

# **Constitution of**

# **Life Pointe Church of Olympia**

## **Table of Contents:**

Preamble	page 2
I. Name, Organization, and Affiliation	page 2
II. Our Affirmation of Faith	page 2
III. Mission, Vision and Core Values	page 4
IV. Partnership	page 6
V. Amendments	page 8

## **Preamble**

Trusting only in the Lord Jesus Christ for our salvation, looking to the Bible as the only perfect standard of faith and practice, and encouraging one another to grow and endure in obedience to Jesus Christ, we willingly unite as a community of believers to know, love and serve God together. To the end that this body may be governed properly and in an orderly manner consistent with God's Word, we adopt this Constitution.

## **ARTICLES**

### **I. Name, Organization and Affiliation**

- A. The name of this organization shall be "Life Pointe Church of Olympia."
- B. This church was organized and incorporated under the laws of the State of Washington on May 8, 2008.
- C. This church voluntarily affiliates with Converge Worldwide and its local district, Converge Northwest (CNW).

### **II. Our Affirmation of Faith**

- A. **The Bible**  
We believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God, and that human authors were moved by the Holy Spirit to write the very words of Scripture. We believe that the Bible is true and without error, and is supremely authoritative for our lives. (John 17:17; Romans 15:4; II Timothy 3:16, 17; II Peter 1:19-21)
- B. **The Triune God**  
We believe that there is one living and true God, the Creator and Ruler of the universe, who exists eternally in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal in every divine attribute and are one God. (Matthew 28:19; John 1:1-4, I John 5:7)
- C. **God the Father**  
We believe in God, the Father, an infinite personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. (John 3:16-17; John 4:24; John 17:5)
- D. **God the Son, Jesus Christ**  
We believe that Jesus Christ is God. He was sent by the Father to reveal God to mankind, was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin, lived a sinless human life and offered himself as the perfect substitutionary sacrifice for the sins of all of

humanity by dying on a cross in our place. He was raised physically from the dead, ascended into heaven, intercedes always for his people, and will come again to earth personally to reign as King and Lord. (Isaiah 7:14; John 1:14; Philippians 2:5-11; I Thessalonians 4:16-17; Hebrews 1:2-3, I John 1:7)

**E. God the Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is God. He was sent from the Father and the Son to convict people of sin and their need for salvation through personal faith in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit takes up residence in every believer in Christ from the moment of salvation. His presence in their lives is the guarantee of their eternal inheritance. He provides the believer with gifts and power for ministry and mission, understanding of truth, and guidance in living a life that pleases God. (John 16:7-15; Romans 8:14-17; Ephesians 1:13-14; I John 14:26)

**F. Mankind**

We believe that mankind—male and female--was created in the image and likeness of God to enjoy intimate friendship with Him, to live in community with each other, and to serve as stewards of the creation. Through the sin of the first man, Adam, the entire human race inherited a sin nature and was alienated from God. Mankind is utterly powerless to remedy this condition and be reconciled to God. Jesus Christ is God's only provision for the predicament of the human race (Genesis 1:26-31; 2:4-25; 3:1-24; Romans 5:6-12; John 14:6).

**G. Salvation**

We believe that all men are sinners by nature and by choice, and consequently are under judgment. We believe that the blood of Jesus Christ, shed on the cross, provides the sole basis for the forgiveness of sin. Salvation is God's gift to a person who places his or her faith in the death and resurrection of Christ as full and final payment of the penalty for their sin. (John 1:12-13; John 3:16-18; Acts 20:21; Titus 3:5)

**H. The Church**

We believe that the church is a living spiritual organism of which Jesus Christ is the head and all who trust in Jesus Christ for their salvation are members. We believe that the local church consists of a community of believers in Jesus Christ who join together for worship, fellowship, ministry and mission. We believe that God has laid upon the church the primary task of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to a world that is separated from Him. (Matthew 16:16-18; Acts 2:38-41; Ephesians 2:19-22, 5:25-27)

**I. Baptism and Communion**

We believe that baptism is the immersion of a believer in water as a visible expression of personal faith in Jesus Christ. We believe that communion commemorates Jesus' sacrifice for us in obedience to his command. The bread and cup are symbols of his body and blood which were given for our salvation. (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:41-42; Romans 6:3-5; I Corinthians 11:23-32)

**J. Religious Authority**

We believe that every human being is personally accountable to God, responsible to Him in all matters of faith and conduct. We believe that each local church is similarly accountable, and is an interdependent part of the larger Body of Christ, yet must reserve autonomy in order to be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority. Church and State must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from dictation or patronage of the other (Luke 20:22-25; Acts 5:17-32; Romans 13:1-3; 1 Timothy 2:1-4).

**K. Lifestyle**

We believe that every Christian should live for the glory of God and the well-being of others. We believe that we are called to freedom as followers of Jesus Christ, and that the Holy Spirit enables us to mature and be conformed to the image of Christ as we grow in our obedience to the will of God as it is revealed in the Bible (Romans 8:29-30; Galatians 5:13-14; Colossians 3:17)

**L. Marriage and Sexuality**

We believe that marriage was created and blessed by God to be the exclusive, life-long union of one man and one woman for the purposes of close companionship, mutual help and support, intimate sexual expression, and the procreation of the human race. We believe that God's gift of marriage prefigured and symbolizes the covenant love relationship between Christ and His Bride, the Church. We believe that a healthy marriage is the foundation of God's design for the family, that children are a gift and stewardship from God, and that God gives to parents the responsibility to bring up their children in the training and instruction of the Lord within the Christian community. We believe that sexuality is a wonderful gift from God, but that sexual immorality (sexual thought and expression that disregards God's design), whether heterosexual, homosexual or otherwise, does deep harm to the individuals, to their families, to the church and to society.

*Genesis 1:26-31; 2:18-25; Isaiah 54:5; 62:5; Ephesians 5:15-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; Psalm 127:3; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20.*

**M. Church Cooperation**

We believe that local churches can more effectively and efficiently promote the advancement of the gospel and the growth of the kingdom by cooperating with one another in a network or denominational organization. Such an organization exists and functions by the willing affiliation of each local church, and cooperation may be terminated at any time (2 Corinthians 8-9; Philippians 4:10-20).

**N. Last Things**

We believe that Jesus Christ will return to earth personally and visibly to establish His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal joy in the presence of God of those made righteous by personal faith in Christ, and the endless suffering and separation from God of those who reject Him. (Matthew 25:31-46; John 5:18, 29; II Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 20:1-15)

### III. Mission, Vision and Core Values

- A. Mission:** We are continually GOING to the people of our world, INVITING them into welcoming communities, and LEADING them in a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

We accomplish our mission by creating environments where people are encouraged and equipped to pursue friendship with God, community with believers, and influence with others.

*The Great Commandment – Mt. 22:37-40; John 13:34-35; the Great Compassion --Mt. 25:31-46; and the Great Commission – Mt. 28:18-20.*

- B. Vision:** Our vision is to multiply maturing Christ-followers, leaders, small groups and churches throughout the south Puget Sound region and beyond.

- C. Values:**

As the Spirit of God enables us, we will pursue the following values.

#### 1. Simplicity

We choose simplicity over complexity in our lives together. We encourage each one to commit to five basic priorities: 1) weekly participation in worship, 2) regular participation in a small group for fellowship and spiritual growth, 3) personal, consistent participation in a church ministry, 4) faithful investment of one's material and financial resources in the life and mission of Life Pointe Church, and 5) personal participation in advancing the gospel message in our community and in our world.

#### 2. Community

We are committed to the cultivation of loving, life-giving personal relationships among Christ-followers. We seek to strengthen marriages and families, and we are intentionally inclusive of single adults. We affirm that the church includes Christ-followers of every race, color, language and nationality, so in our life together we seek to embrace the racial and ethnic diversity that characterizes our neighborhoods.

#### 3. Hospitality

We intentionally invest in relationships with people outside the church, and we are always creating welcoming environments where all may experience inclusion and acceptance, and are exposed to God's love, expressed through his people.

#### 4. Generosity

We choose to excel in the grace of giving. We give generously of our time, abilities, talents and finances. We do this in order to honor God, support our church staff and leaders and their families, to share with others in need, and to fulfill the mission God has given us as a church.

## **5. Groups**

We believe that small groups are the optimal environment for sustained life change. For that reason, we encourage everyone to become part of a Life Group or other small group where they experience spiritual growth, relational community and purposeful mission.

## **6. Multiplication**

We are committed to multiplying Christ-followers, leaders, small groups and churches. To those ends we also partner with others to equip and support gifted leaders who may then be called to plant reproducing churches throughout the South Sound region and around the world.

## **7. City**

We seek through the example of our lives and through practical service to be a source of joy to our neighbors, and to our community and civic leaders. We seek to contribute to the well-being of the cities in which we live. We invest time, energy and resources to practically meet the needs of the last and the least among us.

# **IV. Partnership**

**Definition:** We define the word '*partner*' to mean any individual who (1) professes belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who (2) has been baptized upon confession of personal faith in Jesus Christ for their salvation, who (3) demonstrates commitment to this local body of believers by the consistent investment of spiritual gifts and personal resources in the furtherance of the kingdom of God and the mission and vision of Life Pointe Church, and (4) has been admitted by affirmation of the Board of Elders.

### **A. Admission**

Admission into membership may follow upon personal request of the individual, and review and recommendation by the Pastors and Elders (Acts 2:41-47; Romans 10:9-10).

### **B. Status**

#### **1. Lapsed Partners**

“Lapsed Partners” are Partners who have been absent from the church for a substantial, observable period of time without manifesting ongoing interest (excluding extenuating circumstances). He or she shall be personally contacted by a representative of the Board of Elders to inquire regarding his or her status and intentions in relationship to Life Pointe Church. Lapsed Partners shall be dismissed from the church partnership by a vote of the Board of Elders pending reasonable, unsuccessful attempts at restoration.

#### **2. Withdrawal from Partnership**

Any partner desiring to withdraw his partnership may do so by simple, personal notification to the Lead Pastor or any member of the board of Elders. This withdrawal shall be reviewed by the Board of Elders and the partnership shall be dissolved.

### **3. Dismissal from Partnership**

Partners who persist in living lives in disobedience to God's Word and who habitually neglect their responsibility as stated in the Partnership Promise may be dismissed from partnership by a vote of the Board of Elders, after personal counseling and gentle reproof by a Pastor and/or a member of the Board of Elders. (Galatians 6:1-2; Matthew 18)

### **4. Restoration to Partnership**

A former partner of the church, whose partnership has lapsed, or who has previously withdrawn from partnership, or who has been previously dismissed from partnership, may be restored by a unanimous vote of the Board of Elders following due deliberation. In the case of one who has been previously dismissed from partnership [see #3 above], and subsequently applies for restoration, such action will be contingent upon substantial evidence of personal repentance and spiritual renewal in the life of the applicant.

### **5. Grievances**

When conflict or grievances arise between Life Pointe Partners and/or others within the Life Pointe community, parties to the conflict shall be expected and encouraged to personally pursue resolution of their conflict in accordance with the principles prescribed by the Lord Jesus in Matthew 18:15-20. No request for intervention, mediation or arbitration will be entertained by the Elders until the Matthew 18 process has been deliberately pursued. Charges, when brought, shall be submitted in writing to the Board of Elders for consideration of further action. (Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 6:1-8; Galatians 6:1-2)

## **C. Responsibilities**

Every prospective Life Pointe Partner shall make the following promise.

Having received Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, having been baptized as a believer, being in agreement with Life Pointe Church's Mission, Vision, Values, and Affirmation of Faith, and being led by the Holy Spirit to this decision, I commit myself to faithful partnership in Life Pointe Church. In doing so, I make the following promises:

- to faithfully pursue my personal spiritual growth through worship, fellowship, ministry and mission;
- to faithfully model a Godly lifestyle to my family, and to contribute to their spiritual growth;
- to faithfully pursue fellowship with other Christ-followers in the Life Pointe community;
- to faithfully serve in a responsible place of ministry within the church;
- to faithfully advance the mission of Life Pointe Church by doing all that I can, as God enables me, to see people come to personal faith in Jesus Christ;
- to generously steward my spiritual gifts and material and financial resources to glorify God and to strengthen the church to fulfill its mission;
- to diligently protect the unity of Life Pointe Church by following its leaders in a spirit of respect and humility, acting in love toward others in the church, and obediently

pursuing forgiveness and reconciliation when in conflict with others, according to God's word.

## **V. Amendments**

Amendments to this Constitution and the adoption of church policies shall be approved by the unanimous vote of the Board of Elders.