

**Statements of Faith**  
**Lighthouse Baptist Church NILA Inc.**  
**401 Highway 90 East, New Iberia, La., 70560**  
**P.O. Box 10910, New Iberia, La., 70562-0910**  
**FIN/EIN# 20-1295413**

**S1.** God inspired certain men of God through the Holy Spirit to write down every scripture, which are the very words of God. The scriptures are the ultimate set of standards that should govern the lives of each and every person on this earth. The 1611 King James Version (KJV) of the Holy Bible is the sole English translation used for belief and practice in this Church. No other version will be used to teach from at this Church (exception – if a foreign missionary uses a translation from another English text because there is no KJV version translated in his language). No other version will be given out as a whole (Bible) or as part (tracts, etc.) by any member of this Church while participating in any event recognized as a function, activity, operation, etc. of this Church. (II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:21; Acts 1:16; Romans 3:1-2; I Corinthians 14:37-38)

**S2.** Salvation is accomplished by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. We realize we are sinners and that our penalty for sin ultimately is death in hell forever. We are willing to turn from our sins (repent) and take Jesus' payment for our sins (his death on the cross, burial and bodily resurrection) as a free gift. We ask and trust in Jesus only to come into our heart and save us and cleanse us from all our sin. Jesus is now our Lord and Savior. The gift of salvation only has to be accepted once and it is yours for the rest of eternity. Jesus was the only perfect man to live on earth and God required his blood to be shed for the remission of our sins. (Romans 3:21-28, 6:23, 5:8-9, 10:9-13; John 3:14-18 & 35-36, 5:23-24, 10:25-29; Acts 4:10-12)

**S3.** There are two ordinances given to the local church; baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism has no part in salvation. It is an open declaration that you are not ashamed to be known as a disciple of Jesus Christ. It is a picture of Jesus' death, burial, and his bodily resurrection. All that have been saved should follow Jesus in believers baptism; if they so choose, just as He was baptized by John. Baptism is accomplished by total immersion in water. Sprinkling is not Christian baptism. The Lord's Supper is the partaking of unleavened bread (contains no yeast) and unfermented grape juice (fruit of the vine) by the believer as a continuing memorial of the broken body and shed blood of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. (Matthew 3:13-17, 28:19-20, 26:26-30; John 3:22-23; Acts 8:37-39; Romans 6:1-5; I Corinthians 11:23-34)

**S4.** Heaven and hell are literal places where we will spend eternity after death. We will spend eternity in hell fire if we do not choose Jesus as our Lord. Hell is a place of eternal punishment in fire. We will spend eternity in heaven if we choose Jesus only as our Lord and Savior. Heaven is a place of eternal happiness with our Lord Jesus Christ and all those that have been saved. God has a mansion prepared in heaven for all of us that believe. (Revelation 21:1-22:6; Luke 16:19-31; John 14:1-6; Matthew 10:28, 18:1-11)

**S5.** The head of the church is Christ. The church (ecclesia) is an independent group of local believers called out from the world. The saved members of the local church make up the separate members of the body of Christ as noted in I Corinthians. It is not governed by any other earthly denomination, church, entity, etc. The local church is run and operated by the local body of believers as they are led by Christ with the Pastor being the earthly overseer and guide of the local church. The Kingdom of Christ should always be separate from the Kingdoms of this World. The church is in this world but not of this world. (I Corinthians 11:1-3, 12:1-31; Acts 14:21-23; Ephesians 5:22-33, 1:16-23; Colossians 1:12-19; Matthew 16:18, 22:19-21; John 18:36-38)

**S6.** Jesus will come back for his church (ecclesia). One day he will come in the air to rapture (snatch away) the remaining believers to be with him for all eternity. The believers will come back with him to the earth and follow Jesus as he destroys the remaining Kingdoms of this World. (I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Acts 1:10-11; Revelation 19; I Corinthians 15:50-58; Matthew 24:27-51)

**S7.** After God judges everyone for the last time, he will make a new heaven and a new earth for all those that have been saved. He will also cast the devil and his angels, and all those who have not believed into the lake of fire forevermore. (Revelation 20-22; II Peter 3:10-13)

**S8.** God created everything in the earth, on the earth, and above the earth in 6 literal days. On the 7<sup>th</sup> day he rested. This is where we get our week. All things were created as their own kind and made to reproduce after their own kind. (example: mankind was created as mankind - not as an amoeba, monkey, etc.) Evolution is the theory of an ungodly man and not a fact. God simply spoke everything into existence with the exception of man, woman, the beasts of the field, and the fowl of the air. He chose to create man in His own image from the dust of the ground (earth) and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils and he became a living soul. Woman was created from a literal rib of man. The beasts of the field and the fowl of the air were created from the ground (earth). (Genesis 1 & 2; John 1:1-3)

**S9.** Jesus is the Son of God. Mary was his earthly mother. God chose her to produce an earthly body for Jesus, but his blood was divine blood. She was a virgin before she conceived Jesus and remained a virgin after she gave birth to Jesus until she conceived children for Joseph her husband. She had never been with a man until after Jesus had been born. (Matthew 1:18-25; Matthew 12:46-50; Mark 6:1-4; Luke 1:26-35; Luke 2:41-52; John 1:1-14)

**By-Laws**  
**Lighthouse Baptist Church NILA Inc.**  
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**P.O. Box 10910, New Iberia, La., 70562-0910**  
**FIN/EIN# 20-1295413**

**Article I. Name & Physical Description**

The members of this congregation shall be known as Lighthouse Baptist Church, a non-profit church organization with its present mailing address as P.O. Box 10910, New Iberia, La., 70562-0910 and its physical address at 401 Highway 90 East, New Iberia, La., 70560.

**Article II. Purpose**

This congregation is organized as a non-profit church exclusively for the furtherance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and his teachings as established on God's Holy Bible and outlined in the Great Commission of Jesus Christ in Matthew 28:18-20 "*And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*" As God leads, the church may establish and operate other non-profit ministries, mission projects, building projects, pastors care projects, benevolence ministries, schools, print ministries, etc. for the same purpose as previously stated for the church.

**Article III. Membership Qualifications & Process**

**Section 1.** – Must have been saved (*see S2 in Statements of Faith and is to be understood as such throughout by-laws*), then baptized (*see S3 in Statements of Faith and is to be understood as such throughout by-laws*) in a Baptist Church (*defined as an assembly of saved believers of like Baptist faith and to be understood as such throughout by-laws*) and then request by their own free will to become a member of Lighthouse Baptist Church.

**Section 2.** – After Article III, Section 1 has been followed the current eligible voting members (see Article III, Section 3) will officially accept them (vote them in) or deny them as members of Lighthouse Baptist Church using the following process:

- 2.1** The Pastor (see Article V, Section 1) will call to order a business meeting (*understood as a meeting of at least half of the eligible voting members called together by the Pastor or the current leadership and to be understood as such throughout by-laws*) to officially accept or deny such persons. At his discretion, the Pastor may also bring up other business as he sees fit. (*guideline to follow if the church is without a Pastor: the Interim Pastor (see Article V, Section 3) and the President (see Article V, Section 4) chosen by the eligible voting members to lead shall perform the by-law duties and decision making process of the Pastor unless a different process is stated specifically in the by-laws*)
- 2.2** If all eligible voting members present are in favor, then the person or persons are admitted into the membership to enjoy the fellowship and privileges of being a member of Lighthouse Baptist Church.
- 2.3** If any eligible voting member (s) do not approve of a person (s) becoming a member then the charges shall be brought to the Pastor only. The membership of the person (s) coming for membership will be placed on hold during this time. After full investigation of both sides of the matter by the Pastor, the Pastor will make the decision to once again bring the person (s) before the eligible voting members for acceptance of membership. If the Pastor agrees with the charges brought against the person (s) as being detrimental to the work of the church, then that person will not be allowed membership status and will have to wait a period of 1 year before requesting membership again. If the Pastor disagrees with the charges brought against the person (s) coming for membership as being detrimental to the work of the church, then the member (s) bringing up such allegations shall be ineligible to vote on any church matter for a period of 1 year. If the church is without a Pastor, the charges shall be brought before the Interim Pastor and 1 other witness as chosen by the male eligible voting members of the church for investigation. After such investigation is completed by these 2 people, the whole matter will be brought before the male voting members of the church to make the decision to once again bring the person (s) before the eligible voting members for acceptance of membership. Follow the same process and disciplinary actions as the Pastor if the charges are agreed or disagreed upon.

**Section 3.** – If a person is 18 years of age or older and went through the process of Article III, Sections 1 and 2 then they become an eligible voting member of Lighthouse Baptist Church. A member will become ineligible to vote or membership completely revoked for any of the following reasons:

- 3.1** The member will lose voting privileges if they do not attend any regularly scheduled Lighthouse Baptist Church service for a period of 3 months. If the member does not attend any regularly scheduled church service for a period of 6 months, their membership will be completely revoked. The only exception would be if the member has an excuse for absence that the Pastor or current leadership of the Church approves. Each case will be considered on an individual basis and once a decision is made it shall be final; no appeals will be considered after the final decision. The responsibility of such a decision rests solely on the Pastor or the current leadership of the Church.
- 3.2** If for any reason stated elsewhere in the By-Laws.
- 3.3** The member will lose voting privileges if they are not contributing monetarily (giving offerings) to Lighthouse Baptist Church in the form of a tithe offering (10% of what God gives you).
- 3.4** If it has been proved to and accepted by the Pastor that the member is not of like faith by open disagreement with the beliefs of this church as outlined in the Statements of Faith, the persons membership shall be completely revoked. (disagreement means more than just not understanding the Statements of Faith)
- 3.5** If any member conducts or participates in any business meeting not approved by the Pastor or current leadership, then this shall be sufficient reason for their membership being revoked.

A member that has been revoked or lost their membership privileges due to a disciplinary type action of the church or pastor will not be considered again for full membership privileges for 1 year after the action took place, and then only after showing that there has been a full sincere resolve of the issue for which they were originally removed. After this has taken place, they once again must go through the process stated in Article III, Section 2.

## **Article IV. Basic Membership Duties**

**Section 1.** – Members are expected to honor, respect, love, pray for, and support their Pastor. His reputation is to be upheld at all times, both at church and abroad. The Pastor may request the church to remove from the membership roll, expel, or revoke the voting privileges of any member that is showing a blatant disregard concerning this matter.

**Section 2.** – Members are expected to attend the church services of Lighthouse Baptist Church on a regular basis. If a member does not attend a service for a period of 3 months, then their voting privileges may be nullified. If a member does not attend a service for a period of 6 months, then they may be removed from the membership roll. *(See Article III, Section 3)*

**Section 3.** – Members are expected to provide for the expenditures of Lighthouse Baptist Church by giving their tithe (10% of what God has blessed them with) offering to the church. *(See Article III, Section 3)*

**Section 4.** - Members should continually strive to be more like Christ (Christian). No member will ever fully attain a true Christ-like status, but that should be the goal of every member.

**Section 5.** – Members are expected assist each other in a spirit of brotherly love, remember each other in prayer, and aid each other in times of need.

**Section 6.** – Members are expected to try to bring others to the Lord Jesus Christ through salvation as described in **S2** of the Statements of Faith. This is the main reason we are left here on this earth after we have been saved.

## **Article V. Church Officers and Their Duties**

**Section 1. – Pastor (Bishop)** *(full time – not interim and to be understood as such throughout the by-laws)*: The Pastor shall have full control and oversight of all spiritual and business matters of Lighthouse Baptist Church. No female shall ever be considered to hold the office of Pastor at Lighthouse Baptist Church. No trans-sexual, or homosexual shall ever be considered to hold the office of Pastor at Lighthouse Baptist Church. The guidelines for a pastor as outlined in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1 should be adhered to when a Pastor is being chosen. **He** shall act as **President** of the corporation and preside over all business meetings of the church. He is responsible for any duties stated elsewhere in the by-laws. The Pastor has the exclusive authority in the matter of hiring, dismissing, or appointing all staff members and officers of the church. All business meetings, deacon's meetings, men's meetings, church meetings, etc. shall be authorized and approved by the Pastor. If the church is without a Pastor then these meetings shall be authorized and approved by the current leadership chosen by the church members. A Pastor shall be chosen by a 75% majority vote of the legal voting church members during a scheduled business meeting called to order within 1 week after the prospective Pastor's final trial church service at which he has preached. The number of trial church services to be preached shall be agreed upon by the church and the prospective Pastor before the services take place. Proxy voting shall be allowed in the presence of the President, Interim Pastor, and the Secretary if the proxy voter attended at least 2 of the church services at which the prospective Pastor preached; a card with the name of the proxy voter, his vote and the signatures of the 3 officers listed will constitute a legal proxy vote.

**Section 2. – Deacon (s):** No female shall ever be considered to hold the position of Deacon at Lighthouse Baptist Church. No trans-sexual, or homosexual shall ever be considered to hold the position of Deacon at Lighthouse Baptist Church. The guidelines for a deacon as outlined in I Timothy 3:8-16 and Acts 6:1-6 should be adhered to when a deacon is being chosen. A deacon and his duties can only be appointed by the Pastor. The Pastor may revoke a person's position and duties as Deacon at any time the Pastor so chooses. **If the church is without a Pastor**, no new Deacons shall be appointed. A Deacon shall have no other duties or powers than those given and approved by the Pastor.

**Section 3. – Interim Pastor** (*part time when the church is without a Pastor*): If the church is without a Pastor, then the voting membership body of the church shall choose an Interim Pastor to help lead and counsel in spiritual matters. No female shall ever be considered to hold the position of Interim Pastor at Lighthouse Baptist Church. No trans-sexual, or homosexual shall ever be considered to hold the position of Interim Pastor at Lighthouse Baptist Church. An Interim Pastor shall be chosen by a 75% majority vote of the legal voting members during a scheduled business meeting. Proxy voting is not allowed for the office of Interim Pastor. The guidelines for a pastor as outlined in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1 should also be adhered to when an Interim Pastor is being chosen. The Interim Pastor **and** President shall work together on the business and legal matters of the church. They cannot hire church staff, dismiss church staff, conduct any one time business matter greater than \$1,000.00, or open / close any bank accounts (including short or long term loans and credit) without receiving a majority vote of the legal voting church members during a scheduled business meeting. The position of Interim Pastor is considered terminated according to the procedure outlined in the final paragraph of Article V.

**Section 4. – President:** If the church is without a Pastor, then the voting membership body of the church shall choose by a majority vote during a scheduled business meeting a President to help lead, counsel and represent the Church in business and legal matters. No female shall ever be considered to hold the position of President at Lighthouse Baptist Church. No trans-sexual, or homosexual shall ever be considered to hold the position of President at Lighthouse Baptist Church. The voting will take place during a scheduled business meeting and no proxy voting will be allowed for the office of President. The Interim Pastor **and** President shall work together on the business and legal matters of the church. They cannot hire church staff, dismiss church staff, conduct any one time business matter greater than \$1,000.00, or open / close any bank accounts (including short or long term loans and credit) without receiving a majority vote of the legal voting church members during a scheduled business meeting. The position of President is considered terminated according to the procedure outlined in the final paragraph of Article V.

**Section 5. – Vice President:** Shall meet the same qualifications, be chosen the same way, and serve in all capacities as President in the **absence** of or inability of the President. The position of Vice President is considered terminated according to the procedure outlined in the final paragraph of Article V.

**Section 6. – Secretary:** A Pastor may appoint a member to the office of Secretary. If the church is without a Pastor, then the current leadership of the Church will nominate a member for this position to be brought before the church for acceptance by a majority vote of the voting membership body of the church during a scheduled business meeting. Proxy voting is not allowed for the office of Secretary. The Secretary shall maintain roll, meeting minutes, and perform any other duties delegated by the Pastor or the current leadership team.

**Section 7. – Treasurer:** A Pastor may appoint a member to the office of Treasurer. If the church is without a Pastor, then the current leadership of the Church will nominate a member for this position to be brought before the church for acceptance by a majority vote of the voting membership body of the church during a scheduled business meeting. Proxy voting is not allowed for the office of Treasurer. The Treasurer shall receive, track, and disburse all monies as approved by the Pastor or the current leadership team. The Treasurer shall perform any other duties delegated by the Pastor or the current leadership team.

When a Pastor is in office, he may appoint a Secretary and Treasurer or he may choose to allow the voting membership body of the church to choose a Secretary and Treasurer during a scheduled business meeting. If the church is without a Pastor, then the voting membership body of the church shall choose a team of 3, 5, or 7 members during a scheduled business meeting to maintain the necessary functions and dealings of Lighthouse Baptist Church. A President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be the minimum officers that will be chosen by the church to be on this leadership team. At the same time a Pastor has been voted in by the church (*See Article V, Section 1 for procedure of voting in a Pastor*), the church will also vote on a **transition of leadership** time frame of a minimum of 3 whole calendar months up to a maximum of 6 whole calendar months. During the chosen time frame, the person holding the office of President would now act as Vice President because the Pastor is now the President (if anyone currently held the position of Vice President then that person would now just act as a member of the leadership team), and the persons holding the offices of Secretary, and Treasurer would remain the same and carry on their duties as before. At the end of the chosen time frame the Pastor may choose to keep all the same persons in their respective offices, appoint different persons into some of these offices, appoint different persons into all of these offices, or allow the voting membership body of the church during a scheduled business meeting to choose the persons to fill the necessary offices of Secretary and Treasurer. It is the Pastor's choice, but it would probably be in the best interest of the Church and the new Pastor to allow the voting membership body of the church to approve and/or choose a person to fill the office of Treasurer during a scheduled business meeting.



## **Article VI. Funding for Lighthouse Baptist Church**

**Section 1. – Tithe Offering:** A tithe offering is 10% of the gross income that God has blessed you with. Tithe offerings given to God through Lighthouse Baptist Church are to be used to cover the expenditures and necessities of Lighthouse Baptist Church locally as approved by the Pastor or current leadership of the Church.

**Section 2. – Faith Promise Offering:** A faith promise offering is a voluntary amount of money you have chosen and promised to give to God; over and above your tithe, to be used to support missionaries, expenses associated with missions (such as mission meetings etc.), and supporting outreach mission projects as approved by the church. Missionaries and outreach mission projects are brought to the floor by the Pastor or current leadership and approved by a majority vote of the voting membership body of the church. Faith promise offerings given to God through Lighthouse Baptist Church are designated to support missionaries, mission expenses, and other outreach projects.

**Section 3. – Special Offering:** A special offering is a voluntary offering you have chosen to give to God; separate from your tithe offering and faith promise offering, to be used for a designated purpose (such as building fund, etc.). Special offerings given to God through Lighthouse Baptist Church will be used to fund the project or expense it was given to fund.

Offerings of those who come to Lighthouse Baptist Church are the main means of funding all expenses associated with Lighthouse Baptist Church. Offerings become the property of the church and will not be refunded once they are given. Monetary and non-monetary donations from people who do not attend Lighthouse Baptist Church may be accepted if the Pastor or current leadership chooses to accept the donation. The Pastor or current leadership shall provide or make available for viewing to the church members a current financial statement that outlines the total income and expenditures of Lighthouse Baptist Church. This statement shall be provided at least on a quarterly basis, but preferably on a monthly basis. If a member would like further explanation of the church finances he/she should consult directly with the Pastor or current leadership. **Nobody who attends Lighthouse Baptist Church should ever solicit donations from people who do not attend Lighthouse Baptist Church. God will provide the needs for Lighthouse Baptist Church through its members, if the members fail to obey God and support the church, then it should cease to exist.**

## **Article VII. Dissolution of Lighthouse Baptist Church**

Upon dissolution (closing down) of Lighthouse Baptist Church all remaining funds; after necessary expenses have been paid, will be disbursed amongst the missionaries and mission outreach projects it once supported regularly. We should repent and ask God to forgive us and then find another Independent Baptist Church where we will do right.

## **Article VIII. Thanksgiving**

**Thanks be to God for providing his only begotten Son; Jesus, to die for us and pay for all of our sins so that we can inherit Heaven forever. Thank you for forgiving us for all our sins and remembering them no more if we repent and ask you to. Thank you for providing for all our needs and most of our desires if we serve you the way you have asked us to. Thank you for sending a faithful man and his faithful wife to tell us about you, who lived for you and for us, and taught us what was right even if we didn't like it. Thank you Bro. Gott and Mrs. Pete for being that man and wife. If you have never met Bro. Gott and Mrs. Pete, then make sure you have been saved so you can meet and be with them and the unnumbered others they have been able to influence for the cause of Christ in Heaven.**

## **Article IX. Amending Procedure and Amendments**

Amendments to the Statements of Faith and By-Laws of Lighthouse Baptist Church shall be approved by a 75% majority vote of the voting membership body of the church during a scheduled business meeting.

### **Amendment I. Missionary Exemption from Article III, Sec. 3, 3.1**

Missionaries who are also members of Lighthouse Baptist Church are exempt from Article III, Section 3, 3.1 as long as they are attending regular church services at their respective areas of work, elsewhere while traveling on deputation, or elsewhere while traveling on furlough. If a missionary member ceases his/her work as a missionary, then they must abide by Article III, Section 3, 3.1 to retain their active membership and voting privileges at Lighthouse Baptist Church. *(approved and added 2/14/2007 – refer to business meeting minutes on this date)*

### **Amendment II. Missionary Attendance Calculation for Business Meeting**

Missionaries who are also members of Lighthouse Baptist Church need not be calculated when figuring the necessary eligible voting member attendance quota needed for a legal business meeting (as defined in Article III, Section 2, 2.1) unless they are indeed present when a business meeting is called to order. *(approved and added 2/14/2007 – refer to business meeting minutes on this date)*