

Silver Lake Baptist Church

CONSTITUTION

Revised September 1, 2016

ARTICLE I. Name

The name of this church shall be Silver Lake Baptist Church.

ARTICLE II. Foundation, Object and Priorities of Ministry

1. The foundation of this Church is the Lord Jesus Christ ([1 Corinthians 3:11](#)), and its code of guidance in all its affairs, the Word of God, and this Church does here affirm its faith that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of Almighty God ([Mark 13:31](#)).
2. The object of this Church shall be to worship God according to the teaching of His Word, to practice the precepts and examples of the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ as set forth in the New Testament, to sustain its ordinances and doctrines and to preach and propagate among all peoples the Gospel of Salvation which is by personal faith on Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
3. The priorities of ministry of this church flow from the vision of God's glory revealed in Jesus Christ. We exist to savor this vision in worship ([John 4:23](#)), strengthen the vision in nurture and education ([1 Corinthians 14:26](#); [2 Peter 3:18](#)), and spread the vision in evangelism, missions, and loving deeds ([1 Peter 2:9](#); [1 Peter 3:15](#); [Matthew 28:18-20](#); [Matthew 5:16](#)).

AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH

I. THE WORD OF GOD

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. ([2 Timothy 3:16](#); [2 Peter 1:20-21](#); [Mark 13:31](#); [John 8:31-32](#); [John 20:31](#); [Acts 20:32](#))

II. THE TRINITY

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons; that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption. ([Genesis 1:1,26](#); [John 1:1,3](#); [Matthew 28:19](#); [John 4:24](#); [Romans 1:19-20](#); [Ephesians 4:5-6](#))

III. GOD THE FATHER

We believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He infallibly foreknows all that shall come to pass, that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who

come to Him through Jesus Christ. ([Luke 10:21-22](#); [Matthew 23:9](#); [John 3:16](#); [John 6:27](#); [Romans 1:7](#); [1 Timothy 1:1-2](#); [1 Timothy 2:5-6](#); [1 Peter 1:3](#); [Revelation 1:6](#))

IV. JESUS CHRIST

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth. ([Matthew 1:18-25](#); [Luke 1:26-38](#); [John 1:1](#); [John 20:28](#); [Romans 8:46](#); [Romans 9:5](#); [2 Corinthians 5:21](#); [1 Peter 2:21-23](#); [John 20:30-31](#); [Matthew 20:28](#); [Ephesians 1:4](#); [Acts 1:11](#); [Romans 5:6-8](#); [Romans 6:9-10](#); [Hebrews 7:25](#); [Hebrews 9:28](#); [1 Timothy 3:16](#))

V. THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide. ([John 14:16-17,26](#); [John 15:26-27](#); [John 16:9-14](#); [Romans 8:9](#); [1 Corinthians 3:16](#); [1 Corinthians 6:19](#); [Galatians 5:22-26](#))

VI. REGENERATION

We believe that man was created by God in His own image; that man sinned and thereby incurred physical, spiritual and eternal death, which is separation from God; that as a consequence, all human beings are born with a sinful nature and are sinners by choice and therefore under condemnation. We believe that those who repent and forsake sin and trust Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit and become new creatures, delivered from condemnation and receive eternal life. ([Genesis 1:26](#); [Genesis 2:17](#); [Genesis 3](#); [Genesis 5:2](#); [Ecclesiastes 2:11](#); [John 3:14](#); [John 5:24,30](#); [John 7:13](#); [John 8:12](#); [John 10:26](#); [Romans 9:22](#); [2 Thessalonians 1:9](#); [Revelation 19:3,20](#); [Revelation 20:10,14-15](#); [Revelation 21:18](#); [Psalm 51:7](#); [Jeremiah 17:9](#); [James 1:14](#); [Romans 3:19](#); [Romans 5:19](#); [Proverbs 28:13](#); [1 John 1:9](#); [John 1:13](#); [John 3:16](#); [2 Corinthians 5:17](#); [Romans 8:1](#))

VII. THE CHURCH

We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work, and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world. ([Ephesians 2:19-22](#); [Acts 1:8](#); [Ephesians 5:19-21](#); [Acts 2:42](#); [Hebrews 10:23-25](#))

VIII. CHRISTIAN CONDUCT

We believe that a Christian should live for the glory of God and the well-being of his fellow men; that his conduct should be blameless before the world; that he should be a faithful steward of his possessions; and that he should seek to realize for himself and others the full stature of maturity in Christ. ([1 Corinthians 10:31](#); [Romans 12:1-3](#); [Hebrews 12:1-2](#); [John 14:15,23-24](#); [1 John 2:3-6](#); [2 Corinthians 9:6-9](#); [1 Corinthians 4:2](#); [Colossians 1:9-10](#))

IX. THE ORDINANCES

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church, baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of the believer in water into the name of the triune God. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for commemoration of His death. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. ([Matthew 28:18-20](#); [Romans 6:3-5](#); [1 Corinthians 11:23-26](#))

X. RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

We believe that every human being has direct relations with God, and is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith; that each church is independent and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority; that therefore Church and State must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from dictation or patronage of the other. ([1 Timothy 2:5](#); [Romans 14:7-9,12](#))

XI. CHURCH COOPERATION

We believe that local churches can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by cooperating with one another in a denominational organization. Such an organization, whether a regional or district conference, exists and functions by the will of the churches. Cooperation in a conference is voluntary and may be terminated at any time. ([Acts 15:36,41](#); [Acts 16:5](#); [1 Corinthians 16:1](#); [Galatians 1:1-3](#); [Revelation 1:4,10-11](#))

This church is affiliated with the Northwest Baptist Convention, and may likewise cooperate with interdenominational fellowships on a voluntary independent basis.

XII. THE LAST THINGS

We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgement, the eternal felicity of the righteous and the endless suffering of the wicked. ([Matthew 16:27](#); [Mark 14:62](#); [John 14:3](#); [Acts 1:11](#); [Philippians 3:20](#); [1 Thessalonians 4:15](#); [2 Timothy 4:1](#); [Titus 2:13](#); [1 Corinthians 4:5](#); [2 Thessalonians 1:7-10](#); [Revelation 20:4-6,11-15](#))

OUR CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, we do now in the presence of God and this church most solemnly and joyfully enter into this Covenant with one another as one body in Christ. We engage therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit:

- A. To walk together in Christian love; ([Ephesians 4:1-5](#))
- B. To exercise Christian care and watchfulness over one another; ([Colossians 3:16](#); [1 Thessalonians 5:11](#); [Hebrews 10:24-25](#))
- C. To pray with and for one another, sharing our burdens, sorrows, and joys; ([Romans 12:15](#))
- D. To be thoughtful and courteous to one another, to be slow to take offense, and to be quick to forgive and to seek forgiveness; ([James 1:19](#); [Proverbs 14:17](#); [Proverbs 15:18](#); [Colossians 3:8,15](#))
- E. To guard the spiritual and Scriptural purity, peace, prosperity of the Church, and to promote its usefulness as a witness to the saving grace of God and Christ Jesus; ([Acts 2:47](#); [Ephesians 5:30](#))
- F. To assist, through the gifts of the Spirit, in the work of the Church and to promote its usefulness as a witness to the saving grace of God and Christ Jesus; ([1 Corinthians 12](#); [Ephesians 4](#))
- G. To contribute, as the Lord directs, to the financial support of the Church, the relief of the needy, and evangelism of all people; ([Malachi 3:8-10](#); [Matthew 6:1-4](#); [2 Corinthians 9:6-7](#); [1 John 3:17](#))
- H. To love and to pray for all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ; ([John 13:34-35](#); [1 John 4:7-12](#); [Ephesians 6:18-20](#); [1 Timothy 2:1-2](#))
- I. To engage regularly in personal Bible reading and prayer, and to establish family devotions where possible; ([Joshua 1:8](#); [Psalm 119](#); [2 Timothy 3:14-17](#); [2 Peter 3:15-16](#))
- J. To bring up such children as may be entrusted to our care in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; ([Ephesians 6:1-2](#); [Psalm 127:3-5](#); [Proverbs 3](#); [Proverbs 22:6](#); [Ecclesiastes 12:1-8](#))
- K. To walk circumspectly in the world, to provide things honest in the sight of all men, to be faithful in engagements, exemplary in conduct, denying ungodliness and worldly lust; ([1 Peter 1:13-21](#); [Titus 2:1-10](#); [1 Timothy 4:6-11](#); [Ephesians 5:15-21](#); [2 Corinthians 6:11-7:1](#))
- L. To endeavor by example, by work, and by prayer, to win others to an acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; ([Romans 10:14-15](#); [Romans 1:16](#); [1 Corinthians 9:16](#))
- M. To purpose that when we remove ourselves 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. ([Hebrews 10:24-25](#))

ARTICLE III. Membership

The membership of this Church shall consist of persons who confess faith on the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior, who give evidence of regeneration by endeavoring to live a life consistent with their profession and with the views of faith, doctrine and practice of this Church, who have been baptized by immersion and who have been received into its membership according to the By-Laws of this Church.

[Romans 12:4-5](#), [1 Corinthians 12:12-27](#), [Ephesians 5:30](#), [Acts 2:38-41](#), [Hebrews 10:24-25](#)

ARTICLE IV. Leadership and Organization

1. Under the authority of Jesus Christ and the Word of God, the Congregation of the Church is the final authority within this local Church. This authority is normally exercised through the election of officers to govern the Church. However, the vote of the membership of this Church at a properly called meeting, as provided in the By-Laws, shall be required to effect the following actions:
 - a. Accept members into the Church, give letters of transfer or recommendation to members, or drop members from the Church roll
 - b. Elect officers of the Church
 - c. Discipline members by dismissing them and discipline officers by removing them from office ([Matthew 18:15-17](#), [1 Corinthians 5:9-13](#))
 - d. Approve annual budgets of the Church, authorize any expenditure of the funds of the Church when such expenditure is not covered by an approved budget, and approve any transactions regarding real property
 - e. Accept, reject, or otherwise dispose of any matter submitted to the membership of the Church by the Elder Board, or raised by motion at a business meeting
 - f. Adopt, amend, or repeal the Constitution or By-Laws of this church
 - g. Approve the call, job description and initial salary of Vocational Pastors and Ministers
2. The offices of the Church shall be Elder and Deacon. The purpose of the officers of the Church is to lovingly govern, care for, and equip the membership to do the work of the ministry.
3. The leadership of the Church shall be vested in the Elder Board, which is responsible for governing the Church, teaching the Word and tending the flock of God in this Church. The Elders shall be equal in authority but may be specialized in function.
4. Deacons shall assist the Elder Board by performing services of advice, administration and implementation.

ARTICLE V. The Church Property

God is the ultimate owner of the property of this Church: we are merely stewards of it. As good stewards we must do our best to plan for all contingencies, even those beyond our own desires. We want the property of the Church to be used for God's glory in whatever way He sees fit.

1. In the event of a division of this Church, from which may God in His mercy save us, the property of this Church shall belong to that group of such division as represents the largest portion of the Church membership before recognizing a division therein provided such group is loyal to this constitution; otherwise it shall belong to the group remaining loyal to this constitution though it may not be the largest group in such division. Should any controversy arise as to whether such loyalty exists, the question shall be submitted to the Ruling Board of the Northwest Baptist Convention, and their decision shall be final.
2. Should a condition arise at any time in the future when for any reason the Board of Elders deems that the Church work cannot continue, the Church property shall be transferred to the Northwest Baptist Convention or its successor.

3. Should conditions arise where a consolidation with another church of the same denomination be advisable, the Board of Elders shall be authorized by the Church to negotiate the terms of such consolidation in so far as the property of this Church is concerned.

ARTICLE VI. Revisions, Additions and Amendments

1. Revisions, additions or amendments of this constitution may be made only in the following manner:
 - a. at the annual meeting; and
 - b. by a majority vote of the membership, or a two-thirds majority of those members present and voting at such meeting, provided at least half of the resident membership of the Church is present at such meeting; and
 - c. after presentation by written motion at a quarterly or special business meeting held at least three months before the annual meeting; and
 - d. if notice of the proposed change or addition has been given, in writing and from the pulpit on at least two weekends in the interim period between said meetings.
2. Article II (1) and Article VI (2) of this constitution shall not be repealed, amended nor revised.