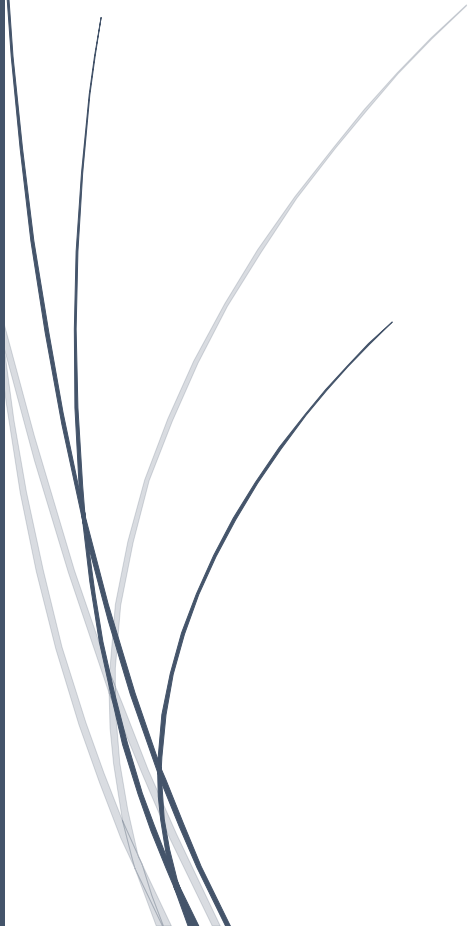


Praise Evangelical
Free Church

2024

CHURCH CONSTITUTION



CONSTITUTION OF PRAISE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

1. NAME

- 1.1 This Society shall be known as the "Praise Evangelical Free Church", hereinafter referred to as the "Church".

2. PLACE OF BUSINESS

- 2.1 Its place of business shall be at "8 Lorong 27A Geylang, #02-01 Guilin Building, Singapore 388106" or such other address as may subsequently be decided upon by the Church and approved by the Registrar of Societies. The Church shall carry out its activities only in places and premises which have the prior written approval from the relevant authorities, where necessary.

3. OBJECTS

- 3.1 Its objects are:
- a) to preach the Word of God for the edification instruction and discipline of its members and other believers (2 Tim. 3:16);
 - b) to win the unsaved to Christ;
 - c) to help Christians develop their spiritual gifts;
 - d) to instruct children in the Word of God; and
 - e) to further Gospel work through missions at home and abroad.

4. STATEMENT OF FAITH

- 4.1 The statement of faith of the Church is attached at Annex I ("Statement of Faith").

5. MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATION AND APPLICATION

5.1 Membership Qualification

Membership in the Church is open to all persons who are at least 21 years old and who satisfy the following:

- a) a born-again believer upholding the Statement of Faith and the covenant of the Church (which is attached at Annex II) ("Church Covenant");
- b) be baptised; and
- c) attended membership class.

5.2 Membership Application

A person wishing to join the Church should submit his particulars to the Secretary on a prescribed form. The Council shall decide on the application for membership. If the Council is satisfied that the applicant fulfils the qualifications listed in Article 5.1, the Council shall interview the applicant and display the name of the applicant on the notice board and/or bulletin of the Church and make an announcement at a worship service. If no valid objections are received in writing from the members of the Church ("Members") by the end of one month from the date when the name is first displayed or announced, a representative of the Council shall on behalf of the Church publicly receive the applicant as a new Member of the Church at a worship service. A copy of this Constitution shall be furnished to every new Member.

6. MEMBERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS

6.1 Membership Responsibilities

Members shall be responsible for his personal spiritual maturity and heed the instruction in Ephesians 5:15-21. Members shall also work with the Council to be faithful to the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18 – 20 and shall make disciples for Christ. He shall particularly be responsible to:

- uphold the Statement of Faith and the Church Covenant;
- uphold the unity of the Church as the body of Christ;
- regularly attend worship services and prayer meetings of the Church and general meetings of the Members;
- join a home fellowship group;
- be willing to support and participate in the various Church ministries;
- be an active witness for Christ;
- be committed to grow in the knowledge of Christ and the practice of Christ-likeness; and
- faithfully give tithes and offerings to the Church

6.2 Membership Rights

Unless otherwise stated in this Constitution, all Members shall have the following rights:

- a) be entitled to vote at general meetings of the Members;

- b) if elected, be entitled to hold office in the Council; and
- c) be entitled to the services of the Church (including but not limited to use of the Church premises and facilities, services of the Pastors, financial subsidies for retreats, mission trips and other Church activities, and other services as determined by the Council from time to time).

7. CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP

7.1 Classes of Membership and Membership Rolls

7.1.1 There shall be the following classes of Members:

- a) Active Members;
- b) Junior Members;
- c) Overseas Members; and
- d) Inactive Members.

7.1.2 The Church shall maintain an Active Membership Roll, a Junior Membership Roll, an Overseas Membership Roll and an Inactive Membership Roll.

7.2 Active Members

7.2.1 Members who do not fall into the categories of Article 7.1.1 (b) to (d) are Active Members. Their names shall be registered in the Active Membership Roll.

7.2.2 Active Members shall have the rights stated in Article 6.2.

7.3 Junior Members

7.3.1 Members who are below 21 years old but above 12 years old are Junior Members. Their names shall be registered in the Junior Membership Roll.

7.3.2 Junior Members shall have the rights stated in Article 6.2(c) but not the other rights stated in Article 6.2.

7.3.3 Junior Members shall automatically have their registration transferred to the Active Membership Roll when they reach the age of 21 years old, unless they do not satisfy the qualification of an Active Member, in which case they will be registered in the Overseas Membership Roll or the inactive Membership Roll as the case may be.

7.4 Overseas Members

7.4.1 A Member who remains out of Singapore for a period exceeding 6 months but who maintains regular contact with the Church in his absence from Singapore shall be an Overseas Member. His name shall be registered in the Overseas Membership Roll.

7.4.2 An Overseas Member shall not be entitled to the rights stated in Article 6.1 but shall be entitled to receive regular information and updates about the Church. He shall also be automatically reinstated to the Active Membership Roll upon his return to Singapore.

7.5 Inactive Members

7.5.1 Any Member who does not attend at least 12 worship services of the Church in a financial year shall be deemed to be an Inactive Member upon notice being given by the Elders Board to such member. His name shall be transferred to the Inactive Membership Roll.

7.5.2 Inactive Members shall not be entitled to the rights stated in Article 6.1.

7.5.3 An Inactive Member may be reinstated to the Active Membership Roll if he makes a request in writing to the Elders Board and the Elders Board is satisfied that he is sincere in his desire to fulfil the responsibilities of an Active Member.

7.5.4 The Council may by giving written notice to an Inactive Member terminate the membership of such Inactive Member if he has remained on the Inactive Membership Roll for more than 2 years.

8. STIPEND MINISTRY STAFF

8.1 Stipend ministry staff, whether part time or full time are members called by God to devote their time to the building up of the church. While being given a stipend for their services, they shall be first considered partners in ministry as opposed to “employees” of the church. As such they shall be accountable and working in partnership with the Council.

8.2 Stipend ministry staff will be expected to fulfill the following responsibilities:

- fulfill the expectations of Active Members (exception may be made for Bible College students on attachment)
- pray for their ministry
- be accountable to the Council as appropriate. (The Senior Pastor is already part of Council. Authorities can be delegated for practical and purposes – for clarity accountability should be to one not to two or more)

8.3 Any additional fund required for special purposes may only be raised from Members with the consent of the general meeting of the Members.

9. ENTRANCE FEES. SUBSCRIPTIONS AND OTHER DUES

9.1 There shall be no entrance fee payable for all Members.

9.2 There shall be no subscriptions payable by Members. The funds of the Church shall be derived from free-will offerings.

9.3 Any additional fund required for special purposes may only be raised from Members with the consent of the general meeting of the Members.

10. SUPREME AUTHORITY AND GENERAL MEETINGS

10.1 Supreme Authority

Christ is the Head of the Universal Church and therefore locally also head of Praise Evangelical Free Church. From a constitutional standpoint, the members present at the General meetings shall be the final authority for key decisions which shall comprise:

- a) amendments to this Constitution;
- b) appointment and removal of members in the Council;
- d) approval of annual budgets;
- e) expenditure exceeding S\$5,000 which is not included in the approved annual budget, and any expenditure which, together with all other expenditure which has been incurred during the year, would exceed the total annual budget by more than 20%;
and
- f) dissolution of Praise Evangelical Free Church.

Recognizing the Biblical concept of leadership and the need for effective leaders, the elected Council, Christ-appointed stewards and shepherds to Praise Evangelical Free church, shall be responsible to lead and minister to the church with the authority.

Thus the Church should respect its appointed elders and deacons who work hard among them, who are over them in the Lord, and who admonish them. The Church should hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work, and live in peace with them.

10.2 Annual General Meetings

The Annual General Meeting of the Church shall be held in June each year at such time and place as the Council shall determine for the following purposes:

- approval of the previous financial year's accounts and annual report of the Council;
- where applicable, the election of Council Members; and
- to transact any other business of which notice shall have been given to the Secretary and approved by the Council in accordance with Article 10.4.2.

10.3 Extraordinary General Meetings

10.3.1 The Council may at any time call an Extraordinary General Meeting and shall be bound to do so on receiving a written request or requisition signed not less than 25% of the Members entitled to vote. Such requisition shall be given to the Secretary stating the purpose for which the Members desire the meeting to be called. The Extraordinary General Meeting shall be convened within 2 months of the Secretary receiving such requisition.

10.3.2 If the Council does not within 2 months after the date of receipt of the requisition proceed to convene an Extraordinary General Meeting, the Members who requisitioned for the Extraordinary General Meeting shall convene the Extraordinary General Meeting by giving 10 days' written notice to the Members entitled to vote setting forth the business to be transacted at such meeting and simultaneously posting the agenda on the notice board of the Church.

10.4 Notice of General Meeting

10.4.1 Notice of every General Meeting stating the date, time, place and agenda of the meeting shall be sent by the Secretary to all Members entitled to vote at least 14 days before the date of an Annual General Meeting and at least 10 days before the date of an Extraordinary General Meeting. The particulars of the agenda shall be posted on the Church's notice board 4 days in advance of the meeting.

10.4.2 Any member who wishes to place an item on the agenda of an Annual General Meeting must give notice in writing to the Secretary at least one month before the date of the Annual General Meeting for the Council's approval.

10.5 Quorum for General Meetings

10.5.1 In any General Meeting, 50% of the Members entitled to vote and present in person shall form a quorum.

10.5.2 If within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting, if convened by the requisition of the Members,

shall be dissolved and, in any other case, shall stand adjourned to the same day one week later, at the same time and place, and if at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting, the Members present shall be a quorum, but they shall have no power to amend any of the provisions of this Constitution.

10.6 Chairman of the General Meeting

10.6.1 The Chairman, or in his absence, the Vice-Chairman, shall preside at any General Meeting.

10.7 Voting

10.7.1 Unless otherwise stated in this Constitution, all matters raised at a General Meeting shall be decided by at least a majority vote of the Members present (in person or by proxy) and voting.

10.7.2 Voting shall be by show of hands or, subject to the agreement of the majority of the Members entitled to vote present, by a secret ballot.

10.7.3 In the event of a tie where there is voting for a candidate, a re-vote shall be taken and if it still results in a tie, a lot shall be drawn to determine who shall be the successful candidate unless the contesting candidate(s) withdrew in favour of one of themselves.

10.7.4 Proxies

A Member entitled to attend and vote at a General Meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote on his behalf provided that the proxy is a Member. The instrument appointing the proxy must be in the prescribed form and must be given to the Secretary not less than 48 hours before the time fixed for the meeting.

11. THE CHURCH COUNCIL

11.1 Composition of the Church Council

11.1.1 The Council shall comprise of Elders, and consist of the following to be elected at Annual General Meeting :

- a) Chairman
- b) Vice Chairman (who will be the Senior Pastor. In the absence of a pastor, the Council may appoint another Elder from within the Council to be Vice Chairman)
- c) Secretary
- d) Treasurer

- e) In addition to the minimum number of office bearers above, there may be up to 3 other Elders elected.

11.1.2 The Council shall by the commencement of the first Council meeting confirm the office holders.

11.1.3 Unless with the prior approval in writing of the Registrar or an Assistant Registrar of Societies, all Council Members should be either Singapore Citizens or Singapore Permanent Residents.

11.2 Qualifications for Elders

A candidate for the office of Elder must satisfy the following criteria:

- a) be a believer for at least 5 years;
- b) be an Active Member of the Church for at least 4 years;
- c) has served as a Deacon for at least one term;
- d) satisfies the spiritual qualifications set out in the Scriptures (1 Peter 5:1-5, 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9); and
- e) if married, his spouse is a Member and gives whole-hearted support to his appointment.

11.3 Election and Removal of Elders

11.3.1 The Members shall at a General Meeting elect the Elders. Such election shall require at least a two-thirds majority vote of the Members present (in person or by proxy) and voting.

11.3.2 The Council shall be responsible to identify and groom future Elders who will satisfy the criteria for election. Members may propose themselves or another member to be considered for Eldership. The Council shall consider prayerfully all candidates. Should the candidacy be found to be untimely or inappropriate, the Council's decision will be communicated to the proposer.

11.3.3 The Members may at a General Meeting remove an Elder before the expiry of his term of office. Such removal shall require at least a two-thirds majority vote of the Members present (in person or by proxy) and voting.

11.4 Tenure of Office

The term of office of an Elder is 3 years. An Elder may be re-elected. If an Elder is re-elected after having served 2 consecutive terms, he is encouraged to take a one-year sabbatical.

11.5 Duties and Authority of Council

11.5.1 The duties of the Council are as follows:

- a) serve as principal spiritual overseers of the Church and caring for the spiritual discipline, welfare and well-being of the Members;
- b) set spiritual directions for the Church and share their vision with the Church;
- c) defend and uphold the doctrinal purity of the Church; and
- d) identify, nurture and evaluate candidates for the office of Elders and Deacons;
- e) prepare and approve annual budgets for tabling at Annual General Meetings; and
- f) decide on matters pertaining to the smooth running of the church, expend within the budget limits presented at AGM and approve extra-ordinary expenses below \$5,000 and annually no more than 20% of total annual expenditure.

11.5.2 The Council shall meet at least once a month. At least half of the Council Members with either the Chairman or the Vice Chairman, must be present for its proceedings to be valid.

11.5.3 Any changes in the Church Council shall be notified to the Registrar of Societies and the Commissioner of Charities within two (2) weeks of the change.

11.6 The Duties of Office Bearers

11.6.1 Chairman

- a) The Chairman shall be elected from among the Council members by the council.
- b) The Chairman shall chair all Council meetings and General meetings.
- c) The Chairman shall also represent the Church in its dealings with outside parties.
- d) The term of office of Chairman is 3 years.

11.6.2 Vice-Chairman

- a) The Vice-Chairman is the appointed Senior Pastor. In the absence of a Pastor, the Council may elect one person from among the Council members to be Vice-Chairman.
- b) The Vice-Chairman shall assist the Chairman and deputise for him in his absence.
- c) The term of office of Vice-Chairman is 3 years.

11.6.3 Secretary

- a) The Secretary shall be elected from among the Council members by the Council.

- b) The Secretary shall keep all records, except financial, of the Church and shall be responsible for their correctness. He will keep minutes of all General Meetings and Council meetings. He shall maintain an up-to-date Register of all Members at all times.
- c) The term of office of Secretary is 3 years.

11.6.4 Treasurer

- a) The Treasurer shall be elected from among the Council members by the Council.
- b) 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.
- c) The Treasurer is authorized to expend up to S\$500.00 per month for petty expenses on behalf of the Church. He shall not keep more than S\$500.00 in the form of cash, and money in excess of this shall be deposited in a bank.
- d) The term of office of Treasurer is 3 years. He is not eligible to hold this office consecutively for more than 3 years.

11.7 Where a conflict of interest arises at a Church Council meeting, the Church Council member concerned should not vote on the matter nor participate in discussions. He or she should also offer to withdraw from the meeting, and the other Church Council members should decide if this is required.

12. THE DEACONS

12.1 The Deacons are appointed by the Council to assist and serve as leaders in different ministries so that the church can grow and members and visitors can be built up. Should the need arise for a change or a removal of a Deacon, that decision shall be taken at the Church Council.

12.2 Qualifications for Deacons

A candidate for the office of a Deacon must satisfy the following criteria:

- a) be a believer for at least 3 years;
- b) be an Active Member of the Church for at least 2 years;
- c) satisfies the spiritual qualifications set out in the Scriptures (1 Timothy 3:8-13); and
- d) if married, his/her spouse is a Member and gives whole-hearted support to his/her appointment.

12.3 Tenure of Office

The term of office of a Deacon is 2 years.

12.4 Duties of Office

12.4.1 The duties of the Deacons are as follows:

- a) ensure the smooth running of the Church (including but not limited to administration, keeping of financial records, missions and evangelism, children and youth ministry, music ministry, maintenance of Church premises and facilities, membership welfare, fellowships, retreats, special events and other duties as may be determined by the Council); and
- b) assist the Elders in spiritual matters (such as visitations, counselling, preaching and teaching).

12.4.2 Each Deacon shall be responsible for at least one ministry.

13. FINANCE, AUDIT AND FINANCIAL YEAR

13.1 Finance

Bank accounts of the Church shall be operated by (i) the Treasurer and (ii) the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman (in the Chairman's absence) or the Secretary (in the absence of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman), as joint signatories.

13.2 Audit

13.2.1 Two Members of the Church being entitled to vote, and not being members of the Council, shall be elected as Honorary Auditors at alternate Annual General Meetings. They shall hold office for a term of 2 years only and shall not be re-elected for a consecutive term.

13.2.2 The Honorary Auditors:

- a) shall be required to audit each financial year's accounts and present a report on the accounts to the Annual General Meeting; and
- b) may be required by the Chairman to audit the Church's accounts for any period within their tenure of office at any date and make a report to the Council.

13.3 Financial Year

The financial year of the Church shall be from 1 April to 31 March.

14. TRUSTEES

14.1 If the Church at any time acquires any immovable property, such property shall be vested in Trustees subject to a declaration of trust.

- 14.2 The Trustees of the Church shall:
- a) not be more than 4 and not less than 2 in number; and
 - b) be elected by the Members at a General Meeting
- 14.3 A candidate for the office of a Trustee must satisfy the following criteria:
- a) be a believer for at least 5 years;
 - b) be an Active Member of the Church for at least 3 years;
 - c) satisfies the spiritual qualifications set out in the Scriptures (1 Timothy 3:8-13); and
 - d) his/her spouse is a Member and gives whole-hearted support to his/her appointment.
- 14.4 The Trustees shall not effect any sale or mortgage of property of the Church without the prior approval of the Members obtained at a General Meeting.
- 14.5 The office of the Trustee shall be vacated:
- a) if the Trustee dies or becomes a lunatic or of unsound mind;
 - b) if he is absent from Singapore for a period of more than one year;
 - c) if he is guilty of misconduct of such a kind as to render it undesirable that he continues as a Trustee; or
 - d) if he submits notice of resignation from his trusteeship.
- 14.6 Notice of any proposal to remove a Trustee from his trusteeship or to appoint a new trustee to fill a vacancy must be given by posting it on the notice board in the Church premises at least 2 weeks before the General Meeting at which the proposal is to be discussed. The result of such General Meeting shall then be notified to the Commissioner of Charities. The address of each immovable property of the Church, the name of each Trustee and any subsequent change must be notified to the Commissioner of Charities.

15. VISITORS AND GUESTS

- 15.1 Visitors and guests may be admitted into the premises of the Church but they shall not be admitted into the privileges of the Church. All visitors and guests shall abide by the rules and regulations of the Church.

16. DISPUTES

All disputes between Members of the Church (including disputes between husbands and wives) shall be dealt with by the Council in accordance with the principles laid down in the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 6:1-11 shall be the guiding principles).

17. CHURCH DISCIPLINE

- 17.1 A Member who becomes an offence to the Church and to its good name by reason of immoral, illegal or unchristian conduct, or by persistent breach of the Statement of Faith or the Church Covenant may have his membership terminated by the Church, but only after due notice and right of hearing have been given to the Member, and faithful efforts have been made to bring such Member to restored fellowship with Christ.
- 17.2 The Member shall be interviewed and dealt with by the Senior Pastor and the Chairman in accordance with the principles laid down in Matthew 18:15-17. If this does not lead to the restoration of fellowship, the Senior Pastor and the Chairman may make a recommendation of termination to the Council. The Council shall then give at least 7 days' written notice to the Member to attend a meeting with the Council.
- 17.3 At such meeting, the Council shall afford the Member a fair and impartial hearing, including bringing in of relevant witnesses at the discretion of the Council. The Council shall make a decision whether to terminate the membership of the Member after considering all relevant facts. Failure of the Member to attend the notified meeting with the Council shall not prevent the Council from making a decision based on available facts and testimony.
- 17.4 If after such meeting the Council decides that the Member shall have his membership terminated, it shall notify the Member in writing of its decision and make an announcement to the Church of such decision at a worship service, whereupon the Member will be deemed excommunicated from the Church and shall lose all his rights and benefits as a Member of the Church.
- 17.5 A Member who has been excommunicated from the Church may be reinstated to membership if so recommended by the Senior Pastor and the Chairman, and approved by the Council.

18. CESSATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- 18.1 A Member shall cease to be a Member if:

- a) he resigns from membership by giving to the Secretary notice in writing of such resignation; or
- b) the Council gives written notice to the Member pursuant to Article 7.5.4 or Article 17.4.

19. NOTICES

- 19.1 Any notice sent to the last address given to the Church by any Member shall be deemed to have been given to such Member.

20. PROHIBITIONS

- 20.1 Gambling of any kind, whether for stakes or not, is forbidden on the Church premises. The introduction of materials for gambling or drug taking and of bad characters into the premises is prohibited.
- 20.2 The funds of the Church shall not be used to pay the fines of Members who have been convicted in a court of law.
- 20.3 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 Singapore.
- 20.4 The Church shall not indulge in any political activity or allow its funds and/or premises to be used for political purposes.
- 20.5 The Church shall not hold any lottery, whether confined to its Members or not, in the name of the Church or its office-bearers, the Council or the Members unless with the prior approval of the relevant authorities.
- 20.6 The Church shall not raise funds from the public for whatever purposes without the prior approval in writing of the Assistant Director Operations, Licensing Division, Singapore Police Force and other relevant authorities.
- 20.7 The Church shall not engage in any activities that may undermine the racial or religious harmony in Singapore.

21. BINDING EFFECT OF CONSTITUTION

- 21.1 This Constitution or any subsequent amendment thereof shall be binding on all Members.

22. AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

- 22.1 The Church shall not amend its Constitution without the prior approval in writing of the Registrar of Societies and Commissioner of Charities. No alteration or addition/deletion to this Constitution shall be passed except at a general meeting and with the consent of two-thirds (2/3) of the voting members present at the General Meeting.

23. INTERPRETATION

- 23.1 In the event of any question or matter pertaining to day-to-day administration which is not expressly provided for in this Constitution, the Council shall have power to use its own discretion. The decision of the Council shall be final unless it is reversed at a General Meeting of Members

24. DISSOLUTION

- 24.1 The Church shall not be dissolved, except with the consent of not less than three-fourths of the Members entitled to vote expressed, either in person or by proxy, at a General Meeting convened for the purpose.
- 24.2 In the event of the Church being dissolved as provided above, or in the event the Church ceases to be a registered charity under the Charities Act, all debts and liabilities legally incurred on behalf of the Church shall be fully discharged, and the remaining funds will be disposed of in such manner as the Members may at a General Meeting determine or donated to an approved charity or charities with similar objectives in Singapore which is (are) registered under the Charities Act, in such manner as the members may at a General Meeting determine.
- 24.3 A Certificate of Dissolution shall be given within seven days of the dissolution to the Registrar of Societies and the Commissioner of Charities.

ANNEX I

Statement of Faith

We believe

The Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation of men, and the Divine and final authority for all Christian faith and life.

In one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three person - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

That Jesus Christ is true God and true man, having conceived of the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary. He died on the cross a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. Further, He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into Heaven, where at the right hand of God, He is now our high priest and Advocate.

That the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, and during this age to convict men, regenerate the believing sinner, indwell, guide, instruct, and empower the believer for godly living and service.

That man was created in the image of God, but fell into sin and is therefore lost and only through regeneration by the Holy Spirit can salvation and spiritual life be obtained.

That the shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection provide the only ground for justification and salvation for all who believe, and only such as receive Jesus Christ is born of the Holy Spirit and thus become children of God.

That Water Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be observed by the Church during this present age. They are, however, not to be regarded as means of Salvation.

That the true Church is composed of all such persons, who through their saving faith in Jesus Christ, have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the body of Christ of which He is the HEAD.

That only those who are thus members of the true Church shall be eligible for membership in the local Church.

That Jesus Christ is the Lord and Head of the Church, and every local Church has the right, under Christ, to decide and govern its own affairs.

The personal and imminent coming of Lord Jesus Christ, and that in this "Blessed Hope" has a vital bearing on the personal life and service of the believer.

In the bodily resurrection of the dead, of the believer to everlasting blessedness and joy with the Lord, of the unbeliever to judgement and everlasting punishment.

ANNEX II

Church Covenant

Having received Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour and been baptised, I now solemnly pledge together with my fellow brothers and sisters in the Lord to deliberately do the following:

- to love the Lord foremost, and to seek His kingdom and righteousness above all others and all else (Matthew 22:37; Mark 12:30, Matthew 6:33),
- to love one another and protect the unity of the church,
- to uphold and carry out the vision of our church so that we may grow into purposeful worshippers, learners, story-tellers, carers and prayer-wrestlers for God's glory until our Lord Jesus Christ returns,
- to offer my gifts, time and talents for the ministry and edification of the church,
- to make disciples of all nations and support the work of evangelism and missions (Matthew 28:19 - 20), and
- to defend our Statement of Faith.

We acknowledge that we can do these only by God's grace and through the power of the Holy Spirit.