; 4:25-26).

(c) **God 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 (Matthew 28:19);
- Was active in the creation (Genesis 1:2);
- In relation to the unbelieving world, restrains Satan until God's purpose is fulfilled (2 Thessalonians 2:6-13);
- “Will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness, and judgment” (John 16:8);
- Bears witness to the truth of the Gospel (Ephesians 1:13-14);
- Is the agent in the New Birth (John 3:5-6);
- Indwells, seals, empowers, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies, and helps the believer for Godly living and service (John 14:15-26, and 16:8-11; Acts 1:4; Romans 15:16; Ephesians 1:13-14 and 3:16).

- 3) **The Devil or Satan.** We believe in the existence of Satan. He is a fallen angel, the Adversary of God, the unholy god of this world, commander of all the spiritual forces of evil, and the accuser of the saints. He is destined to eternal judgment in the lake of fire (Job 1:6-7; Isaiah 14:12; Ezekiel 28:13-19; Zechariah 3:1-2; Matthew 4:1-3 and 25:41; John 8:44; Ephesians 2:1 and 6:11-12; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 and 11:14; Revelation 12:10 and 20:10).
- 4) **Creation.** We accept the Genesis account of creation; that God spoke into existence all space, time, matter, and energy. All things were created by Christ and for Him. Furthermore, He literally formed man from the dust of the earth and breathed life into him. (Genesis 1-2; John 1:3; Colossians 1:16-17).
- 5) **The Total Depravity of Man.** We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God but that in Adam's sin the race fell and inherited a sinful nature. As a result, man has chosen to sin and became alienated from God, and totally unable to remedy his lost condition by himself (Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 3:22-23 and 5:12-21; Ephesians 2:1-3, 12).
- 6) **Grace in the New Creation.** We believe that salvation is the gift of God, brought to men by grace and received by personal faith in Jesus whose precious blood was shed for the forgiveness of our sins (John 3:16; Ephesians 1:7 and 2:4-10, 13; Colossians 1:19-23).
- 7) **Atonement for Sin.** We believe that Jesus, as the Son of God, was appointed by and obedient to the Father. He took upon Himself a totally human nature yet remained without sin, and so honored and fulfilled the divine law. He alone is thus perfectly qualified to be a substitute for us. He surrendered His life, voluntarily substituting Himself, and vicariously bore the penalty for our sin in His own body, the Just for the unjust. (Isaiah 53:4-12; John 3:16; Romans 3:22-26; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 2:6-8; Hebrews 2:14-17; 1 John 4:9-10)
- 8) **Salvation.** We believe that:
 - Jesus is the one and only way to salvation (Acts 4:12);
 - When a person trusts Jesus alone, by faith alone, to atone for their sin they are born again (John 3:3-7; 14:6; Acts 16:30-31; 1 John 5:1);
 - 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 (2 Peter 1:3-4);
 - Salvation is instantaneous (Romans 10:9-11);
 - A saved person is a new creation in Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:17);
 - The new creation is brought about in a manner above our comprehension, solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel resulting in our justification before God, forgiveness of our sin, and the gift of eternal life (Ephesians 2:8-9; 2 Peter 1:4).

- 9) **Justification.** We believe that justification is how a holy and righteous God can rightly pardon sinful people. This is the great gospel blessing which Jesus secured for all who believe in Him. Justification includes the pardon of sin, peace with God, and the gift of eternal life on the principle of righteousness. Jesus' righteousness is imputed to us solely through faith in His work - suffering and dying on the cross - not through any effort of our own (Isaiah 53:11; Zechariah 13:1; Acts 13:38-39; Romans 3:21-26, 5:1-2, 6-11, and 8:1-2; Ephesians 2:8-9).
- 10) **The Eternal Security of Believers.** We believe that all believers' salvation is kept secure by God, both in this life and eternity (John 10:27-30; Romans 8:1, 38-39, and 11:29; 1 Corinthians 1:8; 1 John 5:13).
- 11) **The Church.**
- a) We believe that the Universal Church, which is the Body and Bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons of this New Testament era, and does not replace Israel (Romans 11:25-27 and 15:7-12; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:25-27; 1 Timothy 3:15).
 - b) We believe that the Local Church is a visible expression of the Universal Church, and is God's basic organizational plan for worship, ministry, training of believers, and fulfilling the Great Commission. (Acts 14:23 and 15:22; 1 Corinthians 4:17, 12:27-28, and 16:1, 19; Titus 2; Revelation 2-3).
- 12) **The Privileges and Responsibilities of Believers.** We believe that it is the privilege and responsibility of all believers to:
- Seek to live in such a way as to bring honor to God who has adopted us as His children, and given us His name (John 1:12; Ephesians 4:1-3; Titus 2:9-10) ;
 - Witness by word and deed to the truths of the Holy Scriptures and seek to proclaim the Gospel to all the world (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8);
 - Pray and praise at all times for all things (Philippians 4:4-6; Ephesians 6:18; Colossians 4:2-4; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; 1 Peter 4:16);
 - Support God's work with their time, gifts, and finances, as God has enabled them (1 Corinthians 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8:1-9).
- 13) **Spirituality.** We believe that spirituality is when a believer is controlled by the Holy Spirit, evidenced by walking in love and fellowship with Jesus and with other believers. We believe that spiritual fellowship is disrupted by any sinful thought, word, or deed; and that spirituality or fellowship with Jesus is restored by personal confession of that sin to God the Father (John 15:7-8; Romans 6:11-14; Galatians 5:16-18; Ephesians 5:18-21; 1 John 1:5-2:2).
- 14) **Spiritual Gifts.** We believe that God the Holy Spirit, in grace and apart from human merit, sovereignly bestows upon each believer at least one spiritual gift. Most gifts of the Holy Spirit are given for the purpose of edifying the local church. Others, often referred to as the sign gifts (speaking and interpreting tongues, healing, and performing miracles), have been given to authenticate the message of the gospel to unbelievers in a culture without the written Scriptures. (Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12-14; Ephesians 4:7-8; 1 Peter 4:10-11).

- 15) **The Rapture.** We believe that the next great event for the Church will be the coming of Jesus in the air to receive all believers to Himself, both those who have died and those who are alive at the time of His coming. This event is the blessed hope of the Church. (Acts 1:11; 1 Corinthians 15: 51-57; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:11-14).
- 16) **The Tribulation.** We believe that the rapture of the Church will be followed by a seven year period known as the Tribulation. After the Church has been removed, this time of God's judgment will be characterized by physical and spiritual devastation on a global scale. Through this time, many will be saved. (Jeremiah 30:7; Daniel 9:20-27; Matthew 24:15-29; Revelation 6-21).
- 17) **The Second Coming of Christ.** We believe that the Tribulation will be climaxed by the physical return of Jesus to earth to set up His Millennial Kingdom. (Zechariah 14:3-11; Matthew 24:30-35; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10; Revelation 19:11-16; Revelation 20:1-6)
- 18) **The Eternal State.** We believe that the souls of those who have trusted Jesus for salvation immediately pass into His presence at death. They remain in conscious bliss until the Rapture, when their soul and glorified body will be reunited to be with Him forever. The souls of unbelievers remain in conscious misery after death until the final judgment of the Great White Throne after the close of the Millennium. Their soul and body will be reunited and cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to be punished with everlasting torment, separated from the presence of God (Luke 16:19-26 and 23:43; 2 Corinthians 5:1-8; Philippians 1:21-24; 2 Thessalonians 1: 7-9; Jude 6-7; Revelation 20:11-15).

ARTICLE III. ORDINANCES

This church recognizes that Jesus is the head of the Church and the only institutor of ordinances. It was His good pleasure to appoint only two, namely Baptism and Communion. Lake Center Bible Church must observe these ordinances.

- 1) **Baptism.** We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, to show 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 (Acts 2:41; 8:26-39; Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12).
- 2) **Communion.** We believe that communion is the commemoration of His death until He comes. Solemn self-examination should precede its observance (1 Corinthians 11:23-32).

ARTICLE IV. MODE OF GOVERNMENT

The government of this church is vested in the members who compose it and is administered by the Elders as provided in this Constitution. This church shall not be subject to the control of any other ecclesiastical body. This church shall be, in respect to its affairs, self-governing. However, it recognizes the value of mutual counsel and cooperation with other churches of like faith.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS

1) **General Matters**

- a) **Qualifications.** The New Testament charges Elders with oversight of the church. To assist the Elders, the following appointed and affirmed officers are provided for: Deacons, Deaconesses, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and any other officers as may be deemed necessary.
 - i) Officers will be mature children of God who have proved themselves faithful to Lake Center Bible Church.
 - ii) Only members in good standing of Lake Center Bible Church may hold office.
 - iii) Only male members who have reached the age of 21 will be eligible to hold the office of Elder or Deacon.
 - iv) Only female members who have reached the age of 21 will be eligible to hold the office of Deaconess.
- b) **Affirmation.** Affirmation of all officers except Senior Pastor and Elders will be by a majority vote. The Senior Pastor and the Elders will be affirmed by a 75 percent majority vote.
- c) **Dismissal.** The Board of Elders has the authority to dismiss officers (including Lay Elders) by majority vote, at its sole discretion.
- d) **Vacancies.** The Elders may fill vacancies for any reason by appointment. Said appointments will be affirmed at the next annual congregational meeting.

2) **Board of Elders.** The governing board of Lake Center Bible Church will be the Board of Elders. Under the laws of the State of Michigan, they will serve as legal trustees.

- a) **Biblical Qualifications.** Each man of the Board of Elders will be selected based on the qualifications described in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.
- b) **Organization.**
 - i) **Chairman/Senior Pastor.** The Senior Pastor serves as moderator of all congregational meetings and as Chairman of the Board of Elders.
 - ii) **Vice Chairman and Secretary.** At the first meeting of the Board of Elders following the annual congregational meeting, the Elders will elect from their number the following:
 - (1) **Vice Chairman.** In the absence of a Senior Pastor (vacation, illness, vacancy, etc.), the Vice Chairman will serve as the moderator for the Board of Elders and congregational meetings. He will chair the Nominating Committee. One must serve for not less than one year on the Board of Elders before being eligible to serve as Vice Chairman.
 - (2) **Secretary.** The Secretary of the Board of Elders will be responsible for keeping an accurate record of the meetings of the Board of Elders and all congregational meetings.
- c) **Composition.** The Board of Elders will consist of the Senior Pastor, no more than two other Pastoral Elders, and not less than seven Lay Elders.
- d) **Term.** The Board of Elders will appoint Pastoral and Lay Elders, and the congregation will affirm Lay Elders at the annual congregational meeting for a one-year term. Elders may be appointed and affirmed for successive terms.

- e) **Areas of Responsibility.** The Board of Elders will:
 - (1) Actively care for and oversee the spiritual well-being of the congregation (1 Peter 5:1-4).
 - (2) Assist the Senior Pastor and the pastoral staff and serve as counselors in all matters related to the church administration, operations, and ministry.
 - (3) Be responsible for the oversight, application, and interpretation of this Constitution.
 - (4) Be responsible for revisiting and updating the Operations and Policy Manual.
 Additional responsibilities of the Board of Elders are found in the Operations and Policy Manual of this church
- f) **Accountability.** The Board of Elders will hold each other accountable.

3) Deacons.

- a) **Biblical Qualifications.** Each member of the Board of Deacons will be selected based on the qualifications described in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.
- b) **Organization.**
 - i) **Chairman.** The Board of Elders will appoint one deacon to serve as Chairman of the Board of Deacons. The Chairman will preside over the Board of Deacons' meetings and generally oversee the work of the Board of Deacons.
 - ii) **Vice Chairman and Secretary.** Following the annual congregational meeting, the Deacons will meet and elect from their number the following:
 - (1) **Vice Chairman.** The Vice Chairman will serve as Chairman in the absence of the Chairman.
 - (2) **Secretary.** The Secretary will keep accurate minutes of all Deacons' meetings. The Board of Elders will receive copies of all minutes.
- c) **Composition.** There will be a minimum of five Deacons.
- d) **Term.** The Board of Elders will appoint Deacons, and the congregation will affirm them to a three-year term. They will arrange terms so that a majority of Deacons do not go out of office at any one time. Deacons may serve successive terms.
- e) **Areas of Responsibility.** Specific responsibilities are found in the Operations and Policy Manual of this church.
- f) **Accountability.** The Board of Deacons is directly accountable to the Board of Elders.

4) Deaconesses.

- a) **Biblical Qualifications.** Each woman of the Board of Deaconesses will be selected based on the qualifications described in Romans 16:1-2 and 1 Timothy 2:9-15.
- b) **Organization.**
 - i) **Chairwoman.** The Board of Elders will appoint one deaconess to serve as Chairwoman of the Board of Deaconesses. The Chairwoman will preside over the Board of Deaconesses' meetings and generally oversee the work of the Board of Deaconesses.
 - ii) **Vice-Chairwoman and Secretary.** Following the annual congregational meeting, the Deaconesses will meet and elect from their number the following:
 - (1) **Vice Chairwoman.** The Vice Chairwoman will serve as Chairwoman in the absence of the Chairwoman.
 - (2) **Secretary.** The Secretary will keep accurate minutes of all Deaconesses'

meetings. The Board of Elders will receive copies of all minutes.

- c) **Composition.** There will be a minimum of five Deaconesses.
 - d) **Term.** The Board of Elders will appoint Deaconesses, and the church will affirm them for a three-year term. They will arrange terms so that a majority of Deaconesses do not go out of office at any one time. Deaconesses may serve successive terms.
 - e) **Areas of Responsibility.** Specific responsibilities are found in the Operations and Policy Manual of this church.
 - f) **Accountability.** The Board of Deaconesses is directly accountable to the Board of Elders.
- 5) **Treasurer.**
- a) **Term.** The Board of Elders will appoint the Treasurer, and the congregation will affirm that person to a two-year term. The Treasurer is eligible to succeed himself/herself in office.
 - b) **Areas of Responsibility.** Specific responsibilities are found in the Operations and Policy Manual of this church.
 - c) **Accountability.** The Treasurer is directly accountable to the Board of Elders.
- 6) **Financial Secretary.**
- a) **Term.** The Board of Elders will appoint the Financial Secretary, and the congregation will affirm that person to a two-year term. The Financial Secretary is eligible to succeed himself/herself in office.
 - b) **Areas of Responsibility.** Specific responsibilities are found in the Operations and Policy Manual of this church.
 - c) **Accountability.** The Financial Secretary is directly accountable to the Board of Elders.

ARTICLE VI. MINISTRY STAFF

- 1) **Senior Pastor.**
- a) **Qualifications.** The Senior Pastor will be a man called of God to full-time Christian work who is an ordained minister, and is in full agreement with this Constitution. He will meet the qualifications of Elder as set forth in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.
 - b) **Term and Calling of Senior Pastor.** Lake Center Bible Church will call the Senior Pastor for an indefinite time. The Board of Elders will present a candidate they have unanimously approved, at a specially called meeting for congregational affirmation.
 - c) **Areas of Responsibility.** The responsibilities of the Senior Pastor will be determined by the Board of Elders in counsel with the Senior Pastor. These responsibilities will be set forth in the Operations and Policy Manual of this church.
 - d) **Accountability.** The Senior Pastor is directly accountable to the Board of Elders.

- e) **Dismissal.** The Senior Pastor will continue in office until he resigns or is terminated by a 75 percent vote of the Lay Elders. As a member of the congregation, the Senior Pastor may appeal his termination by way of a petition calling a special meeting of the congregation in accordance with Article XI, Section 1, Clause c), Subclause ii). The Vice Chairman of the Board of Elders will moderate such a meeting. Voting will be by ballot. A 75 percent vote will be required to retain the Senior Pastor. If the congregation votes to retain the Senior Pastor, the Lay Elders who voted to terminate him shall submit their resignations to the Senior Pastor.
 - f) **Notice of Termination.** When the Pastor wants to end his employment, he must offer at least a 30-day notice of resignation. When the church wants to end the employment of the pastor, they must offer at least 30-days of compensation.
 - g) **Vacancy.** Should the church be without a Senior Pastor, the Board of Elders will be solely responsible for his responsibilities as they relate to pastoral staff and ministry directors. During an interim without a Senior Pastor, the Board of Elders may choose to appoint an Interim Pastor.
- 2) **Pastoral Staff and Ministry Directors.**
- a) **Qualifications, Responsibilities and Selection.** Qualifications, responsibilities, and selection of pastoral staff and ministry directors will be determined or directed by the Senior Pastor and approved by the Board of Elders.
 - b) **Reviews.** The Senior Pastor will oversee the supervision of the pastoral staff and ministry directors. Reviews of all paid staff will be conducted as specified in the Operations and Policy Manual of this church.
 - c) **Dismissal.** If dismissal becomes necessary, the Senior Pastor has the authority and responsibility, with approval from the Board of Elders.

ARTICLE VII. COMMITTEES

- 1) **General Matters.**
- a) **Committee Chairpersons and Members.** The Board of Elders will appoint chairpersons and members of standing and special committees.
 - b) **Budgeted Expenditures.** Expenditures above budgeted totals must be approved by the Board of Elders.
 - c) **Guidelines.** Guidelines for all committees are found in the Operations and Policy Manual of this church.
- 2) **Standing Committees.** Standing Committees include the
- a) Missions Committee.
 - b) Auditing Committee.
 - c) Nominating Committee.
 - d) Budget Committee.
- 3) **Special Committees.** The Board of Elders will appoint such committees from time to time as they deem advisable to assist the church in carrying out its mission and objectives.

ARTICLE VIII. MEMBERSHIP

- 1) **General Matters.** Membership is a recognition that a person is committed to and involved in Lake Center Bible Church. Membership is for one who understands the doctrine and constitution of LCBC and who desires to place himself/herself under the authority of this local church. It is a celebration and recognition that a person is connected, growing, and serving or preparing to serve. Membership is required for certain leadership positions as determined by the Board of Elders.
- 2) **Qualifications.** The membership of this church will consist of born-again believers in Jesus, who have:
 - a) Acknowledged agreement with a willingness to abide by this Constitution, and
 - b) Been received into membership by action of the Board of Elders.
- 3) **Reception.** Lake Center Bible Church will receive into membership any person who meets the qualifications (Section 2 above) and who has:
 - a) Participated in the membership class,
 - b) Been recommended by the teacher of the membership class,
 - c) Been interviewed by two or more members of the Board of Elders, and
 - d) Been approved by the Board of Elders.
- 4) **Annual Renewal.** All members will have the opportunity to renew their membership annually. This should be done approximately two months before the annual congregational meeting.
- 5) **Discipline.** Lake Center Bible Church will conduct any matter of discipline by the principles set forth in Matthew 18:15-17, 1 Corinthians 5:9-13, Galatians 6:1, 1 Timothy 5:17-20, and Titus 3:10-11. The Elders of Lake Center Bible Church have the obligation and authority to discipline a member who becomes an offense to the church and its good name by immoral or unchristian behavior, or by breach of this Constitution. Restoration of the erring member shall be the single purpose and love the motivating force in the following process:
 - a) A private, personal offense shall be dealt with according to the procedure outlined in Matthew 18.
 - b) A public offense such as an immoral lifestyle or other unchristian behavior, and/or breach of the Constitution resulting in the loss of one's testimony or damage to the Name of Jesus or reputation of Lake Center Bible Church shall be dealt with according to the principles of Galatians 6:1 and Titus 3:10-11. The Elders may take whatever actions with the offender they deem appropriate to safeguard the reputation and integrity of the ministries of Lake Center Bible Church.
 - c) If the offender remains unrepentant after two warnings or meetings with witnesses, when the Elders deem it appropriate they will call a special congregational meeting of adult members to inform them of the disciplinary action. The Board of Elders shall remove the offender from membership if they have not already done so.
 - d) If the offender repents and seeks restoration, he/she may be reinstated as a member by the Board of Elders.

- 6) **Removal.** The Board of Elders is responsible to review and update the membership rolls. They may remove from the rolls of this church, members:
 - a) Who have submitted a written request,
 - b) Under disciplinary action of the Board of Elders, or
 - c) Who have not renewed their membership.Membership will cease at death.

ARTICLE IX. FINANCES

- 1) **Offerings.** Lake Center Bible Church believes the Scriptures teach that the proper method of financing God's work is by grace-giving and freewill offerings from consecrated hearts in systematic giving of money (1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 8 & 9). Other fund-raising activities of limited scope must be approved by the Board of Elders.
- 2) **Budget.** Supervision of the budget is the responsibility of the Board of Elders. The congregation, at a regular or special meeting, must approve any non-budgeted expenditures from the general fund of more than 3 percent of the approved annual budget.
- 3) **Properties.** The church will have power to acquire and hold property, both real and personal, for the general purposes of the church. All property so acquired will be in the name of the church.
 - a) **Approval of Transactions.** Purchase, sale, mortgage, or transfer of property in excess of 5 percent of the annual budget must receive a 65 percent majority vote of the members present and voting at a congregational meeting. Transactions not exceeding 5 percent of the annual budget may be handled at the discretion of the Board of Elders.
 - b) **Use of Church Property.** Use of church property will be regulated by the Board of Elders.
 - c) **Title.** The title to all properties of this church, both real and personal, will be and remain vested in that portion of the membership that remains faithful to this Constitution.
- 4) **Fiscal Year.** The fiscal year of the church will close the last day of August.

ARTICLE X. AMMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by a 75 percent majority vote of the members present and voting at a congregational meeting. Copies of the proposed amendment(s) will be available to the members at least fifteen days prior to the date of the congregational meeting at which said amendment(s) are voted upon.

ARTICLE XI. CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

- 1) **Business Meetings.**
 - a) **Notice.** The Board of Elders will give notice of the purpose, date, time, and place of congregational business meetings at least fifteen days prior to the date of such meeting. At a minimum, notice of such meetings will be communicated in the church bulletin and worship services.
 - b) **Annual Meeting.** Lake Center Bible Church will hold an annual congregational meeting to affirm officers, approve the budget, and address all other matters. The Board of Elders will determine the date.
 - c) **Special Meetings.** Special meetings must be
 - i) **Called by Board of Elders.**
 - ii) **By Petition.** A person with a concern they feel warrants a special meeting of the congregation must first present their concern to the Board of Elders. If their concern is unresolved, they may circulate a petition to request a special meeting. If they obtain signatures representing at least 10 percent of the voting membership, The Board of Elders will schedule a special meeting within 30 days. Notice of said meeting will be as specified above.
- 2) **Parliamentary Procedures.** Congregational meetings will be conducted in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*.
- 3) **Quorum Requirements for Votes.** A quorum will consist of 10 percent of the voting membership for all business meetings and 20 percent to affirm the Senior Pastor. Members who have reached the age of 18 are eligible to vote.
- 4) **Absentee Ballots.** Absentee ballots will be available to members in good standing for the affirmation of church officers at the annual congregational meeting. Guidelines and Procedures:
 - a) **Requests.** Absentee ballots may be requested from the church office no earlier than two months, and no later than the last business day prior to the annual meeting. Ballots will be sent out by the church office as soon as possible after receipt of the request. Absentee ballots must be submitted to the church office by the last business day prior to the scheduled annual meeting in a sealed envelope marked "Absentee Ballot."
 - b) **Acceptance.** Acceptance of Absentee Ballots will be under the control of the Board of Elders, whose decisions are final.

ARTICLE XII. MISCELLANEOUS

- 1) **Subsidiary Organizations.**
 - a) Chairpersons and officers of subsidiary organizations will be members, in good standing, of the church.
 - b) Members of Lake Center Bible Church will form no organizations or consider other organizations as part of this church's activities unless approved by the Board of Elders.

- 2) **Petitions.** No person will circulate a petition in the church or among the membership without first having received the approval of the Board of Elders.
- 3) **Ordinations.** When, in the judgment of the Board of Elders, a man of this membership, or in special cases, a nonmember, is called into the Christian ministry, it will be within the power of said Board of Elders to call and conduct a Council of Ordination. Policies relating to the ordination of individuals are found in the Operations and Policy Manual of this church.

ARTICLE XIII. DISSOLUTION

No part of the assets of this church will ever accrue to the benefit of any donor, member, private individual, or officer of this church. No donor, member, private individual, or officer of this church will be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the assets of this church. Upon dissolution, Lake Center Bible Church must turn over any assets of this church to an organization whose doctrinal statement is reasonably consistent with the doctrinal statement of this church.