

The Constitution of the Edenvale Community Church

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1. Name

- 1.1. The name and designation of the church, comprising all the members and only the members of the church, shall be the "Edenvale Community Church", hereinafter referred to as "the church."

2. Church Government and Objects

- 2.1. The church recognises Jesus Christ as its supreme head and undertakes to manage its affairs according to New Testament teaching believing that as the Body of Christ it is equipped by His Spirit to act, decide and direct the affairs of the church.
- 2.2. The objects of the church shall be:-
 - 2.2.1. To glorify the Lord Jesus, the Head of the Church.
 - 2.2.2. To proclaim the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ as revealed in the Scriptures and to encourage and support the proclamation of that gospel (in accordance with Matthew 28:18-20) to the ends of the earth.
 - 2.2.3. To provide instruction and fellowship for believers, seeking to build them up to the measure and stature of the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:13).

3. Statement of Belief

The church recognises that not all believers have the same convictions and accordingly requires that all candidates for membership should at least accept the following statement of belief prior to admission as members. This statement of belief shall be agreed to and signed by all the members of the church.

- 3.1. We believe that the Holy Scriptures consist of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments in their original writing; that the Spirit of God so influenced the authors that these writings are the Word of God; that because of the divine origin and inspiration of its words, the Scriptures are true in all that they affirm and are trustworthy and without error; that these Scriptures are the complete and only written revelation of God to people; that every translation that is faithful to the originals and responsibly interpreted clearly reveals those truths necessary for our salvation, godly living, and maturity in

Christ; and that Scripture alone is our sufficient and final authority in all matters of belief and practice.

- 3.2. We believe in one God who eternally exists in three co-equal persons - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; that though each divine person is fully and equally God, they differ in relationship towards each other and their work in the world; that this triune God is perfect and infinite in His being and attributes - an all-holy, all-loving, and all-wise Sovereign; that from before creation, God determined to save sinners through the sacrifice of His Son, to govern all history according to His sovereign plan and to finally bring all things under one head, even Christ; and that all things exist from Him, through Him, and for Him, and are created to display the glory of His wonderful Name.
- 3.3. We believe that in the beginning God sovereignly created all things visible and invisible and took delight in it all; that He created humankind male and female as his image bearers, endowing each with a dignity of equal worth and calling to govern and care for His creation; that human life is sacred to God and begins at conception, and should not be unnecessarily terminated at any stage; that God created marriage to be an exclusive and lifelong union between a natural man and a natural woman, giving the man the responsibility of loving leadership and the woman the role of compatible support; that the first man Adam sinned and thereby incurred the penalty of death, physical and spiritual, for all people, and as a consequence of his sin, all humans inherit a sinful nature, which results in actual transgression and personal guilt.
- 3.4. We believe that when the time was right, the eternal Son of God took on human nature, and was made like us in every way, yet without sin; that, after being conceived by the Holy Spirit, He was born of the virgin Mary, was named Jesus (meaning 'God saves'), and from conception was and always will be fully God and fully man in one person; and that He is, therefore, the perfect and only mediator between God and people.
- 3.5. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ lived a sinless life, was perfectly obedient to His Father in every way, and ushered in the promised Kingdom of God in all His words and deeds; that, for the joy set before Him, He offered up Himself as the perfect substitutionary and atoning sacrifice for sinners, triumphing over sin, death, and all the forces of evil, and purchasing for Himself a people out of every tribe, language, and nation; that on the

cross the Son of God received in His person the due penalty of God's wrath against our sin, and that His shed blood is the sole basis for our salvation and the greatest revelation of the glory of the grace of our God.

- 3.6. We believe that the Lord Jesus was crucified, buried, and on the third day was resurrected bodily from the dead and glorified as the first-fruits of God's new creation; that he ascended into heaven, where He is seated at the right hand of the Father as ruler over all things; that He presently intercedes as High Priest and Advocate for all who draw near to God through Him; and that He will return personally, visibly, and gloriously to judge the living and the dead.
- 3.7. We believe that the Holy Spirit is the Lord, the giver of life, who formed the world, empowered certain individuals for God's purposes, and who speaks in the Holy Scriptures; that God anointed Jesus Christ with the Spirit for his ministry and that the Spirit was given to the Church at Pentecost to indwell, lead, and unite believers, gifting each of them for various works of service; that the Holy Spirit glorifies Christ, gives understanding of the Word, convicts people of their sin, unites believers to Jesus, and forms the character of Christ within them; and that the Spirit pours the love of God into our hearts, enables prayer and witness, and seals the believer for the day of the redemption of their bodies.
- 3.8. We believe that through the call of God in the Gospel message, all who receive Christ Jesus as Saviour and Lord are born again by the Holy Spirit, becoming a new creation in Christ; that through faith in Him, sinners have the forgiveness of sins and are declared righteous on the grounds of His shed blood; that repentance is a condition of this salvation and the first sign of that holiness without which no one will see the Lord; that by virtue of their union with Christ, believers share in all the benefits of grace that are in Him, including the adoption as sons and the gift of the Holy Spirit; and that all who turn from their sin, trusting Christ, may have the assurance that they will be kept and accepted by Him.
- 3.9. We believe that the Church is the whole company of those who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ, regenerated by the Holy Spirit, reconciled to the Father, and thereby to each other; that this Church is the people of God, the body of Christ and the temple of the Holy Spirit, through whom God's purpose in history is made known; that the local church, as a manifestation of the universal Church, is a community of believers in a particular place

where God's Word is preached and practiced, the two ordinances are observed, and church discipline is exercised; that in the local church both men and women are called to serve equally, and male headship should be evidenced; and that each local church is ruled by Jesus Christ, governed by its members, led by its shepherds, and served by its deacons.

3.10. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ appointed two ordinances – Baptism and the Lord's Supper – to be observed as acts of obedience and as witnesses to the primary facts of the Christian faith; that Baptism is the immersion of a professing believer in water as a confession of identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection; and that the Lord's Supper is the partaking of the bread and the cup, signifying our participation in the Saviour's body and shed blood in remembrance of His death until He comes.

3.11. We believe that the mission of the Church is to make disciples of all people groups in all places through the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to plant and establish local churches to obey all that Jesus taught the Apostles; that in loving our neighbour as ourselves, compassionately, practically and wisely, we image the love of God to all; and that we should do all this according to the Scriptures, under the shadow of the Cross and in the power of the resurrection.

3.12. We believe in the bodily resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous; that all people will appear before God's judgement seat to receive their due for the things done while in the body; that those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life will enter into eternal life, but the unrighteous into eternal condemnation; and that according to God's promise we look forward to a new heaven and a new earth in which righteousness dwells, when we will forever be with the Lord, and He with us: Come Lord Jesus, come! Amen.

4. Statement of Baptist Principles

Additionally, we believe in;

4.1. The DIRECT LORDSHIP OF CHRIST over every believer and over the local church. By this we understand that Christ exercises His authority over the believer and the local Church directly, without delegating it to another.

- 4.2. The CHURCH as the whole company of those who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ and regenerated by the Holy Spirit. The local church, being a manifestation of the universal church, is a community of believers in a particular place where the Word of God is preached and observed. It is fully autonomous and remains so notwithstanding responsibilities it may accept by voluntary association.
- 4.3. BELIEVERS BAPTISM as an act of obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ and a sign of personal repentance, faith and regeneration: it consists of the immersion in water into the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- 4.4. The CONGREGATIONAL PRINCIPLE, namely that each member has the privilege and responsibility to use his/her gifts and abilities to participate fully in the life of the Church. We recognise that God gifts His Church with Overseers (who are called Pastors or Elders) whose primary function is to lead in a spirit of servanthood, to equip and provide spiritual oversight, and Deacons whose primary function is to facilitate the smooth functioning of the Church. This principle further recognises that each member should participate in the appointment of the Church's leaders, and that the constituted church meeting, subject to both the direct Lordship of Christ and the authority of Scripture, is the highest court of authority for the local Church.
- 4.5. The PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS, by which we understand that each Christian has direct access to God through Christ our High Priest, and shares with Him in His work of reconciliation. This involves intercession, worship, faithful service and bearing witness to Jesus Christ, even to the end of the earth.
- 4.6. The principle of RELIGIOUS LIBERTY, namely that no individual should be coerced either by State or by any secular, ecclesiastical or religious group in matters of faith. The right of private conscience is to be respected. For each believer this means the right to interpret the Scriptures responsibly and to act in the light of his conscience.
- 4.7. The principle of SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE in that, in the providence of God, the two differ in their respective natures and functions. The Church is not to be identified with the State nor is it, in its faith and practice, to be directed or controlled by the State. The State is responsible for administering justice, ensuring an orderly community, and promoting the welfare

of its citizens. The Church is responsible for preaching the Gospel and for demonstrating and making known God's will and care for all mankind.

5. Membership

5.1. The membership of the church shall consist of baptised believers (see 4.3):

5.1.1. Whose names appear on the present membership role of the church as at the date of the adoption of this Constitution and sign their acceptance thereof.

5.1.2. Who are added to the membership role of the church in accordance with Article 6.

6. Admission to Membership

6.1. Persons are admitted to membership of the church upon the recommendation of the Elders and the acceptance of the church.

6.2. All candidates will be given a copy of this Constitution, together with a copy of the Statement of Belief. After the candidate has completed and signed the prescribed membership application form, been interviewed and instructed where required to the satisfaction of the Elders, his or her application will be announced to the church on two consecutive Sundays (at all services). Members will be invited to lodge any objections in writing to the Elders within seven days of the final announcement.

6.3. Any objections thus raised shall be investigated by the Elders and then referred to the members of the Church at the following General Meeting for a decision, whose final decision shall be binding.

6.4. In the event of no objections being received, the applicant may be received into membership on the following Lord's day at any one of the services.

6.5. Should the Elders not recommend the applicant to the church, the applicant shall be informed by the Elders of the reason in writing for non-acceptance on the basis of biblical grounds, and whether or not the Elders propose to review the matter within a certain period and under what conditions, if any.

- 6.6.No member of any secret society or any other association or organisation whose principles and/or objectives are in conflict with the Christian gospel shall be entitled to membership of the church.
- 6.7.Members of other churches who come to live in our area for a limited period of time (e.g. students, persons on special work assignments) may be received into or removed from the membership of the Church on the same basis and in the same manner as persons who have permanent residence in our broader geographical area. Such a person need not be released from the membership of his/her "home church" but will be regarded as an associate member while in our midst, enjoying all the privileges, performing all the duties, and submitting to all the liabilities of regular membership. When such a person terminates his/her period of temporary residence, he/she will be released to the fellowship of his/her "home church" and no longer be regarded as a member of this Church (compare: Acts 18: 27; Rom 16: 1-2). If such a person decides to live in our area permanently and to end his/her membership in his/her former "home church", he/she may request that he/she be regarded as a regular member of this Church. Such regular membership will begin once his/her membership in his/her former "home church" has ended. A letter will be sent to the "home church" informing it of the new status of all who begin or end associate membership in this Church.
- 6.8.This may apply to members of the church who for the same reason as set out above will be away from the church for a limited period of time.

7. Privileges and Obligations of Membership

- 7.1.Under the divine headship of the Lord Jesus Christ the final authority and responsibility in all matters touching the life and service of the church rests with the active membership. Each active member has the responsibility and the right to participate fully in the life and government of the fellowship including the appointment of its leadership.
- 7.2.Every member shall be entitled and shall be expected to attend general meetings unless prevented by some reasonable cause and in the case of active members to exercise his/her vote for the welfare of the whole church in a spirit of prayer and love.

7.3. Members shall be expected to support the ministry and maintain the fellowship of the church by:

7.3.1. Prayer.

7.3.2. Attendances at services whenever possible.

7.3.3. Engaging in some specific service.

7.3.4. Conscientious giving as God's provision enables.

7.3.5. Attendance at church general meetings.

7.3.6. Introducing strangers to the fellowship.

7.4. Members whose names have been placed on the supplementary roll may:-

7.4.1. Not vote at any church meeting.

7.4.2. Not hold any church office.

7.4.3. In every other way they enjoy the benefits of church membership.

8. Revision of Membership Roll

8.1. A membership roll of all members shall be maintained. Those that are unable to attend the church for reasons of health or distance shall be kept on a supplemental roll.

8.2. For statistical and disciplinary purposes the membership roll shall be revised at least annually and kept up to date by the Elders in accordance with this Article and Article 9.

8.3. The Elders shall remove from the roll the name of any member who has died or any member who requests in writing that his or her name be removed, except in a case where disciplinary action has been commenced in terms of Article 9.

8.4. The Elders shall report all changes made to the Membership roll at the next General Meeting.

9. Discipline

9.1. If any member is absent from the services of the Church and/or fails to comply with any of the privileges and obligations of members for a period exceeding six months, the Elders shall visit and encourage the member concerning these matters. In the event of such communication not producing a satisfactory response, the name of the member shall be reported to a General Meeting together with recommendations by the Elders.

9.2. In the unhappy event of an allegation of conduct unworthy of a Christian or erroneous belief being brought against a member, the Elders shall make enquiry into the matter. If after the enquiry the Elders deem such course necessary, they shall present a report and a recommendation to a General Meeting, at which meeting any further action shall be determined after prayerful consideration. The suspension or expulsion of members of the Church shall be resorted to only if there is no evidence of repentance and all efforts to bring about restoration have proved unsuccessful.

9.3. Purely personal matters between members shall be settled in accordance with Matthew 18: 15 – 17.

10. Ordinances

10.1. Baptism

In addition to those desiring to join the Church in accordance with Article 5, the Elders, or and believer at the discretion of the elders, shall be free to baptise anyone who so desires, provided they have satisfied themselves regarding the candidate's profession of faith, personal salvation and appreciation of the essential meaning of the ordinance.

10.2. Communion

The Lord's Supper shall be celebrated in accordance with 1 Corinthians 11:17-34 as frequently as deemed advisable by the Elders. Participation at the Lord's Table shall be open to all who love Jesus Christ and accept Him as Lord and Saviour and are not under church discipline by their local church.

11. General Meetings

11.1. One general meeting shall be held every 6 months if possible or as often as called by the Elders for the proper conduct of Church affairs, provided that the purpose of such meetings are always declared beforehand.

- 11.2. The Church business year shall end on the last day of February. Unless otherwise agreed upon by the Church, completed Financial Statements for the year shall be presented at the first General Meeting of the following year.
- 11.3. The Annual General Meeting shall be held within two months of the last day of February. At this meeting, reports shall be submitted by the officers and various ministries of the Church and the budget for the following year shall be approved by the Church in accordance with article 20.
- 11.4. Special General Meetings shall be called at the discretion of the Elders or upon a request in writing signed by not less than ten members qualified to vote at such meetings, provided that the request be submitted in writing, designating the subject matter of the meeting for prior consideration by the Elders. Such Meetings shall be called within one month of receipt by the Elders of such request.
- 11.5. Notice of a Special General Meeting and its subject matter shall be given at all the Services on at least two Sundays immediately prior to the proposed date of the Meeting in question.
- 11.6. All meetings at which proposals concerning the purchase, sale or mortgaging of immovable property, and shall in addition to the above notice, require that all members be notified in writing at least seven days prior to the meeting. The non-receipt of such notice shall not invalidate the proceedings.
- 11.7. If one-third of the members present who are entitled to vote at such meetings so request, any matter brought forward without proper notice beforehand shall be postponed for consideration at a future meeting.

12. Quorum

- 12.1. No business shall be transacted at any General Meeting or any Special General Meeting unless a quorum of members entitled to vote at such meeting is present at the time when the meeting goes to business.
- 12.2. 30 percent of total membership qualified to vote, whichever is the greater, shall be a quorum for all General Meetings of the Church.

13.Voting at Meetings

- 13.1. Every matter of Church business shall be decided by an ordinary majority of votes cast at a properly called General Meeting unless otherwise stipulated in this Constitution.
- 13.2. Voting shall be by a show of hands and proper counting of those hands, however the Chairman may decide that voting be by secret ballot and shall so decide upon a request by a member entitled to vote at such a Meeting.
- 13.3. Voting of both the show of hands and ballots shall be by elected scrutineers.

14.Chairman

- 14.1. An Elder or any suitable member of the Church nominated by the Elders and approved by a majority of the members present shall preside at all General meetings of the Church.
- 14.2. In the case of the question of the suitability of the chairman to chair a specific meeting, a new chairman shall be elected by a majority of the members present.

15.Church Government

- 15.1. The governing of the church shall be by the members in good standing of the church, and in accordance with this constitution. Such governing shall be under the oversight of the duly appointed Elders

16.Elders

- 16.1. Only such male persons shall be suitable for election who conform to the qualifications laid down for Elders in 1 Timothy 3: 1-7, and Titus 1: 5-10, and have been baptised upon profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and who undertake to the satisfaction of the Elders to uphold the Statement of Belief and to teach and have oversight in the Church in accordance Scripture, the Statement of Belief, this Constitution and the By-Laws.
- 16.2. The oversight of the Church rests with the Elders. The ideal is a plurality and equality of Elders.

16.3. Any member having the right to vote at meetings may at any time make recommendation in writing to the elders. Hereupon, the Elders, having made the necessary enquiries and having obtained consent from the proposed elder to submit his name, may make recommendation to a General Meeting. Appointment shall be on a favourable vote of seventy-five percent of the meeting. An elder shall hold office for three consecutive years. Continuance in office for a further period of three years shall be on a favourable vote of seventy-five percent of a general meeting. The elder shall only be available for renomination after one year thereafter.

16.4. The elders may recommend an elder be removed from office at a general meeting. The recommendation shall be made known when the notice of the meeting is given. Removal of an elder shall be on a favourable vote of two-thirds of the meeting.

16.5. It is the duty of all the elders and pastors to teach, administer the ordinances, exercise discipline, lead the flock, oversee every function of the Church according to the Scriptures and ensure that pure doctrine according to the Scriptures and as set out in the Statement of Belief, be taught in the Church.

16.6. The exercise of the gifts of teaching and preaching by brothers who do not hold the office of Elder in the Church shall be permissible with the consent of the Elders.

17. Pastors

17.1. The choice and appointment of a pastor/s is vested in the membership of the church.

17.2. When an appointment becomes necessary the procedure shall be as follows:-

17.2.1. A general meeting shall appoint not less than four members to serve with the elders as a call committee.

17.2.2. The committee shall recommend only one name to any special general meeting.

17.2.3. The invitation shall be contingent upon the following:-

17.2.3.1. At least seventy-five percent of the members present shall vote in favour by ballot.

17.2.3.2. The prospective pastor shall have been baptised by immersion and shall accept in writing this constitution.

17.2.3.3. The pastor shall become a member of the church upon assuming the pastorate.

17.3. Any engagement between the church and the pastor shall be terminable by three months notice on either side, unless mutually agreed upon.

18. Ministries, Committees, and Teams

18.1. The Church shall, upon the recommendation of the Elders and the acceptance of the church, appoint ministries, committees, teams, Deacons, a church treasurer and a church administrative secretary from amongst its own membership to function and minister as needs may arise.

18.2. The Church may require or permit any or all such ministries, committees, and teams to have policies, provided that such policies be first approved by the Elders before being put into operation.

18.3. All ministries, committees and ministry teams shall be responsible for the administration of their ministry under the oversight of the Elders.

19. Deacons

19.1. Deacons are to be appointed as the need shall arise and in order to meet a particular need, to serve in the Church according to the recommendations of the Elders so that the Elders may devote themselves more effectively to their pastoral duties.

19.2. Deacons shall be appointed at a General Meeting, to hold office for two years. At a General Meeting, they shall be eligible for re-appointment.

19.3. The appointment of Deacons shall be by vote of the church as follows:

19.3.1. Any member having the right to vote at meetings may at any time nominate a member who they believe to have proved themselves qualified and gifted according to 1 Timothy 3:8-13 to serve as a deacon.

Nominations are to be given to the Elders in writing, duly signed by the proposer, and a seconder. The Elders shall approach the nominee for consent. Accepted nominations shall be announced to the Church at least two weeks prior to the meeting at which the appointment is to take place. No person shall be appointed as Deacon unless at least seventy five percent of the members present when the recommendation was considered voted in favour. Voting shall be by secret ballot.

19.3.2. Only such persons shall be eligible for appointment who to the satisfaction of the Elders qualify according to the qualifications laid down in Acts 6:3 and 1 Timothy 3: 8-13, and are members of the Church.

19.4. The Church may, at a General Meeting for default in duty or manner of life, terminate the office of an Deacon and suspend him/her from serving immediately, provided that such termination be sustained by the vote of seventy-five percent of the members present at such General Meeting. Voting shall be by secret ballot.

20. Directors

20.1. Directors shall be appointed annually at a General Meeting from the members of the church and shall hold office until their successors are appointed at a General Meeting.

20.2. Any vacancy shall be filled by an appointee of the Church to hold office until the next ensuing General meeting. Such appointment shall take place at a properly constituted General Meeting of the church.

21. Finance

21.1. The Church shall, on the recommendation of the elders, appoint a finance committee under the oversight of an Elder from among the Church members. The finance committee shall compile and control the annual budget, administer the finances, and determine the remuneration of all paid workers of the Church. The budget shall be approved by the Church at the Annual General Meeting.

21.2. The funds for the work of the Lord Jesus Christ through the Church shall be received by means of tithes, offerings, gifts, donations, bequests, or other similar means.

21.3.No goods shall be sold or traded under the auspices of the Church for the purpose of fund-raising other than for the normal disposal of church assets. This effectively means that there will be no raffles, bazaars or jumble sales for the purpose of fund raising with the exception of projects that do not involve sales to the general public.

21.4.Upon the recommendation of the Elders and the acceptance of the church, the church may rent out of its facilities from time to time on agreement of the Elders, the Directors and church members.

22.Property: Movable and Immovable

22.1.Church property, whether movable or immovable and whether already acquired, purchased, held, hypothecated or mortgaged, or hereafter purchased or acquired in any manner, held or hypothecated or mortgaged, shall vest in and be held by the Trustees for the time being of the Church for and on behalf of the Church.

22.2.Trustees shall deal with property as instructed and authorised in accordance with this Constitution.

22.3.Immovable property shall be registered in the name of the "Trustees for the time being of the Edenvale Community Church".

22.4.The Church shall have power to buy, sell, donate, let or hire, exchange, transfer, receive by way of donation, or otherwise, movable and immovable property and to invest its funds in Government or Municipal stock, mortgage bonds, or on fixed deposit or otherwise, in Banks, Post Offices, Building Societies or approved organisations and shall further have power to borrow money with or without security in such manner as the Church shall think fit, negotiate loans from Bankers or others by overdraft or otherwise and by passing mortgage and notarial bonds for registration with the proper authorities, and to open and operate upon banking accounts, and to make , draw, accept, discount, execute and issue promissory notes, bills of exchange and other negotiable and transferable instruments to guarantee the performance of contracts by any person or duly constituted Church having objectives wholly or partly similar to the objectives of this Church and to enter into guarantee or suretyships of every description.

22.5. Any purchase or lease of immovable property or any sale, borrowing, mortgage, pledge, or other alienation or encumbrance of the whole or any part of the movable property of the Church shall be effected upon the authority of a resolution passed by a seventy-five percent majority of members present at a General Meeting provided that the Meeting is attended by no less than twenty percent of the membership. Provided further that, in the event of a quorum not being present at any such General Meeting, the members present may decide to call another meeting at least fourteen days later, notice of which shall be given at all intervening Sunday Services; at this subsequent meeting the members then present shall constitute a quorum.

23. Indemnity

23.1. The Directors, Elders and Deacons, shall be fully indemnified against all actions, costs, charges, losses, damages and expenses which they or any of them shall or may incur in the execution of their duties, except such as they may incur by their own wrongful action done intentionally or with proven gross negligence.

24. Co-Operation with Other Churches

24.1. We recognise that it is desirable to have fellowship with other churches.

24.2. The church may decide from time to time upon joint ministries with other churches.

24.3. The church will recognise the historical disciplinary action of other churches.

25. Affiliation

25.1. The Church shall seek to obtain membership and retain affiliation with an organisation of other like-minded churches as the church may decide from time to time.

26. By-Laws

26.1. The Church may at a General Meeting frame and amend such By-laws as it may deem necessary for administering the funds, managing the affairs of

the Church, or clarifying any point of doctrine or practice, such By-laws to be available as a supplement to the Constitution.

27. Amendment of Constitution

27.1. This Constitution may be amended at a General Meeting, provided three months' notice of motion has been given at a previous General Meeting.

27.2. The amendment in writing shall be made available to the members for a period covering at least three Sundays preceding the General Meeting.

27.3. No change shall be made to the Constitution unless at least seventy-five percent of the members present at such a meeting vote in favour of the proposed amendment either in its original form or with such amendments as the meeting itself may make.

28. Dissolution of the Church

28.1. The Church shall be deemed to have ceased to exist when the members of the Church shall drop to below ten members or when Meetings and Services of the Church shall have ceased for a period of at least six consecutive months or by resolution of seventy-five percent of the members present at a General Meeting. The quorum for such a meeting shall be forty percent of the membership.

28.2. In the event of a resolution being passed as required above, the Directors, shall wind up the affairs of the church and shall in particular transfer or cause to transfer the net assets of the church to the Baptist Northern Association or to another church, as designated by a majority vote at a properly called and constituted church meeting at which the resolution to dissolve the church was passed.

28.3. In the event of the church contemplating dissolution it shall not be competent for the church to give away or sell for less than market value any of its property whether movable or immovable.

28.4. In the event of the church at any time ceasing to exist for any reason whatsoever all property and rights to property owned by it shall be deemed to have become the property of and shall be transferred by the trustees to the Baptist Northern Association, or to another church.

28.5. In the absence of Directors, the Trustees of the Baptist Northern Association shall be empowered to wind up the affairs of the Church and transfer or cause to transfer the net assets of the Church to the Baptist Northern Association or to another church.

Accepted by the church at the A.G.M held on the _____

Signed at _____ on the _____
