



**G O S P E L**  
**L I G H T**  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

# CHURCH CONSTITUTION

# Church Constitution

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## **Article 1**

### **Name**

The church shall be known as **GOSPEL LIGHT CHRISTIAN CHURCH** (hereinafter referred to as "the Church").

## **Article 2**

### **Place of Business**

The place of business shall be at an address in the Republic of Singapore as decided upon by the Church and approved by the Registrar of Societies from time to time. The Church shall carry out its business only in places and premises which have the prior written approval of the relevant authorities.

## **Article 3**

### **Objects**

- 3.1 To worship God, through the Lord Jesus Christ, according to the Holy Scriptures;
- 3.2 To declare all the counsel of God, according to the Holy Scriptures;
- 3.3 To be a Gospel-centred Bible-believing church proclaiming the message of the Gospel according to the Holy Scriptures, and leading generations into a life-changing relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **Article 4**

### **Doctrine**

The Church holds to the great fundamental doctrines of the historic Christian faith, namely:

- 4.1 We believe in the plenary divine inspiration of the Scriptures in the original languages, their consequent inerrancy and infallibility and as the Word of God, the supreme and final authority in faith and life;
- 4.2 We believe in the one true eternal triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- 4.3 We believe in the essential deity and the real and proper, but sinless humanity of our Lord Jesus Christ;

- 4.4 We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and is true God and true man;
- 4.5 We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ's substitutionary, expiatory death, in that He gave His life "a ransom for many";
- 4.6 We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead in the same body in which He was crucified and the second coming of the same Lord Jesus Christ, bodily, in power and great glory;
- 4.7 We believe that salvation is the effect of the sovereign grace of God in regeneration by the Holy Spirit and the Word, through faith, not of works;
- 4.8 We believe in the everlasting bliss of the saved, and the everlasting suffering of the lost;
- 4.9 We believe in the spiritual unity of all redeemed by the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ;
- 4.10 We believe in the necessity of maintaining, according to God's Word the purity of the Church, in doctrine and life; and still believing the Apostles' Creed to be a statement of Scriptural truth, we therefore incorporate in these articles of faith;
- 4.11 We believe that it is unbiblical for a female to hold office as Pastor, Elder or Deacon in the Church.

## **Article 5**

### **Principle and Practice of Gospel-centred Biblical Separation**

- 5.1 God's Word clearly teaches that God's people ought to separate from every form of sin and unbelief, both in personal life as well as ecclesiastical association. At the same time, it also commands God's people to engage in the ministry of the Great Commission to faithfully declare the Gospel message to make disciples and to lead generations into a life-changing relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ;
- 5.2 While all true believers are spiritually "one in Christ", being united with one another, and with Christ, the joining together of all and sundry "Christians" and others in ecumenical union is unbiblical and abominable in the sight of God. Yet it is the duty of all Gospel-centred Bible-believing Christians to proclaim the Gospel message to all, including to those who are in ecumenical union;
- 5.3 The Church requires all its members to be Gospel-centred Bible-believing Christians, and in loyalty to God's commands, are therefore to oppose all that is false and contrary to the truth of God's Word even as they discharge their duty under the Great Commission;
- 5.4 The Church requires all its members to faithfully separate themselves from all forms of sin and unbelief, and from any linkage with the Ecumenical Movement. But in

accordance with the Great Commission, the Church allows its Ministers to speak when invited to do so by any member of the Ecumenical Movement so long as such invitation does not include a prohibition to preach on any Bible passage, in particular, a prohibition to declare the Gospel according to the Holy Scriptures. Speaking on such occasions should not constitute a linkage by the Church to the Ecumenical Movement;

- 5.5 The Church requires all its members to heed God's commands to His people: not to be unequally yoked together with unbelievers, but to come out and be separate (2 Corinthians 6:14-17); to reprove and rebuke those who reject sound doctrine (2 Timothy 4:2, 3); to have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness (Ephesians 5:11); not to receive or welcome false teachers (2 John 10, 11); to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 1:3); and to preach the Gospel to all, leading generations into a life-changing relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in obedience to the Great Commission;
- 5.6 The Church requires all its members to endeavour to uphold these principles of Gospel-centred Biblical Separation in love – love for Christ, His Church and those of His people who are unwittingly in unbiblical union and to declare the Gospel to them in like manner.

## **Article 6**

### **Principles of Government**

The Church in setting forth the form of government which it maintains as being founded upon and agreeable to the Word of God, reiterates, by way of introduction, several cardinal principles which are basic to and regulative of its form of church government.

- 6.1 God has given men everywhere the free will to decide in all matters that concern religion; the rights of private judgement in this regard is universal and inalienable;
- 6.2 Our blessed Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, is the Head of the visible Church, which is His body, and for the edification of that visible Church, has appointed officers, not only to preach the Gospel and administer the Ordinances but also to exercise and impose discipline for the preservation both of truth and duty; it is incumbent upon these officers and upon the whole Church, in whose name they act, to censure or cast out the erroneous and scandalous, observing in all cases the rules contained in the Word of God;
- 6.3 The character, qualifications, and authority of church officers are clearly laid down in the Holy Scriptures, as well as the proper method of their investiture and institution;
- 6.4 All church power, whether exercised by the body in general or in the way of representation by delegated authority, is only ministerial and declarative; that is to say, the Holy Scriptures are the only rule of faith and conduct; no church court ought to pretend to make laws to bind the conscience in virtue of its own authority; all its decisions should be founded upon the revealed will of God;

- 6.5 If the preceding Scriptural and rational principles are steadfastly adhered to, the vigour and strictness of its discipline will contribute to the glory and happiness of any church. Since ecclesiastical discipline must be purely moral or spiritual in its object and not accompanied by any civil effects, it can derive no force whatever but from its own justice, the approbation of an impartial public, and the countenance and blessing of the great Head of the Church universal.

## **Article 7**

### **Main Practices of the Church**

- 7.1 **BAPTISM:** The observance of the baptism of believers is by immersion in water on personal confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. However, in exceptional circumstances strictly on medical grounds, the Board of Elders may allow baptism by sprinkling or pouring of water.
- 7.2 **THE LORD'S SUPPER:** The remembrance of the Lord's death through the Lord's Supper shall be observed regularly, and all baptised believers (and all believers who are yet unbaptised due to reasons beyond their control) whose conduct is consistent with their confession of their faith shall be received at the Lord's Table.
- 7.3 **WORSHIP:** All members shall meet regularly for the public worship of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and shall maintain family and personal devotions.
- 7.4 **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:** The Church shall conduct a Christian education programme to build up the members on the most holy faith through Sunday School, Bible study classes, Bible study groups, Catechism classes, Christian publications, Gospel tracts and such other similar measures as the Board of Elders may decide.
- 7.5 **FELLOWSHIP AND DISCIPLESHIP:** Members shall participate in fellowship, prayer and instruction with other believers and in the exercise of spiritual gifts for the edification of the Church.
- 7.6 **EVANGELISM & MISSIONS:** The Church in obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ, both as individual and collective witnesses, shall proclaim the Gospel to their families, neighbours, colleagues, friends, the nation as well as the regions beyond.
- 7.7 **STEWARDSHIP:** Every member shall have the responsibility and privilege to contribute his or her gifts, talents, time and resources to the work of God and the extension of His kingdom, such contributions to be made willingly without compulsion, regularly and generously according to his or her ability as God enables.
- 7.8 **WEDDINGS:** The solemnisation of marriages shall be between born-again believers only.
- 7.9 **FUNERALS:** The normal practice of the Church is to bury the dead. However the Church does not prohibit the cremation of the dead. Christian funeral is to be conducted only for born-again believers but the Church does not prohibit its Ministers from declaring the

message of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ at funerals of non-believers if such an invitation is extended by members of the bereaved family to do so.

## **Article 8**

### **Membership**

All members are expected to strive conscientiously to live according to the light given to them by the Holy Spirit through God's Word, and to support wholeheartedly the services and activities of the Church. Membership of the Church shall be of two categories:

- 8.1 Ordinary Members - Persons above 21 years of age who can satisfy the Board of Elders as to their Christian faith, knowledge, and manner of life and who have been baptised in the Church or transferred from another Bible-believing Church shall be Ordinary Members;
- 8.2 No Ordinary Member shall be a member of another church;
- 8.3 Associate Members - Persons who are in the process of qualifying for Ordinary Members status;
- 8.4 Only Ordinary Members have voting rights at all Congregational Meetings; Associate Members have no voting rights;
- 8.5 Those below twenty-one years of age shall not be accepted as members without their parent's written consent.
- 8.6 A person who is a born-again Bible-believing Christian in full agreement with the Objects (Article 3), Doctrine (Article 4), and the Principle and Practice of Gospel-centred Biblical Separation (Article 5) and who wants to join the Church should submit his or her name to the Board of Elders. Admission of members shall be by election of the Board of Elders. Upon the election of a candidate, the Board of Elders shall give the candidate notice thereof, together with a copy of the Constitution of the Church. The successful candidate shall be required to sign the Register of Members of the Church and upon such signature, shall forthwith be admitted into the appropriate category of membership of the Church and be entitled to all the benefits and privileges of such membership and be bound by the rules of this Constitution.
- 8.7 Any member may resign his or her membership on giving not less than four weeks' notice in writing to the Board of Elders to this effect; such resignation to be effective as of the first day following four weeks after the notice is given. Notwithstanding this, and in lieu of written notice, a member shall be deemed to have resigned if he or she shall be absent from worship services of the Church without good reasons acceptable to the Board of Elders for a continuous period of twelve consecutive weeks.
- 8.8 The Board of Elders shall have the power to admonish, rebuke, suspend, depose or ex-communicate any member whose conduct, in its opinion, shall be found to be unbecoming of a member or by such member's act or omission, is likely to hinder the

witness of the Church or render it of ill repute. Before a member is ex-communicated, the Board of Elders shall inform that member of the complaints made against him or her. No member shall be ex-communicated without first having an opportunity of appearing before the Board of Elders and answering complaints made against him or her nor unless the Board of Elders then present vote in favour of the ex-communication.

- 8.9 Any person excommunicated in accordance with the rules of this Constitution or otherwise ceasing to be a member of the Church shall forfeit all rights to and claims upon (if any) the Church and its property and funds.

## **Article 9**

### **Branches**

- 9.1 The Church may establish branches subject to the approval of the Registrar of Societies.
- 9.2 Such branches shall be under the control of the Church and be identified as a branch of the Church and shall function in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and the rules made thereunder.

## **Article 10**

### **The Church Government**

- 10.1 The government, administration, and discipline of the Church shall be based upon the Holy Scriptures and in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.
- 10.2 The spiritual oversight of the Church in matters of doctrine, principles of government, church elections, admission and discipline of members shall be the specific responsibilities of the Board of Elders. In order to provide effective spiritual oversight of the Church, the Board of Elders shall be responsible for the appointment and the supervision of all pastors and heads of departments reporting directly to the Board of Elders or the senior pastor (if there is a senior pastor), including defining their job scope, performance monitoring and evaluation of these, and their remuneration.
- 10.3 The administrative oversight of the Church shall be the specific responsibilities of the Church Committee. For the avoidance of doubt, administrative oversight excludes spiritual oversight as defined in Article 10.2. The Church Committee may consult with the Board of Elders on any matter pertaining to administration.



## Article 11

### The Church Committee

- 11.1 The Church Committee shall consist of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer.
- 11.2 The Church Committee shall be elected at the Annual Congregational Meeting. Any member of the Church Committee who is unable to be present at a meeting for valid reasons (e.g. not in Singapore, illness, etc.) can participate in such a meeting via telephonic or video conferencing and such participant shall be included in the determination of the quorum.
- 11.3 All candidates for election to the Church Committee shall be Ordinary Members in good standing of the Church who satisfy the requirements of Article 12 of this Constitution. Additionally, the Chairman shall be elected only from among members of the Board of Elders.
- 11.4 The Chairman shall be the chairman of the meetings of the Church Committee, except for prudential reasons, when the Board of Elders shall appoint one of its Elders as chairman of a particular meeting.
- 11.5 Unless with the prior approval in writing of the Registrar or an Assistant Registrar of Societies, all the Church Committee members, shall be either Singapore Citizens or Singapore Permanent Residents.
- 11.6 Any member of the Church Committee absenting himself or herself from three meetings consecutively without satisfactory explanations shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the Church Committee; a successor who is an Ordinary Member in good standing may be co-opted by the Church Committee upon the recommendation or approval of the Board of Elders to fill any vacancy arising either from such deemed withdrawal or from any other reasons and such successor shall serve until the next Annual Congregational Meeting.
- 11.7 Changes in the Church Committee shall be notified to the Registrar of Societies and the Commissioner of Charities within two weeks of the change.
- 11.8 In addition to Articles 11.15 and 19.3, the Church Committee shall define the duties and responsibilities of office-bearers as it may think fit.
- 11.9 The Church Committee may delegate specific powers to any one of its members and appoint such committees as it deems fit and to make such rules and standing orders to regulate the duties and powers of such persons or committees.
- 11.10 Subject to Article 12 of the Constitution, the Church Committee may co-opt members of the Church to serve on any committee.

- 11.11 The Church Committee shall meet once in every three months or when necessary at such place and time as the Church Committee may determine by giving five days' notice to Committee Members. Meetings may be convened by the Chairman, or in the absence of the Chairman, by the Vice-Chairman. Such meeting shall also be convened at the joint request of any two members of the Church Committee by giving five days' notice.
- 11.12 At least half of the Church Committee Members shall constitute a quorum for the Church Committee meeting. Any member who is unable to be present at a meeting for valid reasons (e.g. not in Singapore, illness, etc.) can participate in such a meeting via telephonic or video conferencing and such participant shall be included in the determination of the quorum.
- 11.13 Decisions of the Church Committee shall be by a simple majority. The Chairman shall have a casting vote in the case of equality of votes.
- 11.14 The Church Committee shall at the Annual Congregational Meeting of the Church present the previous financial year's accounts duly audited either internally or externally.
- 11.15 The Church Committee, through the Secretary, shall keep all records, except financial, of the Church and be responsible for their correctness. The Church Committee shall also be responsible for keeping the following registers:
- Register of Members: An up-to-date Register of Members with full particulars of name, address, date and place of birth, baptism, transfer, resignation, marriage, death or dismissal
- Minutes Book: A Minutes Book to record the minutes of the Church Committee and of the Congregational Meetings.
- 11.16 The duty of the Church Committee is to organise and supervise the daily activities of the Church (including administrative matters other than those matters relating to Article 10.2), and arranging the supervision thereof and to make decisions on matters affecting its running when the Congregational meeting is not sitting. It may not act contrary to the expressed wishes of the Congregational Meeting without prior reference to it and always remain subordinate to the Congregational Meeting.
- 11.17 Whenever a member of the Church Committee or a person connected with a member of the Church Committee has a personal interest in a matter to be discussed at a meeting, the member of the Church Committee or connected person must:
- a) Declare an interest before the discussion on the matter begins;
  - b) Withdraw from the meeting for that item and not to participate in the discussions;
  - c) Not to be counted in the quorum during that part of the meeting; and

- d) Withdraw during the vote and have no vote on the matter.

For the purposes of the above clause, a person is connected with a member of the Church Committee if that person is a member's child, sibling, parent, spouse, spouse's parent, spouse's sibling, grandparent or grandchild.

The discussion and final decisions on the matter should be documented in the minutes of the meeting.

## **Article 12**

### **Election to the Church Committee**

- 12.1 Candidates for election or appointment to the Church Committee shall fulfil the following conditions:
  - (a) Demonstrate beyond reasonable doubt, and over a sufficient length of time, that they are faithful and mature members of the Church and faithfully devote themselves to personal prayer and study of the Word;
  - (b) Attend public worship and prayer meetings of the Church regularly unless prevented from doing so for valid reasons;
  - (c) Make a careful study of the Constitution, in particular the Objects, Doctrine, and the Principle and Practice of Gospel-centred Biblical Separation and fully accept it;
  - (d) Be willing to participate wholeheartedly in the ministry of the Church, with the pastors, and to devote time, talents and resources in such ministry which shall include serving in the various departments of the Church.
- 12.2 Proposals for election to the Church Committee shall be carefully screened by the Board of Elders to ensure that only those with the essential qualifications and who are in full agreement with the doctrinal stand of the Church, in particular with its Objects, Doctrine, and Principle and Practice of Gospel-centred Biblical Separation, are considered for nomination and election to the Church Committee.

## **Article 13**

### **Pastors**

- 13.1 The Board of Elders may create different categories of pastoral office or abolish them as deemed necessary. Pastors shall be appointed by the Board of Elders until such time that their resignation is accepted by the Board of Elders, or they are removed from their pastoral office by the Board of Elders. Additionally the Board of Elders may designate one of the pastors the Senior Pastor and define the duties, responsibilities and powers of that position.

- 13.2 All Pastors (including the Senior Pastor if any), shall be subject to the discipline of the Board of Elders.
- 13.3 All Pastors shall possess the spiritual qualifications as set forth in the Holy Scriptures (1 Timothy 3, Titus 1 and 1 Peter 5) and shall additionally have met the requirements of Article 12.1 of this Constitution. Pastors in charge of the various congregations shall have the general oversight of the spiritual life, regular service, and ministration of the Ordinances of the Church.
- 13.4 Pastors designated by the Board of Elders shall be the ex-officio members of the Church Committee.
- 13.5 No female member shall hold any pastoral office in the Church.

## **Article 14**

### **Elders**

- 14.1 Any candidate for appointment to the office of an Elder shall satisfy the various requirements listed in 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1 and 1 Peter 5 and in Article 12.1 of this Constitution. His appointment shall be by the Board of Elders.
- 14.2 An Elder, once ordained, shall not be divested of his status as Elder of the Church for so long as he remains faithful to the Word of God. However the Board of Elders may, at its sole discretion, accept the resignation of an Elder for valid reason(s). Such resignation notice has to be in writing addressed to the Board of Elders.
- 14.3 An Elder shall endeavour by God's grace to serve in full conformity with the standards set forth in the Word of God (1 Timothy 3:2-7 and Titus 1:6-9), in the government and discipline of the Church, visiting the sick and sorrowing members, investigating delinquents and endeavouring to remedy any spiritual weakness in the lives of members.
- 14.4 Elders shall be subject to the discipline of the Board of Elders.
- 14.5 An Elder may administer the Ordinances.
- 14.6 No female member shall be ordained as an Elder of the Church.

## **Article 15**

### **Deacons**

- 15.1 All Deacons shall be appointed by the Board of Elders. The candidates shall meet with the requirements of Article 12. 1 of this Constitution and shall have attained 21 years of age at the time of appointment and shall have been Ordinary Members of the Church in

good standing for at least 5 years, save that the Board of Elders may in its absolute discretion, shorten the qualifying period.

- 15.2 A Deacon shall serve in that capacity for three years and is eligible thereafter for re-appointment.
- 15.3 Deacons shall endeavour by God's grace to serve in full conformity with the standards set forth in the Word of God (I Timothy 3:8-13).
- 15.4 Deacons may assist in the ministration of the Ordinances.
- 15.5 Deacons shall be subject to the discipline of the Board of Elders.
- 15.6 No female member shall hold the office of a Deacon of the Church.
- 15.7 A Deacon may notify the Board of Elders of his intention to resign and such resignation in writing may be accepted by the Board of Elders if there are valid reasons involved.

## **Article 16**

### **Board of Elders**

- 16.1 The Board of Elders shall consist only of Pastors and Elders. The first members of the Board of Elders shall be elected at the Congregational Meeting. Subsequent members shall be elected by the Board of Elders.
- 16.2 The Chairman shall be elected by and from among the members of the Board of Elders. In his absence, or when deemed prudent, one of the members of the Board of Elders shall act as Chairman.
- 16.3 The Board of Elders may invite anyone as it deems necessary to take part in any meeting of the Board of Elders without voting right.
- 16.4 The Board of Elders shall meet when necessary. The quorum shall be half of the members in the Board. Any member of the Board who is unable to attend a meeting for valid reasons (e.g. not in Singapore, illness, etc.) can participate in such a meeting via telephonic or video conferencing, and such participant shall be included in determining the quorum. Decisions taken at Board of Elders meetings shall be by a majority vote, and in the event of a tie, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.
- 16.5 The decisions of the Board of Elders shall be final and binding on all members of the Church.

## Article 17

### Powers and Responsibilities of the Board of Elders

Subject to Article 10 of this Constitution, the Board of Elders shall:

- 17.1 be responsible for the spiritual welfare and ministry of the Church. In this connection the Board of Elders shall remove any Pastor (including any Senior Pastor), Elder or Deacon from office should any of them, by his conduct and action, prove to be an apostate or otherwise be against the Word of God or acting contrary to the interest and/or the Constitution of the Church;
- 17.2 supervise all public worship and preaching services, the ministration of the Ordinances, Bible Classes, Prayer Meetings, Special Meetings, and all similar efforts aimed at reaching the lost for Christ and at building up Christians in the faith;
- 17.3 screen and admit members into the Church;
- 17.4 appoint Deacons;
- 17.5 exercise discipline in the Church according to the Word of God;
- 17.6 enquire into the knowledge and Christian conduct of the members of the Church;
- 17.7 call before them offenders with witness or witnesses from within or without the congregation;
- 17.8 admonish and rebuke those who are found to deserve censure, suspend or exclude offenders from the Lord's Supper and excommunicate members if necessary;
- 17.9 determine by itself or when it deems necessary, in consultation with the Pastors all matters concerning the religious services and spiritual life of the Church and the suitability of candidates for election to the Church Committee;
- 17.10 if so desirable, delegate specific powers to any one of its members and appoint such committees as it deems fit and to make such rules and standing orders to regulate the duties and powers of such persons or committees;
- 17.11 create a Missions board under a Missions Director reporting to the Board of Elders to oversee the development of overseas missional activities in the Church. The Board of Elders shall formulate the duties and powers of the Missions Board whose members shall be appointed from among the Board of Elders to hold office until they are subsequently removed, or when their resignation is accepted by the Board of Elders. Decisions at any meeting of the Missions Board shall be by a majority vote, with the Missions Director having a casting vote in the event of a tie.

## Article 18

### Congregational Meetings

- 18.1 Any Congregational Meeting of the Church may be constituted as a general meeting for the transaction of business, provided announcement of the said Meeting has been given from the pulpit at two regular worship services on the two preceding Lord's Days or by two weeks' written notice to the members.
- 18.2 Congregational Meetings shall open with Scripture reading and prayer and close with prayer.
- 18.3 Congregational Meetings shall be of two kinds; namely, Annual Congregational Meeting and Extraordinary Congregational Meeting, as follows:
- (a) The Annual Congregational Meeting for the transaction of business pertaining to the Church shall be held in the month of March.
  - (b) At such Meeting the Pastor designated by the Board of Elders shall be the Chairman and he shall report on the spiritual and temporal conditions of the congregation and announce plans for the coming year.
  - (c) Items of business shall include acceptance of the previous financial year's accounts and report of the Church Committee, the election of office bearers for the Church Committee and internal Auditors for the coming year, and any other matters on the agenda.
  - (d) At the Annual Congregation Meeting, Ordinary Members in good standing shall elect a Chairman from among the Elders, and a Vice Chairman, a Secretary, an Assistant Secretary, a Treasurer and an Assistant Treasurer from among Ordinary Members in good standing of the Church. All candidates for election to the Church Committee shall be subject to Article 12 of this Constitution. Names of candidates for the above offices who have been approved by the Board of Elders shall be proposed and seconded at the Annual Congregational Meeting and election will follow on a majority vote of the Ordinary Members in good standing present at the Meeting. All members may be re-elected year after year except that the Treasurer and the Assistant Treasurer shall not hold the same or related office for more than four consecutive years. Further reappointment to the post of Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer may be allowed after a lapse of at least one year.
  - (e) An Extraordinary Congregational Meeting for the transaction of particular business pertaining to the Church may be held at any time upon due notice being given.
  - (f) Only such business as is specifically mentioned in the call may be considered at such a meeting. Any member who wishes to place an item on the agenda of a

Congregational Meeting may do so provided such member gives written notice with particulars of such items to the Secretary at least ten days before the meeting is due to be held. Notice of such additional items shall be given either from the pulpit at the regular Lord's Day worship service immediately preceding the date of the meeting or in writing to members at least three days before the meeting.

(g) The Church Committee shall call an Extraordinary Congregational Meeting when so requested by one fifth of the Ordinary Members in good standing of the Church; the Church Committee can also call an Extraordinary Congregational Meeting at any time on its own initiative.

18.4 The quorum for the Congregational Meetings shall be at least one quarter of the total Ordinary Members in good standing of the Church.

18.5 In the event of a lack of quorum at the commencement of a Congregational Meeting, the Chairman shall adjourn the meeting for half an hour and should the number then present be insufficient to form a quorum, those present shall constitute the quorum, but they shall have no power to amend any of the existing Articles of this Constitution.

## **Article 19**

### **Finance and Audit**

19.1 The work and programme of the Church shall be supported by the freewill offerings of its members and gifts and donations from friends and visitors and by such other income as may be derived by the Church according to the Holy Scriptures.

19.2 The funds of the Church shall be used in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.

19.3 The Treasurer shall keep all funds and collect and disburse all moneys on behalf of the Church and shall keep an account of all monetary transactions and shall be responsible for their correctness. The Treasurer is authorised to expend per month up to an amount set by the Church Committee from time to time for petty expenses on behalf of the Church and will not keep more than the authorized amount in the form of cash and money in excess of this will be deposited in banks approved by the Church Committee. Cheques and all other bank documents for withdrawals from the banks will be signed by the Chairman or Vice Chairman or Secretary in addition to the Treasurer or the Assistant Treasurer.

19.4 The Church Committee may appoint a Finance Committee from among its members to take charge of the financial affairs of the Church.

19.5 Two Ordinary Members in good standing who are not members of the Church Committee shall be elected at the Annual Congregational Meeting to be Internal Auditors, to hold office until the next Annual Congregational Meeting. They will hold



office for one year and may be re-elected for up to four consecutive terms. Further reappointment to the post of Internal Auditor may be allowed after a lapse of at least one year. The Internal Auditors shall be required to audit each financial year's accounts and present a report upon them to the Annual Congregational Meeting. They may be required by the Church Committee to audit the Church's accounts for any period within their tenure of office at any date and make a report to the Church Committee.

19.6 In lieu of the appointment of Internal Auditors, or at the discretion of the Church Committee, in addition to such appointments, an auditing firm in the Republic of Singapore may be appointed at the Annual Congregational Meeting to act as External Auditor until the next Annual Congregational Meeting.

19.7 The financial year of the Church shall be from 1st January to 31st December.

## **Article 20**

### **Trustees**

20.1 The Church shall have the power to acquire immovable property and such other property as the relevant authorities shall permit. The trustees may deal with the property so vested in them by way of sale, mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise as directed by the Church such direction shall be given at a Congregational Meeting and when so passed in favour of a purchaser, mortgagee, chargee, leasee or grantee be binding upon all Members of the Church.

20.2 If the Church acquires any immovable property, such property shall be vested in trustees subject to a declaration of trust. The number of trustees shall be not less than two nor more than four. Nominees for trustees shall be approved by the Board of Elders and elected by Ordinary Members in good standing at a Congregational Meeting convened for such a purpose.

20.3 The trustees shall be indemnified against risk and expense out of the property of the Church. Any trustee may at any time resign his or her trusteeship.

20.4 When a trustee dies or becomes a lunatic or of unsound mind or moves permanently or is absent from the Republic of Singapore for a period of more than one year, that trustee shall be deemed to have resigned.

20.5 If a trustee becomes a bankrupt or is facing a threatened bankruptcy or is guilty of misconduct of such kind as to render it undesirable that he or she continues as a trustee, a Congregational Meeting may remove him or her from trusteeship. Vacancies in the trusteeship may be filled at a Congregational Meeting. Notice of any proposal to remove a trustee or to appoint a new trustee shall be announced at the regular worship service two weeks preceding the Congregational Meeting convened for the purpose.

20.6 The result of any such meeting shall be notified to the Registrar of Societies and the Commissioner of Charities. The addresses of immovable properties, names of trustees

and any subsequent changes must be notified to the Registrar of Societies and the Commissioner of Charities.

## **Article 21**

### **Prohibitions**

- 21.1 Gambling of any kind whether for stakes or not, is forbidden on the Church's premises. The introduction of materials for gambling or drug taking and of bad characters into the premises is prohibited.
- 21.2 The funds of the Church shall not be used to pay the fines of members who have been convicted in Court.
- 21.3 The Church shall not engage in any trade union activity as defined in any written law relating to trade unions for the time being in force in the Republic of Singapore.
- 21.4 The Church shall not attempt to restrict or interfere with trade or make directly or indirectly any recommendation to, or any arrangement with its members which has the purpose or is likely to have the effect of fixing or controlling the price or any discount, allowance or rebate relating to any goods or services which adversely affect consumer interests.
- 21.5 The Church shall not hold any lottery, whether confined to its members or not, in the name of the Church or its office-bearers, Church Committee, Board of Elders or members.
- 21.6 The Church shall not indulge in any political activity or allow its funds and/or premises to be used for political purposes.
- 21.7 The Church shall not raise funds from the public for whatever purpose without the prior written approval of the Director, Criminal Investigation Department and other relevant authorities.

## **Article 22**

### **Notice**

- 22.1 Every member of the Church shall from time to time communicate to the Secretary his or her address or that of his or her agent in Singapore and all notices posted to such address shall be deemed to have been duly received on the day following the date of posting.

## **Article 23**

### **Amendments**

- 23.1 Article 3 (Objects), Article 4 (Doctrine), Article 5 (Principles and Practice of Gospel-centred Biblical Separation), Article 17.1 and Article 23.1 of the Constitution are not open to amendment except with an unanimous vote of all Ordinary Members in good standing present at a properly convened Congregational Meeting called for that purpose.
- 23.2 Amendments to other Articles of the Constitution may be made at any Congregational Meeting.
- 23.3 Proposed amendments shall be made in writing to the Secretary not less than seven days before the Annual Congregational Meeting or Extraordinary Congregational Meeting, as the case may be.
- 23.4 Except for Articles 3, 4, 5, 17.1 and 23.1 amendments to the other Articles of the Constitution shall be carried by the affirmative votes of a minimum of three-fifths of the total votes of the Ordinary Members in good standing present at a properly convened Congregational Meeting.
- 23.5 Amendments shall come into force only after the approvals of the Registrar of Societies and the Commissioner of Charities are received.

## **Article 24**

### **By-Laws**

- 24.1 Subject to Articles 10.2 and 10.3, the Board of Elders or the Church Committee may make repeal and amend such by-laws as they may from time to time consider necessary either for giving effect to the provisions of this Constitution or for the well being of the Church.

## **Article 25**

### **Interpretation**

- 25.1 In the event of any question or matter arising out of any point which is not expressly provided for in the Constitution, then subject to Articles 10.2 and 10.3, the Board of Elders or the Church Committee shall decide on the matter or the necessary steps to be taken. The decision of the Board of Elders or the Church Committee shall be final unless it is reversed at a Congregational Meeting of members.

## **Article 26**

### **Dissolution**

- 26.1 The Church shall not be dissolved except with the consent of not less than three-fifths of the Ordinary Members in good standing for the time being resident in Singapore expressed either in person or by proxy at a Congregation Meeting convened for that purpose.
- 26.2 In the event of the Church being dissolved as provided above, all debts and liabilities legally incurred on behalf of the Church shall be fully discharged, and the remaining funds shall be given or transferred to an approved charity or charities with similar objects which is or are registered in Singapore under the Charities Act (Cap 37) as may be determined at the Congregational Meeting.
- 26.3 A Certificate of Dissolution shall be given within seven days of the dissolution to the Registrar of Societies and the Commissioner of Charities.

Amended 17th August 2017