

CONSTITUTION OF CHRIST CHURCH LAKE FOREST
[Adopted May 4, 2008 as an amendment and complete restatement]

PREAMBLE

We, the Members (as herein defined) of Christ Church Lake Forest, in order to preserve and secure the principles of our faith and the unity of this local church, adopt and establish this constitution (“Constitution”).

ARTICLE I
NAME/PURPOSE/MISSION

This congregation takes the name Christ Church Lake Forest. It is referred to herein as “Christ Church” or “the Church.” The purpose of Christ Church is to provide a means for the worship and service of Almighty God according to the principles outlined in the Constitution. The mission of Christ Church is to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to engage in good works in His name.

ARTICLE II
STATEMENT OF FAITH

Christ Church affirms that:

- WE BELIEVE that the sixty-six canonical books of the Bible (as originally written) were inspired by God, are free from error and constitute the only infallible guide in faith and life.
- WE BELIEVE that there is one God, the Creator and Preserver of all things, infinite in being and perfection. He exists eternally in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Who are one in substance and equal in power and glory.
- WE BELIEVE that the first man and first woman, created in the image of God, fell from their sinless state through disobedience at the suggestion of Satan. This fall plunged all men and women into a state of sin and spiritual death, and brought upon the entire human race the sentence of eternal death. From this condition, one can be saved only by the grace of God, through faith, on the basis of the work of Christ, and by the agency of the Holy Spirit.
- WE BELIEVE that the eternally preexistent Son became incarnate without human father, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. Thus in the Lord Jesus Christ divine and human natures were united in one Person, both natures being whole, perfect and distinct. To effect salvation, He lived a sinless life and died on the cross as the sinner’s substitute, shedding His blood for the remission of sins. On the third day, He rose from the dead in the body that had been laid in the tomb. He ascended to the right hand of the Father, where He performs the ministry of intercession. He will come again, personally and visibly, to complete His saving work and to consummate the eternal plan of God.

- WE BELIEVE that the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the triune God. He applies to men and women the work of Christ. By justification and adoption, each one is given a right standing before God; by regeneration, sanctification and glorification, each one's nature is renewed. He indwells the believer as Comforter and Guide and empowers the believer to walk in newness of life.
- WE BELIEVE that every believer, having turned to God in repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, is accountable to God for living a life separated from sin and characterized by the fruit of the Spirit, and that it is every Christian's privilege and responsibility to do the work of God in the world.
- WE BELIEVE that at the end of the age the dead will be raised bodily, the righteous will enter into full possession of eternal bliss in the presence of God and the wicked will be condemned to eternal death.

ARTICLE III **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership at Christ Church is open to any person ("Member") who testifies that he or she has a saving faith in Jesus Christ ("Believer") and satisfies all other requirements for membership ("Membership") in accordance with the Bylaws (as herein defined); provided that there shall be no doctrinal or theological test or condition for membership other than that of being a Believer.

ARTICLE IV **GOVERNMENT**

The Members of Christ Church shall govern the Church under the final authority of God's Word. Except for those matters specifically reserved to the Members in this Constitution or the Bylaws, they shall govern the Church through a Board of Elders ("Elders"), a Board of Deacons ("Deacons"), a Senior Pastor (or such other designation as may from time to time be given the Church's senior staff member under the Bylaws), and other Church officers and staff, all in accordance with this Constitution and the Bylaws.

ARTICLE V **WORD/SACREMENTS/BIBLICAL COUNSEL**

The Bible is the Word of God written, by which Christ builds, feeds and governs His church. Any confessions, creeds, catechisms or other educational instruments employed by the Church are useful only as they set forth its doctrines. No intuitive knowledge, novel interpretation or private vision shall be viewed as a progressive revelation or a higher authority.

A sacrament is a divine ordinance instituted by Christ wherein material elements are used as visible signs and seals of God's covenant relationship with His people. The sacraments are baptism and communion. Each is an outward symbol of inward truths and neither in itself conveys salvation. Throughout the ages, Christians have interpreted the Bible differently concerning baptism. We believe baptism is not a prerequisite to becoming a Believer, thus it is not a condition of Church Membership. Baptism may be administered by immersion, sprinkling or pouring and the Church recognizes the validity of baptism of infants and Believers (whether or not Members). Communion shall be administered to Believers (whether or not Members) on a regular basis.

All Members of Christ Church and their dependent children are entitled to the benefits of, and subject to, Biblical Counsel, which has as its goals the spiritual good and restoration of the person, the protection of offended parties and the Church body as a whole, the rebuke of sinful conduct, the removal of scandal, the vindication of the reputation of Christ, the promotion of the purity of the Church and the general edification of the Church. All Biblical Counsel shall be engaged in by the Elders in accordance with this Constitution and the Bylaws, and under the final authority of God's Word.

ARTICLE VI BYLAWS

The proper adoption of this Constitution shall, in addition, constitute the simultaneous adoption of bylaws ("Bylaws") for the operation of the Church in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A. Neither the Bylaws, nor any amendment thereof, shall be inconsistent with the terms of this Constitution or the Church's Articles of Incorporation ("Articles"). Any conflict between the Bylaws and this Constitution or the Articles shall be resolved in favor of this Constitution or the Articles, as the case may be. All references herein to the Bylaws shall be to the Bylaws adopted herewith, as they may be hereafter amended from time to time.

ARTICLE VII AMENDMENT

This Constitution (other than the purpose of the Church as set forth in Article I) may be amended upon the unanimous recommendation of the Elders followed by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all of the Members of the Church, both in accordance with the Bylaws; except that the Church's legal name may be changed in the manner provided in the Bylaws.

[End of Constitution]