

LifePoint Bible Church
of
Quincy, Illinois

CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS
AND
STATEMENT OF FAITH

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CONSTITUTION OF LIFEPOINT BIBLE CHURCH

PREAMBLE

We, the Elders of LifePoint Bible Church of Quincy, Illinois establish and approve the following Articles.

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this local body of Christ shall be LifePoint Bible Church (hereinafter "LifePoint").

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

God's purpose in establishing this local expression of the body of Christ is that His manifold wisdom, which He demonstrated in Christ Jesus our Lord, shall be made known (Ephesians 3:10). In response, we purpose to glorify God in the following mutually supportive ways as directed by the Holy Scriptures:

- a. By gathering together for worship and prayer in the unity of the Spirit (Acts 2:42);
- b. By the exercising of spiritual gifts for the edification, maturing, and equipping of God's people for service to God (I Corinthians 12:4-7; II Timothy 3:16,17);
- c. By proclaiming the gospel of God's saving grace in Jesus Christ to the world through word and practice (Acts 1:8; Matthew 5:13-16);
- d. By encouraging the application of biblical principles to all spheres of life (Matthew 5:13-16; Jeremiah 29:7; I Corinthians 10:31).

ARTICLE III: STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Holy Bible, consisting of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice. The Statement of Faith for

LifePoint is a summary of what we believe God's Word teaches with regard to the essential tenets of Christian theology. All statements of faith and confessions are subordinate to Scripture and amendable.

ARTICLE IV: FORM OF GOVERNMENT

The government of this church shall be under the headship of Jesus Christ and in obedience to the Word of God (Colossians 1:17-18). Under Christ's leadership, LifePoint shall be ruled by Elders in accordance with this Constitution, fulfilling the Biblical responsibilities defined in Article IX of the By-Laws. Likewise, Deacons will administer the affairs of this church, under the oversight of the Elders, in accordance with this Constitution, fulfilling the Biblical responsibilities defined in Article IX of the By-Laws.

SECTION 1: ELDERS

Elders shall be men called of God who are qualified according to I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9, and I Peter 5:2-3, and have accepted the LifePoint Statement of Faith. Unless providentially hindered, there shall be no less than two Elders at any given time, and up to as many as the Lord calls to the undershepherding role. Each Elder will serve as long as he remains Biblically qualified, available, and desires to continue to serve.

SECTION 2. DEACONS/DEACONESSES

Deacons/Deaconesses shall be men or women called of God who are qualified according to I Timothy 3:8-13 and have accepted the LifePoint Statement of Faith. Each Deacon/Deaconess will serve as long as he or she remains Biblically qualified, available, and desires to continue to serve.

SECTION 3. OTHER LEADERSHIP

All positions of leadership associated with LifePoint shall be filled with members. This includes all teaching positions (Sunday School, home fellowship small groups, etc.), the leading of worship services, and leadership positions for all other recognized ministry areas. All teaching and preaching from these leaders is expected to be consistent with the official Statement of Faith of LifePoint. The Elders may invite members of other churches to minister at LifePoint periodically.

ARTICLE V: CORPORATION STATUS

LifePoint is a not-for-profit corporation as filed with the State of Illinois and is not organized for the private gain of any person. It is organized exclusively for religious purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE VI: AFFILIATIONS

LifePoint shall not be subordinated to any other organization. LifePoint may cooperate with other organizations of like mind and purpose, and may even affiliate with the same as long as the right of withdrawal is reserved. However, neither LifePoint authority nor property shall be subordinate to any other organization.

ARTICLE VII: MEMBERSHIP

The membership process allows a means of maintaining the purity of LifePoint and ensuring the administration of pastoral care (I Peter 1:15,16). LifePoint receives as members those who evidence faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Each member is expected to exercise personal and corporate study of all tenets of the LifePoint Statement of Faith and not to undermine the doctrine and practice reflected in the Constitution, By-Laws and Statement of Faith of LifePoint. It is not required that a person be re-baptized to become a member.

ARTICLE VIII: CHURCH DISCIPLINE

It is the aim of LifePoint to vindicate the integrity and honor of Christ by maintaining the purity of the local church and her worship (Matthew 18:15-18; Romans 16:17; I Corinthians 5:6-8; II Thessalonians 3:6-15; Titus 1:13, 2:15, 3:10). LifePoint, by consistently applying Biblical principles to Christians whether they be members or regular attendees, shall strive to restore offenders (I Corinthians 5:5; Galatians 6:1) and deter others from sin (I Timothy 5:20).

ARTICLE IX: ADDITIONAL LIFEPOINT DOCUMENTS

All additional church documents approved by the Elder Board shall be in agreement with and subordinate to this Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE X: DISSOLUTION

In the event of the dissolution of LifePoint by the Elder Board, no member, officer of the church, or private individual shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any assets. Upon dissolution, assets of the church shall first be used to pay any outstanding debts. Following this, the remaining assets of the corporation shall be given to a non-profit corporation of like faith and practice and/or to missionaries supported by the church. The selection of recipients, as well as the timing of the actual transfers, shall be determined by vote of the Elder Board with consideration given to recommendations made by the Board of Deacons. Actions required to carry out the dissolution shall be performed by the Deacon Board, who shall seek out legal assistance to complete the process.

ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS

The Elder Board shall solicit comments and recommendations from the membership of LifePoint on all proposed amendments to this Constitution and By-Laws at least thirty days prior to their formal approval and incorporation. After evaluating responses from the membership, final approval of amendments shall be made by the Elder Board at a regularly scheduled Elder Board meeting.

BY-LAWS OF LIFEPOINT BIBLE CHURCH

ARTICLE I: MEMBERSHIP PROCEDURES

SECTION 1. QUALIFICATIONS

Any person desiring to become a member of LifePoint may indicate that desire to any Elder at any time. After the completion of a “New Members Class” and at the earliest convenient time, two or more Elders will interview the prospective member(s) to determine their personal understanding and belief in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior (Romans 3:21-26) and to discuss the responsibilities of church membership. Upon credible profession of faith and agreement to membership responsibilities, the person interviewed will be considered a member of LifePoint. New members that have not been previously baptized must agree to be baptized at the earliest convenient time after being approved for church membership.

Consistent with their walk of faith and commitment to this local body of Christ, all members are expected to exhibit the following:

- a. A willingness to submit to the authority of Scripture;
- b. A desire to share in the ministry of this local church family by using the spiritual gift(s) God has given (I Corinthians 12:4-7);
- c. A willingness to submit to the leadership and authority of the Elders of this local body as they submit to God and the authority of Scripture (Hebrews 13:17);
- d. A familiarity with the contents of the LifePoint Statement of Faith, Constitution, and By-Laws and not to promote doctrine or practice contrary to them.

SECTION 2. TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

Recognizing the need for orderly transfer of membership, it may be necessary to determine whether a transfer from another church body is in order and based upon Biblical grounds. If any unresolved difficulties are uncovered, the Elders shall work with the prospective member for their resolution.

For those members of this local body who wish to transfer to another church, a letter

of transfer shall be submitted to the accepting church should it be desired by those transferring. When such letter is granted, membership in this church shall be considered terminated.

SECTION 3. DUAL MEMBERSHIP

Any person who is currently a member of another church, yet through a temporary relocation has routinely been in attendance at LifePoint, shall be encouraged to have dual membership status. This status shall facilitate proper watchcare and oversight while the person is under the care of LifePoint.

SECTION 4. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Members may be removed from membership at their own request by informing the Board of Elders of their intention to withdraw and the reasons for their withdrawal. If a member requests to withdraw because of specific problems or disappointments with the church, the Board of Elders shall attempt to resolve those matters so that the member may remain in the church and enjoy greater fruitfulness and personal spiritual growth. If the Board of Elders is unable to resolve those matters, it shall offer to assist the member in locating a church of like faith and practice that can respond more effectively to his gifts and needs. If it appears to the Board of Elders that a member has requested removal merely to avoid church discipline, that request shall not be granted until the disciplinary process has been properly concluded (see Matthew 18:12-20; By-Laws Article V).

Members may also be removed from membership by order of the Board of Elders when they persistently, over an extended period of time, and without adequate reason, absent themselves from the stated services of the church; unite with another church; or are removed by excommunication for persistent impenitence (see By-Laws Article V).

SECTION 5. PRIVILEGES

Each member shall have the privilege of pastoral oversight. Only members may be Elders, Deacons, teachers, or serve in any ministry leadership position. Pastoral involvement and church ministries including the Lord's Supper, weddings, funerals, counseling, use of equipment and facilities, and financial aid are privileges reserved for members. Exceptions must be approved by the Board of Elders.

SECTION 6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

New members shall be announced at the earliest convenient time to the church body at one of its regularly scheduled meetings.

ARTICLE II: CHURCH MEETINGS

LifePoint holds Sunday morning worship services and weekly prayer meetings. These meetings are intended to complement one another so that the body will be provided with a balance of those elements essential to Christian worship (e.g. corporate prayer, teaching, preaching, sharing, mutual edification, praise, singing, Christian ordinances, exercising of spiritual gifts, etc.). In addition we offer Sunday School for all ages.

Throughout the week there may be smaller group meetings for specific purposes such as: home fellowship, discipling, youth activities, etc..

There shall be at least one formal Elder Board meeting each month for the conduct of business associated with oversight of LifePoint. This meeting shall be open to the entire body to attend. However, only Elders may vote when a vote is required. Other meetings may be called by the Elders (with limited attendance) to address sensitive shepherding issues not appropriate for public exposure, extended times of prayer, and mutual shepherding.

There shall be at least one annual LifePoint meeting for conduct of business that affects the entire body. This meeting will be held in the January-February time period and will include presentation of the budget for the coming year.

In addition, other meetings may be called or established for worship, fellowship, or business as required. These additional meetings are to be approved by the Elder board and may be requested by any member of LifePoint.

ARTICLE III: CHURCH ORDINANCES

LifePoint recognizes that the Lord has established two ordinances to be faithfully observed in the church. These are: baptism and the Lord's Supper.

SECTION 1. BAPTISM

Water baptism is symbolic of the Christian's spiritual union with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6:3-4). According to the Biblical pattern, a new Christian is to be baptized after conversion at the earliest convenient time as an expression of personal faith in Christ and membership in the church.

A person desiring to be baptized should contact one of the Elders, who will arrange a meeting with the candidate at the earliest convenient time. Two Elders are to interview the candidate to hear his profession of faith. The candidate for baptism should demonstrate an understanding of the concepts of sin, repentance, substitutionary atonement, and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Particular care should be taken to ensure that the candidate understands the meaning of baptism as an important act of obedience and outward profession, but is not a condition of salvation.

In addition, those conducting the interview should look for the fruit of faith and repentance as expected in the life of a believer. If the men conducting the interview determine that some of these issues remain unclear after the first meeting, further instruction and additional meetings may be required. Children who seek baptism must meet the same requirements as adults.

If the one desiring baptism gives a credible profession of faith, arrangements shall be made for a public baptism service at the earliest convenient time. Baptisms shall be conducted under the supervision of the Elders. Before the candidate is baptized, he or she is to be given opportunity to give a public profession of faith in Christ either through a testimony or by answering questions asked by the one performing the baptism.

SECTION 2. THE LORD'S SUPPER

Because the Lord exhorted us to do this in remembrance of Him (I Corinthians 11:24), and in light of the practice of the early church (Acts 2:42, 20:7), LifePoint observes the Lord's Supper on a monthly basis. The ordinance shall be carried out under the supervision of the Elders. Participation in the Lord's Supper is open to all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. Those who partake should examine themselves as to whether they have unresolved sin against God or another believer (Matthew 5:23-24; I Corinthians 11:28-29).

ARTICLE IV: CHURCH DISCIPLINE

Application of church discipline shall be consistent with the Biblical approach outlined in Matthew 18:17-18. As such, it is to be exercised against offenders who profess to be Christians (see Article I of By-Laws). The Elders oversee the disciplinary process described below.

SECTION 1. OFFENSES ADDRESSED

General categories of offenses in Scripture that may result in church discipline include:

- a. Divisiveness (Titus 3:9-11; Romans 16:17-18; Hebrews 13:17)
- b. Scandalous immorality (I Corinthians 5:9-11; 6:9-10; Exodus 20:12-17)
- c. Rejecting the essential doctrines of the Christian faith (I Timothy 1:19-20; 6:3-5; II John 9-11)

SECTION 2. METHODS USED

Matthew 18:15-16 outlines the approach to bring about reconciliation between individuals when offenses occur. If this is unsuccessful, then those that sought the offender's repentance may come to the Elders of the church. The Elders, in turn, are to follow the general procedures below to ensure everything is pursued in an orderly and proper way. Each of the four following steps represents a separate phase of church discipline, with the time required for each dependent upon the particular circumstances. Each step in the process below will be documented in writing and will include all pertinent information (e.g., history, proven offenses, expectations, actions taken). The Elders will not entertain anonymous accusations. The person accused of sin has the right to face and answer their accusers. Any charges against an Elder must be supported by two or more witnesses (I Timothy 5:19) as well as provided in writing.

Investigation: The Elders are to conduct an investigation to determine if the accused is guilty of the charges. If the charges are proven false, then appropriate exhortation will be given to the parties so that reconciliation can occur. If the charges are proven (by confession or by witnesses), admonition is to be initiated.

Admonition: Admonition includes a description of the unacceptable behavior and

what must replace it, a procedure for monitoring the behavior over a specified period of time, and a warning that public admonition (II Thessalonians 3:14-15) or excommunication could follow if the behavior is not corrected. If satisfactory changes occur, the Elders may discontinue any further monitoring. Other disciplinary measures, short of excommunication, may include limitation of ministry opportunities, suspension from the Lord's Table, and public admonition.

Excommunication: If admonition and monitoring fail in correcting the unacceptable behavior, excommunication will occur. This action excludes the offender from the privilege of participation in the public services of the church. He is also excluded from church social meals, gatherings and recreational activities and is removed from the membership rolls. The church will be informed by the Elders of the reasons for this decision, and will explain the duty of all members relative to the offender. If the excommunicated person withdraws from any further involvement with the Elders and begins attending another church, the Elders are obliged to inform the new church of the offender's status.

Restoration: When the excommunicated person repents, restoration begins. Restoration is a process that restores an offender to the full privileges that were withdrawn during excommunication. This will only occur if the Elders are satisfied that full repentance is a reality. If restoration is appropriate, the Elders will inform the church of the reasons for this decision and will explain the duty of all members relative to the restored person (II Corinthians 2:5-11).

The methods described here also cover any and all disputes or claims arising from or related to church membership, doctrine, policy, practice, counseling, discipline, decisions, actions, or failures to act, including claims based on civil statute or for personal injury.

By joining this church, all members agree that these methods shall provide the sole remedy for any dispute arising against the church and its agents, and they waive their right to file any legal action against the church in a civil court or agency.

ARTICLE V: FINANCES

In order to be above reproach before God and one another as stewards of all the Lord has entrusted to LifePoint, it is important to establish proper financial accountability (I Timothy 6:9,10; I Corinthians 16:3,4). To ensure this, the Deacon Board will exercise oversight of all financial matters of the church, under Elder authority (see Article IX, Section 2c of By-Laws). To support this responsibility, a

Treasurer shall be assigned by the Elders to account for all LifePoint finances. The duties of the Treasurer are to:

- a. Ensure that no expenditure exceeds its annual item allocation without Deacon Board approval;
- b. Minister closely with the Deacon Board to ensure timely dispensing of funds when required for various needs of the body;
- c. Oversee the counting and banking of all funds collected by the church;
- d. Oversee the maintaining of an accurate accounting of funds received and dispensed by the church;
- e. Report the financial position of the church at the annual financial review in December - January;
- f. Submit a preliminary budget for the next year to the Deacon Board and Elder Board;
- g. Make available to the Elder Board and the Deacon Board a monthly, written financial statement;
- h. Recommend to the Deacon Board policies and practices relating to financial management that are not explicitly covered by this Constitution and By-Laws.

Detailed descriptions of the procedures to be followed relative to the above responsibilities are contained in the following sections.

SECTION 1. COLLECTIONS

After each service in which collections are received, the Treasurer, or his designee, and one other person (preferably a Deacon or a designated Bookkeeper) shall count the receipts and sign a register recording the amount. The Treasurer is responsible to ensure the deposit of any collections and to keep accurate records of each individual's or family's giving, if known.

SECTION 2. PAYMENTS

All payments or reimbursements must be approved by either a Deacon or Elder who is not directly involved with the transaction. Benevolence payments must be approved by the Deacons prior to actual distribution.

SECTION 3. DESIGNATED GIVING

Designated gifts shall be permitted to be contributed only to the fund accounts established by the Deacons and identified in the LifePoint chart of accounts. Disbursement of funds from fund accounts shall be in accordance with the purpose of the fund account and under the supervision and full control of the Deacons.

SECTION 4. MONTHLY PROCEDURES

A monthly church expense and budget report will be prepared by the Treasurer to be presented to the Elders and Deacons. Independently, a Deacon will review the report and verify that proper procedures were followed. Each employed staff member of LifePoint who requires expense reimbursement will submit an expense reimbursement report for review by the Treasurer and a separate Deacon. The monthly expense and budget report shall be available for review by any church member on request. However, confidentiality of individual or family giving will be maintained.

SECTION 5. ANNUAL PROCEDURES

The Treasurer shall compile a new calendar year budget, based upon input from the Elders, the Deacons, and other ministry leaders. It shall be presented first to the Deacon Board, then to the Elder Board, and then to the entire church during January or February. The annual budget is to be made available to the church for review for at least one month prior to formal adoption by the Elder Board. Whenever the Deacon and Elder Boards must make significant budget adjustments (affecting five per cent or more of the total annual budget), these will be presented to the church for review prior to formal adoption by the Elder Board.

The Deacons shall appoint an appropriate individual to review the year's financial records and report findings back to the Deacon and Elder Boards.

SECTION 6. SALARY COMPENSATION

Salaries to be paid to LifePoint staff shall be recommended by the Treasurer and follow the same procedure for approval as the annual budget. Any person receiving compensation from the church shall not be in a position to approve the amount of the salary.

ARTICLE VI: ELDER BOARD DECISION-MAKING POLICY

SECTION 1. POLICY

The Elder Board shall earnestly strive to make all decisions by consensus. In the course of discussions between Elders and with others who may be participating, each Elder must:

- a. Earnestly strive to seek God's will and counsel (Psalm 143:10);
- b. Ensure scriptural admonitions are not violated (2 Timothy 3:16,17);
- c. Show mutual regard for one another (Philippians 2:2-4);
- d. Submit himself one to another (Ephesians 5:21);
- e. Wait patiently upon one another (Ephesians 4:2);
- f. Genuinely consider one another's interests and perspectives (Proverbs 15:22; Philippians 2:4);
- g. Prefer and defer to one another and other delegated decision groups on all minor issues (Proverbs 13:10);
- h. Maintain a teachable spirit (Proverbs 18:15).

SECTION 2. NON-DISCIPLINE ISSUES

If a consensus cannot be reached in a reasonable period of time on decisions not relating to church discipline, then a motion may be made (and must be seconded by another Elder) to:

- a. Discuss the issue in further detail, or

- b. Delay the decision for prayerful consideration and obtain more information as required, or
- c. Consider delegating the discussion to another group for more thorough investigation and recommendations, or
- d. Call for a vote — in which case a quorum of the Elders may vote with a simple majority needed to decide the issue.

A quorum is attained when half or more of the Elders are present. Also, when an Elder knows he will be absent, he may use his proxy vote on an issue scheduled to be decided upon.

In addition, an Elder may choose to abstain from voting. In such a case, his opportunity to vote will not be counted in the number present.

SECTION 3. DISCIPLINE AND REMOVAL ISSUES

If a consensus cannot be reached in a reasonable period of time on decisions relating to application of church discipline of a member or removal of an Elder or Deacon from office, then a motion may be made (and must be seconded by another Elder) to:

- a. Discuss the issue in further detail, or
- b. Delay the decision for prayerful consideration and obtain more information/counsel as required, or
- c. Call for a vote — in which case all Elders must vote, and a two-thirds majority will be needed to decide the issue as follows:

VOTING ELDERS	VOTES TO CARRY
1	N/A
2	2-0
3	2-1
4	3-1
5	4-1
6	4-2
7	5-2
8	6-2
9	6-3
10	7-3

Also, in decisions relating to the discipline or removal of an Elder, the Elder in question will not be counted as a voting Elder and will not vote.

ARTICLE VII: APPOINTMENT OF CHURCH OFFICERS

SECTION 1. QUALIFICATIONS

God is the one who calls a man to the task of Elder or Deacon, as He is the one who so equips the man both with the spiritual gifts and character needed for the office (Acts 20:28, Ephesians 4:11). It is therefore the responsibility of the Elders to evaluate those whom God has called to the office of Elder and Deacon (Acts 6:3). This evaluation shall be based upon the biblical qualifications found in I Timothy 3:1-13, Titus 1:5-9, and I Peter 5:23.

Each Elder and Deacon will serve as long as he remains Biblically qualified, available, and desires to continue to serve. An Elder or Deacon may be granted an approved leave of absence from Elder or Deacon responsibilities.

SECTION 2. PROCEDURE

A candidate for either office may be recommended to the Elders by any member of LifePoint. A man who believes that God is calling him may also seek the counsel of the Elders for possible candidacy (I Timothy 3:1). It is the responsibility of the Elders to examine the qualifications of a candidate for either office. In addition, the Deacons are to examine and approve a candidate for the office of Deacon.

If there is consensus among the Elders regarding the qualifications of a candidate, then the candidate will be presented to the membership for consideration, prayer, and a time of evaluation (I Thessalonians 5:12; Acts 6:3-5). If consensus cannot be reached by the Elders, then the candidacy will be suspended.

A period of at least two (2) months will be given for the membership to pray and ask questions of the candidate (or the Elders) with regard to his qualifications. At the end of this time period, the Elders will evaluate both the responses from the membership and the status of the candidate. If there is still consensus among the Elders as to the qualifications of the candidate, he will then be brought before the membership in a worship service, in which he will be formally presented and acknowledged as one whom God has called to the task of Elder or Deacon.

ARTICLE VIII: RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHURCH OFFICERS

SECTION 1: RESPONSIBILITIES OF ELDERS

Under authority of scripture, the duty of Elders is to oversee the spiritual life of the church by:

- a. **Preaching/Teaching** All Elders attend to the ministry of the Word through teaching and preaching (Acts 6:4; Ephesians 4:11-12; I Thessalonians 5:12; I Timothy 3:2; 5:17; II Timothy 4:2; Titus 1:9). It shall oversee all matters concerning the conduct of public worship, and the spiritual growth and evangelistic witness of the congregation (Ephesians. 4:11-13; Matthew 28:19-20).
- b. **Shepherding** All Elders carry on watchcare and oversight responsibilities relating to the flock entrusted into its care. (I Peter 5:2-3; Acts 20:28; Matthew 18:15-29; I Corinthians 5:13; Galatians 6:1-2; Titus 3:9-11). Elders use the Word of God to instruct, edify, encourage, admonish, and exhort the body (I Thessalonians 2:11; II Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 13:17; Psalm 23:2-3
- c. **Ruling** The Elders are responsible to exercise authority in all areas of doctrine and practice. The Elders have the final authority over the activities of the Board of Deacons and all other ministries of the church, and have final authority over the use of the church property. (Heb. 13:17; I Thessalonians 5:12-13; I Timothy 3:4-5; 5:17). Authority to carry out these responsibilities is shared equally by all the Elders (Romans 12:8; I Peter 5:3).
- d. **Praying** Elders minister to the body through persistent corporate and individual intercessory prayer (Acts 2:42; I Thessalonians 5:17; James 5:14; Acts 6:4).

SECTION 2. RESPONSIBILITIES OF DEACONS

The duty of Deacons is to assist the Elders by:

- a. **Benevolence** Dispensing benevolence funds according to the physical and spiritual needs of the body and remaining aware of the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the body (Acts 6:1-7; I Timothy 3:8-13).
- b. **Property** Exercising caretaker and stewardship responsibilities over all church properties and the acquiring or disposing of all church property of any kind

- c. Finances Exercising oversight of financial matters of the church, including all expenses throughout the year, the annual review of the church budget, staff salaries, and financial needs of those whose ministries the church supports.
- d. Logistics Providing oversight of all items relating to logistical aspects of church services.

STATEMENT OF FAITH LIFEPOINT BIBLE CHURCH

LifePoint Bible Church's Statement of Faith has been organized into categories to assist you in understanding what we believe and teach through our various ministries.

THE SCRIPTURES

Every word in the original writings is inspired by God and is without error. It is accurate in all matters to which it speaks, spiritual, historical, and scientific. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the foundation of the faith and practice of LifePoint Bible Church

(II Tim. 3:16; II Pet. 1:21)

GOD

God exists eternally in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The three have distinct personalities and yet are of the same substance, one God.

(Gen. 1:1; John 10:30; John 4:24; Deut 6:4; Matt. 28:19; II Cor. 13:14)

MAN

Man is created in the image and likeness of God. In Adam, all mankind fell into sin with the result that all men are sinners. Men are justly condemned to eternal judgment and can do nothing to merit salvation.

(Rom. 2:2,3,5; Eph. 2:8,9; Gen. 1:27, 9:6; Rom. 5:12; 3:23; Eph. 2:1)

JESUS CHRIST

The eternal Son of God became incarnate in the Lord Jesus Christ, being born of the virgin Mary, and is true God and true man. He died physically on the cross and was bodily resurrected three days later.

(John 1:1,14,18; 5:18; Heb. 1:1-9; 5:8; I John 5:20; I Tim. 2:5; I Cor. 15:1-5)

SALVATION

Salvation is by grace through faith alone in the substitutionary death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

(Acts 4:12; 13:38,39; I Cor. 15:1-4; Rom. 4:4,5; 5:1; John 3:16; Eph. 2:8,9; Acts 16:31; Rom. 8:29,30)

SANCTIFICATION

Every believer is promised positional, progressive, and ultimate sanctification.

(Heb. 10:10,14; John 17:15-17; Eph. 5:26-27; I Thess. 4:3,4; I John 3:2; I Cor. 6:11)

THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. He regenerates, indwells, baptizes, and seals all believers in Christ and empowers those yielded to God.

(Matt. 28:19; John 3:3-7; Titus 3:5; I Cor. 6:19; Rom. 8:9; I Cor. 2:12; 12:13; Eph. 4:30; Col. 3:14)

THE CHURCH

The church is composed of all believers. It is the body and bride of Christ, formed by the baptism of the Holy Spirit and existing in two aspects, universal and local. Its mission is to witness to its head, Jesus Christ, preaching the gospel among all nations. The local church is a group of believers voluntarily joined together in love to worship God with praise and thanksgiving, and to glorify Jesus Christ through an aggressive effort to disciple others by the preaching of the gospel, and the exercise of spiritual gifts.

(Eph. 1:22,23; 5:24-30; I Cor. 12:4-13,27)

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Spiritual gifts are God-given abilities for service, i.e., "for the equipping of the saints for the work of service to the building up of the body of Christ."

(Eph. 4:1-16; I Cor. 12:7,11; I Pet. 4:10; Rom. 12:1-6)

CHRISTIAN LIFE

Christians are called to a holy life of service and testimony in the power of the Holy Spirit. This service includes the propagation of the gospel message to the whole world. All believers are promised rewards in heaven for their faithfulness in service.

(I Pet. 1:15,16; Acts 1:8; I Cor. 3:12-17; John 14:1-3)

ORDINANCES

The Bible sets forth two ordinances, the Lord's Supper and water baptism.

The Lord's Supper is to be celebrated regularly in remembrance of Christ's death on the cross, and in expectation of His return.

Water baptism is an outward testimony of a person's belief in Christ.

(Matt. 28:19,20; Mark 16:15,16; Acts 8:12,36-38; 9:18; 10:47; I Cor. 11:23-26)

THE END TIMES (ESCHATOLOGY)

LifePoint Bible Church holds to the belief in the imminent return of Jesus Christ as well as the reality of eternal punishment for the unsaved and the eternal state of blessing for the saved.

(Titus 2:13; I Thess. 1:10; 4:13-18; 5:4-10; John 14:1-3; Matt. 24:21,29,30; 25:31-46; Rev. 3:10)

STEWARDSHIP

We believe that giving in the Church should be done out of love for Christ and His Church, freely, without compulsion or feelings of guilt.

(I Cor 16:1-2, II Cor 8:1-5; 9:5-11)

LEGALISM

We believe Christians have freedom in Christ to live their lives in accordance with biblical standards. They should not be burdened by external constraints which are man-made, and/or not found in Scripture.

(Col. 2:16-23 Rom. 14:1-23)