



INFORMATION PACKET FOR APPLICANTS

(January 2017)

1. Profile

Life Bible Fellowship Church began as a home Bible study in 1971 during the “Jesus Movement” sweeping through Southern California. Our founding pastor was Ray Schmutz. Ray Schmutz served in this capacity for 18 years. A second Lead pastor who served for 17 years followed the founding pastor. Since 2011 our Lead Pastor has been Gary Keith. He has been at LBF since 1981 and has served in several different roles, including Administrator and Worship Pastor.

Life Bible Fellowship Church purchased its current facilities in 1976, when it moved from Rancho Cucamonga to the City of Upland. In 1997 the current Ministry Center was built. Since 1991 growth at LBF has been steady, from an average adult attendance of 220 in 1991 to an average adult attendance of 800 in 2015. Factoring in children and students, the average weekend attendance is about 1200 people. Currently LBF Church has three Sunday morning worship services.

2. Mission Statement

WE EXIST TO PASSIONATELY PURSUE LIFE IN JESUS AND TO LEAD OUR NEIGHBORS TO DO THE SAME.

This mission is currently being accomplished through four main visions:

1. To grow in the knowledge of and dependence on God’s Word
2. To connect with God and our community through LIFEgroups
3. To serve others in our church, our community and our world
4. To share our faith so that others may personally receive Christ



3. Core Values

Biblically Based – We make Scripture, rather than church tradition, the final authority. We believe teaching is the catalyst for transformation so we will teach accurately from the Bible and apply it to our lives.

Atmosphere of Acceptance – We believe all people matter to God and ought to matter to the church. We want everyone to experience God's grace and love. We believe Christ followers should reveal themselves in authenticity and a desire for continuous growth.

Every Member a Minister – We believe a church should operate as a unified community of servants, men and women using their spiritual gifts. It's the ministry of church leaders to equip the people of the church to minister.

Relationally Centered – We believe loving relationships should permeate every aspect of church life. This includes the concepts of love-driven ministry, ministry accomplished in teams and relationship building.

Leadership is Serving – We believe that Jesus modeled what true leadership is about as he served the needs of others. We believe men and women with God-given leadership gifts should lead the church.

Small Groups – We believe life-change happens best in community so we will encourage involvement in small groups for discipleship, pastoral care and accountability.

Change – We believe the church should remain culturally relevant while remaining doctrinally pure. This includes the concept of sensitivity relating to our culture through our facility, printed materials and use of the arts.

Full Devotion – We believe the pursuit of full devotion to Christ and His cause is normal for every believer. This includes an understanding of the ministry and working of the Holy Spirit in each believer.



4. Doctrinal Statement

WE BELIEVE the Bible (a) is the divinely inspired Word of God, inerrant in the original writings, (b) and is, therefore, the final authority in matters of faith and life (2 Timothy 3:16,17; 2 Peter 1:19-21).

WE BELIEVE in the Triune God, one in essence, eternally existing in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, coequal in attributes, power and glory and equally worthy of all obedience, worship, praise and adoration (Matthew 28:19; Deuteronomy 6:4; John 14:6,7; John 5:23; Acts 5:3-4).

WE BELIEVE that Jesus Christ was born of a virgin and that He is in very truth God and in very truth man (Luke 1:30-35).

WE BELIEVE that the Lord Jesus Christ, having lived a sinless life, was buried following His crucifixion on the cross at Calvary and rose bodily from the dead; and that He is the only Savior through whom fallen man can find forgiveness and salvation (Luke 24; John 1:29; 8:46; Hebrews 4:15; I John 3:5).

WE BELIEVE that humanity is lost and sinful and therefore needs to be saved; that the forgiveness and salvation made possible by the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ on the cross comes to humanity through personal faith in Christ, the Crucified One, and that salvation is by grace alone, not by any good works (Romans 3:10-23; 6:23; Eph. 2:8-10; 1 Peter 2:24).

WE BELIEVE that the Holy Spirit baptizes the believer into the body of Christ at salvation, distributes Spiritual gifts to each believer as He wills, and seals the believer for the day of redemption (1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 4:30)

WE BELIEVE that Jesus Christ will come to this world to rule and reign in righteousness, and that His coming again is imminent and that it will be literal, personal and visible (John 14:1-6; Acts 1:11).

WE BELIEVE in the resurrection of both the saved and the unsaved; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are unsaved unto the resurrection of damnation (John 5:28-29; I Cor. 15; Rev. 20:4-6, 13; Daniel 12:2).

WE BELIEVE that the Lord Jesus Christ instituted and commanded two ordinances for His church: Baptism and the Lord's Supper (Matthew 28:19; Luke 22:17-19; I Cor. 10:16; 11:23,24; Acts 2:38; 8:34-38; 10:47-48).

WE BELIEVE as Christians we are called to walk by the Spirit, not after the flesh, so our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in all things (Gal. 5:16-26; I Peter 4:11; Romans 12:1,2).

WE BELIEVE God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. Family is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood or adoption.

WE BELIEVE marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in a covenant commitment and is a sacrament of the church. Marriage is to provide for the man and the woman the framework for intimate companionship, the place for legitimate sexual expression according to biblical standards and the means for procreation of the human race.

WE BELIEVE that any sexual activity outside of marriage as described above is inconsistent with the teachings of the Bible and the Church. (Genesis 1:26-28, 2:15-25; Matthew 5:31-32, 18:2-5, 19:3-9; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16)



5. Life Bible Fellowship Church's Teaching Positions

Because LBF is an independent church and not associated with any denomination, we have written several position papers on a variety of topics. It is requested that every candidate go to our web site and read each one thoroughly prior to the first interview. These can be found at lbf.church and located under the ABOUT LBF tab.

6. Life Bible Fellowship Church's Polity

Life Bible Fellowship Church is an elder-led church. The Elder Board determines all major policies for the church. These include our doctrinal statement, doctrinal distinctive, purpose, mission, vision, and major goals of LBF church as a whole.

Life Bible Fellowship Church's Pastoral Staff have the responsibility and authority to develop procedures, goals, strategies, and structures in alignment with the Elder Board's policy. The pastoral staff is recognized as having more accurate understanding and training regarding their specific area of ministry; therefore, they are given as much freedom as possible within the policies and parameters set by the Elder Board. The pastoral staff shall manage the administrative details of ministry programming, freeing the Elder Board from micro-management.

In general, the Elder Board is a leadership board, focusing on congregational wide issues relating to church purpose, vision, values, etc. The Pastoral Staff is an executive team, focusing on the specific implementation of purpose, vision, and goals within the perimeters set by the Elder board. The Elder Board operates on a 2/3 majority on most issues, and consensus on major issues such as budget, purchase of property and hiring of pastoral staff.