

ARTICLE I. THE NAME

The name of this church shall be: **Lisle Bible Church**

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this church is the salvation of souls, the edification of Christians through the teaching of God's word, the world-wide proclamation of God's saving grace expressed in the shed blood and finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary, the promotion of Godly worship, the defense of "The Faith Once Delivered", and co-operation with Christian activity functioning in harmony with God's Holy Word, The Bible, until he comes.

ARTICLE III. DOCTRINE

THE DOCTRINAL STATEMENT OF THE LISLE BIBLE CHURCH:

1. We believe the Holy Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God absolutely authoritative and infallible.
2. We believe in one God existing in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, co-equal and eternal.
3. We believe that man was created in innocence but fell in Adam and is now totally unable to retrieve his lost condition.
4. We believe that salvation has been provided through our Lord Jesus Christ who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered and died for our sins upon the Cross, rose from the dead, ascended to God's right hand, and is coming again in power and great glory.
5. We believe that the Church is the Body of Christ formed by the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and that all believers are members thereof and are a holy and royal priesthood.
6. We believe in the eternal security and everlasting blessedness of the saved and the eternal judgment of all who reject our Lord Jesus Christ.
7. We believe that Christ instituted the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Table to be observed until He comes.
8. We believe that it is the responsibility of all who are saved to seek to win others to Christ.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section I. Any person who has accepted Christ as his or her personal Savior, and gives assurance of a desire to live a consistent Christian life, and who gives assurance of willingness to abide by the Constitution and who gives assurance of willingness to receive the ordinance of the Lord's Table shall be eligible for membership. Any person desiring water baptism, upon application shall be immersed by this church.

Section II. Persons can be received into membership upon confession of faith, re-statement of faith, or a statement of faith with a letter from former church, conditioned upon an examination satisfactory to the Official Board of the Church.

Section III. Members are expected to strive conscientiously to live according to light revealed to them by the Holy Spirit through God's Word, and to support whole-heartedly the services and activities of the Church, as God may reveal His will to them.

Section IV. It shall be the responsibility of the Official Board to order a periodic review of the Church membership whenever they deem it necessary. At this time members who seem to manifest inconsistency or flagrant sin in their Christian lives, a wrong attitude toward the Church's Doctrinal Standards, or show indifference toward the life and work of the Church shall be investigated for the purpose of remedying any weakness in their Christian lives. It shall be within the province of those investigating to recommend to the Official Board that the person or persons in question be either dropped from the membership roll or placed on an inactive membership roll.

Section V. Persons on an inactive roll shall not be entitled to hold office or vote in Church matters.

Section VI. Persons on the inactive roll may be restored to full membership standing by action of the Official Board, after the individuals have attended regularly for a reasonable length of time and have shown a renewed desire to fellowship with the people of the Church.

Section VII. Letters transferring membership may be granted by the Official Board.

ARTICLE V. GOVERNMENT

Section I. The government of this Church is vested in its membership executed through the Official Board.

Section II. The Official Board shall be the executive of the congregation in its dealing with the pastor.

Section III. The Official Board shall have supervision over the business transactions and general work of the Church and its organizations including the auditing of the financial records of each organization annually.

Section IV. The Official Board shall have the management and control of all property belonging to the Church, it shall not encumber with loan, transfer, sell or purchase any real estate for the Church except by express authorization conveyed through a majority vote of the membership present at a constitutionally called business meeting.

Section V. The Official Board shall handle and consider suggestions, recommendations and grievances upon the part of any member or organization affiliated with the Church.

Section VI. The deciding factor in any vote taken in an Official Board meeting shall be a majority of the members present.

Section VII. The Official Board members shall be selected by a nominating committee and elected by vote of the membership.

Section VIII. The nominating committee shall be selected by the Official Board and will consist of one member from the Official Board (not retiring), one member at large, and the pastor.

The nominating committee shall place in nomination, at a regularly called meeting of the membership, candidates for election to fill vacancies in the elective offices of the Church. It shall be within the province of the members to accept or reject in part or whole the committee's report by majority vote. In the event the report is rejected in part or whole, this committee shall continue to function, unless otherwise ordered by the members, until a slate submitted is fully accepted by the members.

The nominating committee shall thoroughly investigate the qualifications and capabilities of every person considered for office.

The committee shall require any candidate placed in nomination to agree to the doctrinal statement and any standards that may be established by the Church or Official Board.

It shall be impossible for the committee to place in nomination any candidate who cannot answer in the affirmative the following questions:

- I. Have you publicly confessed Christ as personal Savior and experienced the new birth set forth in John 3:3-6?
- II. Are you in hearty agreement with the doctrinal statement of this Church and its constitution?
- III. Are you living a surrendered, prayerful Christian life, especially as regards loyal obedience to the precepts taught in the Word of God for believers, including:
 - a. Separation from the world and worldly amusements I John 2:15-17; James 4:4, Titus 2:11-15.

- b. Freedom from membership in oath-bound religious or other entangling alliances with unbelievers.
- c. A moral conduct beyond reproach and freedom from carnal indulgence, such as the use of intoxicating liquors, and narcotic drugs, all of which are harmful, a stumbling-block and out of harmony with a dedicated life, as set forth in: Romans 1:12; Romans 12:1, 2; Romans 13:14; Romans 14:21; Gal. 5:16-25; Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:1-10; I Peter 1:14-16; I John 3:5-9 etc.

Section IX. In case of vacancies in offices on the Official Board, the Board shall authorize a nominating committee to submit candidates for unexpired terms to the congregation for election; said committee to be composed and functioned in accordance with Section VIII of Article V. In the event an unexpired term be six months or less, said vacancy can be filled at the discretion of the Official Board.

Section X. All voting shall be by ballot by the members.

Section XI. The Board shall meet regularly.

ARTICLE VI. PASTORS AND OFFICERS

Section I. The Official Board shall consist of four elders, four deacons, one clerk, and one treasurer. The term of office for elders and deacons shall be two years, so arranged that two elders and two deacons shall be elected each year. Only men shall hold the office as elders and deacons. In unusual circumstances, the number serving may be reduced, but never less than two elders and two deacons.

The term of office for clerk and treasurer shall be one year.

Section II. Any pastor's or officer's services may be terminated for cause at any time by vote of the members, after a fair and impartial trial, conducted under the supervision of the Official Board, at a meeting called in accordance with Section IV. of Article IX.

Section III. A pastor or any assistant or associate pastor may be called upon a vote of the congregation, after recommendation by the Official Board, or by a committee appointed by the Official Board. Pastors shall serve until their pastorate is terminated by resignation or by request of the members. Pastors shall give a minimum of thirty days notice before termination of their service. In the event the members vote to terminate the service of the pastor, or assistant or associate pastor, the salary shall continue for thirty days.

Section IV. The Official Board may call additional Christian workers to share in the ministry of this church. They may fill the offices of: Director of Christian Education, Minister of Music, Youth Work Director, or other ministry, as may be necessary for the service of the church.

ARTICLE VII. DUTIES OF PASTORS AND OFFICERS

Section I. The Pastor shall have general oversight of the spiritual life, regular services and ministration of the ordinances of the Church, shall be ex-officio member of all Board and committee meetings connected with the church or any of its organizations, act as moderator in the meetings of the Church unless otherwise directed by this Constitution or ordered by vote of the Church, and shall conscientiously perform such duties as may be arranged between the Official Board and himself. If at any time his personal belief, preaching or teaching shall not be in full accord with the doctrinal standard and statement of this Church, his services as pastor shall be terminated.

Section II. The elders shall be responsible with the pastor for the spiritual welfare of the Church; they shall assist in ministering the ordinances of the Church and shall make the necessary provisions for same. They shall be expected to visit the sick and sorrowing of the membership, investigate delinquents and endeavor to remedy any spiritual weakness in the lives of its members. They shall faithfully perform all other duties designated by this Constitution or pertaining to their office. They shall endeavor by God's grace to live and serve in full conformity with the standards set forth in the Constitution for their particular office, I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9.

Section III. The deacons shall have the care of the physical properties and finances of the Church and shall hold themselves in readiness to assist in guiding the spiritual life of the Church, ministering its ordinances, performing any necessary visitation. They shall co-operate with the pastor in suggesting missionary or benevolent expenditures for approval of the Official Board. They shall endeavor by God's grace to live and serve in full conformity with the standards set forth in this Constitution for their particular office, and especially as found in the Word of God. I Timothy 3:8-13.

Section IV. The Church clerk shall keep an accurate record of all congregational business meetings and any other meetings designated by the congregation or the Official Board upon request of either body. He shall be responsible for the keeping of a record of the Church membership, admissions, dismissals, deaths, dedications, baptisms and ordination services. He shall have custody of the Church seal, shall carry on and maintain a complete record of all correspondence and such other records as may pertain to his office. He shall also have in custody any other papers, records or documents as directed by the Official Board.

Section V. The treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements and shall be authorized to handle all moneys that belong to the Church.

Section VI. All duties of officers are subject to the By Laws of the Official Board.

ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS

Section I. The Fiscal year of this Church shall end on the last day of December each year, and the Annual Meeting shall be held within forty-five days thereafter. The Official Board shall set the

date and have it announced twice on two Sundays preceding the meeting. Other business meetings shall be set and announced by the Board two weeks in advance of the meeting.

Section II. At the annual meeting the minutes of the preceding Annual Meeting and such items from any preceding meeting as are necessary shall be read with the report of the Church Clerk; and the Church's yearly financial report rendered, and the report from the nominating committee submitted to the membership for action. Also such other business as may be necessary shall be transacted.

At other business meetings the moderator shall present or allow to be presented any business matters relative to the Church. All matters to be presented by individuals must be submitted to the Official Board two weeks in advance of said meeting. Such meetings shall serve to promote fellowship among members, new members and friends and to promote increased activity in the goals of the Church at home and abroad as commanded by Christ.

Section III. Any regular or called meeting of the congregation may constitute a meeting for the transaction of business, providing announcement of said meeting is given from the pulpit two Sundays preceding the said meeting.

Section IV. The Official Board shall call a special membership business meeting upon the written request of ten percent of the voting members, said meeting and its purpose to be announced as provided in Section III of Article IX and convened within four weeks after filing request with the Official Board.

Section V. A majority vote of the voting members present at any constitutionally called congregational business meeting shall be required for the election of officers or to render final decisions in any matter under consideration, except amendment to this constitution.

Section VI. The voting members present at any business meeting called in accordance with the requirements of this Constitution shall be considered a quorum for the transaction of business. No member under 18 years of age shall be allowed to vote.

Section VII. In the conduct of business meetings any parliamentary questions not covered by this Constitution shall be decided by the latest edition of "Robert's Rules of Order".

ARTICLE IX. ORDINATION

When, in the judgment of the Official Board, a man in this membership is called to the Christian ministry, it shall be within the power of the Official Board to call and conduct a council for ordination, provided such authority is granted by vote of the Church.

The ordaining council shall thoroughly examine all applicants for ordination as to their call to the Christian ministry, education, Christian experience, reputation, character, doctrinal belief, and demonstrated efficiency in Christian service.

The following shall not be ordained to the ministry: First, one who has not served 1 year as Pastor, assistant Pastor, or in definite Christian work in such manner as to convey reasonable evidence of God's call to the ministry.

Second, one who is addicted to the use of intoxicating liquor, drugs or tobacco in any form; or who belongs to a secret society; or one who brings disrepute upon his ministry through worldly practices and associations. (Rom. 12:1, 12 etc.)

It shall be within the province of the Official Board to discipline, even to revoking the ordination credentials of any minister, ordained under this Constitution, if the said minister is found guilty of any of the above practices after an impartial trial conducted in the ministry of I Cor. 13.

ARTICLE X. COMMITTEES

The duties and the composition of the committees of the Lisle Bible Church shall be according to the By Laws of the Official Board.

ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at any regular or special meeting, providing the proposed amendment has been read to the congregation at each regular Church service for the two (2) Sundays preceding said meeting, and providing an exact copy of the proposed amendment has been conspicuously posted in the Church exits on the four Sundays immediately preceding said meeting.