

Constitution and By-Laws
Of
LIFEPOINT CHURCH
of Tallahassee, Florida

(Formerly Agape Life Fellowship of Tallahassee, Florida)

DRAFT

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS FOR LifePoint Church

(Formerly known as Agape Life Fellowship)

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of the church is LifePoint Church of Tallahassee Inc. located in Tallahassee, Florida.

**LifePoint Church
1224 Pedrick Rd
Tallahassee, FL 32317**

(Formerly known as Agape Life Fellowship. All necessary legal documentation has been changed to reflect name change.)

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of this church shall be:

1. To establish and maintain a place (places) of worship.
2. To bring people to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ through the proclamation of the Gospel.
3. To bear witness to all Biblical truths.
4. To solicit funds, collect monies, receive gifts and bequest, and otherwise raise money to fulfill the stated purposes
5. This Corporation is organized for the following purposes: To form and conduct a religious, charitable and educational entity for the promotion of Christianity and all matters incidental thereto.

ARTICLE III - BELIEFS

1. WE BELIEVE.

The Bible is the inspired, infallible and authoritative Word of God (1 Corinthians 2: 13; II Timothy 3: 16, 17)

That there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:26; Matthew 3:16,17; 1 John 5:7)

That man has fallen from the relationship with God because of sin and is lost (Isaiah 64:6 Romans 3:23)

That man's only hope is to believe on Jesus Christ, the virgin born Son of God, who lived a sinless life, who died to take upon Himself the sins of man, who rose from the dead, so that by receiving Him as Savior and Lord, man might be saved. (John 3: 16; Romans 10:9, 10, 13)

That the Holy Spirit indwells all believers, and through the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, believers are empowered for Christian service. A sign of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance. (Acts 1:4-5,8; 2:1-4; 8:15-17; 9:17; 10:44-48; 19:1-6)

In the operation of the gifts of the Spirit and the fruit of the Spirit (I Corinthians 12-14; Romans 12:6-10; Galatians 5:22-25; Ephesians 4:11-15)

That the church is the body of Christ and is composed of all those who, through believe in Christ, have been spiritually regenerated by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 2:19,20; Colossians 1:18,19)

In the calling and gifting of various ministry functions in the Church, including, but not limited to, apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers (Romans 12:5-8 I Corinthians; 12:27-31; Ephesians 4:11-13)

In the divine healing for the body, mind, and spirit is included in the atonement of Christ (Isaiah 53:4-5; James 5:13-16; 1 Peter 2:24)

In the personal return of the Lord Jesus, the consummation of the Kingdom of God, and the restoration of all things spoken by the mouths of the prophets (Acts 1:11: 3:19-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18)

That the ordinances of the Church are water baptism (Matthew 28:19) and the Lord's Supper (I Corinthians 11:23-31)

ARTICLE IV-ASSOCIATION

1. Believing in the autonomy of the local church, LifePoint Church is to be self-governing and will not affiliate with any organization which seeks to exercise control over the local church.
2. While maintaining its inherent rights of sovereignty in the conduct of its own affairs, this church shall endeavor to network with other like-minded ministries and ministers to further Kingdom causes, as defined in our beliefs.
3. Establish an Apostolic Oversight Team that consists of one or more ministries that is equipped to support, council, and provide an apostolic coverage to the church. The Apostolic Oversight Team will consist of ministries that are stated in the By-Laws along with their support function.

ARTICLE V-DISSOLUTION

1. In the event of dissolution, the residual assets of LifePoint Church will be turned over to an organization which is tax exempt as described in Sections 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or corresponding sections of any prior or future law. This Organization shall be an organization that shares the beliefs and purpose of LifePoint Church as stated in these by-laws.
2. The organization shall be local to Tallahassee, Florida.
3. The Apostolic Oversight Team shall be an advisor of the dissolution, to adhere to the beliefs and purpose of set within the by-laws.
4. No part of the net earnings of the Corporation (known as LifePoint Church) shall insure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, directors, officers, or other private persons, except that the Corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of purposes set forth in these articles of incorporation. No substantial part of the activities of the Corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, the Corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from Federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Code or (b) by a corporation, contribution to which are deductible under section 170 (c) (2) of the Code.

ARTICLE VI AMENDMENTS

The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended by two-thirds vote of the Church Council (As defined in Article II Section II of the by-Laws). At least two-thirds of the entire Church Council must be present to vote, at any meeting called for that purpose, to insure that a two-thirds vote can be obtainable. All changes must be presented to the Church Body and after two weeks of notification, all amendments and or changes will become in effect.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I MEMBERSHIP

For the purpose of this document, Membership shall be referred to and known as the Church Body or Part of the Church Body of LifePoint Church.

While membership is voluntary and is to be entered into as an act of covenant between the member and the body in general, there is a commitment in membership. This commitment would include:

1. Accepting, believing and confessing Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. (Romans 10:9,10)
2. Believing that the Bible is the Word of God. (2 Timothy 3:16)
3. Being baptized in water. (Matthew 28:19)
4. Being led by the Holy Spirit to this church body. (Galatians 5:18)
5. Participating in the fellowship of this church body. (Hebrews 10:25)
6. Supporting the church with tithes and offerings. (Malachi 3:10)
7. Submitting to the authority of the Church Council. (As defined in Article II Section II). (Hebrews 13:17)

ARTICLE II OFFICERS

Section I Senior Pastor

- A. The Senior Pastor shall have the general oversight and supervision of this church body and all of its departments and conduct all of its services. The Senior Pastor shall be President of the Corporation (known as LifePoint Church) and shall act as Chairman of all Church Council meetings. Initiative and calling of all business meetings (as described in Article V) rest with the Senior Pastor or two-thirds of the Church Council. He is an Ex-officio non-voting member of all committees.
- B. It is at the prerogative of the Senior Pastor in consultation with the Church Council to invite individuals to address the church.
- C. The Senior Pastor along with the Church Council shall take the initiative to appoint and fill vacancies for Co-Pastors, Department Directors, and other Staff members as needed. Any appointments shall require a two-thirds vote of the Church Council.
- D. Upon the death, resignation, or removal of the Senior Pastor for cause in accordance to Section 1, paragraph E, the Church Council will appoint a team of at least 5 people from the body with one being from Church Council and one being from staff, shall consult with the Apostolic Oversight Team to install an interim pastor(s) and search and install a new Senior Pastor, realizing that there is safety in the multitude of council. (1 Timothy 3; Titus 1)

- E. Recognizing the Scriptural principal of apostolic discipline of Senior Pastors (I Timothy 5:17-25), the Senior Pastor, if ensnared in immoral conduct, false doctrine, unethical practices or major character flaws, shall be counseled by the full Elder Board and if a restoration is unobtainable, the Elder Board shall contact the Apostolic Oversight Team and involve them in bringing resolution to the Senior Pastor and the body. Following this process, if there still is no resolution, the Pastor shall be removed and fellowship broken according to the scriptures (Matthew 18:15-17).
- F. If anyone that has witness of immoral conduct, false doctrine, unethical practices or major character flaws, that the Senior Pastor is part of, it is to be brought to an Elder(s) who will present the information to the entire Elder Board.

Section II Church Council

Shall consist of the Senior Pastor, the Board of Elders, a representative (chairperson) of each standing committee of LifePoint, and at least three officers of the church (President (Senior Pastor), Vice-President, Treasurer, and/or Secretary).

A. Duties of Church Council

1. The Church Council shall have the decision making capacity with the Pastor for church business, government and Spiritual health of the church body.
 - a. Major decisions, including but not limited to the hiring and dismissal of Pastoral/Administrative staff, and major financial decisions that affect the church must be passed by a two-thirds vote of the board and the body be notified.
 - b. Decisions of the Church Council, even if not unanimous, must be reflected as a decision of one unified council.
 - c. If there is conflict that cannot be resolved, council from the Apostolic Oversight Team shall be sought.
2. The Apostolic Oversight Team, in part or in whole, shall be appointed by the Church Council.
3. The corporate power of the Corporation shall be exercised and conducted, and controlled by the Church Council. All final decisions shall rest with the Church Council.
4. The Church Council shall act as legal representatives of the Corporation and shall be empowered to sign contracts including the purchase, sale, rent or leasing of any properties, real or chattel.

Section III Board of Elders

The position of Elder was created by God and instituted to serve the early church. When Elders are called to serve the body together this “Board of Elders” makes up a very important part of scriptural government. LifePoint Church having recognized this scriptural position in its Constitution and By-laws has called together a Board of Elders for the following purposes.

Elders will be selected from among those who are called and functioning in one of the five-fold ministry giftings listed in Ephesians 4:11-12 ¹¹ *So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. NIV*

They must also meet the biblical requirements found in Titus 1: 5-11 ⁵ *The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint^[a] elders in every town, as I directed you. ⁶ An elder must be blameless, faithful to his wife (if married, devoted to spouse), a man whose children believe^[b] and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. ⁷ Since an overseer manages God’s household, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. ⁸ Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. ⁹ He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. ¹⁰ For there are many rebellious people, full of meaningless talk and deception, especially those of the circumcision group. ¹¹ They must be silenced, because they are disrupting whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach—and that for the sake of dishonest gain. NIV*

A. Duties of the Board of Elders

1. The Board of Elders’ responsibility is to assist the Senior Pastor in the spiritual care of the Church.
2. The Board of Elders shall consist of no less than five members. Couples are strongly recommended, but the addition of single men or women are welcomed.
3. The Board of Elders shall consist of people that serve and are committed to LifePoint Church.
4. Elders may be nominated by the Senior Pastor from among those who are called and functioning in one of the five-fold ministry gifts (Ephesians 4:11-13). They must meet the biblical requirements for elders (I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1: 6-9). The nominations will be presented to the Church Council for agreement of such qualifications.
5. At large nominations for Elders from the LifePoint Body will be welcomed and considered by the Church Council for selection, as in agreement with the above guidelines for all other Elder Nominees.
6. The Church Council which includes the Senior Pastor, shall have the responsibility of making recommendations and approving by a two-thirds vote any vacancy or addition to the Elder Board. Such Elder nominations shall be presented to the Church Body with an invitation for the body to contact the Senior Pastor and/or the existing Church Council. If any objections have not been received within 2 weeks of presentation or have been satisfactorily resolved by the Church Council, then by no objection, the nominees will become an Elder(s).

7. The Senior Pastor must present the selection of Elders to the LifePoint Church body for witness of above qualifications.
8. An Elder shall be appointed for a term of two years. An Elder may be reappointed for a second consecutive term, but must serve not more than 2 consecutive terms or a maximum of 5 years if an Elder has taken the responsibility in a mid-term situation.
9. An Elder must sit out at least one Term (two years) after serving the maximum consecutive term before being nominated to serve again.
10. The Senior Pastor will serve as the presiding Elder and carry equal voting power as other members on the Church Council, the Senior Pastor shall convene meetings on a regular basis, no less than once a quarter. In the absence of a Senior Pastor, due to death, resignation or removal, a representative of the Apostolic Oversight Team, shall serve as the presiding Elder.
11. At any time that any two Elders decide a meeting is needed, they can call one. Meetings should take place within 10 days or as soon as reasonably possible.
12. Decisions of the Elder Board, even if not unanimous, must be reflected as a decision of one unified board.
13. Recognizing the Scriptural principal of apostolic discipline of any part of Leadership (I Timothy 5:17-25), Leadership as defined in conduct of a Senior Pastor, if ensnared in immoral conduct, false doctrine, unethical practices or major character flaws, shall be counseled by the full Elder Board including the Senior Pastor and if a restoration is unobtainable, the Elder Board shall contact the Apostolic Oversight committee and involve them in bringing resolution to the Elder and the body. Following this process, if there still is no resolution, the Elder shall be removed and fellowship broken according to the scriptures (Matthew 18:15-17).
14. If anyone that has witness of immoral conduct, false doctrine, unethical practices or major character flaws, that an Elder is part of, it is to be brought to the Senior Pastor or an Elder(s) to be presented to the entire Elder Board.

Section III Finance and Administration

- A. A Financial Board shall be appointed by the Senior Pastor along with a two-thirds approval of the Church Council. The Financial Board shall consist of at least 5 people: three persons from the Church Body in good standing and service (that are not Elders), the Senior Pastor as the Ex-officio (non-voting member), and the Church Administrator/Financial staff person (non-voting member).
- B. The Financial Board shall report directly to the Church Council, providing monthly and year to date financial statements.
- C. The Financial Board through the financial staff person shall make available a report of the Church finances via electronic or hard copy upon request from the Church Body. An annual notice shall be given to let the Church Body know that there is a year to date report available on the financial health of the Church.
- D. The Financial Board is responsible for creating an annual budget to be presented to the Church Council for approval.

- E. The Financial Administrator or Senior Pastor shall be responsible for day to day expenses. Any emergency needs that come up, that do not exceed **\$500.00, may be paid at the discretion of the** Financial Administrator and Senior Pastor. A report of such an emergency expenditures shall be provided to the Financial Board in a timely manner.
- F. All non-budgeted expenses (exemption III E) must go before the Financial Board to make sure that adequate funds are available and then submitted to the Church Council for approval by a two-thirds vote.

Section IV Personnel

- A. A Personnel Committee shall be appointed by the Church Council to help with matters of personnel and staffing.
 - 1. Due to the sensitive nature of personnel, it is necessary for personnel matters to be treated with high a level of confidentiality.
 - a. Issues that come up that do not pertain to day to day operations and are of a personal nature should be given to the Elder Board to maintain confidentiality.
 - 2. The Personnel Committee shall report only to the Church Council.
 - 3. The Personnel Committee must include an Elder, Financial Committee member, Staff, and two persons from the Church Body in good standing.
 - a. Staff persons on the Personnel Committee shall remove themselves from any discussion during a Personnel or Church Council meeting if they or their position is being discussed.
 - 4. Help the Senior Pastor and/or the Church Council at their request to research and give recommendation for hire.
 - 5. Develop and maintain a policy and procedure manual for all staff.
 - 6. Evaluate and establish personnel packages for staff. Personnel Package may include:
 - a. Wages
 - b. Housing Allowance
 - c. Personal and/or Sick-Time Allotted
 - d. Policy of how to handle "love offerings" when traveling on behalf of LifePoint Church.
 - e. Frequency of Mission or Ministry-related trips (paid or unpaid).
 - f. Job descriptions for all personnel/staff, to be used for the purpose of evaluation and establishing and/or changing salaries as needed.

ARTICLE III Apostolic Oversight Team

Section I The purpose of the Apostolic Oversight Team (A.O.T)

1. Provide an avenue of accountability of the Senior Pastor and to the body of LifePoint Church as a whole.
2. Provide encouragement and resources as part of many parts of the body to strengthen one another.
3. Enable LifePoint Church to become an Apostolic Oversight resource ministry to other churches.

Section II Duties of the Apostolic Oversight Team

1. To consult with LifePoint Church in accordance with
 - a. Scripture, The Word of God.
 - b. LifePoint's Constitution and By-Laws.
2. Meet with the Senior Pastor and Church Council on an annual basis or as needed.
3. Provide a written evaluation to the Church Council as to the spiritual health of the church on an annual basis.
4. Be available for personal care for the Senior Pastor and his family should assistance be necessary.
5. Investigate any accusations made against the Senior Pastor that are deemed of a serious nature as described in Article 2 Section I Paragraph E.
6. Provide mediation between the **Church Body, (as described in Article 1 Membership) staff, Church Council,** or the Senior Pastor if the situation necessitates.
7. If the situation ever arises that the Senior Pastor would need to be removed, the A.O.T. shall be available for consultation.

Section III Apostolic Oversight Team Covering

1. The Apostolic Oversight Team must consist of a least one ministry that has the adequate resources and coverings to fulfill the purpose and duties described in Section I and II of Article III.

In the event that it is necessary that LifePoint Church chooses to remove its association with any part of the A.O.T., the Church Council must be in agreement by two-thirds vote.

2. At no time shall LifePoint Church be without an Apostolic Oversight covering. In the event the Church Council votes to seek a change in such covering the replacement oversight must be in place prior to withdrawal from existing coverage.

Section IV Apostolic Oversight Association(s)

All A.O.T. affiliations shall be declared and recorded in the Church Council minutes on an annual basis or time of change and kept on file.

ARTICLE IV PROPERTY

All property, real or chattel, shall be taken, held, sold, transferred, or conveyed in the Corporation name of the church.

ARTICLE V Incorporation

Purposes as described in the filled Articles of Incorporation.

- A. The specific purpose(s) for which the corporation is organized is(are).
 - 1. To form and conduct a religious, charitable, and educational entity for the promotion of Christianity and all matters incidental thereto.
 - 2. To establish and maintain a place (or places) of worship.
 - 3. To spread the gospel through seminars, radio, television and establishing church literature.
 - 4. Establishing a school, bible training school or school of theology.
 - 5. Acquiring and holding real estate property.
 - 6. Ordination or licensing of ministers.
 - 7. Accepting gifts.