



# Buffalo-Genesee Camp Meeting Association, Inc. Lighthouse Christian Camp Statements of Faith and Religious Practice General Policies and Code of Conduct

***Lighthouse Christian Camp identifies itself as a Christian organization operating under the example of Christian life set forth in the Free Methodist Church Book of Discipline. For purposes of Lighthouse Christian Camp's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, the Board of Trustees looks to God's written Word, the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit as ultimate authorities.***

## **Statement of Faith**

A.1. There is but one living and true God, the maker and preserver of all things. And in the unity of this Godhead there are three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. These three are one in eternity, deity and purpose; everlasting, of infinite power, wisdom and goodness.

A.2. God was himself in the Son, Jesus Christ, to reconcile people to God. Conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, He joined together the deity of God and the humanity of humankind. Jesus of Nazareth was God in flesh, truly God and truly human. He came to save us. For us the Son of God suffered, was crucified, dead and buried. He poured out His life as a blameless sacrifice for our sin and transgressions. We gratefully acknowledge that He is our Savior, the one perfect mediator between God and us.

A.3. Jesus Christ is risen victorious from the dead. Thus, He ascended into heaven. There He sits as our exalted Lord at the right hand of God the Father, where He intercedes for us until all His enemies shall be brought into complete subjection. He will return to judge all people. Every knee will bow and every tongue confess Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

A.4. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. Proceeding from the Father and the Son, He is one with them, the eternal Godhead, equal in deity, majesty, and power. He is God effective in Creation, in life and in the church. The Incarnation and ministry of Jesus Christ were accomplished by the Holy Spirit. He continues to reveal, interpret, and glorify the Son.

A.5. The Bible is God's written Word, uniquely inspired by the Holy Spirit. As attested by the early church and subsequent councils, it is the trustworthy record of God's revelation, completely truthful in all it affirms. It has been faithfully preserved and proves itself true in human experience. The Bible has authority over all human life. It teaches the truth about God, His creation, His people, His one and only Son and the destiny of humankind. It also teaches the way of salvation and the life of faith.

A.6. For purposes of Lighthouse Christian Camp's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, the Board of Trustees looks to God's written word, the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit as ultimate authorities.

## **Religious Practice: Marriage, Sexuality, and the Sanctity of Human Life**

B.1. We believe that as followers of Jesus Christ, it becomes important to imitate Jesus Christ (Ephesians 5:1). That goal is far-reaching, covering everything from our priorities to our behavior. Among other things, it means desiring to live wholesome lives showing mercy and ministering to the physical and spiritual needs of others. It means attempting to be free from activities and attitudes that defile the mind and harm the body. It means honoring the sanctity of marriage and family. It means valuing and nurturing children, guiding them to faith in Christ. It means to be responsible citizens, praying for those in leadership.

B.2. As a result, we value all persons as children of God, and strive to show everyone the good news of God's love and redemption, to "Know Christ and Make Him Known". All of this, we do by speaking truth in love, by God's grace, as we imitate Jesus Christ.

B.3. Marriage: We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in the creation account (Genesis 2:18-25).

B.4. Same-sex or same-gender marriages may not be performed or hosted at LCC, as such ceremonies are a violation of the Free Methodist Book of Discipline (par. 3311).

B.5. Sexuality: We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (I Corinthians 6:18; 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4). We believe God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage.

B.6. We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including but not limited to pornography, adultery, homosexual behavior, fornication) is sinful and offensive to God (Matthew 15:18-20; I Corinthians 6:9-10; Romans 1:24-32).

B.7. We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female, which reflects the image and nature of God (Genesis 1:26-27).

B.8. Sanctity of Human Life: We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life (Psalm 139).

## **General Policies and Code of Conduct**

C.1. Lighthouse Christian Camp exists to provide a retreat environment and camping experience that draws people of all ages to know Christ, to grow in him and make him known. The Camp aspires to create an atmosphere in which individuals, families and groups experience spiritual inspiration, relaxation, recreation, fellowship, learning and renewal in a wholesome Christian community.

C.2. Each member and visitor at LCC is encouraged to act and live in a Christ-like manner. It should be clear that following Christ is more about what can be done than what cannot be done. However, functioning within a Christian community does involve a willingness to abide by policies and rules that are designed to promote Christian community.

**The following policies are intended to provide for the safety, comfort, and enjoyment of all our Association members and guests. Both members and visitors are expected to abide by the following guidelines and rules.**

D.1. Lighthouse Christian Camp's (LCC's) programs and events are open to all people.

- D.2. LCC rents the property to individuals, religious or non-religious non-profit groups, as well as government agencies that conduct programs that are educational and character building in nature, and whose beliefs and practices are not opposed to our statements of faith and religious practices.
- D.3. LCC respectfully declines to rent its property to individuals or groups who have agendas for their gathering that are in conflict with its statements of faith and religious practices on pages 1-2, as defined by the teachings of the Free Methodist Church of the United States.
- D.4. Parents and chaperones are responsible for their children and youth. Please ensure they follow our policies of behavior.
- D.5. Use of the waterfront at LCC and common areas is governed by the NYS Sanitary Code subpart 6-2 and the Niagara County Board of Health. Copies of the documents are on file in the LCC office.
- D.6. Christian living involves a concern for others. Included in this concern is the possibility that our behavior or attire might offend or misdirect another brother or sister in Christ. We are part of the Body of Christ and do not function in isolation; our actions can affect others. Thus, we ask that modest clothing be worn at all times. Extremely revealing clothing or swimwear is to be avoided. Cover-ups should be worn over swimwear while moving about the grounds. There should be no swimwear worn in the tabernacle or public dining areas of the camp. Again, the governing principle in this area of Christian conduct is the well-being of others.
- D.7. The use of tobacco, vaping, alcohol, and drugs not prescribed by your physician are prohibited.
- D.8. Pets are their owner's responsibility. Dogs must be leashed at all times and owners must immediately clean up after them. Owners are required to have proof of their pets' inoculation.
- D.9. Sunday is a day of both spiritual and physical rest and refreshment. Noisy activities such as the use of construction equipment, lawn mowers, chain saws and other power tools are prohibited on Sunday.
- D.10. During scheduled worship services people should refrain from public recreational activities around the campground, waterfront activity or boating along the shores of the campground.
- D.11. Quiet hours are from 11:00 PM – 7:00 AM. All loud and disruptive activities should cease during this time.
- D.12. Any movie to be publicly shown at any time should be properly screened and be rated "G" for general audiences. Any other rated films must be approved by the Program Coordinator.
- D.13. The State has allowed us to enjoy the nature trails at Golden Hills State Park. Access to the park is through approved entrance points only. Respect the rights of those camping at Golden Hill.
- D.14. Garbage in plastic bags is to be placed in the dumpster provided. Recycling of newspapers, plastic, cardboard, metal and glass is now required. Recycling containers are located next to the dumpster.
- D.15. Posted signs must be obeyed (e.g., 5 mph; private property; bike parking; etc.). Printed and oral directives for various camps and events should also be observed.