



*An intimate family of believers brought together by Jesus Christ...
Loving God - Building Disciples - Carrying the Gospel to Places Near and Far
...by the power of the Holy Spirit and to the glory of God.*

Doctrinal Statement & Bylaws

**1771 Route 300
Newburgh, New York 12550**

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Doctrinal Statement

The Bible

We believe the Bible to be the verbally inspired word of God, authoritative, without error, infallible and God-breathed, and therefore the only rule of faith and practice.

*Matthew 5:18; John 16:12-13; 2 Timothy 3:16-17;
2 Peter 1:19-21.*

The Godhead

We believe in one triune God, existing in three persons - the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit. Each is eternal in being, identical in essence, equal in power and glory. Each has the same attributes and perfection.

*Genesis 1:26; Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 6:8; 48:16;
Matthew 3:16-17; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14.*

The Person and Work of the Father

We believe God the Father, who along with His Son, is the sovereign Creator and authority of the universe. It is He who authored the divine decrees, who gave His Son for our redemption and His Holy Spirit as a pledge and seal of our salvation, in order to glorify Himself. He is holy and just in all His ways. He is loving and just, "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

Deuteronomy 10:14-15; Psalm 139; 145:17; John 3:16; 15:26; John 17:1-6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 1 Peter 1:16; 2 Peter 3:9.

The Person and Work of Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is the divine eternal Son of God born of the Virgin Mary. As true man and true God He lived a sinless life, died a predetermined death for our sins, arose bodily from the grave triumphantly and is now at the right hand of God interceding for those who trust in Him.

*Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2, 14; Acts 1:9-10; Romans 3:24-25; 8:34; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 7:25; 9:24; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 2:24;
1 John 2:1-2; 5:20.*

The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

We believe the Holy Spirit is the divine person of the Godhead who convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. He regenerates, baptizes (places into the church), indwells, seals and fills those who are redeemed. He bestows spiritual gifts upon those who believe and brings them into submission to Christ's authority.

*John 16:7-15; 1 Corinthians 12:4-14; 6:19-20;
Ephesians 1:13-14; 5:18; Titus 3:5-6.*

Man, Created and Fallen

We believe that man was originally created in the image of God, but that he fell through sin and because of sin lost his relationship with God. We also believe that this spiritual death (or total depravity of human nature) has been transmitted to the entire human race, the man, Christ Jesus being the exception. Man is therefore incapable of pleasing God and is, therefore, under just condemnation, bound to hell, the place of eternal punishment.

*Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 3; Romans 3:22-23; 5:8, 12-15; Ephesians 2:1-2, 12;
Revelation 20:11-15.*

Salvation

We believe that salvation is wholly by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ alone. He died in the sinner's place as their substitute and that no act, by the sinner, contributes to their salvation. It is for all who believe and receive the substitutionary blood atonement of Jesus Christ who died and rose again in our place in order that we might be declared righteous and adopted into the family of God.

*John 1:12-13; Acts 2:37-38; Romans 4:22-25; 10:9-10;
Galatians 4:5-7; Ephesians 1:7-12; 2:8-10.*

Eternal Security

We believe that all redeemed, once adopted into God's family, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever.

John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Romans 8:1, 38-39; 1 Corinthians 1:4-8; 1 Peter 1:5.

Assurance of Salvation

We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word and through the witness and work of the Holy Spirit producing within His children a childlike love, gratitude and obedience.

1 John 3:13-24; 5:13; 2 Peter 1:10-11.

Sanctification

We believe that though each believer is secure in Christ forever and can rejoice in the assurance of their salvation, it is not to be an occasion for sin. Each believer is not only set apart by God for heaven but also His glory on earth. Therefore, the Holy Spirit continues to work in every believer making them holy by convicting them of sin and conforming their character, affections and behavior into the image of Christ so that they persevere in Christ.

*Romans 6; 13:13; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 7:1; Galatians 5:13; Ephesians 5:25-27, 32;
Philippians 1:6; Titus 2:11-15;
Hebrews 10:35-39.*

The Believers Warfare

We believe that because of the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit in the believer, it is the believer's responsibility and obligation to turn away from sin and flee their own "fleshly desires" so as not to carry out the deeds of the flesh.

Romans 6:13; 8:12-13; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:10; 1 Peter

1:14-16; 1 John 1:8; 3:5-9.

Ministry and Gifts of the Spirit

We believe that the “ministry of the word” is the “work of service”, thus making it the responsibility of every believer. We believe that spiritual gifts are divinely bestowed upon every believer to serve in a particular way.

Acts 6:4; 2 Corinthians 5:18; Ephesians 4:12; Colossians 4:17.

We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowal of spiritual gifts which are necessary for the perfecting of the saints to do the work of the ministry.

Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 18; Ephesians 4:7-12.

The Church

We believe that the Church universal is the invisible body of Christ composed of all born-again believers throughout the world. The local church is a visible group of believers who meet together regularly for the worship of God, instruction in the Word of God, evangelization of the lost and the observance of the ordinances of the church.

Acts 2:43-47; 1 Corinthians 12:27.

Church Ordinances

1. **Believers Baptism** – Public profession of faith whereby one, who repents of their sins, identifies themselves with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

*Matthew 28:19; Acts 8:36-39; Romans 6:1-6;
1 Corinthians 12:12-14.*

2. **The Lord's Supper** – A corporate gathering whereby believers proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

Matthew 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:23-28.

3. **Marriage** - It is our conviction that the Scriptures teach that the only acceptable sexual relationship is that which occurs between a man and woman within the marriage union. By 'man' and 'woman,' we mean their genders by birth as assigned to them by God who created them 'male and female.' All other sexual activity is unacceptable and immoral.

Genesis 2:18-25, Matthew 19:3-9, Malachi 2:13-16

The Personality of Satan

We believe in the existence of a personal devil, the arch enemy of God and man. He is the Father of lies, the deceiver and ruler of the world. He has already been judged and will be eternally punished in the lake of fire.

Job 1:6-7; Isaiah 14:12-17; Matthew 4:2-11; John 8:44; 12:31; John 14:30; 16:11; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2; 6:12; 1 John 4:4; 5:19; Revelation 12:9; 20:10.

Second Coming of Jesus Christ

We believe in the literal, physical and imminent return of Jesus Christ with His saints, to establish His Kingdom.

Matthew 24:29-31; Revelation 19:11-16.

Eternal State

1. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment.

Daniel 12:2; Matthew 25:46; John 5:28-29; 11:25-26; Revelation 20:5-6, 12-13.

2. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss, they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelation 20:4-6.

3. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when, with soul and body reunited they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire to suffer everlasting conscious punishment.

*Matthew 25:31-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26;
2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude 1:6-7; Revelation 20:11-15.*

Bylaws

Introduction

Leptondale Bible Church is a body of Bible-believing Christians who are governed by the Word of God through a group of elders. Leptondale Bible Church is independent and non-denominational.

Article I

Name

The name of this church is Leptondale Bible Church.

Article II

Purpose

The purpose of this church is to honor Jesus Christ in:

1. The public worship of Him in Spirit and truth
2. The promotion of fellowship with those in God's family
3. Making disciples and educating people for spiritual growth
4. Ministry as we serve God by serving others
5. Evangelism and outreach in our community and abroad.

Article III

Membership

Section 1 - Qualification

All those who profess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, and willingly desire to submit to the Word of God, the authority of the elders, and adopt the views of faith as held in this church's doctrinal statement may be received into this fellowship.

Section 2 - Confirmation Procedure

The elders (or elder) will interview the prospective member and, upon approval by the Elder Board, he or she will be publicly presented and welcomed as a member to the congregation at the earliest convenient date.

Section 3 - Pastor's Membership

All pastoral staff, and their wives, when duly called and appointed to this Church shall be extended the courtesy and privileges of active membership and will hold such as long as he holds that position or remains in the church.

Section 4 - Removal of Members

No member will be removed from Membership Roll except for just cause. The

Elder Board may remove a member from the Membership Roll upon:

1. Refusal to heed the warning of the elders and the church according to section 5 “Discipline of Members” of Article III.
2. Failure to give satisfactory explanation for his or her habitual absence for a period of six months.
3. Member’s own request.

Section 5 - Discipline of Members

Any member who is under the discipline of the Board of Elders may be excluded from the fellowship of our church body without being removed from Membership Roll. This will be employed as a means of loving chastisement only after the procedure of Biblical discipline has been followed (see Elders Position Papers). If member, after exclusion, heeds the warning of the elders and demonstrates repentance, the elders may reinstate them into our fellowship. If a member refuses to heed warning they may be removed from Membership Roll. (see Article III, Section 4).

Article IV

Offices & Positions of the Church

Section 1 - Offices & Positions

The offices of this church will be Elders and Deacons. The positions of the church will be Pastor(s) and Trustees. All Pastors are part of the Board of Elders with equal authority.

Section 2 - Qualification of Officers

A member of the church must meet the qualifications of the Word of God for their particular office. They shall be members of the church who conduct themselves in a manner worthy of their call.
(Ephesians 4:1; 1 Timothy 3; Titus 1).

All offices shall have a 1 year membership requirement.

Section 3 - Duties of Officers

- **Elders:** The primary duty of the elders is to have general oversight over the spiritual life of the church. This encompasses the deacons and trustees. The elders’ responsibilities include the preaching and teaching of the Word of God on a regular basis, assisting the Senior Pastor in counseling the needy, comforting the afflicted, visiting the sick, administering the ordinances, carrying out church discipline, and overseeing its various ministries, properties and finances.

- **Deacons:** The deacons will assist the elders in the performance of their responsibilities in such areas as the elders may direct, especially (but not exclusively) in meeting the temporal and physical needs of the church members.

Section 4 - Nomination of Officers

The nomination of officers shall be recommended to the church by the elders at least 30 days before the May meeting. Additional nominations may be made by letter to the board of elders for consideration up to 14 days before the annual meeting.

Section 5 - Election of Officers

All officers of the church will be elected by three-fourths majority vote of those members present at the ~~annual~~ May congregational meeting by means of secret ballot. They will be elected for a term of three years with a limit of two consecutive terms in the same office (Pastoral staff excluded). The number of officials for both offices is at the elders' discretion.

Section 6 - Removal of Officers, Trustees and Employees

Any elected officers, trustees and church employees may be removed from office for conduct contrary to the Word of God by a unanimous vote of the Elders.

Section 7 - Duties of Pastor(s)

It shall be the duty of the Pastor(s) to have general oversight of the spiritual life of the Church with the Elders, to preach the Word in the regular services of the church, and to administer the ordinances. Their foundational responsibility is "the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ."

The Senior Pastor shall be an ex-officio member of all other boards and committees, and shall have full voice vote with the other members of such boards and committees.

Section 8 - Election of Pastors

A. Selection Procedure:

1. A Pastoral search committee shall be formed consisting of elders and others they deem appropriate.
2. The Pastoral search committee will recommend a prospective candidate to the elders for consideration, after interviewing the prospective candidate and his family.
3. The Elder Board will interview the prospective candidate for spiritual like-mindedness with the church.
4. The Elder Board may then bring him in as a guest speaker.
5. If mutually acceptable to both the Elders and the prospective candidate,

- the man will be deemed a candidate, and invited to preach a second time.
6. The candidate's resume shall be made accessible to the congregation on the Sunday prior to his preaching.
 7. The congregation will have a time of Q&A after his message.
 8. If still considered suitable, the elders will announce a scheduled congregational meeting for the sole purpose of voting on said candidate.

B. Voting Procedure:

A pastor shall be elected by secret ballot at a properly convened congregational meeting, notice of which shall have been given from the pulpit two (2) successive Sundays preceding the vote. An affirmation vote of three-fourths of the qualified voters **is required. Qualified voters are defined as those members present and voting at the meeting, as well as those members who have delivered absentee ballots to the church office prior to the meeting.**

C. Tenure: A pastor's tenure of office shall be for an indefinite period.

1. The corporate body has the right to dismiss any Pastor. Dismissal must be by a three-fourths majority vote of members present at a special meeting, notice of which shall be given on two successive preceding Sundays.
2. Any Pastor may resign with thirty (30) days written notice. The timeframe may be waived by mutual consent on the part of the Pastor and the Elder Board.

D. Salary: Pastors' salaries shall be proposed by the elders annually and voted upon by qualified members of the congregation.

Section 9 - Trustees

The position of trustee is not a biblically mandated leadership role. The position exists for **two reasons**:

- 1) **To uphold and satisfy government requirements.**
- 2) **To meet the physical needs of the body.**

The Trustees' areas of responsibility will be the management of legal issues, financial matters, and the maintenance of the physical plant. Specific duties will be identified by the Elder Board. The number of trustees should be **in accordance with government requirements.** They shall be elected by three-fourths majority vote of those members present at the Annual Congregational Meeting for a term of three years with a limit of two consecutive terms.

Article V The Official Board

The government of the church, the conduct of its business, the management and control

of its property (real and personal), the supervision of its general work, its organizations and its spiritual life, shall be vested in the official board which shall be the Board of Elders.

Article VI Services, Ordinances and Business

Section 1 - Services

This church body will hold regular services every Lord's Day for the worship of God, the teaching and preaching of God's word and for the edification and equipping of the body so that it might be built up into the fullness of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 4).

Section 2 - Ordinances

The ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper (as described in our Doctrinal statement) shall be planned and observed under the direction of the elders.

Section 3 - Business

- A. The fiscal year of the church shall begin January 1st and end December 31st.
- B. The elders shall schedule and organize:
 - 1. An **Annual Meeting** of the congregation during the month of November for the purpose of presenting ministry opportunities the elders deem appropriate, and approval of the next year's ensuing budget. The proposed budget should be presented to the congregation three (3) weeks in advance of this meeting.
 - 2. Two other **Business Meetings** will be scheduled in May and August. The May meeting will include the election of officers for terms beginning in June. Any other special business meetings will be held as deemed necessary by the elders.
 - 3. The elders shall give the congregation notice of the date, time and place of all business meetings in both writing and by voice at each of the three (3) preceding Sunday services.
- C. Qualified Voter of the Congregation

Voting privileges shall be extended only to those who have been officially received as members and are of 18 years of age or older, who are members in good standing.
- D. Quorum

A quorum shall be one third of those qualified (see “C” above) to vote and must be present for any vote to occur at any meeting.

Article VII
Finances

It shall be the duty of the elders to formulate a system of checks and balances for the transactions of funds (both expenses and deposits) and appoint a Treasurer to transact all the business of the church.

Article VIII
Amendment Procedure

This document, which includes the Doctrinal Statement and Bylaws, may be amended at any Annual Meeting of the church or at any special meeting called for by the elders for that purpose. The proposed amendment shall be printed and available to all members two (2) Sundays before the meeting for confirmation. A majority of at least three-fourths of the members present will be necessary for the adoption of an amendment.

Article IX
Dissolution

This organization may be dissolved only by written ballot at a regular or special meeting of the congregation, by a three-quarter vote of the total members qualified to vote. Upon dissolution, all assets of the organization must be distributed only to an organization or organizations with the purpose and beliefs consistent with those in the bylaws and doctrinal statement of Leptondale Bible Church as determined by the board of elders. Furthermore, any organization to which the assets of this organization may be distributed upon, must qualify for such distribution under section 1.501. c (3) 1 (b) (4) of the income tax regulations or any other sections cited by future IRS revisions.

Appendix

Supplemental materials are created from time to time by the Elder Board that further aid and guide in the management and oversight of the church body at Leptondale Bible Church. These materials, currently identified as “*Elder Position Papers*” and “*Operational Policies*”, are available to members upon request from the church office.