

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
THE LOCKPORT CHURCH  
CARROLL COUNTY  
Last Amended April 21, 2024

ARTICLE I

**NAME**

The name of this organization shall be The Lockport Church of Carroll County, Indiana.

ARTICLE II

**AFFILIATIONS**

This church is non-denominational and independent of all other groups or organizations.

ARTICLE III

**COVENANT**

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and on Profession of Faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God, Angels and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel throughout all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating and illegal drugs, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior. We further engage to watch over one another, in brotherly love, to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage, that when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

ARTICLE IV

**STATEMENT OF FAITH**

1. THE BIBLE: The word of God, the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, verbally inspired in all parts, and therefore wholly without error as originally given of God (II Tim. 3:16; II Peter 1:21).
2. THE ONE TRUE GOD: Existing eternally as three persons -the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:22; Matt. 28:19; II Cor. 13:14).

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3. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST: His pre-existence and deity (John 1:1-3), incarnation by virgin birth (John 1:14; Matt. 1:18-23), sinless life (Heb. 4:15), substitutionary death (II Cor. 5:21), bodily resurrection (Luke 24: 36-43), ascension into heaven and present ministry (Heb. 4:14-16), and coming again (Acts 1:11).
4. THE HOLY SPIRIT: His personality (John 16:7-15), and deity (Acts 5:3-4), and His work in each believer: baptism and indwelling at the moment of regeneration (I Cor. 12:13; Rom. 8:9) and filling (Eph. 5:18) to empower for Christian life and service (Eph. 3:16; Acts 1:8; Gal. 5:22-23).
5. MAN: His direct creation in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-28), his subsequent fall into sin resulting in spiritual death (Gen. 3:1-24; Rom. 5:12), and the necessity of the new birth for his salvation (John 3:3-5).
6. SALVATION: A complete and eternal salvation by God's grace alone, received as the gift of God through personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work (Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-7; I Peter 1:18-19).
7. THE CHURCH: One true Church, the body and bride of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23; 5:25-32), composed of all true believers (I Cor. 12:12-13), and the organization of its members in local churches for worship, for edification of believers, and for world- wide gospel witness, each local church being autonomous but co- operating in fellowship and work (Eph.4:11-16).
8. CHRISTIAN LIFE: A life of righteousness and separation unto God from the evil ways of the world (Rom. 12:1-2), manifestation by speaking the truth (James5:12), maintaining the sanctity of the home (Eph. 5:22-6:4), settling differences between Christians in accordance with the Word of God (I Cor. 6:1-8), not engaging in carnal strife, but showing a Christlike attitude toward all men (Rom.12:17-21), exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23), and maintaining a life of prayer (Eph. 6:18; Phil. 4:6), including the privilege, when sick, of calling for the deacons of the church to pray and to anoint with oil in the name of the Lord (James 5: 13-18).
9. ORDINANCES: The Christian should observe the ordinances of our Lord Jesus Christ, which are (1) baptism of believers by immersion (Matt. 28:19), and (2) the communion service, consisting of the bread and cup (I Cor. 11:23-26).
10. SATAN: His existence and personality as the great adversary of God and His people (Rev. 12:1-10), his judgment (John 12:31), and final doom (Rev. 20:10).
11. SECOND COMING: The personal, visible, and imminent return of Christ to remove His Church from the earth (I Thess. 4:16- 17) before the great tribulation (I Thess. 1:10; Rev. 3:10-17) and afterward to descend with the Church to establish His millennial kingdom upon the earth (Rev. 19:11-20:6).
12. FUTURE LIFE: The conscious existence of the dead (Phil. 1:21-23; Luke 16:19-31), the resurrection of the body (John 5:28- 29), the judgment and condemnation of unbelievers (Rev. 20: 11-15), the eternal life of the saved (John3:16), and the eternal punishment of the lost (Matt. 25:45; Rev. 20:15).
13. MARRIAGE: We believe that marriage is a God-ordained institution, consisting of an exclusive heterosexual relationship between husband and wife.

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ARTICLE V  
**MEMBERSHIP**

1. Any person who has received and confessed Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
2. And who has consented to the covenants and provisions of the statement of faith of Article IV.
3. And who submits or has submitted to the ordinance of Baptism after conversion may formally become a member of this church at the candidate's request.
4. It is to be understood that this church teaches and practices believer's baptism by immersion. However, those persons who have experienced another form of baptism, and who, after receiving instruction concerning baptism by immersion, maintain that their baptism is valid for them, yet are in accord with our church covenant, shall be accepted into the full membership of our church.
5. Membership may be terminated by letter to other churches upon request. By dismissal upon written request for release from covenant obligations.

ARTICLE VI  
**PROVISIONS OF MEMBERSHIP**

1. A membership committee comprising of pastor and board of deacons may ask any candidate applying for membership to meet with them.
2. All candidates coming into the church from other churches having agreed to the articles of faith, shall be received upon public confession of faith.
3. Because we believe that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit by confession makes anyone a member of the body of Christ and the true church, any person who shall have received Christ as Savior shall be extended a warm, cordial atmosphere and granted full privilege of fellowship while attending yet still not a member.

ARTICLE VII  
**MEMBERSHIP VOTING QUALIFICATIONS**

1. The privilege to vote during a church business meeting is intended for members who are "active" in the church. While we acknowledge the difficulty for a precise definition, a person who is deemed active in the church should exhibit characteristics such as: regular worship participation, service, financial stewardship, fellowship, and/or some relational dealings with the church body on a regular basis.
2. There may be times when active members are not able to attend and this in no way is directed toward them. Examples of those absences could include: declining health, military service, extended vacations, etc.
3. The use of the term regular in paragraph 1 above would be broadly defined as having some regular relational contact with the Lockport Church. If a member has not participated regularly within the last 6 months and does not have good reason for the non-participation, they will be considered "inactive members" until such time as they again have evidence of regular participation as is outlined in paragraph 1 above.

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ARTICLE VIII

**CHURCH CHARTER**

1. Church government is strictly congregational, being vested in the body of believers who compose it. It is subject to no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes the privileges of mutual counsel and co-operation which are common among congregations of like precious faith.
2. It receives the Holy Scriptures as its sole authority in all matters of faith and practice.
3. All property of the Lockport Church of Burnettsville, Indiana is irrevocably dedicated to religious or charitable purposes.
4. It is the intention of this body to be incorporated and chartered under the laws of the State of Indiana.

ARTICLE IX

**OFFICERS**

The officers of this church shall consist of pastor, moderator, assistant moderator, six (6) deacons, three (3) trustees, clerk, and treasurer, all of whom must be members of this church. Also chorister, assistant chorister, pianist, assistant pianist, organist, assistant organist, Sunday school superintendent, superintendent Children's Department, two ushers, and two assistant ushers; all of whom should be members of this church.

ARTICLE X

**ELECTION AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND BOARDS**

SECTION I. The pastor shall be called upon the recommendation of the pulpit committee which must submit only one candidate at one time to be voted upon by the church. Any candidate must receive two-thirds (2/3) of the votes of the voting members present to be called. He shall hold office for an indefinite period. When either pastor or church wishes to terminate the pastorate, the party desiring such change shall give written notice thirty (30) days in advance to the other party. It shall be the duty of the pastor to preach statedly, to administer the ordinances, to be ex-officio member of committees and to exercise general supervision in an advisory capacity.

SECTION II. Six (6) deacons shall be elected at the annual business meetings; two shall be elected each year for a term of two years. Their duties shall be to assist the pastor in his work of promoting the spiritual interests of the church. They shall co-operate with him in providing the pulpit supply in his absence. They shall cooperate with the Pastor in visiting members and in the care of the sick, needy, and distressed members of the church. They shall propose salary arrangements, including fringe benefits for the pastor, to be acted upon by the church. They shall arrange for the honorarium and lodging for supply pastors. They, with their wives, shall also serve as the pulpit committee for the church. It is also the duty of the deacons to prepare and distribute the elements of the Lord's Supper.

SECTION III. A moderator shall be elected annually by the church and shall preside at all regular and called business meetings; he shall be ex-officio member of all committees.

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SECTION IV. Three (3) trustees shall serve the church with one (1) trustee being elected at each annual business meeting to serve three (3) years. The trustees shall have full responsibility for the care and maintenance of the church property subject to the approval of the church.

SECTION V. A clerk shall be elected annually, shall make and preserve a record of all church proceedings and its accomplishments; shall conduct all correspondence authorized by the church.

SECTION VI. A treasurer shall be elected annually and shall have charge of collection and distribution of all monies authorized by the church; shall make a quarterly and annual financial statement to the church.

SECTION VII. A chorister shall be elected annually whose duties are to have general supervision of the musical program of the church.

SECTION VIII. An assistant chorister shall be elected annually, whose duties are to assist the chorister when requested to do so and to perform the duties of the chorister when he or she is absent.

SECTION IX. A pianist and an organist shall be elected annually by the church and shall preside at the piano and organ respectively.

SECTION X. An assistant pianist and assistant organist shall be elected annually and serve when requested.

SECTION XI. A Sunday school superintendent shall be elected annually, to have general supervision of the school, strive for the salvation of the unsaved and work with the pastor for full cooperation of the church and Sunday school.

SECTION XII. Other officers of the Sunday school shall be elected annually and shall include an assistant superintendent, a secretary, an assistant secretary, a chorister, an assistant chorister, a pianist, an assistant pianist, and department superintendents.

SECTION XIII. Offices shall be declared vacant when officers move to places beyond the reach of the church or fail to perform their duties for a period of six (6) months, without reasonable excuse.

SECTION XIV. It shall be the duties of all officers to be regular in attendance at all services of the church and Sunday school unless hindered by good reasons, in which case notice must be given to their assistant.

SECTION XV. All vacancies shall be filled at the next regular business meeting.

ARTICLE XI  
**AMENDMENTS**

Section I. This constitution may be amended at any regular business meeting by two-thirds (2/3) vote of voting members present, provided such amendment has been presented in writing at a previous stated business meeting.

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**BY-LAWS**

ARTICLE I  
**MEETINGS**

SECTION I. Regular Sunday morning and such other services as the church shall authorize shall be maintained. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed on the first Sunday of every month.

SECTION II. Quarterly business meetings shall be held on the third Sunday evening in January, April (unless it conflicts with Easter and then it shall be held on the fourth Sunday), July, and the fourth Sunday in October. Only those who are sixteen (16) years of age and older are eligible to vote in any business meeting.

SECTION III. The Annual business meeting shall be held on the third Sunday evening in January. Officers shall then be elected and assume their duties the following Sunday.

SECTION IV. Special business meetings may be called by the pastor, moderator, or deacons and such meeting must be announced at least one week before being held and only such business as specified in the notice shall be transacted.

ARTICLE II  
**COMMITTEES**

SECTION I. A nominating committee consisting of five (5) members shall be appointed by the moderator one (1) month at least before the annual business meeting. This committee shall include at least one member of high school age, one from the young adults, as well as older people. It shall nominate for all offices, church and Sunday school.

SECTION II. Any officer or board of the church may appoint a committee necessary to the efficient working of the church.

ARTICLE III  
**QUORUM**

SECTION I. A quorum shall consist of eight (8) voting members except in the calling or dismissal of a pastor, when a quorum of twenty (20) voting members shall be required. There must be a quorum present at any business meeting in order to proceed.

ARTICLE IV  
**AMENDMENTS**

SECTION I. These By-Laws may be amended at any regular business meeting by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting members present, provided the amendment has been presented in writing at a previous stated business meeting.

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ARTICLE V

**PROCEDURE**

SECTION I. "Robert's Rules of Order" shall be standard in deciding questions of parliamentary procedure, in all cases not governed by this Constitution and By-Laws.