

**The
Lighthouse**

Bylaws

Approved 1998

**The Lighthouse
A Christian Church
7808 NE 94th Ave.
Vancouver Washington**

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THE LIGHTHOUSE A CHRISTIAN CHURCH
--BYLAWS--

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Preamble

Whereas we, being an incorporated body of people of like precious faith, believing in the Lord Jesus Christ individually for eternal life through His vicarious death and the power of His resurrection; and

- * believing the Bible to be God's Word and the revelation of His will to man and accepting it as our all sufficient rule for faith and conduct; and
- * believing that Christian fellowship, mutual edification and evangelistic effort is in and through local bodies of churches; and
- * believing that God's ordained order for His people is that each local church is enjoined to assemble themselves together for worship, fellowship, counsel and instruction in the Word of God and the work of the ministry; and
- * believing in the exercise and use of these mutual gifts and offices provided for in the New Testament; and
- * believing that each local church is charged by the Word of God to walk in the light of that Word by the Spirit in all godly fear and love; and
- * believing that these things are essential to obtaining the Christian goal, to "grow up into Him in all things", "to be conformed to the image of His Son", "that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work".

We, therefore, do set forth the following principles and practices, giving scriptural premises for such procedures, including a Statement of Faith and a Constitution upon which this church shall be scripturally governed, as explained herein. We shall endeavor, by the grace of God, to follow the principles hereby presented in accordance with our belief and interpretation of New Testament teaching, and we shall seek to teach and propagate these beliefs.

Article I Purpose

For the purpose of establishing and maintaining a place for the worship of the one true God; to provide for Christian fellowship and spiritual growth where Jesus may be glorified and the ministry of the Holy Spirit honored; to provide for the propagation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, locally and worldwide, for the salvation of lost persons; to proclaim by preaching and teaching the whole counsel of God; to exalt in worship our majestic God and love Him in the beauty of His holiness; to establish His Word in the hearts of people through biblical teaching and preaching; to exemplify the works of Jesus in a continuous and compassionate demonstration of the miraculous; to exercise in intercessory prayer the Kingdom authority that conquers spiritual forces of wickedness and extends the dominion of the Lord; to show God's compassion to the needy through sharing of our possessions; to extend His Kingdom to the world in which we live; to share the Lord Jesus in our actions, words, and deeds so that the people around us glorify our heavenly Father and turn to the Lordship of Christ.

Article II

Name

The name of this church shall be commonly known as The Lighthouse A Christian Church. The Lighthouse A Christian Church was incorporated on August 12th, 1988, according to the laws of the State of Washington, as a non-profit religious corporation, and is recognized with non-profit status by the Internal Revenue Service.

Article III Statement Of Our Faith

We believe:

- * The Bible to be the only inspired, infallible, and authoritative Word of God. John 16:13; II Timothy 3:15-17; II Peter 1:21; I Thessalonians 2:13
- * There is one God, eternally existent in three persons; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10-11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22; John 14:16
- * In the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, John 1:1; Philippians 2:6-11; John 1:14; Isaiah 9:6; John 20:28-29; Colossians 2:9
- * His virgin birth, Matthew 1:18; Luke 1:34-35; Isaiah 7:14
- * His sinless life, II Corinthians 5:21; I John 3:5; Hebrews 4:15, 7:26-27; I Peter 2:22
- * His miracles, Matthew 4:23; Luke 6:17-19; John 3:2
- * His vicarious (substitutional) and atoning death through His shed blood, Colossians 1:14, 20; Romans 5:8-9; Ephesians 1:7
- * His bodily resurrection, I Corinthians 15:3-4; Luke 24:4-7, 36-48; Revelation 1:17-18
- * His Ascension to the right hand of the Father, Acts 2:23, 5:30-31; I Peter 3:22
- * And His personal return in power and glory to rule and reign as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Acts 1:11; Philippians 2:9-11; I Thessalonians 1:10, 4:13-18; John 14:1-3
- * Justification by faith, in the atonement of Jesus Christ, and regeneration by the Holy Spirit are absolutely essential for the salvation of lost and sinful man. Romans 3:24-25; John 3:3-7; Ephesians 2:1-16; Revelation 5:9; Acts 4:12; I Corinthians 6:11; John 5:11-13
- * The prime agency for the establishing of God's kingdom is the individual local Christian churches functioning under the sovereignty of the Lord Jesus Christ; by the empowering of the Holy Spirit. Acts 16:4-5; Matthew 16:18, 28:18-20; Acts 2:41-47; Ephesians 1:22-23; I Corinthians 12-14; II Corinthians 11:23-26
- * Baptism in water is to be done by immersion as a public statement of identification with Jesus Christ; as an outward testimony of obedience to Christ Jesus, and of complete and full repentance from sin and separation from the world. Romans 6, Matthew 3:16, Acts 8:38
- * We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit which includes: the Baptism in the Holy Spirit as a experience distinct from regeneration; His indwelling by which the Christian is

enabled to live a godly life; and His supernatural gifting and empowerment of the church for its work, life and worship. Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-8, 2:1-4, 10:44-46; I Cor. 12, 14

* In the Rapture, the Blessed Hope of the Church, by the Lord Jesus Christ when the dead in Christ shall be raised and those who are alive caught up to be with the Lord forevermore. I Thessalonians 4:16-17; I Corinthians 15:51-52

* In the return of Jesus Christ, to consummate His Kingdom in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; those who are saved unto the resurrection of life, and those who are lost unto the resurrection of damnation. John 5:28-29; Revelation 20:4-5, 11-12; Mark 14:62; Revelation 1:5-7; II Thessalonians 1:2-10

* In the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. John 17:11, 21-23; Romans 12:4-5; Ephesians 4:11-16

Article IV Powers and Privileges

Section 1 Function

The church shall conduct and maintain all necessary functions to establish a biblical Christian church with a missionary focus, a literature ministry, a music department, and all other departments it may deem useful or necessary to propagate and practice the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, according to its purpose. Therefore, this church shall provide for the establishment of as many departments as the work of the church shall require.

Section 2 Power To License

This church may license and ordain Christian workers and ministers, send out missionaries and plant and establish branches and indigenous churches.

Section 3 Privilege Of Fellowship

In keeping with its purpose, this church shall earnestly seek, and promote, the unity of God's people in the scriptural manner of godly love and fellowship, respect and voluntary cooperation in liberty to that end, it shall associate and cooperate freely with other churches and with church organizations as a free and independent church in accord with its own free conscience and the wisdom of God, as this church perceives it to be.

Section 4 Receiving Of Monies

This church shall receive donations, assignments, alms, tithes and offerings. It may also receive value, such as property and material wealth, whether by donation of bequest, as in a will. This church may act as trustee under any trust incidental to the principle objects of the corporation, and is to receive, hold, administer and expend funds and property.

Section 5 Association With Laws

This church shall do all other acts necessary, or expedient, for the administration of the affairs and the attainment of the purpose of the corporation, and shall have the exercise of all the powers now, and hereafter, conferred by the laws of the State of Washington upon non-profit corporations.

Article V Government

SECTION 1 CORPORATE OFFICERS

- A. The Lighthouse, A Christian Church is a non-profit corporation according to the laws of the State of Washington and functions as a corporation under that status.
- B. The corporate officials shall be Elders of the Lighthouse A Christian Church, or appointees made by the President of the Corporation in the vacancy of elders.
- C. The Senior Pastor shall be President of the corporation.
- D. Corporate officers may be removed by a majority vote of the elders.

SECTION 2 STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT

- A. Elders: The Lighthouse, A Christian Church will be directed and managed by a Board of Elders comprised of the Senior Pastor and Elders whom the Holy Spirit had made overseers of the flock. They shall not act selfishly as lords over God's heritage (I Peter 5:3), but take the oversight of the church with the spiritual well-being of the members in mind, as would a loving shepherd care for his sheep. They are to seek the will of God in the area's of their responsibility, to be led by the Spirit, and above all, follow the admonition of the Word.
- B. The Deacons and Deaconesses' shall comprise an advisory body, and will assist in administering the church (Acts 20:28; I Peter 5:1-4) based upon the directives of the Elders.
- C. The Board of Elders and the Deacons shall comprise what will be refered to as the Church Council.
- D. The Pastor shall be Chairman of the Board of Elders and the Church Counsel.
- E. Decisions to acquire or sell church real estate, or items requiring indebtedness exceeding 25% of the current annual budget of the church shall be brought before the church membership for prayerful consideration and discussion, and the Elders shall determine how to proceed based upon the outcome of the vote or consensus of the membership.

SECTION 3 ELDER BOARD DUTIES

- A. The Elder Board oversees the business affairs of the church, including property management, but has no power to sell, mortgage, lease, transfer or in any other way encumber the real property of the church without first presenting the proposal before the Deacons and membership for open discussion.
- B. The Elder Board shall have the authority to receive and dispose of the revenues of the church, and to oversee the finances of the church and the maintenance of the properties, and shall give annual reports at the Members Annual Meeting.
- C. The Elder Board shall hold monthly meetings or at any time they deem necessary, at which time the business of the church shall be conducted and reviewed and decisions regarding

that business shall be made. Decisions will be made by consensus of all members of the Board present unless otherwise required under the provisions of the Bylaws.

- D. If a Special Board Meeting is needed, the chairman of the Board shall notify all Board Members that they may have opportunity to attend.
- E. Except when explicitly prescribed within these Bylaws, all Elder Board decisions will be by consensus.

SECTION 4

SENIOR PASTOR

A. Call of the Pastor

1. When seeking for the Pastor of The Lighthouse A Christian Church, the Elder Board shall comprise the Pulpit Committee. Should the Pastor remain present, he may assist the Pulpit committee in the search for a new Pastor, if the Board so permits.
2. A Pastor shall be nominated by the aforementioned committee.
3. The nominee is subject to the approval of the membership.
4. The Pastor shall be elected to office by a two-thirds majority vote of the church members present at that a regular or special Business Meeting. It is recommended that only one candidate be considered at a time.
5. Upon the installation of a new Pastor (or Senior Pastor if there is a multiple staff), all Elders shall submit a written resignation to be effective within one year of said installation. This may be suspended by mutual agreement between both parties. Deacons will fulfill their two year service without obligation to submit their resignation.

B. Term of Office

1. The Pastor shall serve for an unlimited term unless other agreements are made at the time the Pastoral call is given and accepted.
2. In case the Pastor resigns he must give a written 90 days notice. This may be suspended by mutual agreement between the Board and the Pastor.

C. Vacancy of Pastor. Should the Pastorate become vacant, the Elders shall be responsible in conjunction with the rest of the Church Council for maintaining pulpit supply until such a time as a new Pastor is called.

D. All departments shall be under the general supervision of the Pastor and he shall be an ex-officio maker of all committees, groups and departments, with the members of the Board as an advisory body only.

E. Removal of a Pastor. A Senior Pastor is an elder and shall be removed from office under the provisions of "Removing an Elder" in these bylaws.

- F. If for any reason less than three Elders remain on the Elder Board, the pastor shall appoint an Interim Board which shall serve for no more than one year.

SECTION 5

PASTORAL ASSOCIATES

- A. Selection of staff pastors are to be made by the Senior Pastor and must be confirmed by the Board of Elders.
- B. Incoming Senior Pastor and remaining Staff Pastors. Staff Pastors may be required to resign should the Board of Elders determine that this is in the best interest of the Lighthouse A Christian Church. A forced resignation will take effect 60 days after notification.
- C. A "Staff Pastor" is a term which, in these bylaws, does not imply Eldership.
- D. Removal of a Staff Pastor who is an Elder. A Staff Pastor who is an Elder shall be removed from office under the provisions of "Removing an Elder" in these bylaws.

SECTION 6

ELDERS

- A. Elders shall be chosen by the Pastor and the other Elders, in keeping with the Scriptural pattern of "Elders choosing Elders" and shall be presented to Membership for ratification. In the event that a member opposes the installing of an elder, they may present their concerns privately to the Elders for discussion and consideration.
- B. All Elders shall sense the call of God to this ministry, and they shall have evidence of the call of God to fulfill this function.
- C. Role of Elders
 - 1. Elders may or may not be a part of the paid staff. Those acting as a part of the Staff shall be referred to as Pastors, those who are not shall be referred to as Elders. (1 Tim 5:17-18)
 - 2. All Elders shall be qualified according to the scriptural standards explained in I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:7-9. They shall assist and cooperate with the Pastor in the feeding, overseeing and leading of the flock.
 - 3. The Elders shall have oversight of the church and its well-being and the execution of the values, mission, and ministries of the church. They shall be responsible to authorize or forbid ministry in the church.
 - 4. The Elders shall be custodians of the church finances and assets.
 - 5. An Elder shall retain his office by virtue of his moral and spiritual fidelity to Christ, to the local church, to the Pastor and to the duties invested in the office of Elder, according to the qualifications as set forth in the scriptures. (1 Tim 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; I Peter 5:1-3)

6. No Elder shall gather persons to himself, but serve unselfishly to support the leadership of the church and the ministry of his office, and in cooperation with the Pastors with whom he is called to work.
 7. Above all, an Elder shall promote unity and loyalty among the members, serving the Church Family in love.
- D. The Pastor and Elders of the church shall serve without specified length of term, as long as their character, conduct of life and ministry are consistent with the accepted teachings and practices of the Bible and church.
- E. Removal of an Elder.
1. No complaint or accusation against an Elder shall be received by the Board of Elders unless it is written and signed--by two witnesses. (I Tim 5:19)
 2. An Elder may be removed from Board of Elders in the event that he is either incapable or unwilling to comply to the standards of eldership.
 3. An Elder will only be removed by the Board of Elders by a majority vote.
 4. Any Elder occupying a staff position, or holding one of the corporate offices, shall first be removed from the Board of Elders then from the corporate office and if necessary from the staff.

SECTION 7 QUORUM FOR ELDERSHIP MEETINGS

- A. A majority of all elders shall constitute a Quorum for all Eldership Meetings, and will be sufficient for the conducting of all business unless specifically noted in these bylaws.
- B. All Elders must be present for decisions to sell, mortgage, lease, transfer, or in any other way encumber the real property of the church; or determine, ratify, or accept the call of an Pastoral Candidate. In the event that it is impossible for an Elder to participate in such a meeting, he must give permission in writing allowing the remaining members of the Elder Board to vote without him.

SECTION 8 DEACONSHIP

- A. Choosing of a Deacon and Deaconess
 1. The Lighthouse A Christian Church membership shall constitute the nomination committee. Upon the nominations made by the membership the Elders shall examine each of the candidates for deaconship and shall determine if any or all of the nominees shall be added to the Deaconship of the church. These Bylaws will not limit the number of Deacons serving on the Church Council.
 2. Nominees must be full of the Holy Spirit and meet the biblical qualifications. They must evidence their calling to this place of servanthood by faithfulness and exemplary Christian character. (Acts 6:2-6; I Timothy 3:8-12)

Section 5

Quorum

- A. A quorum shall constitute a minimum of forty percent (40%) of the voting members of the church before business can be conducted. All members must be notified prior to all voting opportunities unless notification is clearly impossible due to the member's schedule or location.
- B. Special meetings for membership and congregational information may be called by the Pastor when the time is of the utmost importance. No decision by the membership will be required at these meetings, however, the Eldership shall be authorized to make decisions based upon outcome of Special meetings.
- C. In the event of a vacant pastorate, the Board of Elders may call a special meeting for the purpose of information. No vote shall be taken at such a meeting, however the Eldership shall be authorized to make decisions based upon the outcome of such a meeting.

Section 6

Discipline Of Members

The purpose of all discipline is to restore the unrepentant person to right relationship with God, to holiness, and to usefulness in the Body of Christ. All discipline is to be redemptive in nature. Rather than "excommunication" we refer to this form of discipline as "temporary disfellowship."

- A. Upon becoming a member, one agrees to submit willingly to church discipline and order, as directed in a scriptural manner by the Pastor and Elders.
- B. A majority of the Elders together with the Pastors shall deal with all cases of discipline.
- C. Discipline shall be practiced according to Matthew 18:15-18 and I Corinthians 5, and all other scriptures touching the discipline of a particular offense within the Body of Christ. The procedure shall be that the offending member shall be dealt with privately; if correction is not made, the Elders shall meet with the offender collectively, extending an invitation to work out the problem. If he neglects to hear them and respond, then the church shall be informed, his membership cancelled and fellowship withheld until he repents and is restored. A spirit of love and prayer for restoration shall prevail. All members are responsible to assist the Pastor and Elders with their prayers and sanction in carrying out this scriptural procedure.

Article VII

In Case Of

Division or Dissolution

Section 1

Amendments

- A. Should the unfortunate thing happen that The Lighthouse A Christian Church of Vancouver, Washington, for some reason be divided or split up in factions, the property remains in the possession of those who abide by the Constitution, Doctrines, and Bylaws of this church. Should the divisive issue be of doctrinal nature, those who hold to the fundamental doctrines of the Statement of Faith, listed in these Bylaws shall retain possession of all assets belonging to this church.
- B. The desire of this church body is that it remain an independent assembly.

- C. The desire of this church body at the time of incorporation and during the discussion of the Bylaws, was that all assets, once given, should remain in the possession of a non-profit, religious, organization.
- D. In case of dissolution or cessation, no part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to, its members, trustees, officers or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions to furtherance of the purpose set forth in Article III of the Articles of Incorporation.
- E. Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the Board of Directors shall 1) pay or make provision for payment of all the liabilities of the corporation, 2) the Board of Directors shall apply all finances resulting from dissolution, to a Christ-centered organization or organizations. Thus they will dispose of all the assets of the corporation exclusively to religious organizations, which, at the time, qualify as tax exempt under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as the Board of Directors shall determine.

Article VIII Concerning War

Section 1 Members Bearing Arms

- A. This assembly recognizes that government is ordained of God, and that its members shall be subject to the "higher powers" as the Word of God admonishes us and also that the ruler "beareth not the sword in vain." (Romans 13:1-7)
- B. The assembly gives full recognition and accords the privileges to those of its members who choose to bear arms.

Section 2 Conscientious Objectors

- A. This church does not advocate general conscientious objection.
- B. It recognizes that a person may be a conscientious objector because of religious convictions based on Scriptures, such as "all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword". (Matthew 26:52) Such a member believes war to be a variance with the principles of the Gospel, and in his case, the church believes that he may not, contrary to his conscience, take up arms against his fellow man.

Article IX Amendments

Section 1 Amendments

- A. This constitution shall supersede and make null and void all articles, agreements, traditions, written or verbal, which may have been in force or practice prior to this time.
- B. New Bylaws may be adopted, or these Bylaws may be amended by the Board, or repealed by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present entitled to vote at the Annual Business Meeting or a Special Meeting duly called for that purpose. Changes must be submitted from the Board, and passed in the Board by a two-thirds vote.