

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF
CHINESE BIBLE CHURCH OF LANCASTER

蘭城華人聖經教會憲章和法規

<p>ARTICLE I : NAME</p> <p>The name of this Christian congregation shall be the Chinese Bible Church of Lancaster; hereafter in this Constitution referred to as “the Church”.</p> <p>This congregation was initially established with the assistance of the Paradise district of the Lancaster Conference of the Mennonite Church in 1985. We, therefore, are grateful to God and to them.</p>	<p>第一條 名稱</p> <p>本教會定名為「蘭城華人聖經教會」，(<i>Chinese Bible Church of Lancaster</i>) 在下文中將只簡稱為「本教會」。</p> <p>本教會是 在 1985 年由門諾會蘭城區會樂園教區的協助而成立，我們為此感謝神及該會。</p>
<p>ARTICLE II : PURPOSE</p> <p>1. To bring the Gospel to the unsaved, and to lead them to faith in Christ, and to membership in the Church (Matthew 28:18-20).</p> <p>2. To lead each member of the congregation to spiritual maturity and to strengthen their Christian life through providing opportunities for worship, instruction, spiritual discernment, fellowship, mutual aid, brotherly counsel, through evangelism and the nurturing of children (Ephesians 4:4-7,11-16).</p> <p>3. To express God’s love and concern as His servants, and by sharing with those who are in need within the community (Galatians 6: 10).</p> <p>4. To exist for the honor and glory of Christ (Ephesians 4: 4-7, 1 1-18).</p> <p>5. This article is not subject to amendment.</p>	<p>第二條 目的</p> <p>第一項：傳福音給未得救的人，領他們歸回基督，加入教會。(太 28：18 - 20)</p> <p>第二項：促進教會每一會友靈性上的成熟，通過敬拜、教導、分辨、交通、互助、弟兄般的勸導、傳福音、孩童的教育等渠道來進一步堅固基督徒的生活。(弗 4：4-- 7，11-16)</p> <p>第三項：作為祂的僕人，我們將藉幫助我們當中有缺乏的弟兄姊妹，來表達 神的愛和關懷 (加 6:10)。</p> <p>第四項：本教會存在的目的在於榮耀基督。(弗 1:17- 18)</p> <p>第五項：本憲章中的第二條不能修改。</p>
<p>ARTICLE III : DOCTRINAL STATEMENT</p> <p>SECTION 1. We believe that the Bible is the complete and verbally inspired Word of God and without error in its original manuscripts, and therefore, the supreme standard for faith and conduct (2 Timothy 3: 16, 17; 2 Peter 1:21).</p> <p>SECTION 2. We believe in one, living, eternal, and true God, existing</p>	<p>第三條 教義條文</p> <p>第一項：我們相信整本聖經的原文都是神所默示，完全無誤，因而它是我們信仰和行為的最高準則 (提後 3:16-17，彼後 1:21)。</p> <p>第二項：我們相信 神是一位永活的真神，從永遠到永遠祂有</p>

<p>eternally in three persons as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28: 19; 2 Corinthians 13:14).</p> <p>SECTION 3. We believe in the absolute deity and perfect humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ; that He had two natures, divine and human united in one person without mixture or confusion and He did not sin; His virgin birth and vicarious death through the shedding of His blood for the forgiveness of sins; His bodily resurrection and ascension; His present High priestly ministry; and in His coming again for His redeemed ones (John 1 : 1, 2, 14; Luke 1 : 35, Romans 3 :24, 25; Ephesians 1 :7; Hebrews 7:25; Revelation 19:11-16).</p> <p>SECTION 4. We believe in the absolute deity of the Holy Spirit; that He is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. To the believer He is the agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption; and that He exercises a ministry of comfort and teaching (John 16:8-1 1; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; 2:13; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 1:13,14; 1 Corinthians 2:13).</p> <p>SECTION 5. We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but in Adam’s sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, became alienated from God, and that man is totally depraved, and of himself, utterly unable to redeem his lost condition (Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 3:22-23, 5:12; Ephesians 1:1-3, 12).</p> <p>SECTION 6. We believe that the salvation of the sinner is wholly of grace through personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and that all the redeemed once saved are kept by God’s power and are secure in Christ forever (Ephesians 2: 8 John 6:37-40; 1 Peter 1:5).</p>	<p>三個位格，即聖父、聖子、聖靈 (申 6:4，太 28:19，林後 13:14)。</p> <p>第三項：我們相信主耶穌基督是完全的 神，完全的人。祂同時具有神性和人性，這兩者彼此間並無混淆。祂沒有犯罪。祂由童女所生，代替人受死；祂的血使罪得赦免。祂死後身體復活並昇天。祂現在具有大祭司的身份，將來祂要回到這個世界來接已屬祂的人 (約 1:1,2,14 ; 路 1:35; 羅 3:24,25; 弗 1:7; 來 7:25; 啓 19:11- 16)。</p> <p>第四項：我們相信聖靈具有完全的神性; 祂使人為罪、為義、為審判自己責備自己。祂使信徒獲得重生，使眾信徒受洗成為基督的身體；祂住在信徒裏面，給他們印記直到蒙拯救的那日。祂負責安慰、教導人的工作 (約 16 : 8-11; 林前 12 : 12-14; 羅 8 : 9; 弗 1 : 12 - 14; 林前 2 :13) 。</p> <p>第五項：我們相信 神是照祂的形像造人，但因亞當犯罪，整個人類墮落，承受了犯罪的本性與神隔離。人已完全墮落，自己無法改變失落的狀況 (創 1:26-27; 羅 3:22-23; 5:12; 弗 1:1-3,12)</p> <p>第六項 :我們相信罪人的得救完全是靠著神的恩典，因他個人相信主耶穌基督而取得的。人們一旦蒙恩得拯救後就蒙 神能力的保守，在基督裡面有永遠的保障 (弗 2:8- 9;約 6 :37-40;彼前 1:5)。</p>
<p>ARTICLE IV : MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>SECTION 1. The membership of this congregation shall consist of persons who profess faith in Jesus Christ and obedience to the Scriptures, who have concurred with and signed the church’s doctrinal statement without any mental reservation, who have been approved by the congregation upon the recommendation of the Board of Deacons (See ARTICLE VI), and who have been received into the fellowship of the congregation by believer’s baptism, upon confession of faith, or by</p>	<p>第四條 會籍</p> <p>第一項：會眾是由相信耶穌基督、順服聖經教訓的人所組成的。他們同意教會的教義條文，並毫無保留地簽名同意。他們必須由執事會推薦，並由會眾們所接受 (參見第六條)。他們因信而受洗加入教會，或是通過其他教會的推薦信。</p>

church letter.

SECTION 2. Every person who is a member of the Chinese Bible Church of Lancaster is entitled to and encouraged to participate in all the activities of the church, is eligible to vote on all questions brought before the church and to share in congregational discussions. In certain elections, the right to vote may be limited to those members eighteen years or older.

SECTION 3. Membership may be terminated: 1) By dismissal. When a member requests for a letter of recommendation to another church and is accepted as a member of that church, the member is considered dismissed from the Church. 2) By erasure. Any member who joins another church automatically forfeits membership in this church. Any member who, without good reason, has been absent from the Church and its services for a period of over one year will be subjected to erasure from the membership. 3) By excommunication. Any member who continues in flagrant sin, or who deviates from Scripture teaching as expressed in the church's doctrinal statement, shall forfeit the privilege of membership.

SECTION 4. An annual business meeting of the Church shall be held every year, the first Sunday of November, at which time new officers of the church shall be elected to replace those whose term of office is expiring.

SECTION 5. Special business meetings of the Church may be called at any time by the moderator, who is the Chairman of the Board of Deacons, or upon a petition in writing of fifty percent of the voting members of the Church (but not fewer than ten persons), provided the request specifies the purpose for which the special meeting is desired.

ARTICLE V : OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH AND THEIR APPOINTMENTS

SECTION 1. The officers of the Church could include the following: the pastor, associate pastor, assistant pastor, youth pastor, the Board of Deacons, and the Elders Committee.

SECTION 2. The pastor shall be in charge of the spiritual affairs of the Church. This includes the regular worship and preaching services, the administration of the ordinances, all special services other than business

第二項：我們鼓勵「蘭城華人聖經教會」的每一會友參加本教會的一切活動，他們可以參與會眾的投票決議，可以任教會的職位，有份於教會的討論。在進行某些選舉時，投票權只限年滿十八歲的會友。

第三項：會友的會籍可以通過如下方式而取消。(1)申請退會：如果會友有要求，本教會可以寫推薦信給另一教會，推薦這位會友。(2)自動退會：若某一會友加入了另一教會，他也就自動地退出本教會；若有會友無故不參加主日崇拜有一年之久，他可以被認為自動退出本教會。(3)開除會籍：若有會友持續犯某一嚴重的罪且不悔改，或者他改變想法不再同意本教會的教義條文，他將被撤消其會籍的特權。

第四項：：本教會將在十一月份的第一個主日舉行每年一次的事務會議。會議將選舉新的負責人取代擔任期已滿之人的職位，或是遞補空缺的職位。

第五項：議長可以臨時召開本教會特別的事務會議，議長本身也是執事會主席。特別事務會議也可以由百分之五十的會友通過書面提議(人數至少要十個人)，講明需要召開此會議的目的即可。

第五條 本教會的職位和任命條例

第一項：：本教會的職位有牧師、副牧師、助理牧師、青少年牧師以及執事與長老。

第二項：牧師將負責本教會屬靈事務。這些事務包括按時的敬拜、講道、各種儀式、除事務會議之外的其它特別活動、管理教會一般的屬靈生活。

meetings, and the general oversight of the spiritual life of the Church.

SECTION 3. The pastor is appointed by the Board of Deacons and shall serve in this capacity until at the end of a five year term, or until such time as a two-thirds majority ascertained by secret ballot votes among the voting members present at a constitutionally called congregational meeting vote for his dismissal. A five years term is to be renewed by the unanimous vote of Board of Deacons. There shall be a one year probation for a new pastor.

SECTION 4. The pastor and the Church shall give each other a minimum of six months notice before the end of a term whether to renew another term of service. This notice shall be read to the congregation.

SECTION 5. The pastor shall be an ex-officio member, with voting power, of the Board of Deacons and of all committees. However, the pastor shall be precluded from serving as Chairman of the Board of Deacons.

SECTION 6. Candidates to be deacons are proposed by the deacon board and approved by the elders committee (if there is one). The Deacons are elected by the Church members at the annual business meeting by majority vote of members present, for a term of two years. The Board of Deacons shall elect from their own members a Chairman, a Vice Chairman, a Treasurer and a Secretary, immediately following the election of new Board members. The Chairman shall serve as moderator of the Church. A Deacon can be elected for three terms and then has to rest for one year before being re-elected. Deacons shall attend all deacon's meetings, however, each Deacon can be absent from these meetings for a maximum of three times per year with justifiable excuses. Decisions shall be a result of a two-thirds majority vote of deacons.

SECTION 7. The Board of Deacons shall create committees as are necessary to improve the worship, evangelism, missionary work, and the educational program of the Church.

SECTION 8. Elders Committee candidates are to be selected by the pastor. Then the candidates may be proposed by the Deacon Board and confirmed by a two-thirds majority vote of the Church members.

第三項：牧師由執事會任命，可以有一年試用期。任期為五年，或者是三分之二有投票權的會友投不記名票要求除去他的職位。執事會若一致投票通過，該牧師可連任五年。

第四項：牧師與教會彼此間在期滿約六個月前要互相通知牧師是否連任。此通知也該同時向眾會友宣讀。

第五項：牧師同時也是執事會中當然會員，也可是其它一切委員會的一員，並有投票權。不過，牧師不可以當執事會主席。

第六項：執事候選人是由執事會提名，由牧師或長老會通過而決定。執事是由眾會友在每年一度的教會事務會議上多數投票決定的，任期為兩年。執事會將由執事中推選出一位來做主席，一位副主席，一位財務，一位文書。這些選舉是緊接著新執事會的選舉。該主席也將同時是教會的議長。執事可連任三期，但之後必須停一年後才可繼續被選為執事。執事要參加所有的執事會議(可以因故缺席三次)。所有的決議是由執事會三分之二的多數來決定。

第七項：執事會必要時可以成立委員會以便改善崇拜、傳福音、宣教事工、以及教會的教育事工。

第八項：長老會的候選人將由牧師來選擇。然後由執事會提名長老候選人，並由會友們三分之二的多數票選同意，而決定長老人選。

<p>SECTION 9. The Elders Committee is in charge of the planning and execution of spiritual activities. The pastor is the Chairman of the Committee.</p> <p>SECTION 10. The Elders Committee must act within the doctrinal statement. The Deacons Committee has no power to veto decisions made by the Elders.</p>	<p>第九項：長老會負責本教會的屬靈活動的計劃和執行。牧師是長老會的主席。</p> <p>第十項：長老會所做的一切必須與本教會的教義條文相符合。執事會無權否決長老會所作的決定。</p>
<p>ARTICLE VI: ROLE OF BOARD OF DEACONS</p> <p>SECTION 1. Chairman: Calls and officiates monthly deacon's meeting, and calls annual congregational business meeting.</p> <p>SECTION 2. Vice Chairman: Assists Chairman, takes up the responsibility of Chairman in his absence.</p> <p>SECTION 3. Secretary: Keeps records of deacon's meeting, signs official letters with Chairman, sends minutes to all deacons and related parties.</p> <p>SECTION 4. Treasurer: Arranges at least two deacons or church members to count weekly offering, gives financial report at each deacon's' meeting, provides annual financial statement, and keeps all Church related financial records.</p> <p>SECTION 5. All other Deacons: Share burden of Board of Deacons.</p>	<p>第六條 執事會的作用</p> <p>第一項 主席：召集、主持每月一度的執事會議，負責召集每年一度的教會事務會議。</p> <p>第二項 副主席：協助主席，在主席不在的情況下擔任其職務。</p> <p>第三項 書記：負責執事會的記錄，和主席一起在官方文件上簽名，將會議記錄分發給每位執事和有關的人。</p> <p>第四項 財務：安排至少兩位執事或教會會員點算每禮拜的奉獻的金額，並在每次執事會上作財務報告，作每年一度的財務報告，及負責教會所有的財務記錄。</p> <p>第五項 其他執事：分擔執事會的負擔。</p>
<p>ARTICLE VII : POLICY STATEMENTS</p> <p>SECTION 1. The pastor may invite an outside speaker with the concurrence of the Chairman of Deacons a maximum of once per month except in special cases. The invited outside speaker must agree with the Church's confession of faith.</p> <p>SECTION 2. We believe that the miraculous gifts of divine revelation</p>	<p>第七條 教會方針</p> <p>第一項：關於邀請外來講員一事，牧師得先與執事會主席討論、商議。每月最多只邀請一位外來講員，特殊情況則例外。應邀的外來講員須認同本教會的信仰條文。</p> <p>第二項：我們相信聖靈的啓示及醫病的能力是神給予初代教會使徒的暫時恩賜。</p>

<p>and healing were temporarily given to the early church apostles.</p> <p>We believe the miraculous gifts were given primarily for the apostolic age for the purpose of confirming the authenticity of the apostles' message (Hebrews 2:3-4; 2 Corinthians 12:12), and as a sign to unbelievers (1 Corinthians 14:22). We also believe that God, in His sovereignty, performs miracles today.</p> <p>Because not all believers and biblical scholars agree regarding the biblical nature of spiritual gifts, and because our desire is to strive for harmony and unity within the Chinese Bible Church of Lancaster, tongues may not be used in any of the Chinese Bible Church of Lancaster services and ministries (Ephesians 4:1-6).</p>	<p>我們相信行神蹟的能力乃是神給予初代教會使徒的恩賜，為要更堅定使徒所傳信息的真實性(希 2:3-4, 林後 12:12)，其對未信者來說是一個指標(林前 14:22)。我們並且相信神，在祂的主權之下，今日祂仍然施行神蹟。</p> <p>因為並非所有的基督徒及聖經學者都同意有關屬靈恩賜的聖經問題，也為致力於本會的和諧與合一，在本會的各種聚會活動中，我們不支持使用方言(弗 4:1-6)。</p>
<p>ARTICLE VIII : AMENDMENT</p> <p>All articles, with the exception of Article II, of this Constitution may be amended or revised by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting members present at a constitutionally called business meeting, provided that a copy of such proposed amendments or revisions has been given to each voting member of the Church and posted in a prominent place in the Church edifice at least two weeks prior to the meeting,</p>	<p>第八條 修正</p> <p>除了第二條外，此憲章的所有條文可以修改或重寫，但必須是在一個合乎憲章的事務會議上，由出席具投票權的會員三分之二的票選通過而決定。在開會兩個禮拜之前，教會中每個有權投票者必須有一份有關修改的條文，並要將該條文張貼在本教會某個顯而易見的地方。</p>
<p>ARTICLE IX : Dissolution</p> <p>In the event of dissolution of this organization, all unencumbered properties and finances shall be given to non-profit religious corporations of like faith and practice that are in agreement with the letter and spirit of this constitution. All such decisions regarding this matter would be made by the majority vote of the remaining members of this corporation prior to final dissolution.</p>	<p>第九條 解散</p> <p>若本教會面臨解散時，所有財物須給予其它具相同信仰的非營利機構或教會。所有關於此事件的決定必須於教會解散前經由僅存會員的投票，由多數同意後通過。</p>

Note: This Constitution and Bylaws of CBCL were amended on November 14, 2004

主後二零零四年十一月十四日修正