



ARTICLE 1 Name

The name of the church shall be “**BEERSHEBA APOSTOLIC INTERNATIONAL CHURCH**” (hereinafter “the church”).

ARTICLE 2 Doctrinal position of the church

The Holy Scriptures, known as the Bible, is the inspired Word of God and our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice.

These articles of faith of the church, grounded in these scriptures, are given as a basis for belief, fellowship, and ministry that we all preach according to the Bible and are “perfectly united in mind and thought” (1 Corinthians 1:10).

Let it be remembered, however, that this is not given as a summary of the complete revelation of biblical truth, only that it covers our present needs as to these fundamental doctrines.

2.1 The Eternal Godhead

We believe in God, who is eternal and self-existent, revealed as one being in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and the Creator of all things.

2.2 The Lord Jesus Christ

We believe in Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, who was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, ministering in teaching, healing, and miracles. He was crucified and died on our behalf. He rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, where He is now seated and exalted at the right hand of the Father as the risen Lord and Intercessor.

2.3 The Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit, fully divine, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. He convicts, regenerates and sanctifies, and guides believers into all truth.

2.4 The Holy Bible

We believe that the Bible is the inerrant, inspired and infallible Word of God and our highest authority for faith and practice.

2.5 Creation

We believe that God created the universe and that all people are created in the image of God, to love and worship God.

2.6 The Devil

We believe in the existence and person of the devil, who actively opposes the purposes of God.

2.7 The Fall of Humanity

We believe that all people have rejected God through their sinful acts and are separated from God.

2.8 The Atonement

We believe that salvation is found in Jesus Christ alone who—by His suffering, shed blood, death on the cross, and resurrection—has made full atonement for the sins of all people. We receive salvation by grace through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

2.9 The Church

We believe that the Church, the body of Christ, is the community of people who confess faith in Jesus Christ. While universal, the Church is local in expression and witness. It exists for worship, fellowship, evangelism, discipleship, and mission. Gifts of ministry are given by Christ to strengthen and mature the Church.

2.10 Water Baptism

We believe in water baptism by single immersion in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is a public declaration of a person's faith in, and identification with, the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

2.11 The Lord's Supper

We believe in the Lord's Supper, which is in symbolic remembrance of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ until He returns.

2.12 Sanctification

We believe in the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit, who convicts people of their sin and inspires repentance and faith. The Holy Spirit transforms believers into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

2.13 The Baptism of believers only by immersion

Baptism is an ordinance of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a public declaration of a person's faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. In accordance with New Testament Scripture it should be administered only by total immersion which symbolises the believer's identification with Christ in death, burial and resurrection, the remission of sins and the believer's dedication to God to live and walk in newness of life.

2.14 The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

We believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit, which is a transformative experience, distinct from and subsequent to salvation. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is available to all believers. and accompanied by the initial evidence of speaking in tongues (Acts 2:4). It results in empowerment for effective witness to the world (Acts 1:8).

2.15 Gifts of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit imparts spiritual gifts to believers for ministry to one another, the Church, and the world.

2.16 Divine Healing

We believe that God heals today through the atoning work of Jesus Christ. By praying in faith for healing and miracles we witness to and continue the ministry of Jesus Christ.

2.17 The Second Coming of Christ

We believe in, and look forward to, the imminent and personal return of Jesus Christ to gather His people to Himself, and to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will have no end.

2.18 The Punishment of the Wicked

We believe in the resurrection of the body. All who believe in Jesus Christ will have everlasting life in the presence of God; those who reject Him will have eternal separation from God. It is the call of all believers to proclaim the message of Jesus Christ until He returns.

ARTICLE 3 Objectives, Vision, and Mission statement

3.1 Our Objectives:

- 3.1.1 To spread the Gospel of Jesus – Christ in a way that is consistent with the doctrines outlined in ARTICLE 2.
- 3.1.2 To encourage integrity and righteous living in its leaders, ministers, and BEERSHEBA APOSTOLIC INTERNATIONAL CHURCH members.
- 3.1.3 To plant and sustain churches that provide a safe and nurturing environment in which Christians can grow and others can find faith in Christ.
- 3.1.4 To engage in Christian action in the relief of human suffering

3.2 Our Church Vision Statement:

- 3.2.1 To be a Church where the presence of God will dwell through an intentional, reverent, and anointed worship.
- 3.2.2 To be a Church where the unchurched, the unbelievers and the lost will encounter the love of Christ and will fill the altar in all our meetings and will find a new family in the Kingdom of God.
- 3.2.3 To be a Church where the backslidden will find love, acceptance, grace and the power to come back to their Saviour.
- 3.2.4 To be A Church where the sick, the depressed, the broken-hearted will find healing.

- 3.2.5 To be a Church where the supplication and intercession of the saints for the expansion of the Kingdom of God will be heard.
- 3.2.6 To be a Church where a new generation of Kingdom minded leaders are equipped, trained, and released into what God has called them to do in His Kingdom.
- 3.2.7 To be a Church that constantly believe that God can do exceedingly and abundantly above what we ask or think. To be a Church that always remembers that it is all about Jesus.
- 3.2.8 This Church will be ***“BEERSHEBA APOSTOLIC INTERNATIONAL CHURCH”*** by the Grace of God.

3.3 Our Church Mission Statement:

- 3.3.1 We will foster and continuously pray for unity in the Church: the last prayer of our Lord Jesus for his disciples and all believers was not for more healing power or more resources; he interceded for their UNITY (John 17: 20-23).
- 3.3.2 We will seek the Lord diligently and at times through fasting and praying constantly believing for breakthroughs and the impossible in all aspects of the Church.
- 3.3.3 We will ensure that the passion for the lost fuels and guides all aspects of our Church to empty the Kingdom of Darkness
- 3.3.4 We will appoint committed leaders who believe in our vision, are anointed, and trained before they are released.
- 3.3.5 We will make sure that our church services are organised in such a way that the presence of God is felt thus allowing people to encounter Christ especially through worship and anointed preaching and teaching.
- 3.3.6 We will set up New Christian and Bible classes to impart the Vision of the Church and train them up so that they may influence their generation for Christ.
- 3.3.7 We will instil in the Church the eternal value of what we do as our true reward is in heaven where we will spend Eternity with our Lord and Saviour.

ARTICLE 4 Membership

4.1 Membership generally

4.1.1 A person is eligible to be a member of BEERSHEBA APOSTOLIC INTERNATIONAL CHURCH if:

- (a) the person is a natural person, and
- (b) the person has applied and been approved for membership of BEERSHEBA APOSTOLIC INTERNATIONAL CHURCH in accordance with clause 4.2

4.1.2 A person is taken to be a member of BEERSHEBA APOSTOLIC INTERNATIONAL CHURCH if:

- (a) the person is a natural person, and
- (b) the person was:
 - (i) a believer who has repented and accepted the Lord Jesus-Christ as their Lord and Saviour,
 - (ii) a member of BEERSHEBA APOSTOLIC INTERNATIONAL CHURCH immediately whilst it was still unincorporated, and,
 - (iii) a member who formally confirmed their willingness to join the Church during the inaugural Annual General Meeting.

Subsequently, to be considered for membership of BEERSHEBA APOSTOLIC INTERNATIONAL CHURCH,
the prospective member:

4.1.3 must fulfill the membership requirements as set out in section 4.1.2 (a) and (b) (i)

4.1.4 must agree to be under the authority and leadership of the visionary leader and all church leaders as set out in the Constitution.

4.1.1 must confirm their willingness to actively promote mutual respect, harmony, peace, and love in the church.

4.1.2 must agree to support the implementation of the Church objectives, mission and vision as set out in the Constitution.

4.1.3 must complete the church membership application and submit it to the church leadership team to the Church.

4.1.4 Two (2) members of the leadership team shall review the application and interview the prospective church member.

4.1.5 If successful, an application shall be made to the next Church leadership meeting for acceptance.

4.2 Application for membership

4.2.1 An application by a person for membership of BEERSHEBA APOSTOLIC INTERNATIONAL CHURCH:

- (a) must be made in writing (including by email or other electronic means, if the committee so determines) in the form determined by the Church committee, and
- (b) must be lodged (including by electronic means if the committee so determines) with the secretary of the Church.

4.2.2 As soon as practicable after receiving an application for membership, the secretary must refer the application to the Church committee, which is to determine whether to approve or to reject the application.

4.2.3 As soon as practicable after the Church committee makes that determination, the secretary must:

- (a) notify the applicant in writing (including by email or other electronic means, if the committee so determines) that the Church committee approved or rejected the application (whichever is applicable), and
- (b) if the committee approved the application, the Secretary would inform the Church that a new member has been added to the Church (within the period of 28 days after receipt by the applicant of the notification)
- (c) The secretary must, enter or cause to be entered the applicant's name in the register of members and, on the name being so entered, the applicant becomes a member of the Church within the period referred to in subclause 4.2.3 (b).

4.3. Responsibilities of members

4.3.1 Each member is expected to maintain a good testimony and an active Christian witness and support the work of the ministry at BEERSHEBA APOSTOLIC INTERNATIONAL CHURCH by:

- (a) Attending church services regularly, the Lord's Supper, and General Meetings.
- (b) Praying for the work of the Church and the Church Fellowship.
- (c) Giving financial support on regular basis to support the work of the Ministry.
- (d) Helping to carry on the various operations of the Church for the advancement of the Kingdom of God, making use of the individual gifts, talents, and opportunities which God provides.
- (e) Being committed to working out their salvation and pursuing growth in their godliness to reflect the Lord Jesus-Christ in their lives.

- (f) Promoting harmony, love, and unity in the church.
- (g) Being committed to pursuing and maintaining a good reputation with those outside the church.

4.4 Register of members

4.4.1 The Secretary must establish and maintain a register of members of the Church.

4.4.2 The register:

- (a) may be in written or electronic form, and
- (b) must include, for each member:
 - (i) the member's full name, and
 - (ii) a residential, postal or email address, and
 - (iii) the date on which the person became a member, and
 - (iv) if the person ceases to be a member - the date on which the person ceased to be a member, and
- (c) must be kept in New South Wales:
 - (i) at the Church's main premises, or
 - (ii) if the Church has no premises - at the Church's official address, and
- (d) must be available for inspection, free of charge, by members at a reasonable time, and
- (e) if kept in electronic form - must be able to be converted to hard copy.
- (f) If the register is kept in electronic form, the requirements in subclause 4.4.2 (i) and (ii) apply as if a reference to the register a reference to a current hard copy of the register is.
- (g) A member may obtain a hard copy of the register, or a part of the register, on payment of a fee of not more than \$1, as determined by the committee, for each page copied.
- (h) Information about a member, other than the member's name, must not be made available for inspection if the member requests that the information not be made available.
- (i) A member must not use information about a member obtained from the register to contact or send material to the member, unless:
- (j) the information is used to send the member:
 - (i) a newsletter, or
 - (ii) a notice for a meeting or other event relating to the Church, or
 - (iii) other material relating to the Church, or
- (k) it is necessary to comply with a requirement of the Act or the Regulation.

4.5 Cessation of membership

Membership is to be terminated in the following circumstances:

- (a) Resigns membership, or
- (b) is expelled from the church, or
- (c) Transfer Out: Outward letters of transfer shall, with the approval of the Church executive committee, be supplied to the Secretary of another church on request for any member in good standing.
- (d) By Request. Members may request the removal of their names from the Roll for any reason. Such requests will be considered by and at the discretion of the Church Executive committee.
- (e) Death. The names of deceased members shall be removed from the Roll,

4.6 Minors eligible for Membership (Associate Members)

A person who is under the age of 18 years of age is eligible to be admitted to Membership of the Church but will not have voting rights until reaching the age of 18 years.

4.7 Discipline of members

- 4.7.1 The Executive Committee will investigate the circumstances of all cases where a member, by any practice and/or conduct, is inconsistent with the teaching of the Bible.
- 4.7.2 A complaint may also be made to the Executive committee by any person that a member of the Church:
 - (a) has refused or neglected to comply with a provision or provisions of this constitution, or
 - (b) has willfully acted in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the Church which can bring the Church into disrepute.
- 4.7.3 The Executive committee may refuse to deal with a complaint if it considers the complaint to be trivial or vexatious in nature.
- 4.7.4 If the Executive committee decides to deal with the complaint, the Executive committee:
 - (a) must cause notice of the complaint to be served on the member concerned, and
 - (b) must give the member at least 14 days from the time the notice is served within which to make submissions to the committee in connection with the complaint, and
 - (c) must take into consideration any submissions made by the member in connection with the complaint.

- 4.7.5 The Executive committee may, by a majority vote, expel the member from the Church or suspend the member from membership of the Church if, after considering the complaint and any submissions made in connection with the complaint, it is satisfied that the facts alleged in the complaint have been proved and the expulsion or suspension is warranted in the circumstances.
- 4.7.6 If the Executive committee expels or suspends a member, the secretary must, within 7 days after the action is taken, cause written notice to be given to the member of the action taken, of the reasons given by the Executive committee for having taken that action and of the member's right of appeal under clause 4.
- 4.7.7 Discipline is an exercise of scriptural authority for which the church is responsible (Matthew 16:19; 18:15-20; Luke 17:3; John 20:23; Acts 16:4; Ephesians 5:11; 1 Timothy 5:20; 2 Timothy 4:2; Hebrews 13:17). The purpose of discipline is to promote repentance and restoration through exposing sinful behavior. It is to be redemptive in nature as well as corrective. Any member of the Church is subject to discipline because of unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure of the church, as determined at the sole discretion of the Executive Committee.

4.8 Right of appeal of disciplined member

- (1) A member may appeal to the Church in general meeting against a resolution of the Executive committee under clause 4.6, within 7 days after notice of the resolution is served on the member, by lodging with the secretary a notice to that effect.
- (2) The notice may, but need not, be accompanied by a statement of the grounds on which the member intends to rely for the purposes of the appeal.
- (3) On receipt of a notice from a member under subclause (1), the secretary must notify the Executive committee, which is to convene a general meeting of the Church to be held within 28 days after the date on which the secretary received the notice.
- (4) At a general meeting of the Church convened under subclause (3):
 - (a) no business other than the question of the appeal is to be transacted, and
 - (b) the Executive committee and the member must be given the opportunity to state their respective cases orally or in writing, or both, and
 - (c) the members present are to vote by secret ballot on the question of whether the resolution should be confirmed or revoked.
- (d) The appeal is to be determined by a simple majority of votes cast by members of the Church.

4.9 Resignation of members

- (1) A member of the church may resign from membership of the Church by first giving to the secretary written notice of at least 1 month (or any other period that the committee may determine) of the member's intention to resign and, on the expiration of the period of notice, the member ceases to be a member.
- (2) If a member of the Church ceases to be a member under subclause (1), and in every other case where a member ceases to hold membership, the secretary must make an appropriate entry in the register of members recording the date on which the member ceased to be a member.

ARTICLE 5 The church Committee

5.1 Powers of the Committee

Subject to the Act, the Regulation, this constitution, and any resolution passed by the church in general meeting, the committee:

- (a) is to control and manage the affairs of the church, and
- (b) may exercise all the functions that may be exercised by the church, other than those functions that are required by this constitution to be exercised by a general meeting of members of the church, and
- (c) has power to perform all the acts and do all things that appear to the committee to be necessary or desirable for the proper management of the affairs of the church.

5.2 The Composition of the Church Committee

The inaugural church committee consists of office-bearers of the church. The office bearers of the Church are as follows:

- (a) the president,
- (b) the vice-president,
- (c) the treasurer,
- (d) the secretary.

5.3 The Visionary leader will nominate the inaugural Office Bearers for the election and approval of the church members during the Inaugural Annual General Meeting.

5.4 An office-bearer may hold up to 2 offices, other than both the offices of president and vice president.

5.5 Each member of the Executive committee is, subject to this constitution, to hold office until immediately before the election of committee members at the annual general meeting next following the date of the member's election and is eligible for re-election.

5.6 Except for the inaugural Executive Committee, subsequent executive committee members shall subsequently be elected in accordance with clause 5.12.

5.7 There is no maximum number of consecutive terms for which an Executive committee member may hold office.

5.8 The inaugural Executive Committee shall appoint 3 initial ordinary members to be part of the Church committee.

5.9 The inaugural Executive Committee shall appoint in the first year of operation.

5.10 The total number of committee members cannot be less than 7.

5.11 The Executive Committee shall appoint ordinary members as required to carry out specific duties to achieve the objectives of the Church.

5.12 Election of Committee members

Except for the election of the Inaugural Executive Committee, the election of office-bearers and ordinary committee members shall occur as follows:

- (1) The visionary leader will prayerfully consider and nominate candidates as office-bearers of the church or as ordinary committee members.
- (2) Nominations of candidates for election as office-bearers of the Church or as ordinary committee can also be made as follows:
 - (a) must be made in writing, signed by 2 members of the Church, and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the form of the nomination), and
 - (b) must be delivered to the secretary of the Church at least 7 days before the date fixed for the holding of the annual general meeting at which the election is to take place.
- (3) If insufficient nominations are received to fill all vacancies on the committee, the candidates nominated are taken to be elected and further nominations are to be received at the annual general meeting.
- (4) If insufficient further nominations are received, any vacant positions remaining on the committee are taken to be casual vacancies.
- (5) If the number of nominations received is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, the persons nominated are taken to be elected.
- (6) If the number of nominations received exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled, a ballot is to be held.
- (7) The ballot for the election of office-bearers and ordinary committee members of the committee is to be conducted at the annual general meeting in any usual and proper manner that the committee directs.
- (8) A person nominated as a candidate for election as an office-bearer or as an ordinary committee member of the Church must be a member of the Church.

5.13 The Secretary

The Secretary must keep minutes of:

- (a) all elections of committee members, and
- (b) the names of committee members present at a meeting of the committee or a general meeting, and
- (c) all proceedings at committee meetings and general meetings.

The minutes must be:

- (a) kept in written or electronic form, and
- (b) for minutes of proceedings at a meeting -signed, in writing or by electronic means, by:
 - (i) the member who presided at the meeting, or
 - (ii) the member presiding at the subsequent meeting.

5.14 The Treasurer

The treasurer must ensure—

- (a) all money owed to the church is collected, and
- (b) all payments authorised by the church are made, and
- (c) correct books and accounts are kept showing the financial affairs of the church, including full details of receipts and expenditure relating to the movement's activities.

5.15 Term of Office

The term of office shall be two years, from the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting at which elected, until the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting next following.

There is no limit on the number of consecutive terms for which a committee member may hold office.

5.16 The Visionary leader

(1) The visionary leader shall be the chief shepherd, Senior Pastor and teacher of the BEERSHEBA APOSTOLIC INTERNATIONAL CHURCH. He shall be an ex officio member of all committees including the Executive committee and shall oversee the ministry and functions of all departments and ministries.

(2) The visionary leader shall be the Public Officer of BEERSHEBA APOSTOLIC INTERNATIONAL CHURCH.

(3) The visionary leader shall arrange for and conduct all public and regular services of the church. The Senior Pastor may appoint any

(4) In his absence, the Visionary

(5) In line with the mission and vision statements, the visionary leader shall select, train and release individuals in the church to perform activities in accordance with their calling, gifts, and anointing in order to fulfill the vision of the church.

5.17 Vacancies

(1) In the event of a casual vacancy occurring in the membership of the committee, the committee may appoint a member of the Church to fill the vacancy and the member so appointed is to hold office, subject to this constitution, until the annual general meeting next following the date of the appointment.

(2) A casual vacancy in the office of a member of the committee occurs if the member:

- (a) dies, or
- (b) ceases to be a member of the church, or
- (c) is or becomes an insolvent under administration within the meaning of the *Corporations Act 2001* of the Commonwealth, or
- (d) resigns office by notice in writing given to the secretary, or
- (e) is removed from office under clause 6.4, or
- (f) becomes a mentally incapacitated person, or
- (g) is absent without the consent of the committee from 3 consecutive meetings of the

committee, or

(h) is convicted of an offence involving fraud or dishonesty for which the maximum penalty

on conviction is imprisonment for not less than 3 months, or

(i) is prohibited from being a director of a company under Part 2D.6 (Disqualification from managing corporations) of the *Corporations Act 2001* of the Commonwealth.

5.18 Removal of committee members

(1) The decision to remove any church committee member shall not be taken lightly.

(2) The decision to remove a committee member must refer to clause 4.7 and article 8 in relation to the disciplining of church members in general.

(3) A credible complaint must be made against a committee member and investigated thoroughly prior to proceeding to vote to remove the committee member in line with clause 6.4

(4)

(4) The removal of a committee member can only occur during a general meeting by resolution brought by the President on behalf of the church committee.

(5) A church committee member can be removed before the expiration of the member's term of office and may by resolution appoint another person to hold office until the expiration of the term of office of the member so removed.

(6) If a member of the committee to whom a proposed resolution referred to in subclause (3) relates makes representations in writing to the secretary or president (not exceeding a reasonable length) and requests that the representations be notified to the members of the Church, the secretary or the president may send a copy of the representations to each member of the Church or, if the representations are not so sent, the member is entitled to require that the representations be read out at the meeting at which the resolution is considered.

5.19 Meetings and quorums of the church committee

(1) The church committee must meet at least 3 times in each period of 12 months at the place and time that the committee may determine.

(2) Additional meetings of the church committee may be convened by the president or by any member of the church committee.

(3) Oral or written notice of a meeting of the church committee must be given by the secretary to each member of the church committee at least 48 hours (or any other period that may be unanimously agreed on by the members of the committee) before the time appointed for the holding of the meeting.

(4) Notice of a meeting given under subclause (3) must specify the general nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting and no business other than that business is to be transacted at the meeting, except business which the committee members present at the meeting unanimously agree to treat as urgent business.

(5) Any 3 members of the church committee constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a meeting of the church committee.

(6) No business is to be transacted by the church committee unless a quorum is present and if, within half an hour of the time appointed for the meeting, a quorum is not present, the meeting is to stand adjourned to the same place and at the same hour of the same day in the following week.

(7) If at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour of the time appointed for the meeting, the meeting is to be dissolved.

(8) At a meeting of the church committee:

- (a) the president or, in the president's absence, the vice-president is to preside, or
- (b) if the president and the vice-president are absent or unwilling to act, one of the remaining members of the church committee chosen by the members present at the meeting is to preside.

5.20 Appointment of church members as church committee members to constitute quorum.

(1) If at any time the number of committee members is less than the number required to constitute a quorum for a committee meeting, the existing committee members may appoint enough members of the Church as committee members to enable the quorum to be constituted.

(2) A member of the committee so appointed is to hold office, subject to this constitution, until the annual general meeting next following the date of the appointment.

(3) This clause does not apply to the filling of vacancies to which clause 5.17 applies.

5.21 Use of technology at church committee meeting

(1) A church committee meeting may be held at 2 or more venues using any technology approved by the committee that gives each of the committee's members a reasonable opportunity to participate.

(2) A church committee member who participates in a committee meeting using that technology is taken to be present at the meeting and, if the member votes at the meeting, is taken to have voted in person.

5.22 Delegation of church sub-committee

(1) The church committee may, by instrument in writing, delegate to one or more sub-committees (consisting of the member or members of the church that the committee thinks fit) the exercise of any of the functions of the committee that are specified in the instrument, other than:

- (a) this power of delegation, and
- (b) a function which is a duty imposed on the committee by the Act or by any other law.
- (c) A function the exercise of which has been delegated to a sub-committee under this clause may, while the delegation remains unrevoked, be exercised from time to time by the sub-committee in accordance with the terms of the delegation.

(2) A delegation under this clause may be made subject to any conditions or limitations as to the exercise of any function, or as to time or circumstances, that may be specified in the instrument of delegation.

(3) Despite any delegation under this clause, the church committee may continue to exercise any function delegated.

(4) Any act or thing done or suffered by a sub-committee acting in the exercise of a delegation under this clause has the same force and effect as it would have if it had been done or suffered by the committee.

(5) The committee may, by instrument in writing, revoke wholly or in part any delegation under this clause.

(6) A sub-committee may meet and adjourn as it thinks proper.

5.23 Voting and Decisions

- (1) Questions arising at a meeting of the committee or of any sub-committee appointed by the committee are to be determined by a majority of the votes of members of the committee or sub-committee present at the meeting.
- (2) Each member present at a meeting of the committee or of any sub-committee appointed by the committee (including the person presiding at the meeting) is entitled to one vote but, in the event of an equality of votes on any question, the person presiding may exercise a second or casting vote.
- (3) Subject to clause 5.19 (5), the committee may act despite any vacancy on the committee.
- (4) Any act or thing done or suffered, or purporting to have been done or suffered, by the committee or by a sub-committee appointed by the committee, is valid and effectual despite any defect that may afterwards be discovered in the appointment or qualification of any member of the committee or sub-committee.

ARTICLE 6 General meetings

6.1 Annual general meetings – holding of

(1) The annual general meeting of the church is, subject to the Act and to clause 25, to be convened on the date and at the place and time that the committee thinks fit.

(2) In addition to any other business which may be transacted at an annual general meeting, the business of an annual general meeting is to include the following:

- (a) to confirm the minutes of the last preceding annual general meeting and of any special general meeting held since that meeting,
- (b) to receive from the committee reports on the activities of the church during the last preceding financial year,
- (c) to elect office-bearers of the church and ordinary committee members,
- (d) to receive and consider any financial statement or report required to be submitted to members under the Act. An annual general meeting must be specified as that type of meeting in the notice convening it.

(3) The church must hold its first annual general meeting within 18 months after its registration under the Act.

(4) The church must hold its annual general meetings:

- (a) within 6 months after the close of the church's financial year, or
- (b) within any later time that may be allowed or prescribed under section 37 (2) (b) of the Act.

6.2 Annual general meetings – holding of

(1) The annual general meeting of the church is, subject to the Act and to clause 6.1 to be convened on the date and at the place and time that the committee thinks fit.

(2) In addition to any other business which may be transacted at an annual general meeting, the business of an annual general meeting is to include the following:

- (a) to confirm the minutes of the last preceding annual general meeting and of any special general meeting held since that meeting,
- (b) to receive from the committee reports on the activities of the church during the last preceding financial year,
- (c) to elect office-bearers of the church and ordinary committee members
- (d) to receive and consider any financial statement or report required to be submitted to members under the Act.

(3) An annual general meeting must be specified as that type of meeting in the notice convening it.

6.3 Special general meetings - calling of

- (1) The committee may, whenever it thinks fit, convene a special general meeting of the church.
- (2) The committee must, on the requisition of at least 5% of the total number of members, convene a special general meeting of the church.
- (3) A requisition of members for a special general meeting:
 - (a) must be in writing, and
 - (b) must state the purpose or purposes of the meeting, and
 - (c) must be signed by the members making the requisition, and
 - (d) must be lodged with the secretary, and
 - (e) may consist of several documents in a similar form, each signed by one or more of the members making the requisition.
- (4) If the committee fails to convene a special general meeting to be held within 1 month after the date on which a requisition of members for the meeting is lodged with the secretary, any one or more of the members who made the requisition may convene a special general meeting to be held not later than 3 months after that date.
- (5) A special general meeting convened by a member, or members as referred to in subclause (4) must be convened as nearly as is practicable in the same manner as general meetings are convened by the committee.
- (6) For the purposes of subclause (3):
 - (a) a requisition may be in electronic form, and
 - (b) a signature may be transmitted, and a requisition may be lodged, by electronic means.

6.4 Notice

- (1) Except if the nature of the business proposed to be dealt with at a general meeting requires a special resolution of the church, the secretary must, at least 14 days before the date fixed for the holding of the general meeting, give a notice to each member specifying the place, date and time of the meeting and the nature of the business proposed to be transacted at the meeting.
- (2) If the nature of the business proposed to be dealt with at a general meeting requires a special resolution of the church, the secretary must, at least 21 days before the date fixed for the holding of the general meeting, cause notice to be given to each member specifying, in addition to the matter required under subclause (1), the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution.
- (3) No business other than that specified in the notice convening a general meeting is to be transacted at the meeting except, in the case of an annual general meeting, business which may be transacted under clause 26 (2).
- (4) A member desiring to bring any business before a general meeting may give notice in writing of that business to the secretary who must include that business in the next notice calling a general meeting given after receipt of the notice from the member.

6.5 Quorum for general meetings

- (1) No item of business is to be transacted at a general meeting unless a quorum of members entitled under this constitution to vote is present during the time the meeting is considering that item.
- (2) Five members present (being members entitled under this constitution to vote at a general meeting) constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a general meeting.
- (3) If within half an hour after the appointed time for the commencement of a general meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting:
 - a) if convened on the requisition of members—is to be dissolved, and
 - b) in any other case—is to stand adjourned to the same day in the following week at the same time and (unless another place is specified at the time of the adjournment by the person presiding at the meeting or communicated by written notice to members given before the day to which the meeting is adjourned) at the same place.
- (4) If at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour after the time appointed for the commencement of the meeting, the members present (being at least 3) are to constitute a quorum.

6.6 Presiding member

- (1) The president or, in the president's absence, the vice-president, is to preside as chairperson at each general meeting of the church.
- (2) If the president and the vice-president are absent or unwilling to act, the members present must elect one of their number to preside as chairperson at the meeting.

6.7 Adjournment

- (1) The chairperson of a general meeting at which a quorum is present may, with the consent of the majority of members present at the meeting, adjourn the meeting from time to time and place to place, but no business is to be transacted at an adjourned meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting at which the adjournment took place.
- (2) If a general meeting is adjourned for 14 days or more, the secretary must give written or oral notice of the adjourned meeting to each member of the church stating the place, date and time of the meeting and the nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting.
- (3) Except as provided in subclauses (1) and (2), notice of an adjournment of a general meeting or of the business to be transacted at an adjourned meeting is not required to be given.

6.8 Making of decisions.

- (1) A question arising at a general meeting of the church is to be determined by:
 - (a) a show of hands or, if the meeting is one to which clause 37 applies, any appropriate corresponding method that the committee may determine, or
 - (b) if on the motion of the chairperson or if 5 or more members present at the meeting decide that the question should be determined by a written ballot—a written ballot.
- (2) If the question is to be determined by a show of hands, a declaration by the chairperson that a resolution has, on a show of hands, been carried or carried unanimously or carried by a particular majority or lost, or an entry to that effect in the minute book of the church,

- (3) is evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against that resolution.
- (4) Subclause (2) applies to a method determined by the committee under subclause (1) (a) in the same way as it applies to a show of hands.
- (5) If the question is to be determined by a written ballot, the ballot is to be conducted in accordance with the directions of the chairperson.

6.9 Special resolutions

A special resolution may only be passed by the church in accordance with section 39 of the Act.

6.10 Voting

- (1) On any question arising at a general meeting of the church a member has one vote only.
- (2) In the case of an equality of votes on a question at a general meeting, the chairperson of the meeting is entitled to exercise a second or casting vote.
- (3) A member is not entitled to vote at any general meeting of the church unless all money due and payable by the member to the church has been paid.
- (4) A member is not entitled to vote at any general meeting of the church if the member is under 18 years of age.

6.11 Proxy votes not permitted

Proxy voting must not be undertaken at or in respect of a general meeting.

6.12 Postal or electronic ballots

- (1) The church may hold a postal or electronic ballot (as the committee determines) to determine any issue or proposal (other than an appeal under clause 12).
- (2) A postal or electronic ballot is to be conducted in accordance with Schedule 3 to the Regulation.

6.13 Use of technology at general meetings

- (1) A general meeting may be held at 2 or more venues using any technology approved by the committee that gives each of the church's members a reasonable opportunity to participate.
- (2) A member of church who participates in a general meeting using that technology is taken to be present at the meeting and, if the member votes at the meeting, is taken to have voted in person.

ARTICLE 7 DEPARTMENTS AND MINISTRIES

- (1) Led by the visionary leader of church, the church Committee may establish departments and ministries to facilitate the implementation of the objectives of church.
- (2) Such ministries shall have the right to operate under the direction and guidance of the church Committee.
- (3) The ministries will be required to submit a report to the Annual General Meeting.
- (4) The leaders of all departments and ministries shall be appointed by the Executive Committee.
- (5) The visionary leader will prepare, equip, appoint and/or ordain leaders to oversee each ministry in line with their proven anointing and gifting, in accordance with the five-fold ministry model (Ephesians 4:11).

ARTICLE 8. QUALIFICATIONS OF A LEADER

Each of the church leaders including Executive committee members must be an active member of the church and possess the qualifications described in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9.

The church leader shall be:

- (a) Blameless as a steward of God; above reproach (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6-7)
- (b) Husband of one wife; a one-woman man (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6)
- (c) Temperate, sober, vigilant (1 Timothy 3:2)
- (d) Sober-minded, prudent (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8)
- (e) Of good behavior; orderly, respectable (1 Timothy 3:2)
- (f) Given to hospitality (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8)
- (g) Apt to teach; able to teach – exhort believers and refute false teaching (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:9)
- (h) Not given to wine (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7)
- (i) Not violent; not pugnacious (1 Timothy 3:3, Titus 1:7)
- (j) Patient, moderate, forbearing, gentle (1 Timothy 3:3)
- (k) Not a brawler; uncontentious; not soon angry or quick-tempered (1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7)
- (l) Not covetous; not a lover of money; not greedy of base gain (1 Timothy 3:3, Titus 1:7)
- (m) Rules his house well; his children are faithful, not accused of rebellion (1 Timothy 3:4; Titus 1:7)
- (n) Not a novice; not a new convert (1 Timothy 3:6)
- (o) Has a good report or reputation with outsiders (1 Timothy 3:7)
- (p) Not self-willed (Titus 1:7)
- (q) A lover of good men and things (Titus 1:8)
- (r) Just, fair (Titus 1:8)
- (s) Holy, devout (Titus 1:8)
- (t) Self-controlled (Titus 1:8)

ARTICLE 9. Funds

- (1) Subject to a resolution passed by the church Committee, the movement's funds may be derived from the following sources only.
- (2) the voluntary contribution of church members through their sacrificial giving via love offerings and tithes.
- (3) donations,
- (4) **Other sources as determined by the church committee.**

- (1) Subject to a resolution passed by the church Committee, the Church's funds and assets must be used to pursue the church's objects in the way that the Executive committee determines.
- (2) As soon as practicable after receiving money, the Treasurer must:
 - deposit the money, without deduction, to the credit of the Church's authorised deposit-taking institution account, and
 - issue a receipt for the amount of money received to the person from whom the money was received.
 - A cheque or other negotiable instrument must be signed by 2 authorised signatories.

Article 10. Insurance

The church may take out and maintain insurance as appropriate for the church's assets and liabilities.

Article 11. Non-profit status

Subject to the Act and the Regulation, the Church **must not** conduct the Church's affairs in a way that provides a pecuniary gain for a member of the Church.

Article 12 Financial year

The financial year of the church is:

- (a) the period of time commencing on the date of incorporation of the church and ending on the following 30 June, and
- (b) each period of 12 months after the expiration of the previous financial year of the church, commencing on 1 July and ending on the following 30 June.

Article 13 Notice

- (1) For the purpose of this constitution, a notice may be served on or given to a person:
 - (a) by delivering it to the person personally, or
 - (b) by sending it by pre-paid post to the address of the person, or
 - (c) by sending it by facsimile transmission or some other form of electronic transmission to an address specified by the person for giving or serving the notice.
- (2) For the purpose of this constitution, a notice is taken, unless the contrary is proved, to have been given or served:
 - (a) in the case of a notice given or served personally, on the date on which it is received by the addressee, and
 - (b) in the case of a notice sent by pre-paid post, on the date when it would have been delivered in the ordinary course of post, and
 - (c) in the case of a notice sent by facsimile transmission or some other form of electronic transmission, on the date it was sent or, if the machine from which the transmission was sent produces a report indicating that the notice was sent on a later date, on that date.

Article 14 Change of name, objects, and constitution

The church committee may submit a resolution during an annual general meeting for the change of name, objects, constitution as deemed necessary.

An application for registration of a change in the church's name, objects, or constitution in accordance with section 10 of the Act is to be made by the public officer or a committee member after approval by the church committee.

Article 15 Custody of books

Except as otherwise provided by this constitution, all records, books and other documents relating to the church must be kept in New South Wales:

- (a) at the main premises of the church, in the custody of the public officer or a member of the church (as the committee determines), or
- (b) if the church has no premises, at the church's official address, in the custody of the public officer.

Article 16 Distribution of property and winding up.

- (1) Subject to the Act and the Regulation, in a winding up of the Church, the surplus property of the Church must be transferred to another organisation:
 - (a) with similar objects, and
 - (b) which is not carried on for the profit or gain of the organisation's members.
- (2) In this clause:
surplus property has the same meaning as in the Act, section 65.

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