



# CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

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# CONSTITUTION

## ARTICLE I – Name, Affiliation and Purpose

### SECTION 1. Name

The name of this church shall be The Church at LifePark (the "Church").

### SECTION 2. Affiliation

The Church at LifePark was planted by First Baptist Church of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina and is Southern Baptist in denomination and shall exist for the purpose as set forth in Article 1, Section 3.

### SECTION 3. Purpose

The purpose of this church is to glorify Christ by making disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:18-20) which includes the following:

- the assembling of members and non-members together to worship and glorify God (John 4:23-24);
- to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ as a means of reaching unbelievers (Matthew 4:19);
- to instruct, disciple and equip believers in Christian living (2 Tim. 3:16-17; Eph. 4:11-13).

## ARTICLE II – Statement of Faith and What We Believe

### SECTION 1. The Bible

We believe the sixty-six books that comprise the Old and New Testaments of the Bible are the inspired (God-breathed) words of God and are the final authority for all believers in their faith and practice. All Scripture originated with God and was given through holy men who were "moved by the Holy Spirit." We believe this divine inspiration extends equally to all parts of the writings as they appeared in the original manuscripts. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation. We believe Scripture is able to "make you wise for salvation" and is useful for "teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness."

*Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalms 19:7-10; 119:11,89,105,140; Isaiah 34:16; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 36:1-32; Matthew 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16ff.; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21.*

### SECTION 2. God

We believe that there is one true and living God and that He is the all-knowing, all-powerful, ever-present supernatural being who created all things and has eternally existed in three persons—God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit—though

He is one. This tri-unity, or Trinity, of God means that all three are equal and possess identical attributes without confusion or loss of essence and are therefore all worthy of praise and adoration. Ultimately, God is sovereign over all His creation and is intimately involved with it.

*Genesis 1:1; 2:7; Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11ff.; 20:1ff.; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3,15; 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; 17:13; Matthew 6:9ff.; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:6; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7.*

### **SECTION 3. Jesus Christ**

We believe that Jesus Christ was and is the eternal second person of the Trinity. He is God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of Mary, a virgin. He is both fully man and fully God. Though a man, He lived a sinless life of perfect obedience to the Father's will and demonstrated His power and divinity through the miracles He performed on earth. Jesus offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all men by dying on a cross—a sin offering which both satisfied God's justice and opened up the way for man to enter into a living and eternal relationship with God. After His literal death, Jesus experienced a bodily resurrection on the third day after his crucifixion. After a period of teaching His disciples, He ascended into heaven where He now sits at the right hand of the Father and acts as our High Priest and Advocate. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission.

*Genesis 18:1ff.; Psalms 2:7ff.; 110:1ff.; Isaiah 7:14; 53; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16,27; 17:5; 27; 28:1-6,19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18,29; 10:30,38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16,28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20,28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20; Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,34; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8,24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; 8:9; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15,24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Revelation 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16.*

### **SECTION 4. The Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is, and always has been, fully God and the third person of the Trinity. He is God's presence on earth today and works in both the lives of believers and unbelievers. As to unbelievers, He convicts them of sin, righteousness, and judgment. As to believers, He regenerates them, indwells them, sanctifies them, baptizes them into the body of Christ upon conversion, seals them as a guarantee of their salvation and empowers them to live the Christian life. In addition, He reveals truth, guides, teaches, intercedes, comforts, strengthens, distributes spiritual gifts and empowers believers for effective witness.

*Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalms 51:11; 139:7ff.; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10,12; Luke 1:35; 4:1,18-19; 11:13; 12:12; 24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4,38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17,39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Romans 8:9-11,14-16,26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11,13; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Timothy 3:16; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8,14; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Revelation 1:10; 22:17.*

### **SECTION 5. Man**

We believe that man (generic for male and female) is a special creation of God and has been made in His image. As such, every human being has great worth and value. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and endowed by his Creator the freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Since then, the entire human race has been sinful by nature and is therefore justly condemned by God. Alone, man is completely unable to merit salvation. Only through faith in Christ can man obtain the righteousness that God requires and thereby establish his relationship with God. Upon death, a believer, as a disembodied soul, goes into the immediate presence of Christ and awaits the resurrection of his spiritual body. However, the unbeliever, also as a disembodied soul, enters into a conscious state of misery and awaits the final judgment, after which he will be eternally separated from God.

*Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18,29; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19,21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11.*

### **SECTION 6. Salvation**

We believe that the only way of salvation is through the shed blood of Christ to all who believe. This salvation does not come about because of a man's works, but because of God's grace. From the individual's perspective, this happens because he repents (chooses to follow Christ and not himself) and places his total trust (faith) in Christ and His finished work upon the cross. Upon making this decision, the believer receives the Holy Spirit and becomes a child of God. Christ's death fully pays the penalty for all of a believer's sin (past, present, and future) as God credits him with the righteousness of Christ. This whole transaction transforms the man into a new creation of God for a life of holiness and obedience.

*Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matthew 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22-28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14,29; 3:3-21,36; 5:24; 10:9,28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21,38; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3ff.; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18,29-39; 10:9-10,13; 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18,30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16;*

*Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1ff.; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8,14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6-2:11; Revelation 3:20; 21:1-22:5.*

### **SECTION 7. The Church**

We believe that the term *church* as used in the Scriptures refers to both the universal church and the local church. The universal church is comprised of all believers of all time while the local church is a local expression of the universal church—comprised of believers who voluntarily gather together to accomplish God's work in this world. The purpose of the Church is to glorify Christ by making disciples of all nations. Christ is the head of the Church and, as such, guides it, directs it, holds it together, and causes it to grow. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In its true form the Church is comprised of believers only—meaning that only believers are eligible for membership. The role of the members is to use their spiritual gifts to edify the body of Christ. The task of the leadership of the Church is to equip believers for works of service and to seek with all their energy to present every member complete in Christ.

*Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42,47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23,27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11,21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Hebrews 11:39-40; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3.*

### **SECTION 8. Future Things**

We believe that God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all people in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of eternal punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell in Heaven with the Lord forever.

*Isaiah 2:4; 11:9; Matthew 16:27; 18:8-9; 19:28; 24:27,30,36,44; 25:31-46; 26:64; Mark 8:38; 9:43-48; Luke 12:40,48; 16:19-26; 17:22-37; 21:27-28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 17:31; Romans 14:10; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 15:24-28,35-58; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 1:5; 3:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 5:1ff.; 2 Thessalonians 1:7ff.; 2; 1 Timothy 6:14; 2 Timothy 4:1,8; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:27-28; James 5:8; 2 Peter 3:7ff.; 1 John 2:28; 3:2; Jude 14; Revelation 1:18; 3:11; 20:1-22:13*

### **SECTION 9. The Family**

We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption. Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church

and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race. Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage and family life. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

*Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8,14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.*

### **SECTION 10. Baptism and The Lord's Supper**

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in Christ, death to sin, burial of the old life, and resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. Through examination by pastoral staff, baptism shall be administered to those who have trusted Christ as Lord and Savior. The mode shall be by immersion in water unless physical limitations exist.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby believers, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming. It shall be observed at least quarterly or at such other times as the Senior Pastor and / or the presiding elders shall determine.

*Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12.*

## **ARTICLE III – Church Covenant**

Because we have received salvation by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ, and because we have been led by the Holy Spirit to unite with The Church at LifePark, we do enter into this covenant of membership with the other members of this church.

We joyfully commit ourselves to seek to grow into the full likeness of Jesus Christ, to forsake sin, to regularly and cheerfully give of our resources to the support of this church, and to use our gifts, talents, and skills to further the cause of Christ through this church.

By the power of the Holy Spirit we commit ourselves to obey the Great Commandment – to love God with our whole being and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves – and the Great Commission – to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all the commands of Scripture.

We commit ourselves to work for church harmony and unity; to support our church staff and church elders; to participate in worship and service; to provide watchful care over our fellow members; to uphold our church’s witness in the community; to uphold our doctrine, discipline, and ordinances.

We agree to these articles of covenant with the help of God and by the witness of the Holy Spirit.

## ARTICLE IV – Structure

The Church at Life Park, a South Carolina non-profit corporation, is a congregationally governed, elder-led church. The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who are its members and compose it. The Church is congregationally governed in that there is congregational participation in the decision making of the Church by democratic vote where expressly provided for by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Church. The Church is elder led in that the members have chosen their elders through democratic vote to represent them and have placed their trust in the elders by delegating decision making to those elders. Therefore, any matter set forth in the Constitution and/or Bylaws expressly requiring a vote by the members shall be determined by a vote of the members. Any matter not expressly requiring a vote under the Constitution and Bylaws shall be subject to the interpretation of the elders under their delegated representative authority. All internal groups created and empowered by the Church and presiding elders, will work under the leadership and unifying direction of the presiding elders.

The Church at LifePark is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation, which are common among Baptist churches. Insofar as is practical, this church will cooperate with and support the Charleston Baptist Association, the South Carolina Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention as long as the Church feels so led by the Lord Jesus Christ.

## ARTICLE V – Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws

### SECTION 1.

Article II; and Article V, Section 1, cannot be changed or amended in any way in this church.

## SECTION 2.

If it does not infringe upon the doctrinal position of this church, as set forth in Article II above, the Constitution and/or Bylaws may be changed by amendment or revision at a duly announced church conference of the congregation. Consistent with Article VI, Section 2 (d), any member may request that the presiding elders consider a change in the Constitution and/or Bylaws by submitting their proposed amendment(s) to them in writing. Changes must be approved by a seventy-five percent (75%) vote of the congregation (present and voting at church conference) called for such purpose. The congregation shall be notified of the intent to amend or revise this Constitution and/or Bylaws as set forth in the notice provisions of Article X.

# BYLAWS

## ARTICLE VI – Membership

### SECTION 1. Candidacy

Anyone who desires membership in the Church must meet all of the following criteria:

- a) Have a salvation experience through receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- b) Obey Christ in Believer's Baptism by immersion.
- c) Agree with the doctrinal position of the Church and the Church Covenant as stated in Articles II and III.
- d) Complete a membership class.
- e) Commit to growing through regular and active participation in corporate worship, a relational small group, ministry (service to believers within the Church), and missions (service to non-believers and the community).

### SECTION 2. Rights of Members

- a) Every member of the Church, eighteen (18) years of age and older, shall be entitled to vote at all elections and on all questions submitted to the Church in conference, provided the member is present.
- b) Every member of the Church shall be eligible for consideration by the membership, or the presiding elders as the case may be, for position of service or leadership in the Church for which they are qualified.
- c) Every member of the Church may participate in the ordinances of the Church as administered by the Church.
- d) The Church may challenge any final or pending decision of the presiding elders as follows:
  1. Fifty (50) of the Church's members eligible to vote must sign a petition calling for a church conference to discuss and resolve the matter(s) or concern(s) stated in the petition; and,

2. The signed petition shall be presented to the presiding elders who shall schedule a church conference in accordance with the notice provisions of Article X. This church conference must be held no later than 30 days from the date of receipt of the signed petition. The presiding elders shall ensure that this church conference's agenda is published in writing to the Church at least two weeks in advance of the church conference; and,
3. A vote on a motion(s) shall be taken at the church conference on the matter(s) stated in the petition and the vote (or each vote if more than one matter is the subject of the petition) shall pass if seventy-five (75%) of the Members vote in favor.

### SECTION 3. Termination of Membership

Membership shall be terminated in each of the following instances:

- a) Death of the member;
- b) Transfer of the member to another church;
- c) Removal of the member by action of this church;
- d) Request of a member that his or her membership be terminated.

### SECTION 4. Church Discipline

Purity of doctrine and conduct is the Lord's positive expectation of His Church, and lack of it defiles and weakens any church. Therefore, members who endorse doctrinal positions in disagreement with the doctrinal statement of The Church at LifePark (Article II), or engage in conduct that is a reproach to Christ and a derogatory reflection upon the reputation of this church will be subject to church discipline (Matt. 18:15-18). Should a member be unwilling to repent through the church discipline process, the member shall be dismissed from the church fellowship. Upon repentance and demonstration of the fruit of repentance (Luke 3:8a), an erring member shall be joyfully restored to fellowship (2 Cor. 2:5-11). Pursuant to Article VII, Section 5 (h), the decision to discipline, dismiss or restore formal members shall be the responsibility of the presiding elders. It shall be the practice of this church to emphasize to its members that every reasonable measure will be taken to assist any unrepentant member. The senior pastor, the presiding elders, staff and other members of the Church are available for counsel and guidance.

## ARTICLE VII – Presiding Elders

### SECTION 1. Authority and Term of Office

The leading body of the Church shall be known as the presiding elders (*the elders*). The presiding elders are overseers in a position of leadership and are accountable to the Church. The presiding elders shall consist of a minimum of six (6) elected elders, plus the senior pastor. The maximum number of presiding elders shall be determined by the presiding elders according to need and the availability of qualified men. Presiding elders shall serve staggered three-year terms. The terms will begin as soon as ordination and/or installation procedures are completed. Men who have previously served as presiding

elders at the Church will remain elders. They shall be a resource to be called upon and may attend any meeting of the presiding elders and provide input but shall not have a vote as a presiding elder. A presiding elder may not serve as an active deacon.

### **SECTION 2. Qualifications**

Elders shall be selected from the male members of the Church and fully meet the qualifications described in 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 1 Peter 5:1-7, Titus 1:5-9 and Acts 20:28. The senior pastor shall be a voting ex-officio member of the presiding elders fulfilling the role of teaching elder.

### **SECTION 3. Nomination of Elders**

Selection of additional presiding elders shall take place annually or at other times when the presiding elders determine that new presiding elders are needed. Candidates for elders shall be nominated by any member of the congregation for a period set by the presiding elders. Those nominated and expressing a willingness to be considered shall be carefully and prayerfully considered by the Nomination Review Committee. The Nomination Review Committee shall be comprised of three (3) members consisting of the chairman of the presiding elders, the chairman of the deacons and the senior pastor. The presiding elders will then evaluate the men approved by the Nomination Review Committee as to their conformance with the qualifications stated above. The presiding elders shall then submit to the congregation a list of men qualified to serve as elders corresponding to the number of open positions. Church members shall be given an opportunity to ask questions of elder nominees at any congregational gathering set by the presiding elders. This list of prospective elders shall be posted for at least one (1) week in advance of a church vote and the congregation shall be notified of such posting. The vote will be conducted by ballot which shall be returned to the Church by a specified date.

### **SECTION 4. Election of Elders**

Any nominee receiving at least seventy five percent (75%) affirmative votes of the votes cast for each nominee by the members of the congregation shall be confirmed for service as an elder. Newly elected presiding elders shall be ordained and installed by the Church prior to the beginning of their service as presiding elders. The ballots shall be counted by the Nomination Review Committee.

### **SECTION 5. Duties**

The presiding elders, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the inspired Word of God, are responsible for leading and shepherding the flock (1 Peter 5:1-3; Acts 20:28) and guarding the reputation and doctrinal integrity of the Church. Duties of the presiding elders include (but are not limited to the following):

- a) Exercising shepherding care over the Church;
- b) Establishing vision, values and strategic plans for the Church;

- c) Exercising oversight of church financial, business and property matters;
- d) Hearing and considering all reports and recommendations submitted by pastors, councils, committees and staff as well as creating and overseeing any and all councils and committees, standing or ad hoc, required to carry out essential activities of the Church;
- e) Approving those who serve in church leadership and serving positions, including any position on a council or committee;
- f) Assisting the senior pastor in the administration of church ordinances and ministries;
- g) Convening an ordination council and upon their unanimous recommendation, the Church shall ordain men whom God has called to the ministry;
- h) Disciplining any pastor or minister ordained by The Church at LifePark, including, if necessary, revocation of their ordination;
- i) Providing spiritual leadership for the Church when it is without a senior pastor.

#### SECTION 6. Officers of the Presiding Elders

- a) Chairman. The chairman shall preside and upon conferring with the other elders, set the agenda at all presiding elder meetings. The chairman shall, in the absence of the senior pastor, be responsible for assuring that the presiding elders provide for the spiritual oversight of the Church.
- b) Vice Chairman. The vice chairman shall assume all of the above enumerated duties of the chairman in the absence of the latter.

#### SECTION 7. Meetings and Quorum

The presiding elders shall conduct regular meetings and special meetings at other times as called for by the chairman of the presiding elders. These meetings shall be conducted according to scriptural principles as set forth in Phil. 2:2-8 and are to be conducted in good order. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the total membership of the presiding elders, with the following exception: Whenever the business of the presiding elders concerns the calling or dismissing of a member of the pastoral staff or a member of presiding elders, a quorum shall consist of not less than seventy-five percent (75%) of the members of the presiding elders, and all members shall have been contacted in person as to the nature and purpose of the meeting seven (7) days in advance.

#### SECTION 8. Decisions of the Presiding Elders

- a) The presiding elders shall strive for unanimity in all decisions. If unanimity is not attainable on an issue, a decision shall be reached with a sixty-seven percent (67%) majority vote of those present and voting, except in those cases where this constitution requires a different minimum percentage of the vote for elder action. Decisions shall be reached after prayerful consideration in a spirit of humility, with each elder regarding one another before himself.
- b) Any person receiving compensation directly or indirectly from The Church at LifePark shall not vote on any matters that pertain to the nature of amount of said

compensation. Any member of the presiding elders who has a relative receiving compensation from The Church at LifePark shall also not vote on any matters that affect said compensation for his relative.

### **SECTION 9. Removal from Office**

Any presiding elder may be removed from office by a seventy-five percent (75%) vote of the remaining presiding elders, except that the senior pastor is subject to removal under the provisions of Article IX, Section 1 (c). Cause for such dismissal shall include disagreement with doctrinal statement, personal spiritual misconduct (e.g., lying, cheating, stealing, immorality, etc.), or failure to support the collective wisdom of the presiding elders. Passionate disagreement on an issue with the other presiding elders does not constitute failure to support the collective wisdom. Failure to support a decision of the presiding elders does constitute grounds for removal from office (unless the act of the presiding elders is immoral itself). The elder in question shall cast no vote in such deliberations.

### **SECTION 10. Interim Vacancies**

In the event that a presiding elder resigns or is removed from office before his three-year term is completed, the remaining presiding elders shall have the authority to fill such vacancies for the unexpired term. They may fill the vacancy with a previously elected elder or a newly elected elder in accordance with Article VII Section III. Presiding elders shall always consist of at least six (6) elders in addition to the senior pastor. Any resignation that reduces the presiding elders below this level shall be filled within ninety (90) days by the presiding elders. In the interim, the duly elected elders shall function with full constitutional authority. Any filled vacancies will require affirmation by the membership at the next congregational meeting to serve out the remainder of the term being filled.

## **ARTICLE VIII – Other Church Officers and Committees**

### **SECTION 1. Deacons**

Deacons shall consist of active male members of The Church at LifePark possessing the qualifications as described in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. They have been ordained and set apart by the Church to be servant leaders to the believers within the Church. They are to oversee all elder defined deacon ministries within the Church and staff and train all deacon ministry teams. The deacons shall assist the elders in serving the body and carrying out the daily ministrations of the Church (Acts 6:1-7). As outlined in New Testament scripture, the elders of the Church call for deacons to serve the Lord by conducting the caring ministry of the Church, doing benevolence work, visiting the sick, being alert to the spiritual needs of the congregation, (for the purpose of freeing the pastoral staff to focus on prayer and the ministry of the Word), promoting unity within the Church and facilitating the spread of the gospel.

The primary duties of the deacons include, but are not limited to, establishing and managing the following teams and ministry areas:

- Greeting Team
- Fellowship Ministry
- Parking Ministry
- Worship Team
- Benevolence Team
- Member Care
- Prayer Team
- Helping Hands Team
- Café Team
- New Member Team
- Safety/Medical Team
- Manage the Connection Center
- Facilities Team
- Care Ministry
- Events Ministry
- Other ministry teams as defined

Additional deacons will be added to the deacon body in accordance with the following:

- a) The number of deacons shall be determined by the deacon body.
- b) At such time and period set by the presiding elders, nominations for deacon may be received from the Church.
- c) The presiding elders and the deacon body may add other candidates.
- d) The chairman of the deacon Body, in consultation with fellow deacons will make initial review of qualifications of deacon nominations, interview nominees and make recommendations to the presiding elders.
- e) The presiding elders will make final evaluation of those deacon nominees recommended per Article VII, Section 5.e. as to their conformity with the qualifications stated above and appoint those approved as deacons for a term of three (3) years, commencing as soon as ordination and/or installation procedures have been completed.

Deacons may be removed from office by a seventy-five percent (75%) vote of the presiding elders and deacon officers. Cause for dismissal shall be the same grounds and standards as set forth in Article VII, Section 9 for elders.

## **SECTION 2. Councils and Committees**

Pursuant to Article VII, Section 5 (d), to enable efficient handling of church matters, the presiding elders may appoint various councils and committees from within its membership or from the Church at large. These councils and committees shall perform

tasks in accordance with the duties and powers delegated to them by the presiding elders. All councils and committees shall exist for the period specified by the presiding elders. All councils and committees shall be directly responsible to the presiding elders and may be chaired by an elder if the presiding elders deem fit.

### SECTION 3. Church Treasurer

The presiding elders shall appoint the church treasurer. The treasurer shall oversee and coordinate audits or reviews and, along with the presiding elders, shall select a certified public accountant to audit or review the Church's financial records. The Church financials shall be audited annually and reported to the church treasurer and presiding elders. The treasurer shall also advise the presiding elders on matters of fiscal policy.

### SECTION 4. Custodial Trustees

The presiding elders shall appoint from among the formal membership of the congregation any three members as *custodial trustees* to hold title to church property in the name of the Church, in keeping with the laws of the State of South Carolina. The said trustees shall not convey, sell, buy or receive property, or obligate the congregation except as authorized by congregational action at a constitutionally called church meeting. Notwithstanding the foregoing, borrowing money for any reason, buying or selling church real estate, or placing a mortgage on church property require presiding elder recommendation and seventy-five percent (75%) vote of the congregation present and voting at church conference called for such purpose. Although appointed for an indefinite period, the presiding elders shall review their availability and suitability annually and may make changes as they deem necessary.

## ARTICLE IX – Pastoral Staff

### SECTION 1. Senior Pastor

- a) Duties. The senior pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all councils and committees and shall serve as an elder with full voting privileges. The senior pastor shall be responsible for all regular services of the Church and for the general oversight of the spiritual welfare of the body. His primary duties shall be to preach and teach the Word of God, pray, shepherd the flock and oversee the staff. He is also the leader of worship, proclamation, education, and pastoral ministry. All church staff are subordinate to him and under his line of authority. The senior pastor shall be directly responsible to the presiding elders.
- b) Selection. The senior pastor shall be selected by a pastoral search committee appointed for that purpose. The candidate shall be confirmed by unanimous vote of the presiding elders after the preliminary procedures that they deem necessary have been fulfilled (e.g., interview by search committee, preaching one or more times before the congregation, personal interviews by the presiding elders, etc.). The presiding elders' selection shall be called by the Church at a

regular or special church conference by a seventy-five percent (75%) majority of the votes cast. Notice of the time and place of the meeting as determined by the presiding elders shall be given from the pulpit for two (2) successive Sundays prior to the meeting, shall also be published in the Church bulletin, and shall conform with Article X notice provisions in all respects. The senior pastor shall remain in office for an indefinite period of time, or for a contractual period if his term is governed by contract.

- c) Removal from Office. The Church has the right to dismiss the senior pastor by seventy-five percent (75%) vote of a called church conference. Dismissal may be on the grounds of endorsing a doctrinal position in disagreement with that of The Church at LifePark (Article II), personal spiritual misconduct (e.g., lying, cheating, stealing, immorality, etc.), or organizing misconduct (e.g., unsubmitive spirit to the presiding elders as set forth in Article VII, Section 9, unwillingness to fulfill his assigned duties or other non-performance, etc.). The senior pastor shall cast no vote in such deliberations.
- d) Resignation. If the senior pastor voluntarily desires to resign, he shall submit written notice to the presiding elders at least thirty (30) days prior to the effective date. The presiding elders shall decide upon the appropriate details of his departure including compensation.

## **SECTION 2. Associate Pastors**

Associate pastoral staff positions may be established by the presiding elders when the positions are determined to be necessary. Such positions may be discontinued or their duties changed at the discretion of the presiding elders. Pastoral staff members shall be appointed by the presiding elders to an indefinite term by unanimous vote, with their duties defined by the senior pastor and the presiding elders. The supervision of associate pastors shall be provided by the senior pastor or his designee. Associate pastors may be terminated for the same reasons as stated above for the senior pastor, and by seventy-five percent (75%) vote of the presiding elders at a meeting of the elders called for this purpose. Associate pastors may voluntarily resign by giving thirty (30) days written notice to the presiding elders.

All pastoral staff will automatically become active members of The Church at LifePark upon the commencement of their employment. Their membership will be terminated upon their leaving the employment of the Church, unless they request otherwise and their request is approved unanimously by the presiding elders.

# ARTICLE X – Church Conference

## SECTION 1. Annual Business Meeting, Budget and Church Year

The annual business meeting of the Church shall be held at a church conference during the month of June. Notice of the time and place of the meeting as determined by the presiding elders shall be given during weekend services and published in the church bulletin at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting. A copy of the proposed church budget shall be available to the active membership two (2) weeks in advance of the annual business meeting. At this church conference the congregation shall vote to approve the church budget for the ensuing year. As part of the budget process, the presiding elders, along with any relevant delegated committee, shall prepare and submit to the Church a budget of revenue and expenses. The presiding elders may authorize the expenditure of funds up to 5% of the annual budget. Any changes to the budget exceeding 5% shall require congregational vote in accordance with the process for budget approval above. The financial year for the Church shall begin July 1<sup>st</sup> and end June 30<sup>th</sup>.

## SECTION 2. Quorum

A quorum of the congregation for the purpose of a church conference shall consist of those members who attend the church conference, provided it is properly called. Unless otherwise specified in this constitution, all decisions of the congregation shall be made by majority vote of those members present and voting.

## SECTION 3. Other Congregational Meetings

Other congregational meetings shall be held at church conferences as the presiding elders deem necessary. At least two (2) week notice, time and place of these meetings shall be given in accordance with Article X, Section 1.

## SECTION 4. Procedures

- a) The presiding elders shall determine the agenda for every church conference. Agendas, including items to be voted on, must be published in writing at least two (2) weeks in advance of the conference to be in order. In addition, proposed amendments to items to be voted on must be submitted in writing at least (1) week in advance of the conference. The purpose of these timeframes is to allow for prayer and consideration for matters affecting the Church.
- b) The operation of any church conference shall follow Robert's Rules of Order, current edition, except when in conflict with this Constitution and Bylaws, in which case these Constitution and Bylaws govern.
- c) The moderator shall be appointed by the presiding elders.
- d) A clerk responsible for recording the minutes of the church conference shall be appointed by the presiding elders. All church records are church property and shall be kept in relevant church offices.

## ARTICLE XI – Property Rights

### SECTION 1.

The title to all real property of The Church at LifePark shall be in the name of The Church at LifePark and no member or group of members shall have any individual property rights in the assets of the Church.

### SECTION 2.

In the event that the Church is dissolved, it will be done in accordance with the laws of the State of South Carolina, provided that the assets of the Church, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the Church's liabilities, will be distributed exclusively for the religious purposes of the Church. Such remaining assets shall be provided to the Christian organization(s) as determined by the Church provided that such organization(s) at the time of the Church's dissolution qualify as religious organizations described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).