

# CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

## LONGVIEW POINT BAPTIST CHURCH HERNANDO, MISSISSIPPI

*Church Approved as of April 6, 2016*

### CONSTITUTION

#### PREAMBLE

We declare and establish this constitution for the preservation and security of the principles of our faith and to govern the body in an orderly manner. We do declare and establish this constitution to preserve the liberties of each individual member and the freedom of action of this body in relation to other churches. We do establish this constitution in a manner consistent with the principles and accepted tenets of the Southern Baptist denomination.

BE IT RESOLVED that we recognize ourselves as a body of Christian believers working together for the common purpose of spreading the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and that under the laws of the State of Mississippi we may exercise all the rights and privileges granted to religious bodies.

#### I. NAME

This body shall be known as Longview Point Baptist Church.

#### II. VISION

*Expanding His Kingdom, Across the Street and Around the World*

#### III. MISSION STATEMENT

To make disciples of Jesus in Bible-based, relational small groups.

#### IV. POLITY, RELATIONSHIPS AND DOCTRINE

##### SECTION 1. Polity

The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligation of mutual counsel and cooperation, which are common among Southern Baptist churches.

##### SECTION 2. Doctrine

This church receives the Scriptures as its sole authority in matters of faith and practice. Its understanding of Christian truth as contained therein is in essential accord with the belief of Southern Baptist churches as indicated in The Baptist Faith and Message, 2000. The Baptist Faith and Message, 2000 is included in our written documents.

## V. CHURCH ORDINANCES

### SECTION 1. Baptism

The church will receive for baptism those who have received Jesus Christ as Savior, have professed Him publicly at a worship service or at other evangelistic opportunities provided by the church, and indicate a commitment to follow Christ as Lord.

- A. Baptism shall be by immersion in water, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as a symbol of the person's salvation.
- B. The Pastor or whomever he shall authorize shall administer baptism.

### SECTION 2. The Lord's Supper

The church shall observe the Lord's Supper at least quarterly as a symbolic reminder of the atoning sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ. The church shall observe open communion. Open communion is defined as the practice that any scripturally baptized believer in Jesus Christ is welcome to participate in this ordinance.

## VI. CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

### SECTION 1. Qualifications

To become a member of Longview Point Baptist Church, a person must be saved and scripturally baptized (see section 1A under Church Ordinances). Also, they must attend our new member orientation class named Starting Point. The church will receive a person to be a member in good standing after that person is examined by a staff member or a lay person who has been authorized by the pastor to perform such duties, and is voted on by the CLT. The church will receive a person for membership who:

- (1) Accepts Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and experiences scriptural baptism or
- (2) Transfers membership from another Southern Baptist church or
- (3) By statement affirms that he/she has been saved and scripturally baptized.

## SECTION 2. Rights

All church members may act and vote in the transactions of the church. Parents are expected to use discernment in allowing children who are members voting privileges. Letters certifying membership in this church shall be granted only to Southern Baptist churches of like faith and order, upon request from these churches, and not to individuals.

## SECTION 3. Termination of Membership

Membership will be terminated by:

- (1) Death of the member.
- (2) Transfer to another Southern Baptist church.
- (3) Exclusion by action of this church.
- (4) Erasure upon request or upon membership in a church of another denomination.

## SECTION 4. Church Discipline

Every reasonable measure will be taken to minister to any troubled member. The Pastor, Church Leadership Team (CLT), deacons, and members will seek redemption rather than punishment.

Should a serious problem arise regarding the conduct or activities of a member which would cause that member to become a liability to the welfare and interest of the church, the Pastor, CLT, and deacons will seek to resolve the problem according to Matthew 18:15-20, I Corinthians 5:1-5, and Galatians 6:1

## VII. CHURCH OFFICERS

### SECTION 1. CHURCH STRUCTURE

The church structure will consist of the Pastor and the ministerial staff. The Pastor is the primary spiritual leader of the church. The Pastor will provide oversight of the staff. The pastor and staff will provide leadership and equipping to help the church to fulfill its vision and mission.

The church will have a Church Leadership Team (CLT)/Board of Directors. The CLT will provide leadership and guidance for personnel issues, finance issues, long-term planning, and anything else needed to help the church to fulfill its purposes.

The deacons will lead in ministry to the people of the church and the community. They serve as an extension of the pastoral ministry.

*Summary of basic church structure:*

- Pastor & Staff led
- Congregation represented by CLT
- Deacon Served
- Congregationally approved

SECTION 2. Pastor

A. Pastor

The Pastor, under Jesus Christ, is God's primary leader for the local church. His main duties include prayer, preparation and delivery of biblical sermons, and giving leadership to the overall church program. He, or his designee, shall be the Moderator of all family meetings. He is the supervisor of the staff and is an ex-officio member of all committees. In the event of the Pastor's inability to perform these duties, the Associate Pastor or the next highest-ranking staff member will serve in these capacities.

B. Resignation

The Pastor is asked to give at least two weeks notice to the church at the time of resignation. Upon resignation of a Pastor, the Church Leadership Team will work out the details of the final compensation for the resigning Pastor in a manner consistent with the church budget or upon special approval of the church.

SECTION 3. Church Leadership Team (CLT)

A. Church Leadership Team/Directors

The Church Leadership Team (CLT) will consist of the pastor and five other men. A person cannot serve as an active deacon and a CLT member. The CLT members will serve three-year terms. After a CLT member rotates off, he must wait one year before he is eligible to be nominated for another term of service as a CLT member. As it relates to our incorporated status the CLT will serve as the Board of Directors with the Senior Pastor serving as the President and chief executive of the corporation.

When the time comes to elect new members, the current CLT and the Deacon body will both nominate two names to serve. The four names will be presented to the church in a scheduled family meeting for a vote by secret ballot. The top two vote getters will be the new members of the CLT.

- (1) All nominees must have been a member of Longview Point Baptist Church for at least two (2) years.
- (2) Nominees will be screened in the following manner:

- a. All nominees must give evidence to regular attendance in both Bible Study (i.e. Connect Groups) and Worship services. The Educational Office will be consulted to verify attendance.
- b. All nominees must be regular givers through tithing. The Finance Office will be consulted to verify giving records.

The five members of the CLT will also function as trustees/Board of Directors of the church. They are charged with the duty of executing such legal documents as may be required by law and such documents as they may be empowered and directed by the church to enforce and administer.

The CLT will provide leadership and guidance for personnel issues, finance issues, long-term planning, and anything else needed to help the church to fulfill its vision. They will be the final approval for all policies and procedures for the church and operate within those approved policies.

## VIII. FAMILY MEETINGS

The Pastor may call the church into conference at any regular service to dispose of any necessary business. The church will have regularly scheduled meetings quarterly. The following matters shall be voted on at a previously announced special meeting at the conclusion of a Sunday worship service:

- (1) Calling a ministerial staff member.
- (2) Amending the Constitution or Bylaws.
- (3) Major expansion and expenditures.
- (4) Discipline of a member.
- (5) Approval of the annual church budget.

100 members constitute a quorum.

These matters shall be decided by a majority vote of the members present except for the calling of a Pastor, which shall require a 75% (three-fourths) majority vote. Notification of the above matters shall be printed in the church bulletin and announced from the pulpit at least a week in advance.

In conducting family meetings, matters arising other than the above shall be conducted under "Robert's Rules of Order".

## IX. Mutual Interest

The behavior of anyone in fellowship with this church is of common interest to the Board of Directors and membership. (Gal. 6:1] This church requires every Board of Directors member and Congregational member to adhere to a life style that is consistent with the doctrines of this church as taught in the Holy Scriptures.

Therefore, this church reserves the right to refuse service to any individual, whether member or not, that is not submitting their life style to this Scriptural mode of conduct. This refusal would include services, benefits and any use of church assets.

#### X. Prohibited Activities

This church is prohibited from engaging in activities which violate its written doctrines.

This church is also prohibited from condoning, promoting or allowing any of its assets to be used for activities that violate its written doctrines.

#### XI Amendments

Amendments to this constitution may be made by two-thirds vote of the CLT, including the Senior Pastor/President and then a two-thirds vote of the congregation.

## **BYLAWS**

### I. CHURCH OFFICERS

#### SECTION 1. Pastor

##### A. Pastor Search Committee

Should the church be without a Pastor, a Pastor Search Team will be formed. This committee will consist of seven members. The team will consist of a representative from the CLT, voted on by that body, the Chairman of Deacons, and 5 other duly elected church members that have been nominated by the church.

- (1) All nominees must have been a member of Longview Point Baptist Church for at least two (2) years.
- (2) Nominations will be received from the church body at large.
- (3) Nominees will be screened in the following manner:
  - a. All nominees must give evidence to regular attendance in both Bible Study (i.e. Connect Groups) and Worship services. The Educational Office will be consulted to verify attendance.
  - b. All nominees must be regular givers through tithing. The Finance Office will be consulted to verify giving records.

c. A list of nominees who pass these qualifications will be voted on by the church body in a scheduled family meeting.

(4) The church body will assemble in a called family meeting for the purpose of electing the five remaining members of the Pastor Search Committee. This meeting must be announced in the church newsletter and from the pulpit at least one week prior to its occurrence. The votes for these five members will be taken by secret ballot and will be counted by the members of the existing Leadership Team, and the Chairman of Deacons.

(5) The five members selected will be composed of three men and two women. The three men will be the top male vote recipients and the two women will be the top female vote recipients.

(6) For every 500 people in membership above 500 people, another person will be added to the Pastor Search Team. Example: Church membership: 2,000=10 Pastor Search Team Members. Needed additions will start with a woman and then be rotated between men and women.

Upon selection, the Pastor Search Committee will select a chairman. Once the Pastor Search Committee is selected, it will proceed with the task of finding God's man to serve as the church's new Pastor. The Pastor Search Committee will also be responsible for recommending an interim Pastor or interim pulpit supply.

When the Pastor Search Committee is ready to recommend a prospective candidate to serve as the new Pastor, the church will receive sufficient notification to vote on their recommendation. The vote must take place during a Sunday service. The prospective Pastor must receive at least a 75% favorable vote for the church to extend a call to him to become the new Pastor.

## SECTION 2. Ministerial Staff

### A. Ministerial Staff

Every ministerial staff member is an extension of the Pastor's ministry. Under his supervision, in consultation with the Church Leadership Team, with church approval, the church shall employ staff members as needed. All ministerial staff members will be supervised by and accountable to the Pastor. The Pastor, in consultation with the CLT, has the authority to dismiss staff members if necessary.

### B. Resignation

At the time of resignation at least two weeks notice will be given to the church. The Pastor, in consultation with the CLT, will work out the details of final compensation for the resigning staff member.

## SECTION 3. Non-Ministerial Staff

The Pastor will have the authority to employ or terminate the services of non-ministerial staff. The Pastor will employ such staff according to the guidelines of the church budget. During the budget planning portion of the year, the Pastor will meet with the CLT to discuss the number and status of non-ministerial staff.

#### SECTION 4. Deacons

##### A. Responsibilities and Duties

A deacon will be assigned by Pastor and Chairman of deacons to lead ministry teams. Ministry teams that will be lead by a deacon are as follows and can be added to as needed:

*-Church Ordinance Team (Baptism & Lord's Supper)*

*-Buildings & Grounds Team*

*-HEART Team (Sick/Shut-In/Widows)*

*-The HEART Team leader will make sure that every widow has been assigned a deacon and every single mother has been assigned a deacon's wife.*

*-Greeter/Usher Team*

*-Benevolence Team*

Deacons elected to the Active Deacon Body shall serve three consecutive one-year terms. After a deacon rotates off the Active Body, he must wait one year before he is eligible to be nominated for another term of service as an active deacon.

The deacons shall serve under the leadership of the Pastor and his staff as servants of the church and of Jesus Christ. They shall be faithful in their attendance to all regular church meetings. They shall also be faithful to practice tithing. They shall seek to be peacemakers who preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace in the body of Christ.

##### B. Officers of the Active Deacon Body

Deacon officers will consist of the Chairman, Vice Chairman/Chairman-Elect, and Secretary. The Chairman shall preside at all deacon meetings. In case of his absence, the Vice Chairman/Chairman-Elect will preside. The Secretary will keep a record of the minutes of all meetings of the Active Deacon Body.

Election of deacon officers shall be as follows:

###### (1) Chairman of Deacons

The Vice-Chairman/Chairman-Elect will automatically serve as the next Chairman of Deacons once the existing Chairman of Deacons completes his one-year term of service.

## (2) Vice-Chairman/Chairman-Elect and Secretary

In the regularly scheduled deacon's meeting held in October, the members of the Active Deacon Body will nominate candidates to serve as Vice-Chairman/Chairman-Elect and Secretary for the following year. The nominations for both offices will be submitted by means of secret ballot during that meeting.

From those nominations, the existing deacon officers, in consultation with the Pastor, will recommend two candidates for each office for a vote at the November meeting.

## C. Meetings of the Active Deacon Body

Regular ministry meetings of the Active Deacon Body shall be held monthly. Special meetings may be called by the Pastor in consultation with the Chairman of Deacons. Ample notice of these meetings shall be given. A quorum of not less than 50% of the Active Deacon Body must be present at any meeting for business to be transacted.

## D. Election of Deacons

The Active Deacon Body shall be elected in the following manner:

A Deacon Nominating Committee shall be composed of the deacon officers and two additional deacons nominated and elected by the Active Deacon Body. In the early fall of the year, the church body will nominate prospective candidates for service on the Active Deacon Body. Nominees must meet the scriptural qualifications for nomination, which are listed on the Deacon Nomination sheet, which can be found in the Church Office.

The Deacon Nominating Committee will receive the nominations and will select prospective candidates for church approval. The Deacon Nominating Committee must limit their recommendations and selections to the names, which were submitted by the church body. The Committee cannot nominate prospective candidates that were not nominated from the church at large. The Committee will nominate 8 deacon candidates each year. The number of deacons serving on the Active Deacon Body will start with 8 and will add 1 for every 100 members over 500. For example: 2,000 members = 23 deacons.

Once the Deacon Nominating Committee has completed its work, the prospective candidates will receive a questionnaire, which must be completed and returned for review by the Pastor and Chairman of Deacons. All prospective candidates must be counseled with and approved by the Pastor and Chairman of Deacons prior to church approval. Non-ordained nominees that are approved by

the church will then be ordained into the office of deacon.

## II. PROPERTIES

The Church properties shall be normally used only for the recognized services of the church.

Special use of the buildings, equipment, vehicles and grounds shall be under the authorization and supervision of the appropriate staff member.

## III. Amendments

Amendments to this constitution may be made by two-thirds vote of the CLT, including the Senior Pastor/President and then a two-thirds vote of the congregation.

## IV. ADOPTION

The adoption of these bylaws shall affect a repeal of all previously adopted rules which are not re-adopted herein.

Signed and certified to be effective immediately.

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Senior Pastor/President of Longview Point Baptist Church

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Chairperson of Longview Point Baptist Church

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Secretary of Longview Point Baptist Church

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Treasurer of Longview Point Baptist Church