



## Constitution of the **LAKE TAPPS COMMUNITY CHURCH**

### ARTICLE I

The name of this organization shall be Lake Tapps Community Church. Lake Tapps Community Church is a Christ-centered, non-denominational church affiliated with Village Missions.

### ARTICLE II STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Bible, as the inspired, inerrant and infallible Word of God, is the standard for all we believe and do. The Elders have the responsibility to determine the Bible's meaning and application as it applies to Lake Tapps Community Church.

#### Section 1 THE SCRIPTURES:

We believe in the complete verbal inspiration of the Scriptures, including both Old and New Testaments, by which we understand that the Holy Spirit not only inspired the thoughts of the writers but also formulated the very word structure into which the thoughts were cast in the original documents (1 Corinthians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:16,17; 2 Peter 1:20,21).

#### Section 2 THE GODHEAD:

We believe in one God, in three Persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4; 2 Corinthians 13:14).

#### Section 3 MAN'S CREATION AND FALL:

We believe that humanity was created in the image and likeness of God.

We believe God creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image of God.

Because humanity has been created in the image of God, all human life is sacred. We affirm the infinite value of pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death.

We believe God has ordained marriage to unite one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union (Genesis 2:18-25).

We believe that in Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sin nature and consequent alienation from God and came under judicial sentence of death (Genesis 1:25,27; Romans 3:22,23; Ephesians 2:12; Romans 5:12).

We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Corinthians 6:18; 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4). We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest and the use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matthew 15:18-20; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

#### Section 4 THE PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST:

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man.

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a propitiatory and substitutionary sacrifice, and that our redemption is made sure to us by His resurrection from the dead (John 1:1,2,14; Luke 1:35; Romans 3:24,25; 1 Peter 1:3,5).

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is now in heaven exalted at the right hand of God where as High Priest for His people He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor and Advocate (Hebrews 9:24; 7:24,25; Romans 8:35; 1 John 2:1,2).

We believe in the personal bodily return of Jesus Christ according to the Scriptures, and that this will occur before He returns to the earth to establish His Millennial Kingdom (1 Thessalonians 4:13,18; Zechariah 14:4,11; Revelation 20:6).

#### Section 5 THE HOLY SPIRIT:

We believe that the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Godhead, in the present age indwells all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, baptizes them into the body of Christ, seals them unto the day of redemption, empowers believers for witnessing, equips them with spiritual gifts for service, and that every believer is commanded of God to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

We are mindful of the cautions in Scripture regarding the use of "sign gifts," especially as it relates to public worship (Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 12:12,14; 1 Corinthians 14; Ephesians 1:13,14; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 5:18,20).

#### Section 6 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, and that this faith is manifested in works pleasing to God (Ephesians 2:18,20; Titus 2:11,14). All who so trust the Savior are forgiven of their sins — past, present, and future — and born again into the family of God by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit (John 3:3; Ephesians 2:8-9; 1:7; John 1:12).

#### Section 7 THE CHURCH:

We believe that Christ is the head of Lake Tapps Community Church, and of the full body of born again believers, which is the body and bride of Christ. The Church is a spiritual organism made up of all the born again believers in this age irrespective of their affiliation with Christian organizations (Ephesians 1:22,23; 5:23,25-27; 1 Corinthians 12:12,13).

#### Section 8 THE FINAL STATE:

We believe that the condition and retribution of the lost and the salvation and blessedness of the saved are conscious and everlasting (Mark 9:43,48; Revelation 20:15; 22:3-5,11).

### ARTICLE III OUR MISSION

Loving God by helping people follow Jesus.

## ARTICLE IV ORDINANCES

The following ordinances shall be observed by this church:

### Section 1 BAPTISM:

The ordinance of Baptism shall be administered under the supervision of the Elders.

### Section 2 COMMUNION:

The Lord's Supper shall be observed at least one Sunday each month, under the supervision of the Elders and shall be open to all born again believers.

## ARTICLE V MEMBERSHIP

All who are born again and attend Lake Tapps Community Church are recognized as the church, the body of Christ, the Body, the flock, and the congregation. Membership in a local church, however, is a confession before God and men of a living commitment to a group of believers. As such it is a commitment of responsibility for and to the other members of the church.

The governance of Lake Tapps Community Church, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, shall be vested in its members and administered by the Elders and the Church Council.

## ARTICLE VI

### PROVISION FOR BY-LAWS AND POLICY MANUAL

A supplement to this constitution known as the BY-LAWS shall embody the stated qualifications for church leaders, officers and members. The BY-LAWS shall also include officers' duties, provisions for appointment of additional leaders and teachers, conditions for membership, method by which members are removed, along with other rules and regulations for church activities as needed.

## ARTICLE VII AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended by a 2/3 majority of eligible members present at any regular or special Members Meeting. Any proposed amendment shall be announced, posted and copies made available the two Sundays preceding the vote.

## ARTICLE VIII DISSOLUTION

In the event of dissolution, all accumulated assets of this corporation shall become the property of Village Missions.