

Constitution and By-Laws of the Locust Valley Bible Church



1323 Marker Road, Middletown, Maryland, 21769

History of the Locust Valley Bible Church

by Dr. Curvin D. Stambaugh

The Locust Valley Bible Church was founded on Sept. 20, 1879, as a denominational church by Dr. George Sigler. The cornerstone was placed on that date.

Dr. Sigler was born on June 9, 1834. He grew up on the place of his birth, the farm his father, Henry, owned. That land is adjacent to the current church property. He began serving in the ministry when he was 20 years old. He was known for being pastor at the church that John Brown attended when he conducted his raid on the Harper's Ferry Arsenal.

Twenty-five years after Dr. Sigler entered the ministry, the church at Locust Valley had its beginnings. Dr. Sigler had traveled on horseback from central Pennsylvania, where he had been serving some churches, to Virginia, to start a church there. While in Virginia, he was arrested by the Confederates and accused of being a Northern spy. He persuaded his captors of his real mission and was released to return home without having founded a church.

However, when he arrived at the Virginia border, his horse was confiscated and he had to return on foot to his father's farm in Locust Valley. He started a church; but in a location different from the one he had envisioned.

At first, the congregation met in a small building about one fifth of a mile South from where the church would be built. Henry Sigler gave the land for the original church building, which is the main church today.

There were several building programs over the years. In 1948, an annex was added; it was dedicated to the memory of Downye Marker. In 1952, a parsonage was built; then Governor Theodore McKeldin spoke at the dedication. A Sunday school wing was added in 1957, donated by M. Fern Marker.

In June 1966, the church became an independent work without denominational affiliation.

Another wing was added in 1974, for more classrooms and an office area. A portion of the funds for this project was made available through a bequest from Daisy Coblenz, given in memory of her mother, Eliza House. In 1991, a second floor was added to the 1974 addition, which provided six classrooms that can be opened to make a large fellowship hall.

In 1997, the interior of the sanctuary was renovated in an earlier American style, and a new Allen organ was installed.

Dr. Curvin D. Stambaugh; Pastored Locust Valley Bible Church from Dec. 7, 1969. to Dec. 10, 2020. After 50 Years he retired with all the love of this congregation for his service.

Constitution and Bylaws of the Locust Valley Bible Church

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PREAMBLE

We the members of the Locust Valley Bible Church of 1323 Marker Road Middletown, Maryland do hereby establish the following articles to which we voluntarily submit ourselves.

Article I - Name

This company of believers shall be called the "Locust Valley Bible Church". We recognize that every born-again person of all nations throughout the world make up the Church Universal which is the Body and Bride of Jesus Christ. According to the teaching of the Word of God, there are many Local Assemblies within the Church Universal with each Local Assembly being subjected to the direct Headship of the Lord Jesus Christ. The believers who gather to worship the Living God at the Locust Valley Bible Church shall thereby make up a Local Assembly.

Article II – OBJECT

The objective of this church is the edification of Christians through the teaching of God's Word, the salvation of souls, the worldwide proclamation of God's saving grace expressed in the shed blood and the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary, the promotion of godly worship, and the defense of the "faith once delivered" until He comes.

Article III – CHURCH COVENANT

Having been born-again by the Word of God and the Spirit of God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ according to the provisions of the abounding grace of God and being forgiven on the basis of the shed blood of Jesus Christ, acknowledge our willingness to confess Him as our Savior before men. We do now in the presence of God, the Holy Angels, and this Assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into Covenant with one another as one body in Christ

We engage, therefore, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this local assembly within the body of Christ in knowledge, holiness, and comfort to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, disciplines, and doctrine; to contribute cheerfully, scripturally and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations by means of our missionaries and fundamental faith missions.

We also engage to maintain family and private devotions; to bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord and to seek the salvation of our kindred, acquaintances, enemies, and all children and adults within the area of this Assembly

Through the provision that God has made for victorious Christian living, it shall be our desire to abstain from fleshly lusts that war against the soul, and to live a life of separation from sinful and worldly practices, with a desire to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Through the love of Christ, we will put away from us all bitterness and wrath, anger, clamor, evil speaking and be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven us.

We recognize that one of the outstanding pieces of evidence of Christianity is love, according to the words of our blessed Lord when He said: "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one for another."

We further engage to watch over one another 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. And this we do depending entirely upon the aid of our Heavenly Father, Who so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son for our salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior, Who hath redeemed us with His Own precious blood, and of the indwelling Holy Spirit, our Comforter, Teacher, and Guide.

Article IV – STATEMENT OF FAITH

Section 1 - The Holy Scriptures

We believe that the Bible is the verbally inspired word of God, His revelation to man, inerrant in the original writings, and that it is, therefore, the supreme and Final authority in all matters of doctrine, faith, and life. We, therefore, believe in the verbal plenary inspiration of the Bible. (2nd Timothy 3:16 and 17)

Section 2 - The Trinity of the Godhead

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19)

Section 3 - The Pre-Existence, Deity, and Incarnation of Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ ever existed with the Father and Holy Spirit and that in His incarnation was begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary and is true God and true man. (John 1:1 to 19; 1st Timothy 3:16)

Section 4 - Creation

We believe that the Scriptural accounts of Creation are to be interpreted literally. Therefore, God created everything out of nothing. God spoke and it was done. We believe God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to have done the work of Creation within the six twenty-four-hour days given in Genesis 1:1-27. We, thus, refute any evolutionary teaching, including Theistic Evolution and the "Gap Theory". (Genesis 1:1 to 7; 2:1 to 7; 2:21 to 25; Psalm 33:6-9; John 1:3; Colossians 1:16-17)

Section 5 - The Creation and Fall of Man

We believe that man was created in the image of God; that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death which is separation from God; and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature, are totally depraved and for those who reach moral responsibility, become sinners in thought, word, and deed, and that they must be born-again to be accepted of God. (Romans 3:10; 3:23; 5:12; John 3:1 to 21)

Section 6 - The Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ

We believe that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a representative and a substitutionary sacrifice and that all who believe in Him are saved on the grounds of His shed blood. We believe that He arose bodily from the dead on the third day in the same body in which He suffered and died. We also believe that our Lord ascended into Heaven; that He is now seated at the right hand of the Father and is our High Priest and Divine Advocate with the Father. We believe that by His finished work on the Cross and His unceasing ministry of intercession in Glory, that Jesus Christ has procured for every believer Eternal Redemption, Eternal Salvation, and Everlasting Life. (1st Corinthians 15:3, Romans 5:9; 1st Corinthians 15:4; John 20:27; Mark 16:19; Hebrew 8:1; 7:25; 1st John 2:1; Hebrew 9:12; 5:9; John 3:16)

Section 7 - The Personality and Ministry of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Person; that He convicts the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment; that He regenerates the sinner by the Word of God, that He permanently indwells the Church and the body of each believer; that He seals, enlightens, instructs, and guides every born-again person, and that He is the sufficient power for godly living, Christian service and spiritual worship. (John 16:7 to 15; 3:5 to 7; 1st Peter. 1:23; Ephesians 4:30; John 14:16, 17, 26)

Section 8 - The Nature of the Church

We believe that the Church of God was begun at Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended from Heaven and indwelt the Church; that it is composed solely of born-again people who have been called out from among the Jews and Gentiles to become the Body and Bride of our Lord. Christ glorified in Heaven is its Head and the Spirit on earth is the active agent of the Godhead who ever seeks to bring about within its ranks conformity and obedience to the Word of God and the Will of God. The one body unites believers to each other and all to Christ; and its chief purpose of existence is to proclaim the Gospel to the world. (Acts 2; Romans 1:16; Acts 15:14; Ephesians 5:23, 24; 1st Corinthians 12:12, 13; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8).

Section 9 - Ordinances

We believe that two ordinances are significant above any other that Christians are commanded to observe: namely, Water Baptism. and the Lord's Supper. While recognizing that Water Baptism has no saving merit, it is our conviction that after one is saved, Baptism is the next step in order to portray to the world the believer's union with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. It is our conviction that the scriptural method of Water Baptism is immersion. We believe that Jesus Christ instituted the Lord's Supper to commemorate His death till He comes. We further believe that Water Baptism by immersion is observed but once and is a sign of identification and a testimony to newness of life; but the Lord's Supper is commemorative and is to be observed often as a memorial of the Broken Body and the Shed Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord's Supper is observed in the evening (Matthew 28:19; 3:13 to 17; 1st Corinthians 11:23 to 33; Acts 8:31 to 38)

Section 10 - Our Lord's Second Advent

We believe in the Blessed Hope, the personal, pre-millennial, pre-tribulational and imminent return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. which is known as the Rapture of the Church. We also believe in the personal, visible and glorious return of Christ to the earth with His Saints at the end of the Great Tribulation. This phase of His coming is known as the Revelation of Jesus Christ. When He returns to the earth with His Saints, we believe that Jesus Christ will establish His Millennial Kingdom and will reign for one thousand years. (Titus 2:13; 1st Thessalonians 4:13 to 17; John 14:3; Revelation 19:11 to 21; 20:1 to 6)

Section 11 - Israel's Place in God's Program

We believe that "the gifts and calling of God are without repentance" and, therefore, His covenant people Israel now blind and scattered, shall be redeemed and regathered to the Land of Promise which is commonly known as Palestine; and under the personal and millennial reign of Christ upon David's throne in Jerusalem, shall become the head of the nations and "The Gentiles shall come to their light and kings to the brightness of their rising". (Romans 11:25 to 29; Psalm 72; Isaiah 60:3)

Section 12 - The Resurrection of the Dead

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just at the Rapture; (1st Thessalonians 4:16; 1st Corinthians 15:51 to 57) and of the unjust at the end of time. (Revelation 20:11 to 15; John 5:28 to 29)

Section 13 - The Eternal State of the Saved and the Lost

We believe in a Heaven and a Hell; Heaven is the place of eternal conscious joy for all who receive Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Hell the place of conscious punishment for all who reject Jesus Christ and those dying in their sin until the final judgment at which time death and Hell are cast into the Lake of Fire which is the place of eternal conscious punishment. (John 14:1 to 6; Psalm 16:11; Philippians 1:21 and 23; Psalm 9:17; John 8:24; 2nd Thessalonians 1:7 to 9, Revelation 20:10 to 15)

Section 14 - The Personality of Satan

We believe that Satan is a personal being, a fallen angel, prince of demons, the god of this age, the great enticer and deceiver, the adversary of Christ and His people, and the accuser of the brethren whose end is the Lake of Fire. (Isaiah 14:12 to 15; Ezek. 28:12 to 19; 2nd Corinthians 4:3 and 4; 1st Peter 5:8; Revelation 12:9 and 10; Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10)

Section 15 - Salvation

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. It is not God's will that any should perish, and we believe salvation is given to all who call upon the Name of the Lord to be saved. Therefore, we believe the Gospel is for "whosoever will". (Romans 10:13; Ephesians 2:8 to 10; John 1:12; Ephesians 1:7; 1st Peter 1:18, 19; 2nd Peter 3:9)

Section 16 - The Assurance of Believers

We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word; which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh. (Romans 13:13 and 14; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11 to 15; 1st John 5:13)

Section 17 - The Two Natures of the Believer

We believe that every saved person possesses two natures with provision made for victory of the new nature over the old nature through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit; and, that all claims to the eradication of the old nature in this life are unscriptural. (Romans 6:13; 8:12, 13; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 4:22 to 24; Colossians 3:10; 1st Peter 1:14 to 16; 1st John 3:5 to 9)

Section 18 - Law and Grace

We believe the grace of God to be sufficient for the maintenance of a godly walk and that Christ and not the law is the believer's rule of life. (Galatians 3:11; 2:16; Romans 3:28; 3:19 to 20; 11:6; 1st John 1:9)

Section 19 - Separation and Sanctification

We believe that the Scriptures clearly teach non-conformity to the world for every believer, that born-again people should be separated from the world unto Christ; and that it is clearly commanded of God to all believers to live lives of separation from all worldly and sinful practices and to be Holy as He is Holy. We believe that positional sanctification occurs at the moment of regeneration and that practical sanctification is to be progressive throughout the entire life span of a believer. Here on earth, God's provision for Holy living is in the believer's identification with Christ in His death, resurrection, and ascension; the indwelling person and power of the Holy Spirit the believer's yieldedness to Him; and by the powerful Word of God. (Colossians 3:1-4; 2nd Corinthians 6:14 to 17; Titus 2:14; 1st Peter 1:14 to 16; Colossians 1:13 Hebrew 10:1, 14; 2nd Corinthians 7-1; 3:18; 2nd Peter 3:18; Romans 6:1 to 14; Ephesians 1:15 to 2:6; John 17:17; Hebrew 4:12, Ephesians 5:25 to 27; 1st Corinthians 6:19 and 20; Galatians 5:16 to 23; Romans 6:13)

Section 20 - Sanctity of Marriage and Family

We believe that the covenant of marriage and the institution of the family have been designed by God and is, therefore, to be maintained to the highest degree and preserved at all costs. We believe the Scriptures teach the following:

- (a) The sanctity of marriage is set forth in Scripture. Scripture plainly states that a man shall leave his father and mother and shall cleave to his wife. Scripture also states that marriage is a covenant before God that is to only be broken by the death of one of the partners. (Genesis 2:23 and 24; Matthew 19:4 to 6).
- (b) A marriage between two individuals of the same sex as determined by birth, is definitely not the design of God and, therefore, it is forbidden in Scripture. (Genesis 2:23 to 24; Matthew 19:4 and 5; Romans 7:1 to 4).
- (c) The Scripture states in Malachi 2:14 to 16, "The God of Israel, saith that He hateth putting away". We also are told by our Lord "That from the beginning it (divorce) was not so" (Matthew 19:8). Instead of

remarriage the Scripture points to the pursuit of reconciliation of the marriage. (Matthew 19:3 to 9; 1st Corinthians 7:10 and 11; 1st Corinthians 7:39).

Section 21 - Moral Purity

We believe that God has designed and evidenced the Scriptural standards regarding moral sexual behavior in the original creation of Adam and Eve and that it is to be obeyed or there will be dire consequences for violating the standards. We believe that the physical union is to be only between a man and woman who have been united in the covenant of marriage. We believe the following to be the moral sexual behavior standards which we find in Scripture:

For a person to be involved or engaged in the practice of fornication (1st Corinthians 5:9 to 13 and 1st Thessalonians 4:3); homosexuality (Romans 1:27); lesbianism (Romans 1:26); incest (Leviticus 18:6 to 18) bestiality (Leviticus 18:23) and gender modification or changes (Genesis 1:26 and 27, 5:1 and 2 Psalm 139: 13 to 16 where gender is assigned and determined by God at conception and to intentionally alter or change one's physical gender is to reject God's Plan for creation): they are, therefore, in violation of the moral standards of God and forbidden to those who claim the Name of Christ.

ARTICLE V – ORDINATION AND LICENSE,

Section 1 - When in the judgment of the Board of Elders a man in the membership of this Church is called to the Christian ministry, it shall be within the power of the Board of Elders and the Church Council to call and conduct a Council of Ordination. This Council may consist of the Board of Elders and other representatives of the Church or it may be a Council composed of ordained ministers and two representatives of the Church served by each minister. The Ordaining Council shall examine all applicants for ordination as to Christian experience, reputation, their call to the Christian ministry, their preparation, character, doctrinal belief and demonstrated ability in Christian service.

Section 2 - Upon written request, the Church Council will interview an applicant for an annual ministerial license and after due consideration may grant the same. This license must be applied for annually.

Section 3 - The following shall not be ordained to the Ministry:

- (a) One who has not served two years as Pastor or Assistant Pastor, or in some definite Christian work or a composite of the above, in such manner as to convey reasonable evidence of God's call to the ministry.
- (b) One who uses or is addicted to the use of intoxicating beverages, drugs, or tobacco in any form, or one who has brought disrepute upon his Christian life and ministry through worldly practices and associations.
- (c) No woman shall be ordained by this Church.
- (d) No divorced person shall be ordained by this Church, or person married to a divorced person.
- (e) No person who condones or is practicing homosexual conduct can be ordained by this Church since the Bible condemns homosexuality and considers it as immorality. (Romans 1:26 and 27, 32; 1st Timothy 1:10; 1st Corinthians 6:10)

Section 4 - It shall be within the power of the Official Board to call an Ordination Council for the purpose of ordaining a man who is not a member of this church, but it shall not be a common practice to do so.

Section 5 - It shall be within the providence of the Church Council to discipline, even to revoking the ordination credentials of any minister ordained under this Constitution, if the said minister is found guilty of any of the practices named in Subdivision (b), (d), and (e) Section 3, of this Article or is found guilty of changing their

doctrinal position from that of this Constitution (such as allowing for "speaking in tongues" and/or other Charismatic doctrines and/or Reformed Theology), after an impartial trial conducted by a Trial Board made up of at least three-fourths of the membership of the Church Council. After a full hearing has been granted to the accused, the Trial Board shall express by vote their decision to either revoke the ordination credentials issued by this Church or to permit the ordination credentials to continue in effect. The decision of this Trial Board shall be final. If any minister who is found guilty by the Trial Board, can produce evidence within six months after his credentials have been revoked, that had not been entered into his trial that may establish his innocence, he shall have the right to declare that evidence to the Church Council, and if, in their opinion, it is valid, they may order a retrial.

ARTICLE VI - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 - Membership in this Church shall be composed of those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior, who have been water baptized by immersion, who promise to observe the ordinances of the Church, to faithfully abide by the doctrinal statement of this Church, to abide by this Constitution, to faithfully attend the services of the Church and to contribute their time, talents and tithes as God prospers them.

Section 2 - The active membership for official and voting purposes shall consist of those who have partaken of the Holy Communion at least one time unless providentially hindered in the past one year, and who frequently participate in the worship services of this Church.

ARTICLE VII - CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

Section 1 - The members of the Church shall meet once a year to elect officers for the coming year. This meeting shall be held the second Saturday of November. Thus, the church's fiscal year shall end on the 31st of October prior to the date of the annual meeting. The newly elected and appointed church officers shall be installed during the worship service the day after the Annual Meeting in which they were elected.

Section 2 - Special congregational meetings may be called by the Council at the request of fifteen members of the Church, or by the Council at their own option; such meetings shall not be held until two weeks written notice has been given to the Church. No business shall be transacted at a special meeting other than that for which the meeting was called.

Section 3 - At all such meetings, members in good standing only may have a voice and vote in this matter. Judgment shall be left largely to the individual's conscience. Points determining good standing shall be faithful attendance at worship and observance of those functions concerning which records are kept; namely, the Holy Communion.

Section 4 - The officers to be elected annually are as follows: at least three (3) Elders, at least four (4) Deacons, a Church Secretary (who shall also be Secretary to the Council), a Financial Secretary, and at least three (3) Deaconesses.

Section 5 - The officers to be appointed annually by the Church Council are as follows: General Treasurer, Building Fund Treasurer and Cemetery Treasurer.

Section 6 - All officers shall hold office for one year.

Section 7 - Requirements for elected and appointed officers for the aforementioned offices:

- (a) A person shall be an active member of the church the year prior to being eligible.
- (b) A person who is addicted to the use of or who uses intoxicating beverages, illicit drugs, or tobacco in any form shall not be eligible.

- (c) No divorced person or person married to a divorced person shall be eligible.
- (d) No person who is bringing disrepute upon his Christian life and ministry through worldly practices and associations is eligible.

ARTICLE VIII - ORGANIZATION

Section 1 - At all congregational meetings, the President of the Council shall be the presiding officer- or, in his absence the Vice-President. In all elections, majority of votes cast shall determine an election.

Section 2 – It shall be the duty of the presiding officer to act in an impartial manner, to preserve order, and to appoint all committees unless otherwise provided.

Section 3 - It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a correct record of the minutes and discharge all duties normally pertaining to his office.

ARTICLE IX - THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Section 1 - The Church Council shall be composed of men who fill the following offices: Pastor, Elders, Deacons, Church Secretary, Financial Secretary and the General Treasurer, and any other treasurers deemed necessary by the Council.

The organization of the Council shall be: President, Vice President, Church Secretary, and General Treasurer. The Council shall meet regularly once each month and shall meet at such other times as may be required to properly conduct the business of the Church.

Section 2 - Council members are required to be faithful in attendance at all regular called meetings. If a member willfully absents himself and can give no valid reason for nonattendance over a period of three consecutive months, he shall be notified to report and give reason for his absence. If he does not report and give a satisfactory explanation, he automatically surrenders his office.

Section 3 - By virtue of his position, the Pastor shall be the president of the Council, except as he may desire otherwise. It shall be the duty of the president to appoint all committees, when not otherwise provided and to perform such other duties as normally related to this office. In his absence, the Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President. The Chairman of the Board of Elders shall serve as Vice-President of the Council.

Section 4 - The Church Secretary shall be Secretary to the Council. He shall keep a correct record of the proceeding of all meetings, attend to all correspondence and discharge all other duties pertaining to this office.

ARTICLE X -DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1 - The Pastor

It shall be the duty of the Pastor to perform all duties relative to the Gospel ministry as the Church may require. He shall be granted at least two weeks' vacation annually. If the Church desires services in his absence, he shall arrange for this, with the approval of the Official Board, the Church bearing such expense as may be involved. He shall be responsible for the reorganization of the various Boards of the Church at the beginning of each new fiscal year.

Section 2 - The Elders

It shall be the duty of the Elders, in cooperation with the Pastor, to attend to the spiritual affairs of the Church and to render such assistance to him in discharge of his duties, as he may require and strive to fill the requirements of an Elder according to Titus, Chapter 1

Section 3 - The Deacons

The deacons shall serve as the legal Trustees of the Church and shall, in conformity to law, control all property belonging to said congregation. They shall keep all property in good repair. They shall not incur any expenses of more than the then current ceiling amount as set by the Church Council for a single project without concurrence of the church, either through Council action or by direct congregational approval. The Deacons shall elect annually from their number a chairman. The chairman of the Board of Deacons Shall call meetings for the consideration and transaction of such business as shall properly come under their jurisdiction. At such meetings he shall be the presiding officer. By virtue of his office, the Pastor shall be a member of the Board of Deacons in order to be eligible to participate in the transaction of legal matters.

Section 4 - Council Secretary

The Secretary of the Council shall be in a position to render a full account of the financial contributions of every contributor to the contributor, when so requested. It shall be his duty to maintain a complete and accurate list of members and other worshippers in this Church. He shall keep the written minutes of the Church Council meetings.

Section 5 - The General Treasurer

The General Treasurer shall manage all money collected or otherwise received by the Church for the general treasury, pay all general treasury bills authorized by the Council, and make a monthly report to the Council and a yearly report at the close of each fiscal year.

Section 6 - The Financial Secretary

It shall be the duty of the Financial Secretary to obtain, count, and record all tithes and offerings and he shall deposit the same to the designated bank accounts of their respective treasuries and forward the deposit records to the respective treasurers.

He shall present a monthly report at the monthly Council Meeting and an annual report at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Section 7 - The Building Fund Treasurer

The Building Fund Treasurer shall manage all money received by the Church Financial Secretary for the Building Fund Treasury, pay all bills authorized by the Council and make a monthly report to the Council and a yearly report at the close of each fiscal year.

Section 8 - The Cemetery Secretary Treasurer

The Cemetery Secretary/Treasurer shall oversee the sale of cemetery lots, arrange for grave openings and maintain accurate records for burials and cemetery transactions. He shall work with the Deacons for contracting cemetery maintenance and shall manage all money collected or otherwise received from the Church Financial Secretary for the Cemetery Fund. He shall pay all bills pertaining to the Cemetery Account, make a monthly report to the Council and a yearly report at the close of each fiscal year.

Section 9 - The Deaconesses

It shall be the duty of the Deaconesses to attend to the temporal needs of the Church. They shall make necessary provisions for the observance of the Ordinances of Baptism and Communion. They shall minister of their hospitality, time, and labors in a way comparable to those women who labored with the apostles and our Lord. They shall perform such duties as the temporal welfare of the Church may demand. They shall be elected at the Annual Congregational Meeting under the same procedures as the officers of the Church. Their

tenure of service shall be until the next Annual Congregational Meeting. The deaconesses shall not serve on the Church Council.

ARTICLE XI -SELECTLNG A PASTOR

General procedure in the selection of a new Pastor upon the death, resignation or removal of the previous Pastor; the Official Board shall serve as a Pulpit Committee. It shall be the duty of this committee to arrange for all pulpit supplies until a successor in the office of the Pastor has been selected. They shall prayerfully seek the leading of the Holy Spirit in their effort to contact the man, or men, who shall be a candidate for the office of Pastor. No man may be considered for a pastoral candidate who does not fully adhere to the doctrinal statement of this Constitution or who will not promise to abide by this Constitution.

The name or the names of the Candidate or Candidates shall be submitted to the Church Council for approval after which the name or names shall be submitted to the congregation who shall express their conviction by means of a ballot. A two thirds vote of active membership must be received by any candidate before he shall be called as the Pastor of the congregation.

For a candidate to be considered, he must complete and submit a Potential Pastor Questionnaire, be interviewed by the Church Council and then preach a minimum of one message to the congregation.

ARTICLE XII – DISMISSAL OF A PASTOR

Section 1 - The Pastor shall be free to resign as he feels led of the Holy Spirit but out of Christian courtesy, he should give a thirty-day's written notice to the Church Council.

Section 2 - The Church Council may through a two-thirds vote request the Pastor to resign. Out of Christian courtesy, the Church Council should give a thirty-day's written notice to the Pastor.

Section 3 - Whenever dismissal proceedings may be in order against a Pastor on the grounds of proven immorality, heresy in doctrine, spiritual declension, apostacy, or failure to properly attend to his duties as Pastor of the Church, the accused shall be given the opportunity to appear before the Church Council in his own defense. After a full hearing has been granted, the Church Council shall cast their vote to indicate whether they are in favor, or not in favor, of the removal of the accused. Should two-thirds of the Church Council present vote in favor of dismissal, the matter shall then be placed before the congregation. By means of a ballot, every member of the congregation in good standing from 18 years old and older shall be given the opportunity to express their approval or disapproval of the decision of the Church Council. If two-thirds of the vote of the congregation favors the dismissal proceedings initiated by the Church Council, the Pastor shall immediately be removed from office. If the vote in favor of dismissal is less than two-thirds, the Pastor shall be retained providing the charge of the dismissal proceedings was for failure to properly attend to the duties of the Church. However, if the charge in the proceedings was immorality, heresy in doctrine, spiritual declension, or apostacy, the Church Council may overrule the negative vote of the congregation by vote of at least three-fourths of the Church Council. The Church Council, by a majority vote, may continue the support of the one dismissed for a period not to exceed 30 days.

ARTICLE XIII - VOTING PRIVILEGES

All members at least twelve years of age, in good standing, shall have a voice and vote in the business of the Church except in voting for Deacons; in which case, the state law may require that a voter be eighteen years of age or older.

ARTICLE XIV – DISCIPLINE

If any member offends another, it shall be the duty of the Pastor and Elder to minister action as God's Word directs in Matt. 18:15-17. After having done so, if the person persists in the offense, they shall no longer be considered a member of the Church.

ARTICLE XV - VACANCIES

Section 1 - Any officer resigning shall do so in writing to the President of the Council to be acted upon by the Council.

Section 2 – All vacancies shall be filled by the Council.

ARTICLE XVI – LETTERS OF WITHDRAWAL

No letters of transfer shall be granted. Only letters of withdrawal from membership shall be granted upon written request and shall be signed by the Pastor and Church Secretary.

ARTICLE XVII – SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Special collections or donations of money shall be solicited from the membership of the Church only as authorized or sanctioned by the Church Council.

BYLAWS

1. The Communion Service shall be observed quarterly at the direction of the Pastor and Official Board.
2. The government of the Church shall be vested in the Council.
3. All voting in annual elections of the Church Officers shall be done by ballot except when otherwise designated. The person or persons receiving the lowest number of votes shall be dropped at each Ballot.
4. At all Congregational Meetings, regular or special, where voting is required, forty percent of the eligible voting, membership shall constitute a quorum.
5. Each member is advised and encouraged to use the envelope system as provided by the Church.
6. Amendments to this Constitution and Bylaws may be made at any Congregational Meeting, provided that the proposed amendment(s) being offered be in writing and notice of said proposed amendment(s) be made available to all voting members of the congregation, together with a copy of the same, at least 15 days prior to the meeting at which said amendment(s) shall come before the membership for vote. A two-thirds majority of the eligible voting membership is required for approval.
7. This Church will not permit its Pastor or Pastors to officiate in any manner for any marriage on or off of the Church property if one or both of the couple to be married has been divorced and the previous spouse of the divorced is still living, unless it is to reunite them in their marriage.
8. Church Policies for Weddings
Eligibility:
 - No person who is not a born-again Christian can be married in this Church.

- No divorced person may be married on this Church property.
- Active members are eligible providing they participate in pre-marital counseling with the Pastor of this Church prior to establishing the date for the wedding. Inactive members and non-members may use the facilities for a wedding only if the Pastor of this Church is officiating in the ceremony and they participate in pre-marital counseling with the Pastor of this Church prior to establishing the date for the wedding.

Cost:

- For use of Church to active members, there will be no fee.
- Inactive and non-members that qualify will be requested to pay the appropriate then current fees the Church Council establishes for the use of the Church facilities for weddings.

Music:

- All music must be cleared with the present Pastor during the pre-marital counseling before it may be used.

9. Church Policy for Funerals

- The Church building may only be used for a funeral service if the deceased was a member of this Church or attended this Church. Exceptions may be considered and approved by the Board of Elders.
- No funeral service may be held in this Church unless the present Pastor is officiating. In the event he is not available to conduct the service, the Board of Elders must approve the one officiating.

10. King James Text

All Scripture references in the Locust Valley Bible Church Doctrinal Statement are based on the King James Version of the Bible. Furthermore, it is our policy to require that the King James Version be used for teaching and preaching in this church.

11. The Cemetery shall be regulated by the Church Council.

<p>LVBC Started September 20, 1879</p>	<p>Fist building Main Sanctuary 1948</p>	<p>In 1948, an annex was added</p>
<p>Parsonage was built 1952</p>	<p>Sunday School Wing Built 1957</p>	<p>Educational Wing was built 1974,</p>
<p>In 1991, a second floor was added</p>	<p>Pavilion was built 2019</p>	<p>What will God bring for the Future?</p>