

LIFESPRING CHURCH PREAMBLE, CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

LIFESPRING CHURCH PREAMBLE

LifeSpring Church was established in August 2008. We are a contemporary church that emphasizes love for Jesus Christ and love for people. Special emphasis is placed on the freedom of each believer to maintain divergent beliefs on the non-essentials while maintaining strict adherence to the essentials of the faith. The essentials of the faith are the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ for the redemption of fallen humanity, the hopeless condition of mankind without the shed blood of Jesus Christ, the triune nature of the God head: The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit – all three being co-equal and collectively God, the virgin birth, the priesthood of all believers and the sinless life of Christ. We believe in the Bible which is the infallible word of God containing no errors and is the blueprint for mankind relative to his mode of living on this earth. Everyone who adheres to these essentials of the faith may come and find a place of worship and service at LifeSpring Church. Our church doctrine is further defined and set forth below.

ESSENTIALS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

- **The Bible is God’s unique revelation to people. We believe the Bible to be the inspired, infallible, authoritative and inerrant Word of God (II Timothy 3:15-17, II Peter 1:21). No other writings are vested with such divine authority.**
- **We believe there is one God, creator of heaven and earth, eternally existing in three persons: The Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:1, Deuteronomy 6:4, Matthew 28:19, John 10:30) each being personally distinct from the other.**
- **We believe in the deity of Christ (John 10:33), His virgin birth to Mary (Isaiah:7:14, Matthew 1:23, Luke 1:34-35), His sinless life (Hebrews 4:15, 7:26) His miracles (John 2:11), His vicarious and atoning death (1 Corinthians 15:3, Ephesians 1:7, Hebrews 2:9), His resurrection (John 11:25, 1 Corinthians 15:4), His ascension to the right hand of the Father (Mark 16:19), and His personal return to the earth in power and glory (Acts 1:11, Revelation 19:11-16).**
- **We believe in the absolute necessity of regeneration by the Holy Spirit for salvation because of the exceeding sinfulness of the human nature, that all are justified on the single ground of faith in the shed blood of Christ and that only by God’s grace through faith alone are we saved (John 3:16-19, 5:24, Romans 3:23, 5:8-9, Ephesians 2:8-10, Titus 3:5).**
- **We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost: those who are saved unto the resurrection of life and those who are not unto the resurrection of damnation (John 5:28-29).**
- **We believe in the spiritual unity of the believers in our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-13, Galatians 3:26-28). Spiritual unity is to be expressed among Christians by acceptance and love of one another across ethnic, cultural, socio-economic, national, generational, gender and denominational lines.**
- **We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by Whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a Godly life (Romans 8:13-14, 1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19-20, Ephesians 4:30, 5:18).**
- **We believe that as Christians we are examples of the love of God in this world. It is this (agape) love that we desire to possess and without which we have no right to call ourselves Christians (1 John 4:16-17).**
- **The local church is a congregation of believers who gather for worship, prayer, instruction, encouragement, mutual accountability and community with each other. We also believe it is the mandate of the whole church to go into the whole world and to preach the Gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15, Matthew 28:19-20).**

LIFESPRING CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is the same as that of the early church. We feel that it is dangerous to drift very far from the original teachings of the early church. We are endeavoring to preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified and any doctrines or teachings closely associated with this essential doctrine.

LIFESPRING CHURCH VISION STATEMENT

“Seek, Find, Love, Lead through Christ”

LIFESPRING CHURCH CONSTITUTION

Article I. Officers and Elders

Section 1. Official Board: The official board of LifeSpring Church is called the Leadership Team and shall consist of the senior pastor, elders and deacons of the church and shall be the ruling body of LifeSpring Church in all spiritual as well as business matters. The beginning of Leadership Team meetings will be open to church members, where members may share their ideas.

Section 2. Advisory Board: There will be an Advisory Board which will consist of the church members and leaders who desire to plan and work in church ministries and other activities. The Advisory Board will bring their proposals to the Leadership Team for approval.

Section 3. Senior Pastor: There shall be a senior pastor selected by the Leadership Team to facilitate the work of the ministry at LifeSpring Church. The Senior Pastor will work under the guidance and direction of the Leadership Team and in conjunction with any associate pastors, hired staff, deacons, elders, ministry leaders and the congregation at large. Once selected, the Senior Pastor will work through a probationary period of not less than one year to insure that he can work well with the elders, other pastors and staff and to ensure that he has a good rapport with the congregation. Other considerations related to the pastor’s evaluation will be the spiritual growth as well as numerical growth of the church as determined by the Leadership Team. After a period of one year, the Senior Pastor may be added as an elder upon a unanimous vote of the Elders and after assurances to the Elders of his long term commitment to the church.

Section 4. Associate Pastors: Under the recommendation of the Senior Pastor or any elder, there shall be Associate Pastors selected and appointed by the Leadership Team as needed by the evidence of church growth.

Section 5. Elders: The eldership of LifeSpring Church works within the greater Leadership Team of the church and will only supercede the authority of the Leadership Team when consensus amongst the members of the Leadership Team can’t be reached. Vacancies in the eldership will be filled by a majority vote of the existing elders holding office at that time.

Section 6. Deacons: There shall be a slate of Deacons appointed by the Leadership Team of LifeSpring Church.

Section 7. Treasurer: There may be a Treasurer appointed by the Leadership Team at such time as is deemed necessary.

Section 8. Secretary: There may be a Secretary appointed by the Leadership Team at such time as is deemed necessary.

Section 9. Other Officers and officials: The Leadership Team may appoint other additional officers and officials as deemed necessary.

Article II. Ministry Leaders

Section 1. Appointment: The Leadership Team reserves the right to appoint ministry leaders as needed and determined by church growth.

Section 2. Ministry Application: All those in ministry/leadership positions, whether voluntary or salaried shall be required to complete a ministry application to be kept on file by the church secretary.

Article III. Church Meetings

Section 1. Church Services: Meetings for public worship shall be held each Lord's Day (Sunday) and during the week as may be considered to be needed.

Section 2. Business Meetings: There shall be an annual business meeting of the congregation and special business meetings as needs arise.

Article IV. Committees

Herein is provided for the appointment of any committee that may be needed. All such committees shall be appointed by the Leadership Team and shall contribute to the harmony and development of LifeSpring Church. They shall be under the general supervision of the Leadership Team.

Article V. Finances

Section 1. All funds for the maintenance of LifeSpring Church shall be provided by the contributions of the tithes and offerings of the members and friends of this church. Offerings shall be accepted in all services and shall be administered by one or more church members under the supervision and guidance of the Leadership Team. Any active member of LifeSpring Church may inspect the financial records of the church after giving notice to the Leadership Team.

Section 2. Salaries: The senior pastor, the associate pastors and any other staff to be hired shall receive monetary compensation for their labors in the church (2 Corinthians Chapters 8 & 9; Luke 10:7; Galatians 6:6; 1 Timothy 5:17-18). The amount and manner of this compensation shall be decided by the Leadership Team.

Article VI. Property Rights

At such times as deemed necessary LifeSpring Church shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Alabama. All property of this church shall be deeded to this church and held in its corporate name by the Leadership Team and their successors in office. No property of LifeSpring Church shall be sold, leased, mortgaged or otherwise disposed of without the recommendation and approval of the Leadership Team.

Article VII. Amendments

This Constitution may be amended or changed by a unanimous vote of the Elders.

LIFESPRING CHURCH BY-LAWS

Article I. Membership Requirements

Section 1. Qualifications: The standard requirement for membership to LifeSpring is to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior by 1 – repentance of all sin both known and unknown 2 – recognizing the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ adding to his shed blood absolutely nothing else and a commitment to live hereafter in a manner that would be pleasing in his sight.

Section 2. Reception of Members; The Leadership Team shall serve as a membership committee to pass upon all candidates for membership in LifeSpring Church. After proper investigation by the Leadership Team and upon the applicant's agreement to lead a Christian life, the applicant will be endorsed for membership. Thereafter, he or she may be publicly received at any convenient service and his or her name added to the membership roll.

Section 3. Active Members: Active membership shall consist of all those who meet the qualifications for membership as stated in Section 1 of this article. They shall include those whose names appear on the original membership roll of LifeSpring and any new members whose names have been added by the Leadership Team.

Section 4. Inactive Members: Inactive membership shall consist of all those who fail to meet any of the aforementioned qualifications for active membership together with those who for any other cause (except for reasons of physical disability or temporary absence from the community) shall have absented themselves from the regular involvement and attendance of services for a period of 90 days or more, shall be classified as inactive members. If such inactive member shall have become active again by resumed attendance at church services, and if he or she has not departed from a Christian lifestyle, the Leadership Team may return his or her name to the active list without formal reception into membership again.

Section 5. Discipline:

- a. Any member of LifeSpring Church including the senior pastor, elders, members or any staff who shall willfully absent himself from the regular services for a period of 90 days or who shall be under charges shall be temporarily suspended from active membership pending investigation and final decision in his or her case.
- b. Unscriptural conduct or departure from biblical doctrine is sufficient grounds upon which any person may be disqualified as a member.

Section 6. Revision of Membership Roll: The Leadership Team shall be authorized to revise the membership roll of LifeSpring Church annually, or as needed, and to remove from the list of active members all names of those who may have withdrawn from church fellowship, or those whose lives have become inconsistent with the Christian lifestyle and the standards and teachings of The Church. The Leadership Team shall instruct the church secretary or any other designated church member to remove the names of any such church members from the church roll (Matthew 18:15-17; Romans 16:17-19; 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 15).

Article II. Qualifications and Duties of Officers

Section 1. Senior Pastor:

- a. **Qualifications:** The senior pastor of LifeSpring Church shall meet the requirements of 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; John 10:7-18; and Ecclesiastes 12:9-11. He shall first and foremost be an individual of the highest moral standards and must be committed to the spiritual and numerical growth of this church and the kingdom of God. He must be committed to preach the essentials of the faith as set forth in the preamble of this constitution and not be a proponent of divisive and non-essential doctrines. He must be a promoter of the church and willing to be directed by the Leadership Team.

- b. **Duties of the Senior Pastor:** The senior pastor of LifeSpring Church shall conduct the work of the ministry at LifeSpring Church including preaching, teaching, doing hospital visitation, making home visits to old members as well as visitors, counseling and keeping regular office hours as well as any other duties deemed appropriate and necessary by the Leadership Team. Moreover, the senior pastor shall work in conjunction with any associate pastors in the implementation of most pastoral duties.

Section 2.

Associate Pastors:

- a. **Qualifications:** All associate pastors shall meet the requirements of 1Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; John 10:7-18; and Ecclesiastes 12:9-11. The associate pastors of LifeSpring Church shall be recognized ministers by LifeSpring Church and shall be held to the same standards and requirements as the senior pastor of the church in every respect.
- b. **Duties of Associate Pastors:** Associate pastors are to assist the senior pastor in such things as pastoral care, visitation, preaching and teaching the Word, the ordering of church services, protection of the sheep, exhortation, comfort, and basically to help in the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-12). Associate pastors are accountable to the Leadership Team but will report directly to the senior pastor on a day to day basis. Any associate pastor, staff member, employee or church member is free to lodge a complaint of any kind, whether it be against the pastor, an elder, deacon or anyone else on the church staff or congregation with the Leadership Team who will give such complaint just and biblical consideration.

Section 3.

Elders

- a. **Qualifications:** All elders shall meet the requirements of 1Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9. Elders are to be appointed by a majority vote of the existing Eldership.
- b. **Duties of Elders:** Elders shall assist the pastor and all associate pastors in praying for, and seeking God, concerning the spiritual well being of the church. The elders shall assist in teaching the Word of God, administering the sacraments, leading home fellowship groups, and shall hold the position of alter workers/prayer partners. The Eldership may be expanded by a majority vote of the existing Elders as the church grows in numbers.

Section 4.

Deacons

- a. **Qualifications:** Deacons shall be men of good reputation, full of faith, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. Deacons shall be selected by the Leadership Team. The requirements of 1Timothy 3:8-13, are to be the standard for all deacons.
- b. **Duties of Deacons:** Deacons shall be responsible for the daily administration of the temporal affairs (Acts 6:1) of the Church as such responsibilities are delegated to them. There is no set number of deacons and this office is to expand as the church multiplies. The Leadership Team determines the length of time a Deacon is to serve.
- c. The Deaconship shall meet on a regular basis to implement ways to better care for the needs of the Church both inside and outside the confines of the Church grounds. Moreover the Deacons have the responsibility of maintaining and improving the condition of all Church property. Because the Deacons are often the first to become aware of personal and financial needs of the congregation they should bring such needs to the attention of the Leadership Team who will then act accordingly.

Section 5.

Secretary: The secretary should be appointed by the Leadership Team and shall keep minutes of the annual and special business meetings of LifeSpring Church. He or she, shall keep a record of the membership of the church and perform and other clerical work necessary. He or she will deposit funds in a Church bank account in the name of the church and shall disburse checks for Church expenses as authorized by the Leadership Team.

Article III Appointments, Elections and Vacancies

Section 1. Selection of Associate Pastors: Associate pastors and all other staff and employees shall be selected by the Leadership Team. It is however anticipated that the senior pastor will have latitude to make suggestions and recommendations on such selections and his suggestions will be given great weight as to who is selected.

Section 2. Vacancies:

Senior Pastor: In the event that the senior pastor has serious charges brought against him, or his ministry has ceased to be effective, power is vested in the Elders to ask for the resignation of the senior pastor at any of its regular business meetings. If such resignation is refused, the pastorate shall be considered vacant until the action of the Elders has been confirmed by a majority vote of the Eldership itself. When a vacancy in the pastorate shall occur, the Elders shall fulfill the duties of Pastor until such time as a pastor shall be chosen as prescribed in Section 1 of this article. It shall be agreed between the senior pastor and the elders at the time of his selection that, should he resign, he will give the elders at least thirty days notice before vacating the pulpit or at the option of the elders vacate the pulpit immediately. It shall be further agreed that, should the Elders require the senior pastor's resignation, they will grant him (except in cases involving moral sinfulness) at least thirty days salary in advance. Grounds for asking for his resignation shall be: incompetency in office, unscriptural conduct, departure from sound Biblical doctrine or an adherence to unbiblical doctrine as that doctrine is understood in LifeSpring Church's Statement of Belief.

In the event of the death of the senior pastor, or if he has left the Church to serve the Lord in another ministry, his position shall be filled by the Elders in a manner consistent with the above described manner following the guidelines found in Section 1 of this Article.

All other offices and positions: If any office or ministry position becomes vacant for any reason the Leadership Team will appoint someone to fill the position.

Deacon: In the event that the office of deacon becomes vacant for any reason, the guidelines Article II, Section 4a and 4b, and Article IV, Section 5 are to be followed to fill this position.

Article V. Departments

Under the advice and counsel of the senior pastor and in conjunction with the advice of the associate pastors, the Leadership Team shall appoint all officers, teachers, Sunday school workers, men's and women's workers, and all other department workers as the need arises. All departments shall be conducted as branches or extensions of the overall ministry of LifeSpring Church. All policies, activities, meetings and guest speakers are subject to the approval of the Leadership Team.

Article VI. Meetings

Section 1. Annual Business Meeting: There shall be an annual business meeting of the congregation at which time the Leadership Team shall take charge and report to the congregation the state of the church and ministry of LifeSpring Church. The date is to be announced by the Leadership Team.

Section 2. Special Business Meetings:

- a. Special business meetings of the church may be called when necessary after proper notice has been given by the Leadership Team or by the church secretary to the congregation.
- b. The right to initiate a special business meeting belongs to any official member provided a request in writing has been made to the Leadership Team setting forth the reason for the special business meeting. The decision of the Leadership Team as to whether to hold the meeting or not shall be made known to the person(s) requesting the meeting no later than 10 days after receiving the request. The Leadership Team will determine the advisability of calling the special business meeting. The decision of the Leadership Team shall be final in this matter.

Article VII. Order of Regular, Annual or Special Business Meetings

Section 1. All business meetings of LifeSpring Church shall be conducted in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship. The order of business in the annual business meetings shall be:

1. Devotional/Prayer
2. Reading or summary report of previous minutes by the secretary (optional)
3. Report of the treasurer
4. Report from ministry heads (including all pastors, deacons and elders)
5. Unfinished business
6. New business
7. The Leadership Team shares and reiterates the LifeSpring vision.