

Constitution for The Huntington Chapel

ARTICLE 1. NAME

The name of this church is "The Huntington Chapel" of Shelton, Connecticut.

ARTICLE 2. VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT AND CORE VALUES

Section 1. Vision Statement

To be a multi-generational, culturally diverse family, who passionately pursues deeper intimacy with God, uniting to experience and express Christ's love, living a supernatural life through the Holy Spirit, bringing heaven to earth.

Section 2. Mission

Our Mission is to Glorify God and Raise Up Disciples Who Know Christ, Share Christ and Activate Christ in Others. We will do this by pursuing the following purposes:

1. Pray in faith
2. Abide and grow in the word daily
3. Worship God with all our hearts, minds, and souls
4. Love others with the love of God
5. Minister through the gifts of the Holy Spirit
6. Invite all into relationship with Christ

Section 3. Core Values

As we seek to pursue the vision and mission, we hold the following values in high esteem:

Commitment

Honor

Assembly

Passion

Excellence

Liberty

ARTICLE 3. STATEMENT OF FAITH

I ABOUT GOD

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three persons: The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. These three persons are co-equal and are one God. (Genesis 1:1, 26, 27; 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

II ABOUT MAN

Man is made in the image of God to be united with Him and to be like Him in character. He is the supreme object of God's creation. Although man has tremendous potential for good, he is marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin". This attitude separates man from God. (Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1 and 2)

III ABOUT ETERNITY

Man was created to exist forever. He will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or in union with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is to live eternally in Heaven. Heaven and Hell are places of eternal existence. (John 3:16; John 2:25; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:15; 1 John 5:11-13; Matthew 25:31-46)

IV ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus descended from heaven and became fully man, who lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all men by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again to earth to reign as King of kings, and Lord of lords. (Matthew 1:22-23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5, 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14-15; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 1:3-4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14-15; Titus 2:13)

V ABOUT SALVATION

Salvation is a gift from God to man. Man can never pay for his sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can man be saved from sin's penalty. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith. (Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8,9; John 14:6, 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1)

VI ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and the Son as God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. The Christian seeks to live under His control daily. (2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13, 14:16,17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25)

We also believe the Holy Spirit empowers believers for Christian witness and service. While all genuine believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit at conversion, the New Testament indicates the importance of an ongoing, empowering work of the Spirit subsequent to conversion as well. Being indwelt by the Spirit and being filled with the Spirit are theologically distinct experiences. The Holy Spirit desires to fill each believer continually with increased power for Christian life and witness, and imparts his supernatural gifts for the edification of the body and for various works of ministry in the world. All the gifts of the Holy Spirit at work in the church of the first century are available today, are vital for the mission of the church, and are to be earnestly desired and practiced. (Acts 1:5; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:2-4; Acts 19:2-6; Acts 6:3; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, John 3:5-7, Galatians 4:6, Ephesians 5:18)

VII ABOUT THE SCRIPTURES

We believe that the original manuscripts of the Old and New Testaments comprise the full, inspired, and inerrant Word of God which is the final authority in doctrine and practice. (Isaiah 40:8; 2 Timothy 3:16 and 17; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:20 and 21)

VIII ABOUT MARRIAGE AND SEXUALITY

The Huntington Chapel recognizes that Marriage is a Scriptural, therefore sacred, and holy institution. It is not to be considered lightly by this church, its ministers, or the parties to the marriage vows. The Huntington Chapel defines marriage as a God ordained covenant between one man and one woman (Mat 19:3-6). God created all things including male and female human beings (Genesis 1:26-28). God created marriage to be the union of one man and one woman for life with sexual intimacy legitimate only in that marriage (Genesis 2:24-25).

IX ABOUT SANCTITY OF LIFE

A human life begins under the power of God at conception, is designed in all of its physical, mental, ethnic, and genetic characteristics by God and the days of that individual's life are determined by God, (Ps. 139:13-17) God, in condemning murder, has declared that the power of life and death are in His hands and that mankind transgresses God's law when another's life is taken from him through murder, (Ex. 20:13). Abortion, infanticide, suicide, euthanasia and murder all destroy human life in violation of God's law.

X ABOUT HEALING AND RESTORATION

Though God opposes all sin, we believe that the Sovereign God can forgive and restore the offending ones to Himself by His Grace through personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. We believe it is our privilege to present this message to all who will hear. (2 Corinthians 5:18-21) and we believe it is our privilege to minister through prayer, biblical counsel and necessary aid, healing and restoration (Galatians 6:1; James 5:19-20).

ARTICLE 4. GOVERNMENT

Section 1. The Spiritual Control of the Church

The Huntington Chapel acknowledges only the Lord Jesus Christ as its Founder and Head, the Holy Scriptures as the only infallible guide in matters of faith, discipline, and order; the Holy Spirit as its teacher; and sole spiritual guide.

Section 2. The Function of the Elder Board

The temporal authority of the church shall be vested in the Elder Board which consists of the pastor(s) and lay elders. The Senior Pastor, in collaboration with the Elders, has control of all spiritual affairs of the church. The government of the Church, the conduct of its business, the management and control of all its property, real and personal, the supervision of its general work and its organizations, shall, under the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, be vested in the Elder Board. The elders will assist the Senior Pastor to impart, equip, and activate individuals for ministry.

Section 3. The Qualifications of the Elder Board

The lay elders shall be those of mature Christian character as defined by Number 11:16, 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. The Elder Board, shall recommend to the Congregation those who can and will conscientiously, and without mental reservation, ascribe to: The Statement of Faith, Constitution, and By-Laws of The Huntington Chapel.

Section 4. Delegation of Authority by the Elder Board

The Elder Board shall have the ability to delegate to either individuals or Ministry Leaders. (Ministry Leaders as defined in the by-laws) the right to transact any of its business or exercise any of its functions; the transaction of such business however, shall be at all times subject to the authority of the Elder Board who may choose to alter or recall that delegation.

Section 5. Restrictions Imposed Upon the Elder Board

The Elder Board shall not encumber The Huntington Chapel with loan (except in the ordinary course), or transfer, or sell or purchase any real estate, of, or for The Huntington Chapel except by Majority vote of the Congregation.

ARTICLE 5. FINANCIAL POLICY OF THE CHURCH

This Church shall operate on a faith basis, depending solely on the Lord's provision for the support of His work, through the voluntary, free will offerings of His people as described in 2 Corinthians 8. Proportionate giving is a distinct and positive command in the Scriptures, and we obligate ourselves to the giving of tithes and offerings for the support of the Church as we believe God requires of us according to the principles laid down in Leviticus 27: 30-32, 1 Corinthians 16:2 and Malachi 3:10-12.

ARTICLE 6. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Constitution may be adopted by a 3/4 majority of the members of the congregation voting at an announced meeting. The amendment shall be distributed in written form to the membership at least two weeks prior to the annual meeting at which action on the matter will be taken.