

**Living Lighthouse Church
of
Rocksprings, Texas**

Constitution & By-Laws

**Living Lighthouse Church
of
Rocksprings, Texas**

CONSTITUTION

Approved November 1, 2017

*And they entered into a covenant to seek the Lord, the God of their fathers,
with all their heart and with all their soul. - 2 Chronicles 15:12*

Article 1

Name

The name of this organization shall be the Living Lighthouse Church of Rocksprings, TX

Article 2

Articles of Faith

We believe in and practice the following Christian principles:

1. The supreme authority of the Bible as our rule of faith and practice;
2. The pre-eminence of Christ as our Lord and Savior;
3. The "Priesthood" of the believer, or competency of the individual soul to approach God directly;
4. The separation of church and state;
5. A regenerated church membership;
6. Two church ordinances, namely Baptism and the Lord's Supper;
7. The autonomy of the local church;
8. The democratic obligation of majority rule, guaranteeing equal rights to all and special privileges to none;
9. A world-wide program of missionary endeavor;
10. The declaration of faith as approved by the Southern Baptist Convention, under the title, "Baptist Faith and Message (2000)."

Article 3
The Church Covenant

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the 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, angels and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love, to strive for the advancement of this Church in knowledge, holiness, and public witness; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church and the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children, to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our behavior; to avoid all gossip, back-biting, and excessive anger; if drinking alcoholic beverages, to do so only in moderation and not to intoxication, so that neither yourself nor another is caused to sin, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress, to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy of speech, to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

Article 4
Purpose of the Church

The purpose of this church shall be to glorify Jesus Christ through the proclamation of His gospel and the building up of His church.

Article 5
Rules of Order

Robert's Rules of Order shall be the authority used by all presiding officers in all matters of business, unless the constitution and by-laws clearly cover such matters.

Living Lighthouse Church of Rocksprings, Texas

BY-LAWS

Approved November 1, 2017

Article 1 *Membership*

Section A

1. Church membership shall consist of those persons who have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit as witnessed by their profession of faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and their repentance from sin.
2. Church membership shall consist of those persons who have been baptized by immersion in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in response to their salvation.
3. Church membership shall consist of those persons who have no conscientious objections to our stated Constitution, including our Articles of Faith and Church Covenant, nor By-Laws.
4. A person will be admitted upon majority vote at any regular or called meeting.
5. All elected officers/teachers and substitute teachers shall be members of the church
6. A person may be admitted to the church membership regardless of race or color.

Due to recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling concerning "Same Sex Marriage," regarding sexual orientation, this church body and membership feels it must defend itself and pastor against the unbiblical attack upon the church and its believers based in part on the following scriptures.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 states, "Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God." Ephesians 5:23 states, "For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body and is himself its Savior." Ephesians 5:31 states, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."

Therefore this church body and membership does prohibit any practicing or participating male or female homosexual, transgender or any other form of alternative lifestyle from becoming a member of this body or becoming an officer, teacher, teacher assistant or substitute. The individual is welcome to attend church services and other functions of the church. Only upon making a declaration of faith as approved by this church membership and agreeing to the Baptist Faith and Message (2000), may the individual become a member of this body of believers so long as they no longer participate in the practice of male or female homosexuality, transgender, or any other form of alternative lifestyle which is counted as sin in scripture.

Section B

There shall be four (3) ways of terminating membership of this church;

1. Death
2. Letter of transfer
3. Church Discipline through patience with the end goal of restoring peace, harmony, and unity as found in Matthew 18: 15-20 and 1 Corinthians 5:1-13.

“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.” Matthew 18:15-20

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. ² And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you. ³ For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing. ⁴ When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, ⁵ you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. ⁶ Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? ⁷ Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. ⁸ Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. ⁹ I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— ¹⁰ not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. ¹¹ But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. ¹² For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? ¹³ God judges those outside. “Purge the evil person from among you.” 1 Corinthians 5:1-13

Article 2

Officers of the Church

1. Pastor/Elder

It shall be the duty of the pastor to preach the Word, and administer the ordinances. He shall have in charge, the welfare and oversight of the church and shall exercise the rights of the pulpit; filling the pulpit during his term of office. He shall be ex-officio Member of all committees of the church.

a. Qualifications

Pastors/Elders shall meet the moral and spiritual qualifications as set forth in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.

“The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task.

²Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. ⁴He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, ⁵for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? ⁶He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. ⁷Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.” 1 Timothy 3:1-7

“This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you— ⁶if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. ⁷For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, ⁸but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. ⁹He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.” Titus 1:5-9

b. Vacancy

The office of pastor shall be considered vacant upon the happening of any one of the following:

- i. Death
- ii. Resignation
- iii. Church Discipline through patience with the end goal of restoring peace, harmony, and unity as found in Matthew 18: 15-20 and 1 Corinthians 5:1-13 as stated prior.

The pastor shall be chosen by the church as soon as possible after a vacancy occurs. This election shall take place at a meeting called for that purpose, provided that prior notice has been given. A special Search Committee shall be appointed by the church to seek out a suitable pastor, and their recommendation will constitute a nomination. The Search Committee shall bring to consideration of the church only one man at a time. Election shall be by secret ballot, an affirmative vote of three-fourths of those present being necessary to make a choice.

Due to recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling concerning "Same Sex Marriage," this church body and membership feels it must defend itself and its pastor against the unbiblical attack upon the church and its believers. In addition to Article 1 Section A of membership, the following is to apply to the pastor of this church body: Genesis 1:27 states, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." Ephesians 5:31 states, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." The pastor shall not be obligated or mandated by this body of believers to perform any marriage ceremony for practicing homosexual males or females, transgenders, or any other forms of alternative lifestyle or sexually immoral couple other than what is biblical. This church body of believers believes God intended one man and one woman to be joined as husband and wife.

Appendix

- A. Practicing homosexual males or homosexual females, transgenders, or any other forms of alternative lifestyle may not be appointed or elected to church office, teacher, or substitute teacher. Only upon making a declaration of faith as approved by this church membership and agreeing to the Baptist Faith and Message (2000), may the individual first become a member of this body of believers so long as they no longer participate in the practice of male or female homosexuality, transgender, or any other form of alternative lifestyle which is counted as sin in scripture. After a six month period of time not practicing homosexuality, transgender or any other form or alternative lifestyle they may then be considered for such positions by the church body.

2. Deacons

They shall be servants to the church and assistants to the Pastor/Elders in advancing the general interest of the church, both temporal and spiritual. The number of deacons shall be determined by the church.

a. Qualifications

Deacons shall meet the moral and spiritual qualifications as set forth in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

"Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. ⁹ They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰ And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. ¹¹ Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. ¹² Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. ¹³ For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus." 1 Timothy 3:8-13

b. Election

All deacons shall be elected by the church. All nominees for deacons shall be "screened" and recommended by the Pastor/Elders before being considered for election to the active body.

c. Vacancy

The office of deacon shall be considered vacant upon the happening of any one of the following:

- iv. Death
- v. Resignation
- vi. Church Discipline through patience with the end goal of restoring peace, harmony, and unity as found in Matthew 18: 15-20 and 1 Corinthians 5:1-13 as stated prior.

3. Church Treasurer

The church treasurer shall be elected annually by the church. The treasurer shall disburse all monies according to the church budget, or as directed by the church. The treasurer shall keep an itemized and systematic record of all such disbursements and submit a financial report at the regular monthly business meeting.

Article 3

Voting

A majority of the members voting at the regular monthly business meeting, or at a called business meeting where proper notification has been given, shall be sufficient to decide any question coming before such meeting, unless stated otherwise. In the calling of a Pastor, at least 75% of the votes must be in the affirmative.

Article 4

Amendments

1. This constitution and By-Laws may be amended at any regular or called business meeting, by a two-thirds majority vote, providing proper notice of proposed change.
2. The constitution, by-laws, policies, and procedures may be corrected for spelling and grammatical errors with majority vote at any regular or called business meeting without prior written notice.

Article 5

The Church Property and Assets

Should circumstances arise where this church may be discontinued, the property and building will be allocated to the deacons. All assets that are received to this church through the means of tithes are put towards pastors' salaries, monthly expenses, love offerings to those in need and other potential expenses or donations that are advancing the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.