

Lifeway Baptist Church
7821 West State Road 46
Ellettsville, Indiana 47429
812-876-6072

Constitution and By-Laws

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
OF THE
LIFEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

PREAMBLE

We the members of the Life way Baptist Church, do ordain and establish the following articles, to which we voluntarily submit ourselves.

ARTICLE I, NAME

The name of this church shall be: Lifeway Baptist Church of Ellettsville, Indiana.

ARTICLE II, PURPOSE

The purpose of this church shall be the advancement of the kingdom of Jesus Christ and the salvation of souls. It shall seek to attain this end through the public worship of God, the preaching of the gospel, consistent Christian living by its members, personal evangelism, world-wide missionary endeavor, and Christian education. Christ is the church's only head, baptism and the Lord's supper its only ordinances, the word of God its only message, the salvation of souls and their training its only mission, and the Holy Spirit its only Administrator.

ARTICLE III, COVENANT OF PERSONAL AND CHURCH CONDUCT

Having been led, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Savior; and, on the profession of our faith in Him, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God, holy angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body of Christ. We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its spirituality and prosperity; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to give it a sacred pre-eminence over all institutions of human origin; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions; to train our children in the fear and admonition of the Lord; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our conduct; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger: to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and in short abstain from all appearance of evil and anything that would defile the temple of God, and be zealous in our efforts to advance the work of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offence, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of our Savior, to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage, that when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant, and the principles of God's word.

ARTICLE IV, STATEMENT OF FAITH

This church holds the following statement of faith as being a summary of Christian doctrine whose authority consists only in its agreement with the Word of God.

SECTION I, SCRIPTURES

We believe that the Holy Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testament Scriptures, was written by men divinely inspired and is a perfect measure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

2 Timothy 3:16, 17; Isaiah 8:20; 1 Thessalonians 5:21; 2 Peter 1:21

SECTION 2, THE TRUE GOD

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit whose name is Jehovah, the Maker and supreme Ruler of Heaven and Earth; that He is inexpressibly glorious in holiness and worth of all possible honor, confidence, and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three Persons- the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost- equal in every Divine perfection and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

John 4:24; Psalm 83:18; Exodus 15:11; Mark 12:30; Matthew 28:19; John 10:30; Ephesians 2:18; I John 5:20; Colossians 2:9; 2 Corinthians 13:14

SECTION 3, JESUS CHRIST

We believe Jesus Christ to be the eternal Son of God, as well as God, the Son who became flesh being born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can be born of woman. He died for our sins upon the cross of Calvary, according to the Scriptures, as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice. His literal body was resurrected from the dead, he has a present ministry in Heaven and He will personally return to earth.

Hebrews 1:1-3; Hebrews 1:8; John 1:14; Luke 1:35; Matthew 1:18-25; 1 Peter 2:24; 2 Corinthians 5:21;

Hebrews 2:14; 1 John 2:1-2; Revelation 1:7

SECTION 4, HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person; equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world he restrains the Evil One until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He bears witness to the truth of the gospel in preaching and testimony that He is the agent in the new birth; that He seals, empowers, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies, and helps the Believer.

John 14:16-17	Matthew 28:19	Hebrews 9:14	John 14:26	Luke 1:35
Genesis 1:1	John 18:8-11	John 15:26-27	Acts 5:30-32	John 3:5-6
Ephesians 1:13-14	Matthew 3:11	Mark 1:8	Luke 3:16	John 1:33
Acts 11:16	Luke 24:49	John 16:13	John 14:26	Romans 8:14
Romans 8:16	2 Thessalonians 2:13	1 Peter 1:2	Romans 8:26-27	

SECTION 5, THE FALL OF MAN

We believe that man was created in holiness under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state, in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by force, but by choice, being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil, and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin without defense or excuse.

Genesis 1:27; Genesis 1:31; Genesis 3: 6-24; Isaiah 53:6; Ezekiel 18:19-20; Romans 1:20; Romans 5:19

SECTION 6, THE WAY OF SALVATION

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace through the one Mediator, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the appointment of the father, freely took upon him our nature; that being conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, yet without sin, He honored the Divine law by His personal obedience and by His death made a full atonement for our sins; that, having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in Heaven, and uniting in His wonderful Person the tenderest sympathies with Divine perfections, He is in every way qualified to be a suitable and compassionate and an all-sufficient Savior. Ephesians 2:8; John 3:16; Isaiah 53: 4-5; Hebrews 7:25; Colossians 2:19; Hebrews 2:18

SECTION 7, JUSTIFICATION

We believe that the great gospel blessing, which Christ secures to such as believe in Him, is justification: that justification includes the pardon of sin and the promise of eternal life in principles of righteousness: that it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood, by virtue of which faith His perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that justification brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

John 1:16; Acts 13:39; Romans 5:9; Romans 4:4-5; Romans 5:1-2

SECTION 8, THE FREENESS OF SALVATION

We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent, and obedient faith, and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel.

Isaiah 55:1; Romans 16: 25-26; John 5:40; John 3:19

SECTION 9, GRACE IN REGENERATION

We believe that, in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with Divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel, that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, faith, and newness of life.

John 3:3; 2 Corinthians 5:17; John 3:8; 1 Peter 1: 22-25; Ephesians 5:9; Galatians 5: 16-23

SECTION 10. REPENTANCE AND FAITH

We believe that repentance and faith are sacred duties and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God, whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger, and helplessness and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy; and at the same time we heartily receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our prophet, priest, and king, and rely on Him alone as the only and all-sufficient Savior.

Mark 1:15; Acts 11:18; Ephesians 2:8; Acts 2:37-38; Romans 10:9-10

SECTION 11. GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE

We believe that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which He graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, God's purpose comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that grace is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy and unchangeable; that grace utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of His free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the gospel; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.

2 Timothy 1:8-9; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; Exodus 33:18-19; 2 Timothy 2:10; 2 Peter 1:10-11

SECTION 12. SANCTIFICATION

We believe that sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made

partakers of His holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means—especially the word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 1; John 2:29; Romans 8:5; Philippians 1:6

SECTION 13. THE PERSEVERANCE OF SAINTS

We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that their perseverance and attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special providence watches over their welfare, and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

John 3:31 ; 1 John 2:19; Romans 8:28; Philippians 1:6

SECTION 14. THE HARMONY OF THE LAW AND THE GOSPEL

We believe that the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government; that it is holy, just, and good; that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfil its precepts arises entirely from their love of sin; and that the one great end of the Gospel is to deliver them from this inability and to restore them, through a Mediator, to unfeigned obedience to the holy law and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

Romans 3:31; Romans 7:12; Romans 8:7-8; Romans 8:2, 4

SECTION 15. A GOSPEL CHURCH

We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His word; that its only Scriptural officers are bishops or pastors and deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are defined in the epistles to Timothy and Titus.

Matthew 18:17; 1 Corinthians 1:1-1; 1 Corinthians 11:2; Matthew 28:20; Acts 2:41-42; Timothy 3

SECTION 16. SERVICES

We believe that every true Christian should apply his life in service for Jesus Christ. Salvation is by grace through faith alone. Works have no part or lot with being saved. We are justified by faith in Jesus Christ; works are the outgrowth of our salvation. Grace teaches good works. We believe that every Christian will be judged according to his works and over and above the gift of salvation believers will receive rewards for all work that shall abide.

Romans 3:20-21; Romans 5:1; Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:11-13; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Corinthians 3:12-15

SECTION 17. SEPARATION

We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and that in these

Last days evil men and deceivers who deny the Bible truths which we believe, that it is our responsibility to keep ourselves free from fellowship and cooperation with these; and society as a whole or in part who refuse to go on record as believing that the Scriptures teach the truths referred to in our entire article IV, sections 1 through 24, we shall withhold fellowship, support, and cooperation from the same.

2 Timothy 3:1-5; Romans 12:1-2; Titus 2:11-15; 1 John 2:14-17; 2 John 9-12; Corinthians 6:14, 7:11

SECTION 18. WORLD-WIDE MISSIONS

We believe that the entire church has been commissioned by the Lord Jesus Christ to be responsible to help in evangelizing every creature (at home and abroad) through the preaching of the Gospel of Christ. That we should immediately and continually, until Jesus comes again, maintain as we are able a full missionary program that has as its supreme motive the winning of souls to Jesus Christ and the establishing of new testament local churches. Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8

SECTION 19. BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, in the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Ghost to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life. We believe that the Lord's supper, in which the members of the church by the sacred use of the bread and wine are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, is to be preceded always with solemn self-examination.

Acts 8:36,39; John 3:22-23; Matthew 28:19; Romans 6:4; Acts 2:41-42; 1 Corinthians 11:26;
1 Corinthians 11:28

SECTION 20. THE LORD'S DAY

We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's day and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes by abstaining from all secular labor, except works of mercy and necessity; by the devout observance of all means of grace, both private and public; and by preparation for that rest which remains for all the people of God.

Acts 20:7; Psalm 24; Isaiah 58:13-14; Hebrews 10:24-25; Hebrews 4:3-11

SECTION 21. CIVIL GOVERNMENT

We believe that civil government is of Divine appointment for the interest and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed, except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the kings of the earth.

Romans 13:1-7; Matthew 22:21; Acts 5:29; Matthew 23:10

SECTION 22. THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and sanctified by the Spirit of our God are truly righteous in His esteem, while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in his sight wicked and under the curse; and that this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

Malachi 3:18; Romans 1:17; 1 John 5:19; Luke 16:25

SECTION 23. THE WORLD TO COME

We believe that the end of this age is approaching. We believe in "that blessed hope, the personal, imminent return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

1 Peter 4:7; Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and of the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the everlasting punishment of the lost.

Acts 24:15; Matthew 24:31-46; Revelation 22:11

SECTION 24. THE BIBLE

We believe the King James Version of the Bible is the nearest to the original manuscripts of any translation known today. We believe the King James Version is the Bible that all believers should study and live by. This is the translation to preach from the pulpit and teach in the classroom.

ARTICLE V, MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1, PRESENT MEMBERSHIP

All whose names appear upon the rolls of this church are members, but only those upon the "active" list are considered in good and regular standing. Those whose names appear upon the "inactive" list have no right of vote and may not be granted a letter of "good and regular standing."

SECTION 2, RECEIVING MEMBERS

Membership in this church may be acquired in the following manner:

CLAUSE A: any person who has accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior by faith, who has been baptized scripturally as defined in article IV, section 19 of this church constitution, who gives assurance of their willingness to abide by this church constitution and show evidence of a satisfactory attitude toward the doctrinal standards of this church, shall be eligible for membership.

CLAUSE B: By statement of Christian experience, having given evidence of an experience of salvation and baptism by immersion.

CLAUSE C: Persons may be received into membership by letters from other Baptist churches of the same faith and order; by relation of Christian experience; having been previously baptized by immersion into a Baptist church of the same faith and order; by confession of faith in Jesus Christ as his (or her) personal Savior and following him through the baptismal waters; in each case the candidate giving evidence of a change of heart; the testimony of a Christian life; and show evidence of a satisfactory attitude toward the doctrinal standards of this church.

CLAUSE D: By restoration of member whose membership has been terminated (article V, section 3, clause C) and if any offence has been committed, confession and evidence of repentance must be shown.

CLAUSE E: Applicants for membership will be publicly received and extended the hand of Christian fellowship by its members, and shall give their testimony concerning their salvation, and baptism in an interview with the pastor and deacons. Action to receive new members may be taken at any service of the church without previous notice, and be accepted by a majority vote of the church.

SECTION 3, TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

CLAUSE A: Membership is terminated in this church by death or exclusion. (I Corinthians 5:13 and II Corinthians 2:5-8) every effort should be humbly made for the restoration of an erring member in the spirit of Matthew 18: 15-18 and Galatians 6:1.

The deacons and the pastor shall constitute the discipline committee of the church.

In case of personal differences between members of the church, the pastor and deacons shall recommend that the parties endeavor to settle their differences in accordance to the manner laid down by our Savior in Matthew 18: 15-17.

Where charges are made against a member, the accused shall be notified personally, or by letter of the nature of the charges and shall be visited by two (2) members of the discipline committee to make answer to the charges.

When the accused refuses to meet with the one offended and will not follow Matthew 18: 15-17 and meet with the pastor and deacons, and will not acknowledge or repent, the pastor and deacons shall recommend to the church that that member be placed under discipline of the body until repentance takes place.

In case of necessity to discipline the pastor or a deacon, the elected officers will constitute the discipline committee.

The members henceforth shall follow scriptural guidelines on how to treat that dismissed member.

A. UNDERSTANDING THE GOAL OF EXCLUSION:

Galatians 6:1 - "Restore such an one"

Matthew 18:15 - "Gain thy brother"

2 Thessalonians 3:14 - "Put to shame..." (humility is essential to receive grace)

James 4:6

Titus 1:13- "Rebuke them sharply that they may be sound in faith"

1 Corinthians 5:5 - "That the body (sensuous drives and actions) be destroyed"

1 Corinthians 2: 5-6 - "Produce repentance"

1 Corinthians 7:9-10 - "Produce repentance"

1 Timothy 1:20 - "Teach not to blaspheme"

1 Timothy 1:20- "Warn others not to continue in sin"

B. CHURCH BODY AS A WHOLE IS TO:

Matthew 18:17 - "Treat him as heathen"

1 Corinthians 5:11- "Not to keep company . . . with such an one no, not to eat"

Romans 16:17- "Mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them."

CLAUSE B: It is also terminated by letter of dismissal of "active" member in good standing to a church of like faith and order. "Inactive" members may not be granted a letter of "good standing" their names, at their request, shall be dropped from the church roll.

CLAUSE C: Members failing to support the church by their attendance for one month without legitimate excuse, will be placed on the "inactive list." those on the "inactive list" for a period of three months will be removed from the church membership roll, subject to article V., section 3, clause D of this constitution.

CLAUSE D: Willful and prolonged neglect (3 months) of the privileges, duties, obligations, purpose, and covenant of the church by a member is cause for termination upon the prayerful discretion and unsuccessful attempt to reclaim him by the deacons and pastor, after the New Testament method. Matthew 18: 15-25 and Galatians 6:1

SECTION 4, DUTIES OF MEMBERS

It shall be the duty of all members to actively and prayerfully participate in the ministry of the church, in accordance with the spirit of the covenant of this constitution.

ARTICLE VI, GOVERNMENT

SECTION 1, THREE-FOLD GOVERNMENT

The government of this church shall be vested in the body of believers who compose it as an independent church. Its government is three-fold:

CLAUSE A. The leadership of the Holy Spirit.

CLAUSE B. Democratic, the determination of the majority of the membership, which determination, when led by the Holy Ghost and conforming to the sacred Scriptures, is final.

CLAUSE C. Pastoral, by which is meant the leadership of overseers or bishops (Hebrews 13:7,17 and Acts 20:28) acting as pastor.

SECTION 2, ANNUAL MEETING

There shall be an annual meeting of the church on the first Wednesday following the first Sunday of December to elect deacons, trustees, and other officers, and standing committees and transact any other business. In case of any omission in holding the election as above, the meeting shall be called and held upon the earliest available date thereafter.

SECTION 3, MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING

There shall be a monthly business meeting on the first Wednesday after the first Sunday in each month to give a monthly financial report and to conduct routine business of the church.

SECTION 4, SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETINGS

Special business meetings may be called by the chairman of the board of deacons or the pastor at any time, provided public notice is given of the same at morning and evening services on the Lord's day preceding. At such meetings twenty (20) percent of the active members shall constitute a quorum, except for calling or discharging a pastor (at such meetings a minimum of fifty-one (51) percent of the active membership shall be necessary for a quorum) however, routing business of the church may be

done when necessary at any meeting of the church with twenty (20) percent (not less than 15 active members) of the active members constituting a quorum.

SECTION 5, MINIMUM VOTING AGE

Minimum age for voting members of the church shall be eighteen (18) years.

SECTION 6, ORDER OF MEETINGS

A majority vote shall establish the rule, except when otherwise indicated.

SECTION 7, MODERATOR

The pastor will moderate all business meetings, except when the pastorate is vacant, or when that office is being discussed. In such an event the chairman of the deacons shall moderate the business meeting.

The moderator may not bring before the church any business not approved by the board of deacons. No new business concerning finances will be brought up from the floor unless approved by the board of deacons and trustees.

SECTION 8, CALLING OF A PASTOR

The deacons shall, when a vacancy occurs in the office of pastor act as pulpit committee and shall continue to function as such until a new pastor is on the field. They shall bring before the church suitable candidates for the pastorate and care for the entertainment of those candidates while they are on the field. When they deem it wise, they shall present to the church, at a called business meeting, the name of one of these candidates and conduct the voting upon the same. The candidate shall be voted upon one week after his appearance in the church as a candidate. They shall continue this procedure until a pastor is chosen. The chairman of deacons shall be chairman of the pulpit committee and the moderator of the church while it is without a pastor. The committee shall investigate the merits of every man under consideration in regard to personal character, education, ministerial record, and preaching ability in determining his fitness for said pastorate. The pastor shall qualify personally according to 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-13, in addition to the above requirements he shall be shown the statement of faith and constitution of the church and shall not be considered unless he is in agreement with the statement of faith, article IV, sections 1 through 24. Any area where the candidate for pastor is in disagreement shall be made known to the congregation at the business meeting called for the purpose of voting on the pastor.

SECTION 9, ORDER OF BUSINESS

A suggested order of business for the annual business meeting follows:

1. Reading approval of minutes of previous meeting
2. Clerk's report
3. Treasurer's report
4. Report of deacons
5. Report of trustees
6. Report of Bible school superintendent
7. Report of the pastor
8. Report of the departments of church
9. Election of deacons and other church officers
10. Unfinished business
11. New business
12. Adjournment

ARTICLE VII AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting members in attendance at any annual business meeting, or at a special meeting. Provided notice of proposed amendments shall have been given from the pulpit for two (2) Sundays prior to the meeting at which action is desired.

ARTICLE VIII CHURCH OFFICERS

SECTION 1.

This church's policy is to have two groups of officers,

(A) elective and (B) appointed. The elective officers shall be:

1. Pastor
2. Deacons
3. Trustees
4. Clerk and assistant
5. Treasurer and assistant

* All other officers or workers are appointed. Some appointed officers shall be:

1. Sunday school superintendent, music and or choir director, pianist and organist, and ushers, all of which shall be appointed by the pastor and deacons.
2. Teachers - who are appointed by the pastor and superintendent.
3. General workers - who are appointed by the pastor. * All appointed officers shall be ratified by a majority vote of the church.

SECTION 2.

The pastor shall be ex-officio member of the deacons and all committees and boards. All committees shall be under the supervision of their respective chairmen and pastor.

SECTION 3.

Only qualified officers shall be elected to and retained in the position of an officer. In order to promote and hold a high spiritual standard in our church, it shall be the duty of all officers and committeemen to attend the spiritual services of the church, including morning service, evening service and mid-week service. All officers shall be actively involved in the visitation ministry of the church. If any shall fail to attend for reasons other than sickness or providential hindrance, his office shall be considered vacant after six weeks of such delinquency.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 5:22; Romans 14:19-21 ; Psalm 101:3

SECTION 4.

All officers are to be:

1. Capable (Romans 12:3, 6-8 and Ephesians 4:7-8, 11-13)
2. Faithful (1 Corinthians 4:2)
3. Loyal (1 Corinthians 4:2 and 1 Corinthians 15:58)
4. Tither or willing to become one (1 Corinthians 16:2 and Malachi 3:8-10)
5. Soul winner or endeavoring to be one (Proverbs 11:30, Mark 16:15, Acts 1:8, Acts 20:20)
6. Believe in our articles of faith and church covenant
7. Separated from worldly practices, such as:
 - A. Tobacco
 - B. Alcoholic beverages
 - C. Worldly movies
 - D. Dancing
 - E. Gambling
 - F. Profane language
 - G. Secret organizations

Anytime an officer of this church feels he can no longer hold to the qualifications or standards of this church constitution he will resign his office. If he refuses or neglects to do so, then he will be dealt with by the deacons and pastor as stated in Matthew 18:15-22 and Galatians 6:1.

ARTICLE IX DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

SECTION I.

The pastor is the overseer and shepherd of the flock. He shall advise, lead, and direct the activities of the congregation. He is called and sent of God and placed over a congregation by the Holy Spirit (Acts 20:20); which Divine placement is confirmed with at least 50% of the active membership present, and 2/3 of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. The pastor shall preach regularly at the church, administer the ordinances and perform the various duties incumbent on his office. He shall be moderator of the church in accordance with article VI, section 7. He is to be ex-officio member of all committees and boards. The pastor is responsible and in charge of the pulpit.

The pastor shall give a minimum of two weeks notice in the event of his resignation, unless a shorter or longer notice is agreeable to both parties.

The pastor has duties that are:

1. Pastoral - responsible for and care of the congregation as shepherd of the sheep.
2. Educational - to teach God's Word
3. Evangelistic - preaching and promotion of soul-winning and discipleship.
4. Ministerial - perform the duties relating to his office toward God, the church and the world.
5. Administrative - act as the administrative director under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, and advice of the chairmen of boards and committees and to promote, organize, coordinate all phases of work and business of the church.

SECTION 2.

The church shall allow the pastor a vacation with pay of fourteen (14) days. All financial and vacation arrangements for the pastor shall be reviewed annually by the deacons, and shall be approved by the church. Monday will be considered the pastor's day off.

SECTION 3. THE QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES OF THE DEACONS.

1. "Men of honest report" Acts 6:3
2. "Men full of the Holy Ghost" Acts 6:3
3. "Men full of wisdom" Acts 6:3
4. "Men full of faith" Acts 6:5
5. "Men that are serious, straight forward, non-drinkers of alcoholic beverages, honest in business in regards to money" 1 Timothy 3:8
6. "Men of a good conscience" 1 Timothy 3:9
7. "Men that are first proved" 1 Timothy 3:10
8. "Men of a blameless reputation" 1 Timothy 3:10
9. "Their wives to be serious, not slanderous.....faithful in all things" 1 Timothy 3:11
10. "Men with but one wife" (neither man or wife being a divorce) 1 Timothy 3:12;
Matthew 19:3-11
11. "Men in control of their children and their homes" 1 Timothy 3:12

CLAUSE A. The spiritual qualifications of deacons

CLAUSE B. THE SPIRITUAL DUTIES OF DEACONS

These expectations are based not only on the references above, but upon the Scriptures as a whole.

1. The deacon is expected to be a member of and participate in the Sunday school.
2. He is expected to be regular in the worship services both morning and evening, as well as the Wednesday night service.
3. He is expected to take part in the visitation ministry of his church.
4. The deacon is expected to be a faithful "tither."
5. He is expected to be cooperative in spirit with his church, the other deacons, and the pastor.
6. He is expected to be faithful in the whole program of his church, to read his Bible, to pray, and to lead his family in the same.
7. His wife is expected to work by his side in the program of the church.

CLAUSE C. It is readily seen that the office of deacon is one of service in the work of our Lord, centered in the church. If a big task is implied, this is a true implication, for the position of deacon is an honored place to honor our living lord. The opportunities to "lay up treasure in heaven" is unlimited. A strong, dedicated, spiritual deaconship in our church will mean results spoken of in Acts 6:7, will be ours to enjoy to the glory of him who gave his life for us.

SECTION 4.

The duties of the treasurer and his assistant in his absence are:

1. Disburse all funds.
2. Make monthly written reports for the church.
3. Record accurately all receipts and disbursements of the church monies.
4. Give an annual report to the church.

SECTION 5.

The duties of the clerk and his assistant in his absence are:

1. Keep an accurate record of proceedings of the church.
2. Take charge of the records.
3. Keep a current register of the church membership.
4. A copy of all records should be kept at the church office.
5. Notify all candidates for baptism beforehand.

SECTION 6. THE DUTIES OF THE TRUSTEES.

1. The trustees shall elect from their number a chairman and a secretary. The former shall preside at their meetings and have general oversight of their work. The latter shall keep a faithful record of any important work, acts or transactions performed by the body. Meetings shall be held at the call of the pastor or two-thirds of the full number of trustees. A majority of the full number of trustees shall constitute a quorum. The trustees shall make a full report of their activities to the church at each annual meeting or as requested by the church.
2. The trustees shall not have authority to sell, lease, give away, or dispose of church property in any manner to exceed one thousand (\$1,000.00) dollars in value; or mortgage or incumber the same with debt to exceed the above amount, except as the church shall order the same by corporate act. The trustees shall have guardianship of legal papers and church valuables which shall be kept in safety deposit box at the bank.

SECTION 7. AUDITING COMMITTEE

An auditing committee composed of deacons shall carefully examine the records, receipts, and vouchers of the treasurer for the past year, and report their findings to the church within sixty (60) days following the annual meeting.

ARTICLE X ELECTION OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1.

All elected officers, except the pastor, shall be elected annually as specified in article X, section 5.

SECTION 2.

A nominating committee, composed of the deacons and pastor shall meet preceding the annual election of officers, and after prayerful selection of qualified members, make recommendations to the church for filling vacancies. A proposed slate of officers shall be posted or published two (2) weeks before the annual meeting.

SECTION 3.

All officers must be faithful members of the church.

SECTION 4.

CLAUSE A the pastor's tenure of office is for an indefinite time. The pastor shall give a minimum of two (2) weeks notice before termination of his services, unless a shorter or longer notice is agreeable to both parties. In the event it is felt necessary by some church members for the pastor to leave his office and he is not guilty from a scriptural standpoint of exclusion, namely 1 Corinthians 5 or Revelation 2:2, and he does not believe God would have him terminated at that time, the persons of said complaint should submit complaint in writing to the deacon board for their consideration. The deacon board shall then go to the pastor with said written complaint. The deacons should deal with this matter according to the scriptures. If no satisfactory solution can be reached, a 2/3 vote of the deacon board can bring a motion before the church to vacate the pulpit. If the dissatisfied member is not happy with the decision of the deacon board, then it would be best for the dissatisfied members to move.

If the pastor is charged with scriptural reasons to terminate, and he does not willfully leave, he may be tried at a constitutionally approved business meeting. At such a meeting a minimum of fifty-one (51) percent of the active membership shall be necessary to constitute a quorum. If two-thirds (2/3) of the ballots of the voting members present vote that the pastor should leave his office, then his services are terminated immediately.

CLAUSE B. No pastor will be tried by the church in an effort to terminate his services and position under any circumstances except according to the Word of God. The pastor and people of his church are bound together by this church constitution, and all human conduct, creeds and opinions shall be tried by the Word of God as it alone is the supreme authority of God for faith and conduct. The word of God speaks of scriptural exclusion in I Corinthians 5 and Revelation 2:2. These seem to be the only two

places and reason that a local church tried the men involved. If the charge against the pastor has merit then let him be charged to correct the situation, but a charge to try him in order to terminate his services must carry that kind of scriptural authority, otherwise he cannot be tried for termination.

SECTIONS.

The deacon board may not exceed one man for every twenty-five (25) members. All officers (deacons and trustees) shall serve a term of two years. Terms shall overlap each other so that two officers are rotating out and two officers are elected each year for a two year term.

SECTION 6.

If vacancies occur, they shall be filled by the church upon the recommendation of the deacons at any monthly meeting. Vacancies shall be filled in accordance with article x, section 2.

ARTICLE XL THE BUILDING

SECTION L USE OF THE BUILDINGS

The worship and educational units shall be used only for such meetings and activities as shall promote the gospel and honor our lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

SECTION 2. AUTHORITY FOR USE OF BUILDINGS

The deacons shall exercise the authority to refuse the use of the worship and educational units for any service that seems contrary to church policy and belief.

SECTION 3. WEDDINGS

The worship and educational units may be used by members for weddings conducted by the pastor. Others desiring the use of these units for weddings must have the agreement of the pastor and consent of the deacons.

ARTICLE ML FINANCIAL POLICY

This church shall be supported by the voluntary gifts of the lord's people. We believe that every Christian should seek to give systematically, regularly, proportionately, sacrificially, and cheerfully of his substance to the Lord's work through the local church (2 Corinthians 8:9). No means such as raffles, suppers, rummage sales, games, or entertainment shall be used to raise money for the church and its organizations.

ARTICLE XIII MISSIONS

This church shall support missionary causes and educational institutions consistent with its own belief and practices. All missionaries supported by this church shall be in full agreement with the doctrines and practices of this church. Designated personal or special offerings will be honored when in harmony with the doctrines and practices of this church and not in conflict with the budget.

SECTION 1. OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Christian Outreach, Inc. will serve as a ministry of Lifeway Baptist Church and is under the oversight of the church officers and pastors.

ARTICLE XIV. VALIDITY

It is hereby understood and expressed that this constitution is, in its entirety, a complete substitution and replacement of any former articles or constitution that may or may not have been formulated in full or in part by this group of Christian believers, written or implied.

Lifeway Baptist Church Constitutional
Amendment
August 15, 2012

Hoosier Hills Baptist Camp (aforementioned as Christian Outreach, Inc.) will no longer be under the oversight of Lifeway Baptist Church and its officers as stated in article xii. Missions, section 1. Outreach ministries.

Lifeway Baptist Church Constitutional

Amendment

July 9, 2014

RESOLUTION

The governing board of Lifeway Baptist Church resolves to protect the Bible-based moral values of this ministry. The following policies represent the ministry's commitment to preserve scriptural morals in the face of outside societal influences seeking to degrade the biblical family, pervert the moral values of our nation, and intimidate God's people from speaking God's truth in love.

Therefore, be it hereby resolved that the following policies be communicated to each staff member and ministry volunteer and enforced as the guiding policies of this ministry:

CHURCH ATTENDANCE/SERVICES

Attendance in the general worship services of this church shall be open to the general public subject to the standards and expectation contained in this resolution and other applicable ministry policies.

BEHAVIOR STANDARDS

In all services and programs of this ministry, reasonable standards of decorum and order shall be maintained at all times. As such, no one shall, by appearance or behavior, be permitted to draw attention to themselves in contravention to the ministry's purposes. Any individual who, in the sole discretion of the pastor or ministry leadership, is found to be in violation of this policy shall be asked to vacate the premises. If said individuals are a disturbing factor, a threat to proper decorum of order, or present a safety hazard, they may be removed from the ministry premises.

SPECIAL CLASS DESIGNATIONS

Where appropriate, the pastor or ministry leadership, in his/their sole discretion, shall designate specific assignments and qualifications for various special classes or group activities. Such assignments and qualifications shall be enforced for all individuals who wish to attend the ministry function. Individuals who do not meet the qualifications for a specific class or activity, in the sole discretion of the pastor or ministry leadership, shall not be allowed to participate in the designated activity.

LIFEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH STATEMENT ON MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY WE BELIEVE THAT:

1. The family was the first and most important institution created by god.
Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:6
2. Satan's attack on the family began in the Garden of Eden and continues today.
Genesis 3:1, 1 John 2:16
3. Marriage is a covenant with god made together and voluntarily for life between one man and one woman. Genesis 2:24; 1 Corinthians 7:2; Ephesians 5:31
4. While roles in marriage are clearly defined in the bible, with husband as the head of the home and the wife in support and submission as to the lord, the bible never endorses or condones physical or emotional abuse of any kind.
Ephesians 5:22, 23, 28; 1 Corinthians 7:3, 4
5. All sexual intimacy is to be limited to the marriage relationship, as defined above, in #3.
Romans 1:26, 27; 1 Corinthians 7:2-5, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8
6. Any extra-marital form of sexual intimacy is sin and both immoral and a perversion of God's Word.
1 Corinthians 6:18; Romans 1:26, 27; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8
7. The practice of homosexual activity is an abomination, and considered perverted and shameful by God.
Genesis 13:13; Judges 19:22-23; Romans 1:26, 27

MINISTRY BYLAWS AMENDMENT

The membership of Lifeway Baptist Church, in accordance with scripture and evidenced in its governing bylaws, resolves to protect the Bible-based moral values of this ministry. The following amendments are made to governing ministry bylaws.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Whereas, the ministry is committed to preserve scriptural morals in the face of outside societal influences seeking to degrade the biblical family, pervert the moral values of our nation, and intimidate god's people from speaking god's truth
In love, the following paragraphs shall be added as section 25 into the ministry's statement of faith.

A. SEXUAL IMMORALITY

1. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity outside of a

marriage between a man and a woman be engaged in. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance (a man dressing/feigning appearance as a woman or vice versa).

Genesis 2:24; Genesis 19:5, 13; Genesis 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-3; Romans 1:26-29; 1 Corinthians 5:1, 6:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4

2. We believe that the only scriptural marriage is the joining of one man and one woman.

Genesis 2:24, Romans 7:2, 1 Corinthians 7:10; Ephesians 5:22-23

MEMBERSHIP

Whereas, membership in this local body is a privilege and not a right and carries with it specific responsibilities and moral obligations, the following provisions shall be added to:

SECTION 3. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Any individual member actively involved in any conduct as described above in A. shall be confronted biblically in an attempt to bring the member to a place of repentance and restoration. Any individual member unwilling to repent of such activities and seek biblical change as described in god's word (Ephesians 4:22-24; James 1:21-25) shall be removed from church membership. Those who confess their sin and seek restoration will find that the church will readily provide counsel and support to help the brethren experience freedom in Christ from sin's bondage.