

ARTICLE I THE CHURCH

Section 1.1—NAME

The congregation of believers shall be known as LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH.

Section 1.2—PURPOSE

- A. This congregation is organized as a church for the purpose of Exalting the Saviour, Evangelizing to the world, and also for the teaching of the Bible in it's entirety.
- B. To equip men and woman for full time Christian service.
- C. This congregation is organized for charitable, religious, and educational purposes, including, but not limited to, for such purposes, the establishing and maintaining of religious worship, the building, maintaining of the operation of the church and the various ministries therein. It shall be carried on without the self financial gain of any of it's members and any profits shall be used in promoting it's objectives.

Section 1.3—THE LOCAL CHURCH

- A. We believe that the local church is the agency through which God has chosen to accomplish His work in the world.
- B. The church is an organized body of saved and baptized believers. The Church has two offices (Pastor and Deacon), congregational in polity, autonomous in nature, and banded together for work, worship, edification, the observance of ordinances, and the fulfillment of the Great Commission. (Outlined in Section 2.7)
{Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:41-47; 1 Corinthians 11:23-28; Colossians 2:12}

ARTICLE II
STATEMENT OF FAITH & COVENANT

Section 2.1—THE BIBLE

A. We believe that all sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments are verbally inspired by God, inerrant, infallible, immutable, and preserved in the King James Version for the English speaking people. It is the supreme and final authority of faith and practice.

{2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Peter 1:23; 2 Peter 1:19-21}

B. We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is a perfect treasure of an Heavenly instruction. God is it's author, salvation for it's end and truth without any mixture of error for it's mater. It reveals the principles by which God will judge us. It gives everyone a standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

{Isaiah 8:20; I Thessalonians 5:21}

Section 2.2—THE GODHEAD

A. We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Ghost), equal in essence while distinct in personality and function. Each having feelings and work in agreement with each other.

{Exodus 20:2-3; Matthew 28:19-20; I Corinthians 8:6; 1 John 5:7-8}

Section 2.3—CREATION

A. We believe in God's direct creation of the universe without the use of pre-existent materials and apart from any process of evolution whatsoever, as according to His account in Genesis.

{Genesis 1:1-31; Exodus 20:11; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 11:3}

Section 2.4— THE FALL OF MAN

- A. We believe that man was created to have a close fellowship with God. But due to Adam and Eve's voluntary transgression fell from the holy and happy state. This incurred, not only a physical death, but also a Spiritual death, which is eternal separation from God. All human beings are born with a sin nature and are sinners in thought, word, and deed.
{Genesis 1:26-27, 31; Genesis 3:6-24; Isaiah 53:6; Ezekiel 18:19-20; Romans 1:20 & 5:12, 19 & 3:10-13, 23 & 5:12, 19}

Section 2.5—SALVATION

- A. We believe that Jesus Christ died as the substitutionary sacrifice for all men. The blood atonement He made is unlimited in its potential. It is limited only in its application, effectively saving all those who call upon the name of the Lord Jesus in repentance and faith.
{Isaiah 53:4-11; John 3:5-6, 16; Romans 4:24-25; 2 Corinthians 5:14-21; 1 Timothy 4:10; 1 John 2:1-2}
- B. We believe that all who receive, by faith, the Lord Jesus, are born again of the Holy Spirit and thereby become the children of God.
{John 1:12-13 & 3:3-16; Acts 16:31; Romans 4:5; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5}

Section 2.6—ETERNAL SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER

- A. We believe in the eternal security of the believer, that it is impossible for one who is born into the family of God, ever to be lost, because he or she is forever kept by the Power of God.
{John 10:28-29; 1 Peter 1:3-5}

Section 2.7—CHURCH ORDINANCES

A. We believe that Christian baptism is the complete immersion of a believer in water, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This a solemn and beautiful emblem of our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Saviour with it's effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life in Jesus. Baptism doesn't save you.

{Matthew 28:18-19; Luke 23:42-43; John 3:22-23; Acts 2: 41-42 & 8:36, 39; Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12}

B. We believe that the Lord's Supper, in which the baptized members of the body of Christ may partake. This shows, in Remembrance of Jesus' death on the cross at Calvary. This is always preceded with a solemn self-examination.

{1 Corinthians 11:23-30}

Section 2.8—THE LORD'S DAY

A. We believe that the first day of the week, Sunday, is the Lord's Day. It is to be kept sacred to religious purposes by abstaining from all secular labour, except works of mercy and necessity; by the devout observance of all means of grace, both private and public. Also, by preparation for that rest which remained for all people of God.

{Psalm 118:24; Isaiah 58:13-14; Acts 20:7; Hebrews 4:3-11 & 10:24-25}

Section 2.9—CIVIL GOVERNMENT

A. We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honoured, and obeyed, except only in the things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ.

{Matthew 22:21 & 23:10; Acts 5:29; Romans 13:1-7}

Section 2.10—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 homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's

original intent for the proper and Biblical sexual relationship. (Genesis 2:24, 19:5, 13, 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; 1 Corinthians 5:1, 6:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4)

Section 2.11—MARRIAGE

We believe that marriage is between one man and one woman. Persons who are licensed to perform marriage acts may only perform, as an agent of Lighthouse Baptist Church, weddings between two people of whom are members, between one man and one woman, of either Lighthouse Baptist Church or a church of same like faith of Lighthouse Baptist Church.

Section 2.12—LAWSUITS BETWEEN BELIEVERS

We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the Church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the Church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander.

(1 Corinthians 6: 1-8; Ephesians 4:31-32)

<p style="text-align:center">ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP</p>

Section 3.1—QUALIFICATIONS

- A. Upon a 66 % vote of the members present at any Lighthouse Baptist Church service, membership shall be extended to anyone who has had and whose life evidences a genuine experience of regeneration through faith in and acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour, and followed in Believers Baptism.
- B. Persons from another Bible believing church of same-like faith may transfer their membership upon a letter of transfer of membership from their former church.
- C. By testimony of faith, having been baptized by immersion.
- D. By restoration, if having been removed from membership, upon a 66 % vote of the congregation after confession is made publicly before the Lighthouse Baptist Church membership of the sin or sins involved and satisfactory evidence of repentance to the church.

Section 3.2—DUTIES OF A MEMBER

- A. It is a duty of all members to strive to adhere to the standards of the Bible.
- B. All members of Lighthouse Baptist Church should bring themselves to the realization that we all are a part of the body of our Lord Jesus Christ, that we are of the household of Faith, and that in God's sight we are brothers and sisters. It is therefore our duty to love each other as such, to love and pray for our Church as our earthly home, and to strive to honour the Lord in all that we do, say or act.
- C. All members must uphold and honour the offices of, Pastor and Associate Pastors. They must respect the men holding those positions.

D. Because our Church depends upon the tithes and offerings of our members, we assert our conviction that each member should follow the command of the Bible.

{**Malachi 3:8-11**}

Section 3.3—MEMBERSHIP VOTING

A. Any member that has attended at least two of the previous month's Sunday morning services and that is of the age of sixteen may have one vote.

Section 3.4—DISCIPLINE OF A MEMBER

A. Members are expected to demonstrate a special loyalty and concern for one another. When a member becomes aware of an offence of such magnitude that it hinders spiritual growth and testimony, he or she is to go alone to the offending party and seek to restore the brother or sister. Before he or she goes to the offending party, he or she should first examine himself or herself. When he or she goes, it should be done with a spirit of humility and having a goal of restoration.

B. If reconciliation is not reached, a second member, either a deacon or the Pastor, should 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.

C. If the matter is still unresolved after the steps outlined in subsections A & B the matter will be taken into consideration with the Disciplinary Committee.

D. If the matter is still unresolved and the member refuses to repent and be restored, he or she is to be removed from the membership without a Church membership vote.

E. If the matter is an open public sin the member will sit with the Pastor to discuss the matter.

- F. The persons membership may be restored upon a period of proving himself or herself that the sin, of that he or she was removed for, has been repented of. Upon a 66 % vote of members present at the service.

Section 3.5—WITHDRAWAL FROM MEMBERSHIP

- A. The membership of any individual member shall be automatically terminated without notice if the member in question has not attended a regular service of the Lighthouse Baptist Church in the preceding six months. Upon good cause being shown to the Pastor, this provision for termination may be waived in the case of any individual member at the discretion of the Pastor.
- B. By granting certificates of dismissal to those members who desire to unite with another Bible believing church.
- C. By erasure. Members who are now to be deceased, or who have joined some other church, and those who request that their names be dropped from the membership may be erased from the roll.
- D. By expulsion for disorderly walk. This process will be followed in Section 3.4

ARTICLE IV
OFFICES OF THE CHURCH

Section 4.1—THE OFFICES

- A. There shall only be two offices in Lighthouse Baptist Church, Pastor and Deacon. There may be more than one deacon at a time. There will only be one Pastor but there may be Assistant Pastor(s) as needed.

ARTICLE V
DUTIES OF THE OFFICES

Section 5.1—DUTIES OF THE 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 administer the ordinances of Lighthouse Baptist Church, act as moderator at all Lighthouse Baptist Church meetings for the transaction of Lighthouse Baptist Church matters. He is to supervise the teaching ministries of the church and tenderly watch over the spiritual interests of the membership.
- B. The Pastor shall appoint the members of the various committees.
- C. The Pastor shall devote his time and energy to the welfare of the church.

Section 5.2—DUTIES OF THE DEACONS

- A. The deacons shall assist the Pastor, in such manners as he requests, in promoting the spiritual welfare of Lighthouse Baptist Church.
- B. They shall assist the Pastor in visitation and all other evangelistic efforts of Lighthouse Baptist Church.
- C. They shall supply and act as leader for Lighthouse Baptist Church meetings, only if the office of the Pastor is vacant.
- D. Deacons shall assist the Pastor in caring for the administrative needs of the Lighthouse Baptist Church's various ministries as requested by the Pastor.
- E. To assist the Pastor in the administering of the Lord's Supper.

ARTICLE VI TERM OF OFFICE

Section 6.1—THE PASTOR

- A. The relationship between the Pastor and the Lighthouse Baptist Church shall be permanent unless dissolved at the option of either party by the giving of one month's notice, or less by mutual consent. The notice must be given at each Lighthouse Baptist Church's service during that month.
- B. Disciplinary removal of the Pastor from his office automatically terminates his membership from Lighthouse Baptist Church.

Section 6.2—THE DEACON

- A. The term for the office of a Deacon shall be two years, unless he falls into sin.
- B. The term shall end on the last Sunday in May of each year the term ends.
- C. The voting of a new Deacon shall take place the Second Sunday in May of each year the term ends.
- D. For a deacon to be voted in he must obtain a 66 % vote of the members present at the business meeting.
- E. If more than one deacon the terms will be staggered so as all the deacons terms will not end at the same time.

<p style="text-align:center">ARTICLE VII MISSIONS</p>

Section 7.1—DUTY OF THE CHURCH

- A. We believe that God has given the Church the Great Commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour. As ambassadors of Christ, we must use all available means to go to foreign nations and not wait for them to come to us.
{**Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2Corinthians 5:20**}

Section 7.2—QUALIFICATIONS

- A. Any prospective Missionary must read, sign and be in agreement of the beliefs of our Doctrinal Statement.
- B. Any prospective Missionary must be saved, baptized and a member of a Church of same-like faith as Lighthouse Baptist Church.
- C. The missionary must be financially, spiritually and prayerfully striving to either go to or stay in their field of mission.
- D. The missionary, if in Ontario, must at least visit Lighthouse Baptist Church once a year to share their work for the Lord with the Church.
- E. The missionary must make a conscious effort to send prayer letters at least every quarter year to Lighthouse Baptist Church.

Section 7.3—RENEWAL

- A. Lighthouse Baptist Church's missionary term is one year. The vote will take place on the second Sunday of May.
- B. Each missionary voted on must obtain a 66 % vote to be renewed.

- C. Lighthouse Baptist Church may take on a missionary during the year but their renewal will come up at the same time as sub section A.

Section 7.4—DISMISSAL OF SUPPORT

- A. If the missionary or any one in his family, which is still living in their home falls into immoral sin.
- B. If the missionary fails in any way Section 7.2 of Lighthouse Baptist Church's Constitution.
- C. If the missionary chooses to leave their missionary field and not go back to their field of calling.
- D. If the missionary ceases to agree with Lighthouse Baptist Church's Doctrinal Statement at any point in their ministry their support will be dismissed without a Church membership vote.

ARTICLE VIII MEETINGS

Section 8.1—SUNDAY MEETINGS

- A. The Church shall meet regularly every Lord's Day for public Services of worship, fellowship and the preaching of the Word of God.

Section 8.2—PRAYER MEETINGS

- A. The Church shall meet at least once during the week for prayer and thanksgiving and Bible Study.

Section 8.3—LORD'S SUPPER

- A. The Church shall observe the ordinance of our Lord's Supper at the discretion of the Pastor.

Section 8.4—BUSINESS MEETINGS

- A. The Pastor shall be the only person who may call a business meeting.
- B. The announcement of a business meeting will be one week before the service of which it is to take place. If members are not present they will be called and notified of the meeting.
- C. A business meeting must have a first and a seconded to be officially opened.
- D. The minutes of the previous meeting will be read by the Pastor at the start of the business meeting.
- E. Any new business will be read by the Pastor with a discussion to be followed by a vote on said matter if needed.
- F. To close the business meeting a first and a seconded is needed.
- G. The minutes of any business meetings can be viewed by a member of Lighthouse Baptist Church or the trustees.

Section 8.5—SPECIAL MEETINGS

- A. Bible conferences, missionary conferences and revivals may be held as the Pastor deems beneficial.
- B. Any guest speaker has to be approved by the Pastor.

ARTICLE IX FINANCIAL

Section 9.1—FINANCIAL RECORDS

- A. The Church membership shall vote at each quarter year to close each quarter's financial records.
- B. The fiscal year of Lighthouse Baptist Church shall begin January 1st and end December 31st each year.

Section 9.2—UNAUTHORIZED EXPENDITURES

- A. Any expenditure in excess of \$100 must be voted on by the members present at the meeting and pass with a 66 %.

Please note that on June 2, 2013 there was a vote to raise the limit to \$200. It passed.

ARTICLE X
DEPARTMENTS OF THE CHURCH

Section 10.1—DEPARTMENTS

- A. The departments of the Church shall be: Sunday School and the Bus ministry.
- B. The head of the departments shall be appointed by the Pastor. They are not voted in by the Church membership.

**ARTICLE XI
TRUSTEES**

Section 11.1—DUTIES

- A. The trustees shall provide signatures only in matters concerning legal transactions and church properties. They shall have no power to buy, sell, lease or transfer any church property without the specific vote of the church membership authorizing such action.

- B. Any properties obtained by Lighthouse Baptist Church will be held in the names of the Trustees of Lighthouse Baptist Church.

Section 11.2—TERM OF OFFICE

- A. The term of office is indefinite and may be terminated at the discretion of the Pastor.

**ARTICLE XII
DISSOLUTION**

Section 12.1—DISSOLUTION

- A. Upon dissolution of Lighthouse Baptist Church, all assets remaining after payment of debts will go to a registered Canadian charity organization whose objectives are similar to this church.

**ARTICLE XIII
AMENDMENTS**

Section 13.1—CONSTITUTIONAL

- A. These Constitutional Guidelines may be amended by a 66 % vote of active members present, provided two weeks notice has been given to the membership. The Doctrinal Statement, which is attached to and becoming part of these Constitutional Guidelines are irrevocable.

ARTICLE XIV
EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 14.1—DATE

- A. This document became effective on the 14th day of July, 2005. by a unanimous vote of the Lighthouse Baptist Church membership, in the city of Brantford, Ontario, Canada.

Lighthouse Baptist Church Doctrinal Statement

WE BELIEVE that the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments are verbally inspired by God, inerrant, infallible, immutable, and preserved in the **King James Version** for the English speaking people, and that it is the supreme and final authority of faith and practice. There are doctrinal differences between the KJV and all newer translations. (2 Timothy 3:16; 1 Peter 1:23; 2 Peter 1:19-21)

WE BELIEVE in one God, eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, equal in essence while distinct in personality and function. (Exodus 20:2-3; Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 1 John 5:7)

WE BELIEVE in God's direct creation of the universe without the use of pre-existent material and apart from any process of evolution whatsoever, as according to the Genesis account. (Genesis 1:1-31; Exodus 20:11; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 11:3)

WE BELIEVE that Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin Mary, {who had other children after the birth of Jesus} and is true God and true man. (Isaiah 7:14; Mark 6:3; John 1:1, 14; Luke 1:35; Galatians 4:4)

WE BELIEVE in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, in His ascension into Heaven, and in His present life there as our High Priest and Advocate. (Matthew 28:1-7; Acts 1:8-11; 1 Corinthians 15:4-9; Hebrews 4:14-16)

WE BELIEVE that the Holy Spirit is the agent of the New Birth through conviction and regeneration, and that He seals forever and indwells everyone who trusts Christ as Saviour. We also believe that the Holy Spirit fills and empowers believers, and that He distributes Spiritual gifts to all believers. (John 3:5; Romans 8:9 & 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:13 & 13:1-13 Ephesians 1:13 & 2:20 & 4:11-12 & 5:18; Hebrews 2:3-4)

WE BELIEVE that the modern day charismatic movement, in all of its forms, is unscriptural. We do believe in the power of God and the fullness of the Holy Spirit, however, this power is not evidenced by speaking in an 'unknown tongue' or any other manifestation of a 'gift.' The Word of God clearly states that, when believers were filled with the Holy Spirit, they spoke the Word of God with boldness. The modern day charismatic movement, which officially began in the early 1900's, sidesteps the very reason for the fullness of the Holy Spirit. In Acts 2, when believers were filled with the power of God, they went out into the city, preached the Gospel, went soul winning, and had 3,000 souls saved. (Acts 4:13, 19, 31)

WE BELIEVE that man was created in the image of God, that he sinned and thereby incurred, not only physical death, but also Spiritual death, which is separation from God. All human beings are born with a sin nature and are sinners in thought, word, and deed. (Genesis 1:26-27 & 3:1-6; Romans 5:12, 19 & 3:10-13, 23)

WE BELIEVE that Jesus Christ died as the substitutionary sacrifice for all men. The blood atonement He made is unlimited in its potential. It is limited only in its application, effectively saving all those who call upon the name of the Lord in repentance and faith. (Isaiah 53:4-11; John 3:5-8, 16; 2 Corinthians 5:14-21, 1 Timothy 4:10; 1 John 2:1-2)

WE BELIEVE that all who receive, by faith, the Lord Jesus, are born again of the Holy Spirit and thereby become the children of God. (John 1:12-13 & 3:3-16; Acts 16:31; Romans 4:5; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5)

WE BELIEVE in the eternal security of the believer, that it is impossible for one who is born into the family of God, ever to be lost, because he is forever kept by the power of God. (John 10:28-29; 1 Peter 1:3-5)

WE BELIEVE in that 'blessed hope,' the personal, premillennial, pretribulational, and imminent return of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, when He will gather all believers unto Himself and take them to Heaven. (John 14:1-3; 1 Corinthians 15:51-58; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-13)

WE BELIEVE in the bodily resurrection of the saved and the unsaved, the everlasting blessedness of the saved in Heaven, and the everlasting punishment of the lost in Hell. (Matthew 25:31-46; Luke 16:19-31; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 21:1-8)

WE BELIEVE that the local church is the agency through which God has chosen to accomplish His work in the world. A New Testament Baptist Church is an organized body of baptized believers, immersed upon a credible confession of faith in Jesus Christ, having two offices (pastor & deacon), congregational in polity, autonomous in nature, and banded together for work, worship, edification, the observance of ordinances, and the fulfillment of the Great Commission. The local church, under the headship of Christ, is to be free from any external hierarchy and should not associate itself with any ecumenical, charismatic, neo-orthodoxy, new-evangelical, or any other effort which compromises the Truth. (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:41-47; Romans 16:17; 2 Corinthians 6:14-17 Ephesians 1:22 & 3:10; 1 Timothy 3 & 6:3-5; 1 Peter 5:1-3)

WE BELIEVE that the two ordinances of the local church are Baptism by immersion after salvation, and The Lord's Supper which was instituted by Jesus that we might remember and show forth His death 'till He come.' (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:41-47; 1 Corinthians 11:23-28; Colossians 2:12)