

INTRODUCTION

The Constitution of LifeChurch serves as the governing framework for our family of believers, guiding us in our shared mission to love God, love people, and make disciples. It reflects our commitment to unity, transparency, and accountability as we strive to fulfill our God-given purpose as a church.

The purpose of the constitution is to align our values and practices with biblical principles, as well as define our organizational structure, governance, and procedures, to ensure that our church remains a place where Christ-centered leadership thrives and spiritual growth is nurtured.

We acknowledge that this constitution is more than a legal or administrative document—it is a declaration of our beliefs and covenant as a church family. May we seek to glorify God in all we do, and may this constitution help us remain faithful stewards of the mission entrusted to us so that we may continue to advance God's Kingdom with integrity, grace, and love.

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1. CHURCH NAME AND LOGO

The official name of the church is LifeChurch. (Branches and campuses will adapt their campus name to LifeChurch plus location name.)



2. DENOMINATION

LifeChurch is a local autonomous church affiliated with Nexus Christian Church through which we are registered under the Evangelical Fellowship of Thailand.

3. PURPOSE

LifeChurch is a church for Thais and non-Thais. We strive to be a Thai–English bilingual church, with preference given to Thai.

VISION

We see a people transformed by God's love,
equipped by God's Word and empowered by His Spirit,
strengthened through encouraging fellowship,
united in building a Jesus-centered church,
bringing life to every heart and sphere of society.

We see healthy, multiplying churches spreading to strategic locations
to reach as many as possible and bring them into God's family of believers.

4. STATEMENT OF FAITH

The church's beliefs are founded on the Word of God, supported by the historic creeds of the Christian church, especially the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds (see Appendix 1). We agree with the Evangelical Fellowship of Thailand's statement of faith and base our statement of faith on traditional Pentecostal teachings.

Our beliefs:

THE BIBLE

The Bible – the Old and New Testaments – is verbally inspired by God and is the revelation of God to humanity. The Bible directs us not only in our beliefs, but also in our daily lives. (2 Tim 3:15-17; 1 Thess 2:13; 2 Pet 1:21)

GOD

The One True God has revealed himself as the eternal, self-existent "I am", the Creator of heaven and earth, and the Redeemer of mankind. He has revealed himself as one God, existing in three persons – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit – distinguishable but indivisible. (Deut 6:4; Isa 43:10,11; Matt 28:19; Luke 3:22; 2 Cor 13:14)

JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ is the eternal son of God. The Bible declares his virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, substitutionary work on the cross, bodily resurrection from the dead and exaltation to the right hand of God (Matt 1:23; Luke 1:31,35; Heb 7:26; 1 Pet 2:22; Acts 2:22; 10:48; 1 Cor 15:3; 2 Cor 5:21; Matt 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1 Cor 15:4; Acts 1:9,11; 2:33; Phil 2:9-11; Heb 1:3)

FALLEN MAN

God created man (men and women) good and upright, in his image and likeness. Man fell by voluntary transgression, resulting not only in physical death but also in spiritual death, which is separation from God. (Gen 1:26,27; 2:17; 3:6; Rom 5:12-19)

SALVATION

Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus, God's Son. Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ. Through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God, having the hope of eternal life. The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit. The outward evidence is a life of righteousness and holiness. (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Rom 10:13-15; Eph 2:8; Tit 2:11; 3:5-7; Eph 4:24; Rom 8:16; Tit 2:12)

ORDINANCES

Baptism in water

The Bible commands baptism by full immersion. All who repent and believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. In so doing they declare to the world that they died with Christ and that they have also been raised with him to walk in newness of life. (Matt 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47,48; Rom 6:4)

Holy Communion

The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements – bread and the cup – is the symbol expressing our participation in the divine nature of Jesus Christ, a remembrance of his suffering and death, and a proclamation of his second coming, to be shared by all believers until he returns. (2 Pet 1:4; 1 Cor 11:24,26)

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

All believers are entitled to and should earnestly seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian Church. With it comes the empowerment for life and service, the equipping of God's gifts and their uses in ministry for him. (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4,8; 1 Cor 12:1-31)

SANCTIFICATION

Sanctification is an act of separation from what is evil and of dedication to God. The Bible teaches a life of holiness, without which no one will see the Lord. By the power of the Holy Spirit we are able to obey the command to be holy as he is holy. Sanctification is realized in believers by recognizing our identification with Christ in his death and resurrection, daily trusting in that union, and continually submitting our lives to the leadership of the Holy Spirit. (Rom 12:1,2; 1 Thess 5:23; Heb 13:12; 12:14; 1 Pet. 1:15,16; Rom. 6:1-11,13; 8:1-2; Phil. 2:12,13)

THE CHURCH

The Church is the Body of Christ, a dwelling where God lives by his Spirit, with the God-given task of fulfilling the Great Commission. Every believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the Church as a member of the body of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. (Eph 1:22,23; 2:22; Heb 12:23)

MINISTRY

A divinely called and scripturally ordained leadership ministry leads and equips the Church to fulfill its purpose. The Bible teaches that each of us under leadership must commit to reach others for Christ, to worship Him with other believers and to build up the body of believers known as the Church. (Mark 16:15-20; John 4:23,24; Eph 4:11-16)

HEALING

Divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement, and is the privilege of all believers. (Is 53:4,5; Matt 8:16,17; James 5:14-16)

OUR HOPE

At Jesus' return, all those who have died in Christ will be resurrected and meet the Lord, and all living believers will be caught up with them to be with the Lord forever. (1 Thess 4:16,17; Rom 8:23; Titus 2:13; 1 Cor 15:51,52)

A FINAL JUDGMENT

There will be a final judgment. Those who do not have their name written in the Book of Life will be condemned to the second death. (Matt 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Rev 19:20; 20:11-15; 21:8)

NEW HEAVENS AND NEW EARTH

The new heavens and the new earth will be the place where righteousness lives and God will dwell with us forever. (2 Pet 3:13; Rev 21; 22)

5. LEADERSHIP

5.1. STRUCTURE

The church is led and governed by a Board, Overseer Team and Senior Pastor. The Annual Meeting for members will also be given a certain authority on specific issues. The division of responsibility is clarified below.

Members of the church may make suggestions to the Overseer Team and Board, who will ensure that such matters are dealt with appropriately.

5.2. QUALIFICATIONS

Pastors and members of the Overseer Team and Board are selected in accordance with – and expected to adhere to – biblical qualifications described in passages such as 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. They must be baptized believers and must identify with and lead according to LifeChurch's purpose, theology, values and vision.

Pastors and members of LifeChurch's Overseer Team must be members of LifeChurch. For other requirements for the Overseer Team and Board, see Appendix 2.

5.3. THE BOARD

The Board is the church's highest decision-making body in the following legal, financial, assets and HR matters:

- Approving budget and accounts, and presenting them to the Annual Meeting
- Calling the Annual Meeting and setting its agenda. The Board can also call an extraordinary Annual Meeting if necessary, in accordance with major financial decisions involving an extra-budgetary expense of more than 20% of budgeted amount
- Rental, purchase and sale of real estate
- Adequate financing of LifeChurch's activities
- Employment, dismissal and salary determination of the Senior Pastor and any paid staff. The Senior Pastor can only be dismissed in accordance with Article 5.5
- Proposing any amendments to the Constitution (for approval at the Annual Meeting)
- Ensuring that LifeChurch is operated in accordance with applicable laws and regulations

The Board is elected by the Annual Meeting, and the Overseer Team acts as the nomination committee. The Board consists of 5–7 people. The Senior Pastor has a permanent seat on the Board. At least 51% of the Board must be Thai nationals, and a minimum of 2/3 of Board members should be actively involved at LifeChurch. Each campus must be represented on the Board. The term of office for Board members is 2 years with the possibility of extension.

The Board organizes itself and elects a Chairman and treasurer from the members of the Board by secret written ballot. The Senior Pastor cannot be Chairman. There must be a minimum of 2 ordinary Board meetings a year; the Board itself determines the frequency of meetings beyond this. The Board is convened by the Chairman with a minimum of 7 days' notice, and is quorate when more than 50% of Board members are present. Decisions are made through simple majority. In the event of a tie, the Senior Pastor has a double vote.

Signatory rights are held jointly by the Senior Pastor and one of the Board members in matters resulting in major financial or legal obligations, and in accordance with LifeChurch financial guidelines. The Board may grant a power of attorney jointly to two other persons deemed appropriate and qualified to carry out these signatory rights for a limited purpose and time. LifeChurch financial guidelines are developed by the Overseer Team and subject to approval by the Board.

The Board is subject to LifeChurch's Constitution.

Every Board meeting must be minuted and records of meetings will be stored in a secure manner, accessible to current members of the Board and Overseer Team.

With advice from the Advisory Board, the Overseer Team may unanimously vote to remove a Board member if he or she is not adhering to the requirements stipulated in the Constitution.

5.4. OVERSEER TEAM

The Overseer Team is the church's highest decision-making body in pastoral and spiritual matters, and is responsible for the church's operations and spiritual life, including pastoral responsibility, doctrinal issues, vision and profile, as well as long term strategy.

The Overseer Team is led by the Senior Pastor. The Overseer Team must consist of a minimum of 50 percent Thai members. The main leader of each campus must be part of the Overseer Team.

The Overseer Team should normally make decisions unanimously. If this is not possible, decisions are made through simple majority. The Senior

Pastor may exercise a veto to prevent a decision, even when it has a sufficient majority. In such cases, the Board and Advisory Board must be informed by the Senior Pastor and/or the minute-taker of the Overseer Team meeting.

New members of the Overseer Team are appointed by the Senior Pastor together with the Overseer Team. The term for Overseer Team members is 2 years with the possibility of extension.

The Senior Pastor together with the Overseer Team can dismiss members of the Overseer Team in circumstances leading to diminished trust in the person concerned, including serious breaches related to faith and doctrine.

5.5. SENIOR PASTOR

The Senior Pastor is the primary spiritual leader of the church, responsible for overseeing the overall vision, guiding the direction and spiritual growth of the church, preaching the gospel, and providing pastoral care, while acting in accordance with the church's Constitution, doctrine, vision and values. The Senior Pastor leads the church's work in collaboration with the Overseer Team and Board.

If the Senior Pastor abuses their position by living in sin or grossly neglecting their duties, the church members may determine their further position as Senior Pastor at an extraordinary members' meeting. This meeting will be convened by the Overseer Team, without requiring the Senior Pastor's approval, after first consulting the Advisory Board. A 2/3 majority of those present at the members' meeting is required for a decision to be considered valid. The removal of the Senior Pastor will then be carried out by the Board.

If the Senior Pastor is removed or is suddenly unable to fulfill their duties, the Overseer Team must choose an interim leader to assume leadership of the church until a new Senior Pastor is appointed. The interim leader should already be part of the Overseer Team. Signatory rights are then held by the new leader together with two elected representatives from the Overseer Team and one Board member.

The Overseer Team will work to find a candidate for the position of Senior Pastor. A new Senior Pastor must be installed within 6 months.

Any new Senior Pastor is approved by the church through a 2/3 majority vote at the church's Annual Meeting or extraordinary members' meeting.

5.6. CAMPUS LEADER/PASTOR

Campus leaders or pastors are appointed by the Overseer Team and the Senior Pastor. Members of each Campus Leadership are chosen by the campus leader/pastor with input from the Senior Pastor.

5.7. ANNUAL MEETING

Mandate

The Annual Meeting's mandate is as follows:

- Elect the nominated Board members
- Approve changes to the Constitution

Additionally, the following matters will be reviewed at the Annual Meeting:

- Annual report presented by the Senior Pastor
- Briefing on key numbers in the accounts
- Briefing on key numbers in the budget
- Overview of the Overseer Team and other key leaders in the church

Requirements for decisions

Election of the Board requires a simple majority vote from the members at the Annual Meeting.

Proposed amendments to the church's Constitution require a 2/3 majority from the members at the Annual Meeting. Proposals to amend the Constitution must be submitted by the Board.

Voting and meeting rights

Only members of LifeChurch have meeting and voting rights. The Overseer Team may decide to allow others to attend meetings.

Summons

The church's Annual Meeting is normally held once a year during the first half of the year.

The agenda of the Annual Meeting is set by the Board.

Extraordinary members' meetings can be called by the Board and/or Overseer Team.

Summons to ordinary and extraordinary members' meetings must be made with a minimum of 2 weeks' written notice.

5.8. ADVISORY BOARD

Advisory Board members are seasoned pastoral leaders outside of LifeChurch who have been in a relationship with LifeChurch for at least 3 years. They should be made known to the church and are expected to have a supporting and advisory role in relation to the Senior Pastor and Overseer Team. Their influence is based on trust and relationship.

The Advisory Board may be called upon to mediate in case of conflict between the Senior Pastor, Overseer Team and Church Board. It may be called in to help in accountability matters relating to the Senior Pastor if requested by the Overseer Team or Board. The Overseer Team is responsible for nominating and inviting members to the Advisory Board.

6. MEMBERSHIP

LifeChurch invites and encourages all who wish to identify with this body of believers into a membership relationship. Membership is extended to those who:

- Profess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, and seek to obey the Bible
- Uphold the Statement of Faith given in Article 4 of this Constitution and the church's purpose and vision as set in Article 3
- Have participated actively and regularly in the life of the church for at least 6 months immediately preceding the date of membership application
- Are financially supportive of LifeChurch
- Consider LifeChurch to be their home church

The Overseer Team is responsible for managing the approval of membership applications.

Approved members may attend and vote at members' meetings. They may also suggest matters to the Overseer Team and Board, as stated in Article 5 of this Constitution.

Membership does not require relinquishing membership in one's church in another province or country.

Members may choose to relinquish their membership by written request to the church.

The Overseer Team has the authority to revoke the membership of anyone who:

- has not participated actively in the life of the church in the last 12 months, and
- has not responded to a written inquiry from the Overseer Team regarding continued membership

or:

- the Overseer Team finds that the person's life or doctrine are clearly contradictory to God's Word, and the person is unwilling to respond to correction.

7. DISSOLUTION

In case of dissolution of the church, this will be decided by the Overseer Team and Board with input from the Advisory Board. The church's assets will then be given to a Christian organization and/or church within the Evangelical Fellowship of Thailand, chosen by the Board. The Board is responsible for implementing any dissolution.

Appendix 1: CHRISTIAN CREEDS

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy universal Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy universal and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Appendix 2: BOARD AND OVERSEER TEAM REQUIREMENTS

- Mature Christians, faith-filled and willing and able to discern what the Lord is saying to the church
- Love for LifeChurch, backing its vision, purpose and church culture
- Positive attitude, reliable and willing to manage the church's assets responsibly
- A basic understanding of finances, organization, theology and legal matters is highly desirable. All these areas should be covered within the Board and Overseer Team as a whole.
- Both men and women should be represented in the different groups, and each group should include a diversity of giftings and personalities.
- Married couples may be members of the Board and Overseer Team, but members of the same family may not make up more than 40 % of the Board or Overseer Team. Family is defined as spouse, brothers or sisters (by whole or half-blood), children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and their spouses.
- Minimum age: 20 years
- Each member of the Board and Overseer Team must be prepared to invest the time and care needed to protect the interests of the church and its members. A member of the Board or Overseer Team must aim to prioritize Board or Overseer Team meetings and come well prepared to each meeting. If a member is unable to attend, they should write a written apology to the group.
- Members of LifeChurch's Board and Overseer Team may not use their position to gain any form of personal benefit.
- A majority of the Board must be made up of uncompensated individuals.
- Overseers must have been actively part of LifeChurch for at least 2 years.