

# *Lighthouse*

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MINISTRIES WORLDWIDE

*Credentialed Ministers*

**General Bylaws**

102 West Hudson Street

Wellsville, MO 63384

[www.lighthouseministriesworldwide.org](http://www.lighthouseministriesworldwide.org)

**Founder: John H. Foster**

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# Part One

## Members and Ministers

Members and Ministers will be defined as those who have received a calling and have responded to that call by entering the fivefold ministry as Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, or Teacher. (*Eph. 4:11-12*)

These positions will be recognized by either resolution commission or

a certificate of credential to hold and maintain that position of ministry as an Ordained, Licensed, commissioned or recognized member/minister of the association (Bishop, Pastor, Apostle)

Anyone to hold an office of the fivefold ministry that would require a certificate of credentials be honored or granted will be required final approval of the founder/CEO of Lighthouse Ministries Worldwide (LHMW).

Those who hold leadership positions in our structure are considered members/ministers of the association.

## Expectations

Everyone seeking to enter fellowship with LHMW should be of clear understanding of the expectations, responsibilities, and commitments to be agreed thereof.

By becoming an active member of LHMW, the credentialed minister has agreed to promote, represent, support the principles and ministry of LHMW. These include the doctrinal views, vision, bylaws, and policies. Among which are the following:

**Doctrinal beliefs:** The minister must be in complete agreement with the doctrinal views of the association as outlined in part 2 of these bylaws.

**Bible versions:** Any bible version may be used, EXCEPT THE NIV. (New International Version). We would recommend the following: KJV (King James Version), ESV (English Standard Version), CJB (Complete Jewish Bible) by David Sterns.

**Finances:** The minister must be prompt and responsible regarding all financial obligations. These include the association, their church, and their personal and business obligations included in the secular world. That LHMW is and must remain a debt free ministry.

**Fellowship:** The minister should strive to be in fellowship with the leadership of the association and all LHMW churches. Our purpose is to be one in Christ and to promote total unity in the body thereof.

**Honor:** Every minister shall honor our Lord and LHMW by being above reproach in all matters. Sharing a good example and testimony and the love of God with all. Each one shall refrain from giving a questionable, disruptive, or harmful opinion or information. Each is to strive to preach and promote truth and fact to the Gospel message. Never public opinion or gossip. (1Cor.1:10)

**Calling:** God places all authority. Jesus is the Head of the church. When a person is called by our Lord we will be able to recognize and discern the grace applied to that person of the calling of which they are called. This process must be done in the leading of the Spirit and will line up with the Word of God.

The call to ministry is of the highest honor. As a leader in LHMW church, we will be held double accountable and must understand the responsibility of that position.

## Definition of Credential Classification

**Ordination:** Being fully qualified to perform all duties and responsibilities of the office he has been called to by God. This qualification is set according to the Holy scripture. Includes officiating all phases of the ministerial functions of the church. Also, would permit privileges of officiating and ordaining by the laying on of hands.

1. Must be one who can and has demonstrated a good understanding of the Word of God in ministry.
2. Must be one who has faithfully fulfilled the responsibilities of ministry over an extended period and be seasoned in all phases of the ministry.
3. Must be ordained by the laying on of hands by an ordained minister of equal or advanced calling of LHMW. The laying on of hands must be witnessed by at least two people of no less than a commission status in LHMW.
4. Must be of male gender by birth and identify as a man.
5. Must be a man of one wife. Death of a spouse is the only exception.
6. Must hold a license certificate from LHMW.
7. The call to ordination is only from God! This call must be recognized and agreed upon by two or more ordained men allowed to manifest an ordination of someone. This is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a man. Must be done in prayer and seeking; no other method can be used.
8. Everyone brought forward to be ordained must be approved by the founder or CEO of LHMW.

**License:** Being fully qualified to perform all duties and responsibilities of the office he has been called to by God. This qualification is set according to the Holy scripture. Includes officiating all

phases of the ministerial functions of the church. Performs all duties under and held accountable to an ordained man of equal or advanced calling.

1. Must be of male gender by birth and identify as a man.
2. Must show the call of ministry up on them and grace applied.
3. Must be recognized by an ordained man of LHMW.
4. Must be a man of one wife. Death of a spouse is the only exception.

**Commission:** Being fully qualified to act in an administrative ministry capacity within appointment limitations. Example: Elder/Deacon, Evangelist, Teacher, Women's leader, Youth leader, Men's leader, or a board member, etc. The Deacon must be the man of one wife. Death of a spouse is the only exception.

## Members and Ministers Requirements

LHMW is established on faithfulness. We expect every member/minister to participate in demonstrating faithfulness upon learning the doctrines, principals, and practices of LHMW.

1. LHMW expects its members/ministers to maintain a good standard of living and appearance in their homes and community, being good examples, above reproach, having good reports. (*1Tim 3:7*)
2. All members/ministers establish and maintain communication and fellowship with LHMW headquarters, and not be negligent in their responsibilities with LHMW. (*1Pet 5:3*)
3. Just as the Law imposes specific fiduciary duties on the boards of directors and officers of all nonprofit organizations, whether incorporated or unincorporated, the conduct of all Members/Ministers or officers is also to be held to the same high standards of conduct. Therefore, the fiduciary duties and responsibilities of all members/ministers' officers include.
  - a) Not being slothful in their business affairs, both with LHMW and their personal business.
  - b) Adhering to and abiding by any guidelines, regulations, or limitations set for their operations within these general bylaws, any special bylaws, Resolutions, Policies, or Agreements as enacted from time to time relating to the ministry of LHMW.
  - c) If the member/minister or officer is in oversight of a chartered or affiliated subordinate entity such as a church, ministry, or department, they must also wholly abide by the articles of agreement, special bylaws, rules, regulations, or policies as may be set for their particular charter affiliation.

## Financial Obligations

**Tithing** is an act of obedience. (*Duet 14:22*) We recognize that everything we have and are given comes from God. We are to give tithe from the heart back of what we have earned to support the Kingdom's work. (*Gen 14:20, Heb 7:1-10*) LHMW then will pray and seek God for the placement of His monies to advance the Kingdom work wherever He may lead. (*Ps 143:10*) To whom much is given, much is expected! (*Luke 12:48*)

We ask and trust that all members/ministers who hold credentials of LHMW would tithe of their ministerial income to LHMW. This is only a tithe based on the income they receive directly from their credentials and/or ministries. We trust that anyone who is fully trusting in our Savior will agree and practice this faithfulness with us.

### **Definition of ministerial income:**

- a) Any funds received because of services rendered, in connection with, or in recognition of having a certificate of credential of ministry with LHMW.
- b) Any and all forms of compensation earned as a Member/Minister to use for personal expenses, is considered to be income. This income is from a ministry position only.
- c) If a Member/Minister is bi-vocational, the tithe of their secular income should be given at their home church.

We at LHMW ask that each member/minister please keep their tithes and obligations current each month, as we are working with commitments and obligations to forward all LHMW churches and our ministry personnel. The money received is returned as the Spirit of God leads us to do so. Our goal is not to be wealthy, it is simply to promote and build the Kingdom work here on the earth. We understand and with sober mindedness need to carry funds in case of disasters or crisis.

**Our commitment to each of you is:** LHMW will support and forward the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Yeshua the Messiah) to all the world. As the Holy Spirit leads, we will seek and follow His leading. We believe that we have set our structure up as Jesus intended it to be and will continue to follow that example in all the things we are called to do. We will promote and encourage all who are sent by God to us. We will promote unity and love everywhere we go. We will use the funds given to us by our Lord to do this with the purest intentions of being the ecclesia of Jesus. We will live and remain debt free in God's economy thus being led by the Spirit of truth and not the command of man. This is our Vision and commitment to all who are with us.

## Entry Requirements

### **All who apply must submit the following:**

1. A commitment fee of \$1.00 (US dollar).

2. A letter of reference from a LHMW Member/Minister. If this is not possible, must meet with the executive board and receive recommendation from them.
3. At least two, but preferably three letters of recommendation from other ministers who can give examples of the applicant's ministry life.
4. A recent photo of the applicant.
5. A current background check. If they do not have one, we will need to obtain this and apply any cost to do so.
6. Must meet all guidelines of scripture to be considered in the position sought.
7. Must fill out and complete an application form.

**Please have all information available before sending. This will help keep cost and time down and help speed up the process.**

## Minister Applications

Upon application we will consider these factors: ministers age, how long they have been in ministry, and their ministerial experience. Also, we will follow up on all background reports and letters of reference we have available. We may request that someone meet with the executive board if we choose or need more information.

We will require everyone who seeks to be involved with LHMW, as a leader holding a credential, to have read and understood the LHMW entry statement. This will be evident by the applicant's ability to answer several questions about our bylaws, doctrines, and structure. It will be available upon applying to LHMW.

Ministers with credentials from another recognized association could receive the same level of credentials as they held prior to applying to LHMW. This will be taken under consideration with a letter of good standing and conduct from a LHMW pastor or above. All credentials must come before, and be agreed on, by the executive board of LHMW. We are not obligated to issue any credentials that we are in question about. All the executive board's decisions are final.

Any minister transferring from another association to LHMW must receive a license from LHMW to be active in our association. Also, they may not hold or maintain any credentials with any other organization while being with LHMW.

## As a Certified Minister

We should live in compliance with the LHMW constitution, bylaws, rules, and regulations. Also teach and support the doctrines and views of LHMW continuing on, and in agreement with LHMW. We must be in unity as we teach and bring truth to those who trust in us as leaders.



We ask (but do not require) that every member of LHMW attend and support special functions of LHMW, when in the area. These include revivals, special meetings, and fellowship.

We ask that each member/minister of LHMW encourage and be accountable to each other; always looking out for each other's interest and the fulfilling of God's plan where they are. When we work together, we will give glory to our Father above.

Any member/minister may be removed by the executive board of directors at any time for a breach of the constitution, bylaws, articles of agreement, rules, or regulations of LHMW, or for any evidence of an inordinate lifestyle as defined by the executive board of directors.

As a member/minister of LHMW you will be mentored and encouraged to advance. We will promote and uplift those who are with us as part of our LHMW family. We will seek and listen for the direction of our Lord to advance anyone who is a member/minister of LHMW.

## Our Part

1. We will maintain a good environment to always communicate with our members/ministers. This will include being able to access our website and programs to promote growth and to have resources available.
2. We will be active in supporting our members/ministers in finding churches and opportunities to engage with LHMW affiliations.
3. We will engage in prayer with each member/minister's ministry. Our intercessors will be available to help and seek on everyone's behalf.
4. We will give guidance to all affiliations of LHMW for materials and teaching aids when needed.
5. We will actively work to engage all members/ministers in missions and foreign ministry.
6. We will be accountable to all our members/ministers financially.
7. We will strive to hold the highest standards to all those we are overseeing.
8. We will handle all things with love, but with authority.
9. We will operate as a debt-free association.

## Your Part

1. Each will maintain a good environment to always communicate with LHMW, use our website to promote and forward the work of LHMW.
2. Share opportunities to engage and call to speak to other LHMW members/ministers.

3. Be in prayer as each affiliate individually, and join corporately as we pray and seek guidance for each other.
4. Seek materials and guidance from LHMW for teachings and doctrine issues.
5. Engage with us as LHMW to promote our churches overseas. Be actively involved through LHMW to be a part of missions and the total project. Our goal is to unify and carry the commission of our Lord together.
6. Be financially responsible to LHMW and everyone we are in contact with.
7. Strive to live the highest standards of a life in Christ.
8. Handle everything with Love.

## Definition of Offices

We have set in place a biblically structured association at LHMW. We will start by stating the offices of Overseer at LHMW.

### Overseers

1. **Apostle/Archbishop:** This is the highest office in LHMW. The man receiving this appointment must show extraordinary qualities and gifts of the Holy Spirit beyond normal expectations. This Appointment can only be brought forth by the founder CEO of LHMW and must be in total agreement by the executive board of directors. Must have grace applied to carry out the calling and be outstanding among others. His desires would be to the Kingdom work above all others and to be able to hear and follow our Lord in a unique way. He must be able to lead and administrate the duties of the office and be led by the Spirit to call men forward and enter the ministry. Teach, train, and work with their Bishops to fully promote the work given them where they are. May God bring these men to us. The responsibility of overseeing other Bishops and their flocks would be added to their role as Archbishops.
2. **Bishop:** The office of Bishop is a great honor. A Bishop will be a man of authority with their responsibilities to their Archbishop. They will oversee their Pastors, Prophets, Evangelist, and flocks and church responsibilities that they are given cover of. They would work to serve the areas where they are called and lead them spiritually, administratively, ministerially, and excite the Kingdom work there. Bishops must submit to their Archbishop and work closely with them in prayer and leading.
3. **Pastor:** The pastor is the shepherd of a local flock. As a Pastor they will oversee, administrate, and lead a flock of believers in the place they are called. They must submit to their Bishop as their overseer. They will be men above reproach and able to bring people to Jesus; then from those, make disciples as the word says. They must be able to

teach and preach the word in truth and bring Glory to God wherever they are called. This office requires at least a license credential to serve at LHMW.

These offices of appointment will fall under the biblical instructions of this section. Within these appointments, the power to ordain and guide LHMW is given, and every decision is to be, and will be, made by the calling of the Holy Spirit. These callings must be discerned by and agreed upon by two or three witnesses of equal or higher offices involved with LHMW. All ordinations must be approved by the founder of LHMW.

## Given Calls

1. **Prophet/Prophetess:** This calling is given to both men and women. The Word of God says that He speaks through both genders and reveals His word to those He calls. This is a gift that is necessary for the building and leading in the Kingdom work. The call of a prophet is not an office of overseer; however an overseer may have the gift of prophecy. This calling does not require a license or above. This calling would receive a commission status to be recognized by LHMW. Anyone giving prophecy to someone at LHMW is required to be recognized by the overseer at their whereabouts. A prophet can speak and minister from the pulpit as allowed by scripture. A prophetess would not be allowed to preach or speak from a pulpit unless she is covered by her husband or her overseer. She is to only deliver the prophecy she was given. Prophecies must be recorded and kept on record for accountability and/or review by LHMW.

*Note from the founder. Over the years I have encountered many who prophesy. God has allowed me to hear and declare His leading in situations. I, as all should, seek and desire this gift. But there is a difference between being able to prophecy and being a prophet/prophetess.*

*We at LHMW welcome and depend on this calling to lead and direct our ministry. But we must discern and seek our Lord for the true calling of this Gift. I have been blessed with some around me that are called to this position. They are God sent people. They are humble gifted people that love and live a life of Holiness and prayer before God. They are precious to the body and thank God for his grace to us as a team.*

*I want to strongly warn all who say they are prophets/prophetess to be very sure of that calling. This position is often misguided and destructive. We must test all things! I do not accept or believe that there are prophets on every corner of the streets today as the western church is presenting there to be. This is a place that is easily manipulated by the adversary and can tear a church to pieces. It must be done in order and humbleness, tested, and fruit must be born from the action it brings. Please seek God and look for agreement before allowing someone to assume this position around you or your churches.*

2. **Evangelist:** An evangelist is a person who is called to carry out the good news. The calling of an evangelist is not one of an overseer. They are to give the message of salvation of the Lord given them to encourage the growth of the kingdom. They are to

work along with and encourage the Pastors where they are called to evangelize. They are to teach absolute truth and have a powerful understanding of the word and the gift to deliver the word of God as an evangelist would. This is a gift that would be recognized to serve at LHMW.

3. **Teacher:** A teacher can be either man or woman. God has called both genders to teach. This appointment requires a commission status with LHMW. As teachers, we should be updating and learning continually as teachers are the foundation builders of the churches. I would recommend that we, as leaders, set our teachers up in the correct manner according to the Word of God. Women would teach our children and other women, and men teach adult classes. Should an adult class need to be taught of adult couples, I would recommend an adult couple to teach both men and women together. This brings joy and encouragement to all who are attending.

## Grievances

At LHMW, if there arises a problem or someone is offended or has a grievance, you should follow the word of God promptly. (*Matt 18:18*)

We would encourage and expect that the issue be taken to those other person(s) involved in the issue.

If you cannot find a resolution for the issue at hand, then you may bring it to LHMW. It must come in the written form of complaint and must include documentation of times and dates including but not exhausted with:

1. Time and place of original offense.
2. Details of that event and circumstances that occurred while there.
3. Names of all who are involved in this event. Please include anyone that was there as a witness. If no witness were there, then did you talk to anyone about this event afterwards? Please include their names and ways to contact them.
4. If you have followed the Word of God, please give us the names of the two witnesses that you have used to approach the other party, upon the second meeting with them.
5. If there are video or photos taken, please surrender those with your report to the LHMW main office.

Please write on the envelope the words “official complaint” and remit to:

**Lighthouse Ministries Worldwide**  
**104 West Hudson Street**  
**Wellsville Mo. USA 63384**

When received at the main office, we will contact you and begin to assist to resolve any matters at hand as quickly as possible.

Any complaint that has broken the law of the land will be turned over to the proper authorities as soon as we learn of it.

Anyone who makes a false complaint will receive rebuke from LHMW. Decisions made by the executive board at LHMW will stand and be final in all cases. We will diligently work to solve and bring resolution on behalf of both parties.

## Part Two

### The Truth

All of us that choose to become a part of the LHMW membership must agree and believe the same truth! That truth is defined in detail in this section. This is not an exhaustive definition, but we will try and give definition to the main points of Ecclesia as best we can.

Each of us must be in total agreement of these facts and recognize them as truths and facts of the Holy Scriptures.

Each of us must agree to preach and teach these truths in agreement with one another as we proclaim the Gospel message here or abroad.

Each one must be in fellowship with one another to promote the unity of the body of Christ wherever we are and to be the example to those we come into contact with.

Everyone in leadership must live a life in accordance with the scriptures and be above reproach!

### Statement of Faith

#### ***The Holy Bible***

We believe that the Holy Bible is the inspired and true Word of God. It is valid and perfect from the beginning to the end. We hold the Bible as the standard of all authority and truth. The Holy Bible is the basis of all teaching and practices in our body. (2Tim. 3:16)

#### ***The Godhead (Trinity)***

There is only one God! (1Cor. 8:6) He is infinite but exists in three persons: (Gen. 1:1) God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. (Matt. 28:19) These three persons align and coexist in perfect unity and are God. (1 John 5:7)

#### ***1. God the Father***

- a. Yahweh is Spirit. (John 4:24) He is Perfect and Just in everything. He is Perfect Love. (1 John 4:16) He gave and created the perfect order for His creation. (Gen. 1) He cannot look upon evil (Hab. 1:3) and no temptation comes from Him. (James 1:13) He desires His creation (man created in **our** image) (Gen. 1:26) to know Him. (1Tim. 2:3-4) He desires for us to have blessings (Matt. 19:29) and live an abundant life (John 10:10) here in the present and for an eternity with Him. He is a Just God. (2Thess. 1:6-8) He is just to bring wrath on those who choose sin as a way of life. God does not change. (Mal. 3:6) He has no beginning or end (Psalms 90:2) He always was and always will be. He is sovereign (Col. 1:16) and everything will come as He has planned. He authors all grace and mercy (Heb. 4:16) He is all that is good. (James 1:17)

## 2. **God the Son**

- a. Yeshua is God incarnate. (John 1:14) Jesus was fully man and fully God. He was the perfect image of the invisible Father. (Col. 1:15) He was born through means of the Holy Spirit by a virgin mother Mary. (Luke 1:34-35) God the Father sent His Son Jesus to earth to bring about His plan of redemption. (John 3:16) Jesus lived a sinless life. (2Cor. 5:21) He was obedient even to death on the cross. (Phil. 2:8) He bore the sin of the world on the cross (1Pet. 2:24) and was resurrected by His Father to overcome death (sin). (1Pet. 1:3) He then ascended (Mark 16:19) to the right hand of the Father (Acts 7:55) and is given the name above all names. (Phil. 2:9) He is our mediator to the Father, (1Tim. 2:5) and He is the only way to be Saved. (John 14:5-14) He is the righteousness that God the Father demands for entering His presence. (Jer. 33:15)

## 3. **God the Holy Spirit**

- a. Ruach HaKodesh is the power at work in us today. (Acts 1:8) When Jesus ascended up to the Father He then sent the Holy Spirit to empower His followers. (Romans 15:13) We as the ecclesia are indwelt with the Holy Spirit. It then guides us, teaches us, and empowers us. (Mark 13:11, John 14:26) We receive the Holy Spirit when we receive Jesus as our Savior. (1Cor. 3:16) The Holy Spirit carries out God the Father's plans through us and we are to become led by Him. The scripture tells us that the person indwelt with the Holy Spirit is indwelt with God. (1 Cor.3:16)

### **Salvation**

This only comes through faith in Jesus Christ. (Romans 6:23) We cannot earn or work our way to the Father. (Eph. 2:8-9) God's sovereign plan of redemption is laid out perfectly in His divine Word. From the moment that man (**Adam**) fell from Grace, God put in motion a plan to redeem His loved creation. (Romans 5:21) When we hear the Good News and choose to receive it, we must humble ourselves before the King of Kings. We first repent for our sin, that is to turn toward God sorrowfully. Then we must understand and receive Jesus's death on the cross as our sacrifice before God the Father. (1Cor. 5:7) We then receive His (**Jesus**) righteousness on us. We then receive God the Father to indwell us by His Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38) At this point we confess Jesus as our Lord and Savior, believe in hearts, and receive His Grace. (Romans 10:9) We do all of this by faith. God's word says that those who do this and trust in Jesus will be saved. (Eph. 2:8-9) We understand that we are born again to a new creation in Christ. (2Cor. 5:17) We now are forgiven of our sin and are made right before God the Father. (Romans 5:9, Eph. 1:7) Jesus then mediates our relationship with the Father.

**John 3:5-8 (ESV)** <sup>5</sup> *Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."* <sup>6</sup> *That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.* <sup>7</sup> *Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'* <sup>8</sup> *The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."*

### **Grace**

This is a gift that only comes from the Father. (Romans 3:24) When we trust in Jesus for our

righteousness, we receive grace. Jesus is that grace! (Romans 3:22) We are no longer under the law of sin and death, but are under grace. (Romans 6:14) God the Father is Just in that He will keep His laws. His ways are not our ways. (Is. 55:8-9) What He says will stand! All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23) Therefore, His laws say we are to receive condemnation and wrath, but God so loved the world that He sent Jesus to atone for us. (John 3:16) God had a perfect and divine plan to bring us back to Him. When we trust in Jesus, we are no longer to receive wrath but receive undeserved favor (grace). We also see the term grace used for the Holy Spirit giving us the tools and things we need to carry out God's work. He graces us with the things we need. (Heb. 4:16)

### ***The Church***

Ecclesia is the collection of those who have heard the Gospel and received salvation. (Romans 8:14) As people that trust in Jesus, we are a transformed and born again body that seeks the ways of God. (Romans 12:1-2) We understand and live the ways of His Kingdom. We look forward to our blessed hope when Jesus will receive us in the air. At this time believers who are in the grave, and those who are still alive, will go to be with Him. (1Thess. 4:17) The bride of Christ (Ecclesia) is both Jews and Gentiles; it is all those who trust in Jesus as their Savior! (Gal.3:28)

### ***Deeds***

These are the works that we do, good or evil. (2Cor. 5:10) If we are born again, we then will bear good deeds. (Matt. 7:17) They alone cannot earn us salvation. (Eph. 2:8-10) Good deeds are a result of salvation. Not the other way around.

### ***Gifts of the Holy Spirit***

These are real and active today. (Joel 2:28) We believe that we should seek the gifts (1Cor. 14:1) and that the Holy Spirit grants them as He sees good. (1Cor. 12:10, Eph. 4:11) We believe that all gifts should be used and exercised in the structure that God has placed in His divine word. Paul gives us a complete picture in his letters. (1Cor. 13:1) We believe the gifts are as follows: word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment, tongues, and interpreting of tongues. (1Cor. 12:8-10) Also, service, exhortation, generosity, administration, and mercy.

(Rom. 12:6-8) We believe and understand that God gives these gifts to whom He chooses, and we must not usurp His authority. Everything must be done in prayer agreement and intercession with the Holy Spirit.

### ***Authority and Offices of the Ecclesia***

These are placed by God. (1Cor. 12:28, Eph. 4:11) Jesus is the head of the Ecclesia. (Eph. 5:23) God in his foreknowledge of everything, has prepared and called those whom He chooses. We as man must seek and pray to bind or loose these things here on earth as it is in Heaven. (Matt. 18:18) We believe that this is to be done in the agreement of two or more witnesses. (Matt. 18:19)

### ***Love***

It is the key to all things in the kingdom of God! (1Peter 4:8, 1Cor. 13:1)



### **Holiness**

This is how we choose to live. We believe that we are to live lives of holiness. We are to be Holy, because God is Holy. (1 Peter 1:16, Lev. 11:44-45) We become holy (set apart) when we are born again. (1Cor. 3:16) Our trust in Jesus immediately sets us apart from the world. As we walk out, learn, and understand God's divine word we should apply His holy ways to our lives. (1 Peter 1:15) Living a life of holiness is for our blessing. It is not our way to salvation, but it is a result of trust in Jesus. (Hebrews 12:14)

### **The Great Commission!**

Jesus tells us to spread the good news. The good news is that He is the savior to the world. We believe that we are to be about sharing God's word wherever He puts our feet on the ground. It's our desire to carry the Gospel to the ends of the earth by whatever means it takes. We seek and pray for opportunities to open for us to do this. With the Holy Spirit leading and grace, we are ready to respond. (Matt. 28:18-20)

### **Baptism**

Baptism is by immersion in water (Matt. 3:13-16) and must be done with the pronouncement of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, (Matt. 28:19) with at least two witnesses. (Matt. 18:18) Baptism is the outward showing of an inward change and is a first step in obedience to our covenant relationship with our Father. (Rom. 6:1-6) When we truly want to be like our Savior, we will follow His example. (John 1:31)

### **Our Blessed Hope**

The Rapture will Happen! Jesus will return to gather His Ecclesia. (1Thess. 4:16) We believe that this will happen before the **time of Jacob** (Matt. 24:15) in the end times. We will be gathered to Jesus in the air and be taken with Him to escape wrath. (Rev. 6:12-17)

### **Marriage and Divorce**

We believe that the marriage bed is to be undefiled and that the only sex that is not sexual immorality is within the covenant of marriage. (Heb. 13:4)

Marriage is of God (Gen. 2:24) and was created to fill the earth with His creation. (Gen. 1:28) Marriage is only between a man and a woman (Gen. 2:18-22) who have bound themselves together in a covenant before God by the giving of word and the laws of the land in which they reside. (1 Peter 2:13, Rom. 13) Marriage is of high honor and is to be held in esteem to all. (Heb. 13:4) Divorce happens and is only to be permitted when a spouse has committed adultery. (Matt. 5:32) Jesus tells us that Moses permitted it because of sin. (Matt. 19:8) God's intent was that it shouldn't happen. (Matt. 19:8) It is not His desire that we should divorce one another. (Mal. 2:16)

We at LHMW would recommend that anyone who has chosen to marry, undergo a time of God led counseling or instruction. Prayerfully seeking God about a commitment of such magnitude that it ends in the death of a spouse. With divorce comes many consequences and must be only allowed if that is the only alternative. If at all possible, we pray and work toward reconciling the Marriage.

### ***Tithing***

This is an act of obedience. (Duet. 14:22) We recognize that everything we have and are given comes from God. We are to give back (tithe) a tenth of what we have earned to support the Kingdom's work. (Gen. 14:20, Heb. 7:1-10) LHMW will then pray and seek God for the placement of His monies to advance the Kingdom work wherever He may lead. (Ps. 143:10) To whom much is given, much is expected! (Luke 12:48)

### ***Citizens***

We are expected to live in peace. As a citizen we are to be like Jesus, and wherever possible, as it is up to **you**, we should live in peace. Paul instructs us to be examples to those around us and to live peaceful lives. (Rom. 13:1-5)

## **Scriptural Background**

*This section is provided to help us better understand the scriptural basis for what and how we believe. Our foundations are built upon the Holy and true Word of God. We look to and verify all things by its standards and apply them as they bring blessing and fruit.*

LHMW approves the use of all translations other than the NIV (New International Version). We recognize that over the last 50 years many advancements have been made in the way we translate the original language. Since the finding of the dead sea scrolls and other technologies there are many new and advanced translations to choose from. We also realize that everyone is different, and some translations speak to them better than others. LHMW would recommend that anyone teaching or preaching for LHMW be aware and compare different translations while in study, seek and pray about the word and trust in our Savior for the mystery to be revealed. With all that being said, we would refer all who teach to start with the original text and an interlinear for closest study of the Word.

LHMW recommends these 3 translations to us, KJV (King James Version), ESV (English Standard Version), CJB (Complete Jewish Bible) By David sterns.

LHMW recognizes that all versions are not perfect in translation as we find many words to be transliterated. We must compare and seek our Lord for truth and trust in the Word as we have it available to us. After all, His word will go forth and not return Void. (Is. 55:11)

## Part Three

### Examples of Subordinates

Lighthouse Ministries Worldwide has provided for a variety of charting options. Each subordinate organization may choose to affiliate with the Association on the terms that best suit their particular needs and structure.

1. All inter-organizational entities and their local bodies are classified as individual churches, which may have auxiliaries.
2. All churches, associations, ministries, and organizations and their integrated auxiliaries or groups operating under the direction, supervision, control or authority of any church or group associated with Lighthouse Ministries Worldwide and recognized under their Articles of Agreement, Special Bylaws, or Resolutions.
3. Any other group, association, organization, or affiliation whose operations and purposes shall be recognized as religious, benevolent, or charitable and their auxiliaries may be included.

### IRS Rev. Proc. 80-27

#### The "Central" or "Parent" Organization

On November 10, 2014, Lighthouse Ministries Worldwide became incorporated under **RSMO 352** by Vickie Lierheimer.

In the coming years, LHMW became qualified and acquired a Group Exempt Letter from the Internal Revenue Service as a parent, or central, organization that can provide 501(c)3 status to all of its subordinate organizations pursuant to Internal Revenue Service Revenue Procedure 80-27.

IRS Rev. Proc. 80-27 explains the requirement for inclusion in a Group Exempt Letter as follows:

1. A central organization applying for a group exemption letter must obtain recognition of its own exempt status.
2. It must also establish that the subordinates to be included in the group exemption letter are:
  - a. Affiliated with the central organization;
  - b. Subject to its general supervision;
  - c. All exempt under the same paragraph of section 501(c)3 if the Code, though not necessarily the paragraph under which the central organization is exempt;

- d. All on the same accounting period as the central or parent organization
3. Each subordinate must authorize the central organization to include it in the application for the group exemption letter. The authorization must be signed by a duly authorized officer of the subordinate and retained by the central organization while the group exemption letter is in effect.

## Classification of Charters

As a central or parent organization, LHMW is responsible for maintaining the group exempt letter status on behalf of all subordinate organizations that are chartered and included under its group exemption letter with the Internal Revenue Service.

To fulfill this obligation, LHMW relies on articles of agreement between the subordinate organization and the association as clearly defined terms of operation and procedure.

1. LHMW has been set in order and has made provisions in the constitution so that churches or groups may enter the LHMW and be affiliated as they see fit within the qualifications and limitations of the articles of agreement.
2. The articles of agreement is a legal document drawn up between the LHMW and their subordinates which authorizes them to be included in LHMW group exemption.
3. Articles of agreement will be required as chartering and affiliation documentation for all subordinates of LHMW that define the classification and terms of their affiliation as to whether they are incorporated or unincorporated.
4. Articles of agreement for each group shall be drawn up uniformly for each subordinate according to the classification of charter chosen when they enter into the articles of agreement LHMW. They may not be altered on the original structure to suit any individual, church, ministry, group, or organization to a short uniformity.
5. Articles of agreement shall clearly define the overall obligations, duties, and responsibilities of each subordinate and their Board of Directors or boards of overseers relating to their affiliation with the LHMW.
6. Subordinate shall be defined as any membership of affiliated church, organization, or association whose objects and purposes may be defined as religious, benevolent, and charitable and whose operations must never be inconsistent with those of the LHMW.
7. Whether incorporated or unincorporated, only subordinates, and their auxiliaries who made the requirements of **RSMO 352 and the Internal Revenue Procedure 80-27** as a church or auxiliary with religious purpose and for the advancement of every religion shall be included.
8. Also the ordinarant must not qualify for the group exemption but also:

- a. Maintain their legal, business, and operating procedures and relationship with White House ministries worldwide and the secular business relationships as recorded in their articles of agreement, special bylaws, and resolutions.
  - b. Must never be inconsistent with LHMW's constitution, bylaws, rules, and regulations.
9. Each subordinate shall have its own Board of Directors or boards of overseers and officers as described in their articles of agreement.
10. All corporations and chartered subordinates presently under LHMW's group exemption may be reviewed from time to time and required to update their articles of agreement, charter, or corporation to comply with the current applicable statutes that may be organized under, including:
  - a. IRS Revenue Procedures 80-27
  - b. RSMO
  - c. RSMO Corporate Law
  - d. Unincorporated Association Act
11. The LHMW and each of its subordinates and their Board of Directors or overseers and officers may enter into any other legal, secular, or other agreements by any other document or resolution necessary to comply with any future laws or codes and including the necessary documents to operate this association and its subordinates and a successful manner.

There are currently four distinct classifications of chartered entities. Each establishes the relationship best suited to its structure and purpose, and each has its own unique requirements and regulations.

## Class One Subordinates

1. All major divisions and their departments, sub departments, districts, sections, or any of their integrated auxiliaries are considered class one subordinates of LHMW.
2. Any class one subordinate church whose properties and assets have been entrusted by the founder of that church and its congregation into the care and management of LHMW to ensure its protection, oversight, and perpetual existence as a church according to the vision of the founders of the church.
3. Any class one subordinate church that has been directly founded and established by LHMW.
4. Any class one subordinate churches whose properties and assets are owned by the LHMW division and under the overall control and management of the LHMW division.

5. A board of overseers is appointed by the executive board of overseers of the LHMW assemblies division and to each class one church to oversee the churches business affairs, purposes, duties, and responsibilities.
6. All class one subordinate churches are required to send a tithing of their total monthly income to the LHMW headquarters office in Wellsville, Missouri.

## Class Two Subordinates

1. The articles of agreement for class two subordinates will be a detailed document to find the perpetual membership relationship of the subordinate church to LHMW assemblies division of LHMW, whether a subordinate is incorporated or unincorporated.
2. Class two subordinates shall:
  - a. Have its own Board of Directors or overseers and officers as described in their articles of agreement and special bylaws.
  - b. They must exceed the oversight, control, and management of the LHMW assemblies division and the executive board of directors of LHMW.
3. The title and deed to all properties and assets will be directly in the name of the class two subordinate church, whether they are incorporated or unincorporated.
4. All churches and subordinates who are in class two must send a tithing of their total monthly income to the LHMW headquarters office in Wellsville, Missouri.

## Affiliate Churches, Organizations, & Associations

1. An affiliated subordinate, whether incorporated or unincorporated, will be any corporation, organization, association, church, or any other entity becoming chartered with the LHMW by articles of agreement, which will clearly define and establish their relationship to LHMW.
2. Affiliated churches, ministries, and subordinate groups or organizations must write their own bylaws and present them to the affiliation division for review to verify that they are not inconsistent with the constitution and general bylaws of LHMW before approval. Upon approval, they may be adopted.
3. If the affiliate subordinate does not have bylaws for the operations or is struggling with the procedure, LHMW can offer assistance in this process to ensure the minimum requirements are met.
4. The articles of agreement for all affiliated subordinate entities will be uniform from one church to another after January 1, 2022. However, each church or ministry may be unique based upon their bylaw requirements as long as they are not fundamentally inconsistent with LHMW.

5. All affiliate charters created after January one, 2022 must send a tithe of their income to the LHMW headquarters office in Wellsville, Missouri.

## Affiliate Charter Disaffiliation

1. This subordinate organization may disaffiliate with LHMW at any time, at the discretion of the Board of Directors of this organization, by process of the following criteria:
  - a. A resolution requesting disaffiliation from LHMW and removal from the group exempt coverage must be signed by the authorizing Board of Directors of the organization and submitted to LHMW. The resolution must also contain the intent of the organization and their IAN with the Internal Revenue Service. This information is vital for proper and correct registry with the Internal Revenue Service. Examples:
    - i. Active: will have continued active business under the EIN, after disaffiliation from LHMW.
    - ii. Inactive: all business activity will be discontinued under the EIN and the organization will be dissolved.
  - b. A fee of \$25 must be present with the resolution to cover the expenses of disaffiliation.
  - c. The tithing or charter fees for the subordinate organization must be current at the time of disaffiliation.
  - d. The original charter certificate and articles of agreement must be returned to LHMW.

## Fellowship Churches, Organizations, & Associations

*In a fellowship with the Christian Fellowship International Department of Voice of Truth World Outreach Division.*

1. A fellowship subordinate, whether incorporated or unincorporated, will be any corporation, organization, association, church, or any other entity becoming chartered by articles of agreement with the LHMW, which will clearly define and establish the relationship with Lighthouse Worldwide International Department of Voice of Truth World Outreach Division of LHMW.
2. Fellowship subordinates will be totally free to write their own governing documents, on their own properties and assets, and to maintain and conduct their own business affairs as long as they are not inconsistent with the nonprofit guidelines of their state and the Internal Revenue Service mandates and as long as they share the same general doctrinal values as the association as a whole.

3. There is no bondage of any type. Any fellowship subordinate charters can be established at any time. The subordinate can disconnect from the fellowship at any time at their prerogative with a simple resolution declaring their intent to disaffiliate and including a \$25 fee for the necessary paperwork.

## Fellowship Charter Disaffiliation

1. This subordinate organization may disaffiliate from LHMW at any time, at the discretion of the Board of Directors of this organization, by process of the following criteria:
  - a. A resolution requesting disaffiliation from LHMW and removal from the group exempt coverage must be signed by the authorizing Board of Directors of the organization and submitted to LHMW. The resolution must also contain the intent of the organization concerning the active status of their organization and their EIN with the Internal Revenue Service. **This information is vital** for a proper and correct registry with the Internal Revenue Service. Examples:
    - i. Active: Will have continued active business under the EIN after disaffiliation from the LHMW.
    - ii. Inactive: all business activity will be discontinued Under the EIN and the organization will be dissolved.
  - b. A fee of \$25 must be presented with the resolution to cover the expenses of disaffiliation.
  - c. The tithing orthographies for the subordinate organization must be current at the time of disaffiliation.
  - d. The original charter certificate and the articles of agreement must be returned to LHMW.

## Compliance

1. The general bylaws, articles of agreement, special bylaws, and resolutions shall declare the duties of the officers, Board of Directors or overseers, and members of all LHMW departments, subordinates and affiliates.
2. From January 1, 2022, LHMW and its general Board of Directors shall affiliate all of its major divisions, departments in sections, associations, organizations, and churches by articles of agreement, special bylaws, and resolutions which are legal documents accepted and **Internal Revenue Procedures 80-27**.
3. Subordinates Incorporated or chartered under LHMW previous to January one, 2022, may need to be amended and brought into the standards for articles of agreement to meet the **IRS Procedures 80-27** and **RSMO 352** regarding Pro Forma Decree privileges.



4. The LHMW and all of its departments, central organizations, divisions, districts, areas, subordinates, and their auxiliaries are classified as churches that may have auxiliaries by **RSMO 352** and the **Internal Revenue Procedures 80–27** for the advancement of religion. This may also include the Affiliated Groups if they qualify.
5. The law and posted several fiduciary duties of officers, directors, deacons, and trustees, including do care and loyalty, expending designated contributions for the specified purposes, avoidance of self-dealing, and not commingling personal and corporate funds.
6. The articles of agreement shall serve as a multipurpose agreement that is a legal and proper instrument. Some of the duties which these documents shall perform shall be to:
  - a. Outline the requirements of the charter
  - b. Include the application for inclusion under group exemption
  - c. May serve as a constitution for the subordinate if so stated
  - d. Will serve equally well whether they are incorporated or unincorporated
  - e. May be recorded wherever necessary by both or either party
7. All articles of agreement and amendments drawn up by LHMW and its subordinates must require a resolution between both parties, which has been signed by the executive board of both parties and attested by the secretaries of both parties in order to enact or to change any parts of these articles of agreements.
8. All terms of any classification of articles of agreement shall apply to the original Board of directors and officers of the subordinate entity who initiated the affiliation, as well as The present board of directors and officers, pastors, elders, deacons, and members, and their successors as long as the entity is affiliated with LHMW.
9. The LHMW shall have the power by decree as a body politic and corporate to write its own governing documents and instruments which are listed according to their legal authority, purpose, and strength.
  - a. **Constitution**
  - b. **Bylaws**
  - c. **Resolutions**
10. Therefore, the LHMW shall have the power to do the following:
  - a. In addition to its constitution and bylaws, it may write rules and regulations for its members.
  - b. All bylaws must be approved or adopted by the executive board of directors of LHMW.

- c. All resolutions which are written and adopted by the executive board of directors shall remain in effect until dissolved or superseded by another resolution.

## ***Executive Board of Directors***

Founder

John H. Foster

President

Vice-President

James C. Ohrberg

Secretary/Treasurer

## ***General Board of Directors***

Board Member

Christy Lewis

Board Member

Karen Orhberg

Board Member

Linda Langford

Board Member

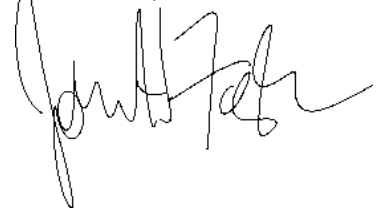
Kimberly Grennan



## **Note from the Founder**

*I realize that I have not covered every single thing in this doctrinal statement. We will be amending and adding to these as we grow, and things are brought to our attention. I have written down the things that I have had laid on my heart. Please let this be a guideline for us to bring unity and Glory to the Body of our Lord Yeshua. There will be no argument among us as brothers and sisters, if we are not in agreement, we simply must show love and separate. May God be with any who do not agree with the truths of the Word. I pray that each of us would be ready and prepared to defend the Gospel, but never in an argumentative way or in effort of a disruption. Each of us at LHMW will stand before our Lord on the day of reward. May we receive the reward for teaching absolute truth and reaching the lost with the Hope that has been given to us and may we do this at whatever the cost necessary. If ever a question or is understanding arise between us please call me personally at 573- 721-8839. Or email me at [lhmw@yahoo.com](mailto:lhmw@yahoo.com).*

John H. Foster, Founder LHMW



# *Appendix*

# Forms

[LHMW Application of Credential, Commission, License](#)

# LHMW Application of Credential, Commission, License

Full name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender at Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior?: \_\_\_\_\_

National/Citizen/Social Security/Identification Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (City, State or Province, Country): \_\_\_\_\_

Languages spoken: \_\_\_\_\_

Gifts of Talent: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Licensing, Ordination Certificates (attach copies): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Education: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Ministry History (list all available): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Letters of Reference (attach copies): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Entry Statement Read: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature

Date

Attach a passport type photo of yourself.

*Please remit to Lighthouse Ministries Worldwide, 102 West Hudson, Wellsville, MO, USA 63361  
or email to LHMW@yahoo.com.*



