



Grow in Christ - Serve in Love - Make Disciples

CONSTITUTION/BY-LAWS

2018

Lexington Christian Church Constitution/By-Laws

Adopted: August 1st, 2018

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Lexington Christian Church, 1199 N. Broad St., Lexington, Tennessee, 38351, do hereby adopt these bylaws, effective August 1st, 2018.

ARTICLE I – NAME and AUTHORITY

The official name of this church will be Lexington Christian Church, also simply referred to as “LCC” or the “Church.” Lexington Christian Church is a Tennessee Corporation created to promote the work of the Church in the spirit of Christ and thus advance His Kingdom. All authority in our church is from Jesus Christ, her head (Matt. 28:18-20; Eph. 1:22-23). Christ has ordained and commanded his church to go forth and make disciples.

ARTICLE II – MISSION and BELIEFS

Section A. – Mission Statement: GROW IN CHRIST - SERVE IN LOVE - MAKE DISCIPLES

Our mission is defined by the Great Commission set by Jesus to all His disciples in Matthew 28:18-20: ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age"

Section B. – Purpose – We are a Bible-believing fellowship who, through our walk with and worship of God, provide Christ-centered teaching, spiritual growth, and outreach in an atmosphere of love and acceptance.

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Section C. – About Us – Lexington Christian Church is patterned from the New Testament Church found in the Book of Acts. It is an Elder-led, Elder-run church. The Elders are responsible for setting the example and shepherding the flock (I Peter 5: 2-3). They accomplish this with the help of LCC Senior Minister, Deacons, staff and qualified volunteers. Our hearts desire is to follow the great commission to reach the lost and make disciples, building up the body in unity and love as we use our gifts to honor our Savior (Matthew 28: 18-20; Romans 12: 4-8).

Section D. – Our Beliefs – We are all sinners in the eyes of God. Lexington Christian Church welcomes all sinners through its doors to worship, fellowship, and commune with God, regardless of race, color, religion (creed), gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), political beliefs, or military status. We do expect that all of us sinners will try to refrain from sin as defined in the Bible and try to live our lives as Jesus did when He walked upon the Earth.

- We call ourselves Christians. (Acts 11:26)
- We believe in the Holy Spirit, both as to His agency in conversion and as a dweller in the heart of the Christian. (John 14:8-11; John 14:15-17)
- We believe in God the Father. (Matthew 6:9)
- We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of the living God, and our Savior. (Matthew 16:19)
- We regard the deity of Christ as the fundamental truth of the Christian system. (John 8:58)
- We proclaim Jesus as God made flesh. (John 1:14)
- We believe that Jesus is the only way for us to obtain salvation and enter the eternities of heaven. (John 14:6; Acts 4:12)
- We observe the institution of the Lord's Supper on every Lord's Day. To this table we neither invite nor detract. We say it is the Lord's Table, for all the Lord's children. (Acts 20:7; Acts 2:42)

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- We believe that sin is what separates us from God. (Romans 3:23, 1 John 3:4-10, 2 Timothy 3:1-5)
- We plead for the unity of God's people. (John 17:20-23)
- We accept the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God. (II Peter 1:20-21; II Timothy 3:16-17)
- We believe in the future punishment of the wicked--hell (Revelations 21:8) and the future reward of the righteous--heaven. (Revelations 21:1-4)
- We believe that our heavenly Father is a prayer-hearing and prayer-answering God. (Matthew 7:7-8)
- We maintain that all ordinances should be observed as they were in the days of the apostles. We practice baptism by immersion in water for the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38, Acts 8:36, Romans 6:4-6, Col. 2:12)
- We believe that the Bible defines what is sin against God. (Mark 7:20-23, Galatians 5:19-21, Exodus 20:2-17, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Colossians 3:3-9)

Section E. – LCC Position on Marriage – Marriages that are to be performed inside Lexington Christian Church or on its grounds shall be for active Lexington Christian Church Members only. The Senior Minister shall not be required to perform any marriage or civil union ceremony which conflicts with Biblical beliefs and Jesus Christ's teachings. The Bible is God's instruction manual for followers of Jesus Christ, as well as leaders in His church. It is the authority by which we operate our church and our conduct and policies must be consistent with Scripture. This Church believes in the sanctity of the marital union as described in Scripture.

- God created the first marriage as a sacred covenant relationship between one man and one woman for the purposes of procreation, companionship, and dominion over creation, in keeping with the

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covenant relationship God himself established with his own creation (Genesis 2:15-24; Romans 1:16-32).

- Jesus blessed a marriage celebration between a man and a woman with his presence and his first public miracle, thereby affirming the traditional definition of marriage as a cornerstone of every culture and community (John 2:1-11).
- Further, that He advised those who are for congenital or psychological reasons unable to enter marriage (i.e. between a man and a woman) to remain single and therefore celibate (Matthew 19:4-12).
- Society historically has embraced this traditional definition of marriage, eschewing all other unions as unnatural, inappropriate, and/or anti-social, and has advocated the family unit of husband and wife and their children as the chief building block of society (Leviticus 18:22-30; Psalm 127:3-5; Romans 1:16-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-2; Hebrews 13:4).

Lexington Christian Church adheres to the doctrinal statements on marriage and family, that marriage is to be defined biblically and theologically in God's own terms rather than man-made terms. LCC adheres to the belief that other legal definitions and court actions are secondary to the Biblical mandate. LCC's policy regarding same sex marriage is based clearly on the Bible and its definition of marriage and moral conduct.

- The Bible tells us that homosexuality is a sin. Obedience to the Word of God in the areas of sexual behavior leads to stable and productive family life (Galatians 3:10; Leviticus 26:3-13).
- Sexual relationships outside of marriage between a man and woman are clearly condemned in the Bible (Leviticus 18:22, 26:15-56, Romans 1:24-25 and I Corinthians 5:9-13, 6:9-12, 15-20).

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- The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by God because homosexuality and everything that accompanied that lifestyle had so morally polluted the culture that was there, God could not find more than four people in the community who were not completely depraved by the lifestyle (Genesis 18 and 19.)
- 1 Corinthians 6:11 declares that people in the church came out of and were set free from the homosexual lifestyle when they were washed and sanctified and cleansed by Jesus Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit. They did not continue to practice that sin.

Lexington Christian Church affirms that all marriage ceremonies performed in the name of this church and any related celebrations or activities allowed in its facilities shall be for unions that meet the standards named in these Constitution/By-laws, and further, that church ministers and staff engage only in marriage ceremonies in keeping with this church adopted biblical and theological definition of marriage. Any Minister or staff employed by Lexington Christian Church who performs or officiates over a same-sex wedding ceremony shall be promptly terminated, in accordance the terms under Article IV, Section B, of this document.

Under normal circumstances, only Ministers employed by Lexington Christian Church shall conduct wedding ceremonies on church premises. Ministers who are not employed by Lexington Christian Church may perform a wedding on church premises only after agreeing to follow the marriage policies of Lexington Christian Church as defined in these Constitution/By-laws, and provided that the Minister receives the approval of the LCC Senior Minister or the Board of Elders.

Section F. – Wedding Applicants – All persons desiring to be married at Lexington Christian Church shall be required to complete a course of pre-marital counseling with the Senior Minister or a qualified counselor authorized by Lexington

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Christian Church. Individual pre-marital counseling may be performed by another qualified pastor if such pre-marital counseling is consistent with and at least as rigorous as the pre-marital counseling provided by Lexington Christian Church. The Senior Minister conducting the pre-marital counseling has authority to determine that in his judgment the couple is not ready for or should not be married at Lexington Christian Church. In that instance, Lexington Christian Church will advise the couple that Lexington Christian Church has declined to allow the marriage to be held at Lexington Christian Church or to be performed by the Lexington Christian Church Senior Minister.

Lexington Christian Church Elders and Ministers reserve the right to decline the services of any Minister or the use of Lexington Christian Church property or facilities to perform any wedding ceremony that it is inconsistent with the Biblical standards for marriage and with this marriage policy.

This marriage policy was approved by the Board of Elders of Lexington Christian Church on the date these Constitution/By-Laws was adopted, August 1st, 2018.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Membership of Lexington Christian shall consist of those who have united with the Church by public confession of faith in Christ, by baptism (immersion) into Him, and having requested, been granted membership by LCC Church Leadership.

- a. **ACTIVE MEMBER** - An Active Member is one who regularly participates in Sunday services through attendance as well as financially supporting the mission and operation of Lexington Christian Church. (“Regular” as defined by Merriam-Webster “one who can be trusted on or depended on.”). Exceptions are determined by the elders.

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- b. SHUT-IN MEMBER – A Shut-In Member is one who is financially supporting the mission and operation of the Church but cannot participate in Sunday services due to health reasons.

- c. INACTIVE MEMBER – An Inactive Member is one who has chosen not to regularly participate in Sunday worship services or support financially the church within the period of one year. Inactive Members may be removed from the Church Membership after one year of “inactive member” status. Every Active Member being considered for Inactive Member status will be approached by an Elder and given the opportunity to restore active membership. If they decide not to restore active membership, they will be placed in Inactive Member status.

ARTICLE IV – CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Section A. – Elders – Elders are “Shepherds of the Flock,” and shall be Active Members chosen by the existing Board of Elders from the congregation, based on their qualifications set forth in 1 Tim. 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. Active and Shut-In members of the congregation will be given the opportunity to vote on the installment of a new Elder after an appropriate period of introduction, normally at least two weeks. A simple majority of those present at the time of voting shall be sufficient. Elders shall serve an indefinite term and may serve for life or until they cease to possess the required qualifications. An Elder may be removed for cause by a unanimous vote of the other Elders. An Elder may step down of his own volition at any time. An Elder may elect Emeritus status if unable to fulfill the duties of the office after serving at least 5 years. The Senior Minister of Lexington Christian Church shall be a member of the Board of Elders and shall have the full authority of the office in all respects. Only active Elders and the Senior Minister shall have voting privileges at Elders’ meetings. The Elders’ primary responsibilities shall be devoting themselves to prayer and the ministry of the

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Word. (Acts 6:4), and shepherding church members for the work of the ministry (Eph. 4:11-16).

Section B. – Senior Minister – The Senior Minister shall serve as a fellow Shepherd on the Board of Elders and as an Overseer of the church, feeding, leading and nurturing the “sheep.” The Senior Minister’s main responsibilities will be to communicate God’s Word, minister to spiritual needs and provide biblical leadership for the church. His specific responsibilities include, but are not limited to the following:

- Solid Bible Preaching and Teaching – Sound Word and Doctrine
- Collective Shepherding and oversight of the flock with the Elders
- Development of church structure and organization
- Development of Ministry Teams
- Development of Elders and Deacons – Training and Education
- Development of curriculum
- Oversight and supervision of the Office Manager and daily operations

Should the need arise, the Board of Elders shall make known the need for a new Senior Minister. A screening committee with representation from the Elders, Deacons, and a minimum of four (4) active members from the Congregation selected by the Elders will search for pastoral applicants.

The committee will develop a comprehensive plan for vetting the applicants, ultimately deciding which ones to bring in for a face-to-face interview and to present a sermon to the congregation. The committee’s recommendation(s) will go to the Elders for their final approval. After the candidate has been heard, the Elders may make a recommendation to the Congregation for final approval.

A congregational meeting shall be called, and the Congregation shall vote by secret ballot. To be selected, the candidate must receive an 80% approval vote

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from the voting members present at the meeting. The new Senior Minister shall be selected for an indefinite term of service. The specific terms of the Senior Minister's employment shall be defined in the official contract of employment.

A Senior Minister may be removed for cause by a unanimous vote of the Board of Elders. The Senior Minister may step down of his own volition at any time, but he must give written notice to the Board of Elders at least 30 days in advance.

Section C. – Deacons – Deacons are “Servants of the Church,” and shall be Active Members nominated to serve based on their qualifications set forth in 1 Tim 3: 8-13 and Acts 6: 3-4. Those nominated for the office of Deacon shall be nominated for service and approved by the Board of Elders. Deacons may serve an indefinite term and may serve for life or until they cease to possess the required qualifications. A Deacon may be removed for cause by a unanimous vote of the Board of Elders. A Deacon may step down of his own volition at any time. The Deacons' primary responsibilities shall be to carry out/implement the work of the Church as directed by the Elders (Acts 6:1-8). Collectively the Elders and Deacons shall constitute the body's leadership (“Leadership”). The New Testament intentionally lists no fixed duties for deacons. As their name indicates, deacons are good servants who serve in whatever capacity they are needed. They adjust to meet the needs at hand. There is great latitude in their work.

Section D. – Trustees – The Trustees, under the guidance of the Elders, shall act as the legal agents of the Church in all business matters. The Trustees shall hold legal title to all Church properties and perform such duties as required by the laws of the State of Tennessee. The Elders shall nominate, approve or disapprove any applicant for the position of Trustee. There shall be a minimum of two (2) trustees at all times.

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Section E. – Church Treasurer – The Church Treasurer/Assistant Treasurer, selected and approved by the Elders, will collect, deposit, and disburse all funds of the Church as directed by the Elders. The Treasurer will assist the Elders in the preparation of the annual church budget. An Assistant Treasurer may be selected by the Elders to carry out these duties in the Treasurer’s absence or to assist him in the performance of his duties.

Section F. – Ministry Leaders and Teachers – All Ministry Leaders (Directors, Superintendents, Overseers, etc.) and Teachers shall be active members of the Church. The Board of Elders must approve any exceptions.

Section G. – Office Manager – The LCC Office Manager shall be an employee and an Active Member of Lexington Christian Church. The Office Manager will be hired by the Board of Elders as necessary and will fall under the day-to-day supervision of the Senior Minister. Salary and benefits will be determined by the Board of Elders and subject to annual review.

ARTICLE V – MINISTRY BOOKLET

To define policies not stated in corporate papers or bylaws, the Lexington Christian Church Ministry Booklet shall be used and maintained by the Office Manager. The Ministry Booklet shall be a living document and shall contain specific names, assignments and duties that are not specified in the By-Laws. The Ministry Booklet will be available to the congregation for review in each foyer and available for take home if desired. A copy of the Ministry Booklet will also be made available on the LCC official website. All policies and other content shall be approved by the Board of Elders.

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ARTICLE VI – FINANCES

The Church Treasurer/Assistant Treasurer shall present any expenditure other than routine maintenance or replacement in kind exceeding \$5,000 to the Elders for approval. Any expenditure requiring a contractual agreement for time payments or long-term indebtedness must be approved by the Elders. Oversight of the church's finances and bank accounts will be conducted by a member of the Board of Elders, Deacons, or one of the Trustees. His duties will be to examine the monthly bank statements for any irregularities or even the appearance of such. He will provide a monthly financial report to the Board of Elders, to include data and graphical presentations as necessary.

ARTICLE VII – CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

Congregational meetings may be called at any time by the Board of Elders. Notice should be given, except in the case of emergency, at Sunday services each of the two (2) Sundays immediately preceding the called meeting by oral announcement from the pulpit during services and by written notice in the bulletins.

ARTICLE VIII – CONSTITUTION/BY-LAWS AMENDMENTS

The constitution/bylaws may be amended as warranted by changes in state law or for congregational needs. Any proposed changes to the by-laws must be approved by the Elders. A committee appointed by the Elders may be established to create or review the amendments.

ARTICLE IX – ADOPTION

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These constitution/by-laws, following its adoption by the Board of Elders will take effect, thereby repealing and rendering null and void the existing constitution and all amendments thereto heretofore adopted.

ARTICLE XV – PRESERVATION OF RECORDS

The original copy of the Constitution/By-laws, duly authenticated by the Board of Elders, and all amendments are to be turned over to the Office Manager for safekeeping.

Adopted by the Lexington Christian Church Board of Elders this 1st Day of August 2018.

_____, Elder, Date: August 1st, 2018

_____, Elder, Date: August 1st, 2018

_____, Elder, Date: August 1st, 2018

_____, Elder, Date: August 1st, 2018