

The Constitution and By-Laws of the Haw River Christian Church, Doing Business as The Lamb's Chapel

Adopted January 7, 1968

Article I. Name

The name of this church shall be Haw River Christian Church, doing business as The Lamb's Chapel.

Article II. Purpose

The object of this church shall be to bind together followers of Jesus Christ for the purpose of sharing in the worship of God and in making His will dominant in the lives of men and women, individually and collectively, especially as that will is set forth in the life, teaching, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We will fulfill the command of Jesus Christ in the Great Commission. (Matthew 28:19-20)

Article III. Polity

This church acknowledges Jesus Christ as its Head and finds in and uses the Holy Scriptures as its sole authority.

The government of this church is vested in its members alone, who exercise the right of control on all its affairs.

This church will operate under Roberts Rules of Order in the conducting of business.

Article IV. Statement of Faith

The Bible

We believe that the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, is supernaturally inspired, so that it is inerrant in the original manuscripts and preserved by God in its verbal and plenary inspiration, and that it is a divinely authoritative standard for every age and every life. (Matthew 5:18; 1 Corinthians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21)

God

We believe in one God that eternally exists and reveals Himself in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – having each the same nature, attributes, and perfections worthy of the same worship and confidence. (Matthew 3:16-17; John 1:1-2, 10:30, 14:15-17; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 13:14). We believe in God as absolute and sole Creator and Sustainer of the universe, and that creation was by divine command, from nothing and not through an evolutionary process. (John 1:3; 10; Acts 17:24-25; Genesis 1:1). We believe that God, by His sovereign choice and out of love for men, sent Christ into the world to save sinners. (John 3:16; 1 Timothy 1:15; 1 John 4:14)

God the Son

We believe that Jesus Christ was fully God in the flesh and fully man, that He was born of a virgin and that He lived a sinless life, in which He taught and performed mighty works, wonders, and signs exactly as revealed in the four gospels. We believe that He was crucified, shed His blood, and died to pay the penalty for our sins and was raised from the dead on the third day. Forty days later, He ascended to the Father's right hand where He is Head of the Church and intercedes for believers. From there, He is coming again personally, bodily, and physically to this earth to set up His millennial Kingdom. (Isaiah 7:14, 9:6; Hebrews 1:1-2, 7:25; Luke 1:30-35; Ephesians 4:8; John 1:1-5, 10-14, 14:3; Colossians 2:9; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Acts 1:3, 11; Revelation 20:4)

God the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person and is God, possessing all the divine attributes. He convicts of sin, regenerates, indwells, baptizes, and seals all believers at the moment of their salvation, filling them in response to their yielding, with the goal of conforming them to the image of Christ. (John 3:5, 16:7-11; Acts 5:3-4; Ephesians 1:13, 4:30, 5:18; 1 Corinthians 6:19, 12:13)

Man

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adams's sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God. We believe that all men are morally corrupt, and of themselves utterly unable to remedy their lost condition. (Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 1:18, 3:23, 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3, 12)

Salvation

We believe that salvation is a gift of God and is received by man through personal faith in Jesus Christ and His sacrifice for sin. We believe that man is justified by grace through faith apart from works, and that all true believers, once saved, are kept secure in Christ forever. (Acts 13:38-39; Romans 4:5, 6:23, 8:1, 38-39; John 10:27-29; Ephesians 2:8-9)

The Church

We believe that the true Church is composed of all persons who are regenerated by the Holy Spirit through saving faith in Jesus Christ; that they are united in the body of Christ of which He is Lord and Head; and are commissioned for the God-given tasks of worshipping, fellowshipping, teaching, evangelizing, and exercising the spiritual gifts. (Acts 2:42, 47; Romans 12:5; Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:23-24; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; 2 Corinthians 11:2) We believe that the establishment and continuance of the local church is clearly taught in the New Testament Scriptures. (Acts 14:27, 20:17, 28-32; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11) We believe that the local church is autonomous and free from any external authority or control. (Acts 13:1-4, 20:28; Romans 16:1, 4; 1 Corinthians 3:9, 16, 5:4-7, 13; 1 Peter 5:1-4)

Ordinances

We believe that ordinances for the believer are water baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper as a memorial. They are, however, not to be regarded as a means of salvation, but both of which are evidence of obedience and fellowship with the Lord. (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:38, 41, 8:12, 35-38; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29)

The Christian Life

We believe that a Christian should walk in holiness and not after the flesh, with the goal of being conformed to the image of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As a new creation, walking in the Spirit, the Christian learns to grow in faith, in obedience to Scripture, in prayer, in fellowship with the saints, and in a life of service. We believe that the Christian will stand before the judgment seat of Christ to have his life evaluated according to his deeds. (Galatians 5:16-26; Hebrews 10:25, 11:6, 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:20-24, 6:18; John 17:17; Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15)

The Second Coming

We believe in the person, pre-millennial, and eminent coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead, of the believer to everlasting glory and the unbeliever to judgment and everlasting conscious punishment. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; Titus 2:11-13; John 14:1-6; Matthew 25:46; Revelation 20:11-15; 2 Peter 3:10)

Article V. Membership

1. Reception

Persons who present themselves for membership shall meet the following condition.

- Confession of faith in Jesus Christ for salvation

2. Termination of Membership

The termination of membership shall be as follows:

- A. Persons who are inactive for the period of one year shall be moved off the “Active” role.
- B. Disciplinary reasons. (Matthew 18:15-17)
- C. Death.
- D. Transfer to another church of like faith.

Article VI. Business Meetings

1. Annual Meeting

The annual meeting shall be held in December unless otherwise set by the Elders to review the previous year’s budget, to set the new budget, to nominate and vote for officers, and the next year’s budget.

2. Special Meetings

Special meetings for business may be called by a majority vote within the Elders with a two week notice of the event.

3. Rules and Regulations

- A.** A “quorum” shall consist of 25% of the active members on role.
- B.** The official year of the church shall begin on January 1.
- C.** Moderator shall be the Pastor or Chairman of the Elders.
- D.** Members must be 16 years of age to vote.

Article VII. Officers

All officers, boards and committees shall assume their duties at the beginning of the official year. All officers must be members in good standing of the church.

1. Senior Pastor:

- A.** The Senior Pastor shall be called for an indefinite time by a 2/3 majority vote of the church. (there must be a quorum present)
- B.** The Senior Pastor shall have oversight of all ministries of the church in cooperation with the Elders.
- C.** The Senior Pastor shall oversee the spiritual welfare of the church along with the Elders. He shall enlist men as followers of Christ, preach the Gospel, administer the Sacraments, have under his care all services of worship, and administer the activities of the church in cooperation with the various boards and committees. He shall be chairman of the church and shall be an advisor to all other organizations of the church.
- D.** The Senior Pastor will be recommended by the Elders. Potential candidates will be introduced to the congregation within two weeks and will be brought to a vote before the active members of the church.
- E.** Vote can be taken on secret ballot or by Roberts Rules of Order except for public discussion. (Discussion, if necessary, will be done with Elders prior to the vote)
- F.** The Elders may request the pastor’s resignation with the expectation that it will be presented immediately. If the pastor chooses to resign for any reason, it is requested he give a 60 day notice.

2. Church Secretary

The secretary shall keep a faithful record of the proceedings in business meetings of the church and shall be elected by the end of the year through nomination and vote.

3. Financial

- A.** Treasurer – the treasurer shall receive all payments, offerings, current expenses, and benevolence subscriptions and deposit all money in the bank and report this to the church Trustees and Elders.
- B.** Assistant Treasurer – the assistant treasurer shall assist the treasurer wherever needed and upon the absence of the treasurer, collect any monies and deposit the amount in the bank.
- C.** Operations Manager – the operations manager shall receive testimony of all money of the church, shall pay all bills of the church, record gifts, and distribute an accurate account for each contributing member annually. The operations manager shall provide the Treasurer, Chairman of the Trustees, Senior Pastor, and Elders with a monthly report of all debts, credits, and status of all budgets year-to-date and for the current month for the purpose of accountability. Financial statements of one's contributions shall be received upon request.

4. Other Officers

Other officers shall be elected as need dictates.

Article VIII. Boards and Committees

1. Executive Committee/Elders

- A.** The Elders shall have oversight of doctrinal positions of the church in cooperation with Senior Pastor.
- B.** The Elders shall work with the Trustees to create and present an annual budget in cooperation with the various boards, committees, and ministers.
- C.** An Elders shall be recommended by the Elders, voted on by the church, and elected with a 2/3 majority.
- D.** Removal of an Elder shall be by death, resignation, or by simple majority vote of the church.
- E.** The number of Elders shall be the Senior Pastor plus a minimum of four current church members.
- F.** Elders obtain the right to remove any board or committee member.

2. Deacons

- A.** Deacons shall assist the Senior Pastor in caring for the needs of the church family at large according to the Scriptures. (Acts 6:3; 1 Timothy 3:8-13)

3. Board of Trustees

- A. The Trustees shall consist of five members and shall serve for a minimum period of three years. Members will rotate off and be replaced as needed.
- B. Trustees shall meet at least once a quarter or at a time set by the board as its members deem necessary for transaction of church business.
- C. A quorum shall consist of three members.
- D. Under the direction of the church, the Trustees shall have care and custody of the property of the church.
- E. The Trustees shall have no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease, or transfer real estate without specific authority by vote of the church.
- F. Trustees shall hold title to the church.
- G. Trustees shall have the responsibility of working with the Elders to approve the church budget prior to the annual meeting.
- H. Trustees in partnership with Elders will present the budget at the annual meeting.
- I. Bilateral approval between Trustees and Elders will be necessary for all capital expenditures not included in the budget or exceeding existing capital year-to-date expenditures in the budget.

4. Usher Chairman

- A. The Usher Chairman shall be elected at the annual church meeting.
- B. The Usher Chairman has complete oversight of the Usher Committee.

Article IX. Personnel Practices

- A. The Elders shall hire ministry staff as deemed necessary.
- B. The Elders will interview or designate someone to interview and recommend ministry candidates to the Senior Pastor for consideration.
- C. The Elders will negotiate salary and benefits packages with potential staff members. Salary and benefits will be based on experience, congregational need, and the position or combination of positions to be held as well as the typical packages paid by church of similar membership and attendance.
- D. A staff member may have their employment terminated immediately for unbecoming behavior as identified by the Holy Scriptures. The termination will come through the Elders.
- E. If a staff member chooses to resign, a two-week notice is requested.

Article X. School

- A.** Grace Christian Academy is a ministry of Haw River Christian Church doing business as The Lamb's Chapel.
- B.** GCA School Board under the Elders shall be responsible to the church for the supervision and direction of the school.
- C.** School Board:
 - 1. School Board members shall be appointed by the Elders.
 - 2. School Board members shall serve a three-year term and then shall rotate off for a minimum of one year.
- D.** It shall be the duty of the school administrator to work under the school board in the daily administration of the school.
- E.** The school administrator will be hired in accordance with Article IX-A.
- F.** All teachers hired by the administrator must be approved by the school board.
- G.** All finances of the school will be handled through the church financial policies as stated in Article VII-3 a-c.
- H.** All teachers shall be active members of The Lamb's Chapel or an approved church of like faith approved by the Elders.

Article XI. Amendments

These by-laws may be altered or amended by a two-thirds majority vote at any regular or special meeting provided notice specifying the time of the meeting and substance of the proposed amendments shall have been given from the pulpit, in the church bulletin, newsletter, or provided electronically at least two weeks preceding said meeting. The by-laws listed in Articles I and IV may be amended only by a two-thirds vote and copies of the proposed amendments must be made available to the congregation for review. The review process will be a minimum of two months and a reminder of the special meeting to amend the by-laws will be announced to the congregation on three consecutive Sundays preceding such meeting.