



ORMOND CHURCH CONSTITUTION

Final Version August 2023

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NAME

The body of Christians meeting in Ormond and affiliated with the Conference of Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania shall be known as the Ormond Church and hereinafter referred to as "this Church" or "the Church".

Also known as: Ormond Community Church of Christ
ABN: 40691053541 (Registered Charity)
Address: 585b North Rd, Ormond. VIC, 3204, Australia
Web: www.ormondchurch.com.au

1 PRINCIPAL PURPOSE AND POWERS

The principal purpose of this church shall be –

- To win people to faith in Jesus Christ and to active commitment to Him and His Church;
- To help them grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ that increasingly they may know and do His will;
- To work according to the historic principals of the Conference for the uniting of all Christians;
- To co-operate with other churches affiliated with the Conference of Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania in undertakings which the Conference from time to time agree to pursue;
- To maintain a Christian fellowship after the Spirit of the New Testament, seeking to apply the principals of the Kingdom of God to the total life of the Community;

The Church is a not-for-profit incorporated association which is established to be, and to continue as a Charity.

Solely to carry out the Principal Purpose, the Church may exercise all the powers of an individual and an association under the Act.

2. STATEMENT OF FAITH

DOCTRINAL BASIS

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

2.1 THE ETERNAL GODHEAD: WE BELIEVE in the unity of the true and living God who is the eternal, self-existent One, who has revealed Himself as one being in three persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and who is the Creator and preserver of things visible and invisible - Deuteronomy 6:4; Mark 12:29; Matthew 28:19; Genesis 1:1; Psalm 86:9-10; Isaiah 43:10-11; John 1:1-3.

2.2. THE FATHER: WE BELIEVE that the Father exists eternally as the Creator of heaven and earth, the Giver of the Law, to whom all things will be subjected, so that He may be all in all – Gen.1:1; 1 Cor. 15,28.

2.3 THE LORD JESUS CHRIST: WE BELIEVE in the Lord Jesus Christ, the second person of the triune Godhead, who was and is the eternal Son of God; that He became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and was born of the virgin Mary – Luke 1: 26-35.

The Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal and only begotten Son of the Father, is true God and true man – John 1:1,14; 10:30; 17; Phil. 1:6-7; Heb. 1:8. He died upon the cross, the Just for the unjust, as a substitution sacrifice- Rom. 5:6-8; 1 Cor. 15:3; 1 Pet. 3:18. He rose from the dead – Matt. 28:6; 1 Cor. 15: 4, 20. He is now at the right hand of the majesty on high as our great High Priest – Acts 1: 9-11; 2:33; Heb. 8:1.

WE BELIEVE in His sinless life, miraculous ministry, substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, glorious ascension, and abiding intercession - Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22; Acts 2:22; 10:38; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 9:12; Luke 24:39; 1 Corinthians 15:4; Acts 1:9; Ephesians 4:8-10; Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25.

2.4 THE HOLY SPIRIT: WE BELIEVE in the Holy Spirit, the third person of the triune Godhead, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, and is ever present and active in the work of convicting and regenerating the sinner and sanctifying and guiding the believer into all truth - John 14:26; John 16:8-11; 1 Peter 1:2; Romans 8:14.

2.5 THE HOLY SCRIPTURES: WE BELIEVE in the verbal, plenary inspiration of the Holy Scriptures, namely the Old and New Testaments in their original writings. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is infallible, inerrantly revealing the will of God concerning us all in all things necessary to our salvation and is absolutely supreme and sufficient in authority in all matters of faith and conduct. The Bible does not simply contain the Word of God but is the complete revelation and very Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that whatever is not contained therein is not to be enjoined as an article of faith - Matthew 5:17,18; 24:35; John 4:39; 2 Timothy 3:16,17; 2 Peter 1:19-21.

Christian believers today receive spiritual illumination to enable them to understand the Scriptures – 1 Cor. 2:12-14, but God does not grant new revelations, which are contrary or additional to inspired Biblical Truth- Prov. 30:5-6.

2.6 ANGELS: WE BELIEVE that angels were created as intelligent and powerful beings to do the will of God and worship Him – Ps. 103:20; Rev. 5:11-12. However, satan, the originator of sin, fell through pride and was followed by those angels who rebelled against God. These fallen angels or demons are active in opposing the purposes of God – Is. 14: 12-17; Ezek. 28: 11-19; Eph. 6: 11-12; 1 Tim. 4: 1; Jude 6. Those angels who remained faithful continue before the throne of God and serve as ministering spirits – Heb. 1-14.

2.7 THE DEVIL: WE BELIEVE in the personality of the devil, who, by his influence, brought about the downfall of man, and now seeks to destroy the faith of every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ - Genesis 3:1-15; Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8; John 13:2.

2.8 THE FALL OF MAN: WE BELIEVE that man was created by God by specific immediate act and in His image and likeness, morally upright and perfect, but fell by

voluntary transgression. Consequently, all men are separated from original righteousness, being depraved and without spiritual life - Genesis 1:26-31, 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-21.

2.9 THE ATONEMENT: WE BELIEVE that God's answer to man's sinful state is in the death of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ upon the cross, whose sufferings and shed blood have made full atonement for the sins of the whole world, both original and actual, and that there is no other ground for salvation - 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Galatians 1:4; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14; Hebrews 9:25, 26; 1 Peter 1:19,20.

Those who repent and believe in Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit and receive eternal life – Acts 20:21; 1 Pet. 1: 23-25. Man can be born again only through true repentance and faith in Christ. Repentance, a vital part of believing, is a complete change of mind brought by the Holy Spirit, turning a person to God from sin – Is. 55:7; Acts 17: 30; Gal. 3: 22,26; Eph. 2:8; 1 John 5: 10-13.

2.10 SALVATION OF MAN: WE BELIEVE salvation is received through true repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. This experience is also known as the new birth and is an instantaneous and complete operation of the Holy Spirit whereupon the believing sinner is regenerated, justified, and adopted into the family of God and becomes a new creation in Christ Jesus and heir of eternal life - Titus 2:11, 3:5-7; 1 Peter 1:23; 1 John 5:1.

2.11 THE CHURCH: All who are born again are members of the universal church, which is the Body and Bride of Christ – 1 Cor. 12:7; 14: 12, 24-25.

The local church is a body of believers in Christ who have joined together to function as a part of the universal church – Acts 14:23; 1 Cor. 16:19. The local church is ordained by God and provides a context in which believers corporately worship God, observe the ordinances of the church, are instructed in the faith and are equipped for the evangelization of the world – John 4:23; Acts 20:7; Acts 1:8; 11: 19-24; 2 Tim. 2:2; 1 Pet. 5:2.

2.12 WATER BAPTISM: WE BELIEVE that water baptism, by single immersion, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, is enjoined upon all who have repented and have believed in Christ as Saviour and Lord, and that it is symbolic of our identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection - Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 10:47-48; 2:38-39; Romans 6:4-5; Colossians 2:12; Mark 16:16.

2.13 THE LORD'S SUPPER: WE BELIEVE the Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements of bread and the fruit of the vine, is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:4); a memorial of His sufferings and death (1 Corinthians 11:26); and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Corinthians 11:26), and is enjoined upon born again believers "until He comes" - Luke 22:15-20; Matthew 26:26-28; Acts 20:7. We believe that whoever shall eat this bread and drink *this* cup of the Lord unworthily, he will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. So a believer shall examine himself, and so eat of *that* bread and drink of that cup. For he who eats and drinks unworthily eats and drinks condemnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body – 1 Cor. 11:27-29.

2.14 SANCTIFICATION: Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God. In experience it is both instantaneous and progressive – John 17:17, 19; Heb. 10: 10, 14; 1 Thess. 5:23; 2 Tim. 2: 19-22; 1 Pet. 1; 14-16.

WE BELIEVE it is the glorious provision for every believer in Christ to be made pure in heart and wholly sanctified, through the operation of the Holy Spirit, by the blood of Jesus and the Word of God - John 17:15-19; Acts 15:8-9; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4; Hebrews 2:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; Hebrews 10:16-19; Romans 12:1-2. Believers who sin must repent and seek forgiveness through faith in the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ – 1 John 1:9; 2:1-2.

2.16 GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: WE BELIEVE in the present-day operation of the nine supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit, as recorded in 1 Corinthians 12. We also believe in the ministry gifts of Christ, as recorded in Ephesians 4:11- 13. All gifts of the Holy Spirit serve the dual function of building up the Church, and of demonstrating the presence of God within His Church – 1 Cor. 12, 8-10, 28-30; 7:7; 9:19-23; 13:1-8; 14:26; Matt 12:22-32; 19:10-12; Acts 7:54-8:2; 8:5-8; 16:16-18; 1 Thess 3:10-13; Exo 28:3-4; 1 Peter 4:9; John 4:23-24

2.17 DIVINE HEALING: In accordance with the teachings of the Scriptures, we trust our heavenly Father to protect and heal our bodies from sickness and disease. WE BELIEVE that divine healing for the body, as with all redemptive blessings of God, has been provided for us by the atoning death and victorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ; it is the privilege of all believers and it is appropriated by faith in our heavenly Father's unfailing promises - Exodus 15:26; Isaiah 53:4; Matthew 8:16, 17; 1 Peter 2:24; Psalms 103:3; James 5:14-15; Mark 16:17-18.

2.18 THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST: WE BELIEVE in the premillennial, imminent and personal return of our Lord Jesus Christ to gather His people unto Himself. Having this glorious hope and earnest expectation, we purify ourselves, even as He is pure, so that we may be ready to meet Him when He comes - John 14:1-3; James 5:7-8; Titus 2:13; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17; 2 Thessalonians 2:1; 1 John 2:28; 3:2, 3. The return of Christ to earth in power and great glory will conclude the great tribulation with the victory at Armageddon – Matt. 24: 27,30; Luke 17: 24, 26-30, the defeat of antichrist and the binding of satan – Rev. 16:12-16; 17:8,12-14; 19:11-20. He will introduce the millennial age – Ps. 2:6-12; Dan. 2: 44-45; Luke 22: 29-30; Rev. 3:21, 20:6, lift the curse which now rests upon the whole creation, and bring the whole world to the knowledge of God – Is. 1: 24-27; 2: 1-4; Rom.8: 19-23; Rev. 22:3.

2.19 THE MILLENNIUM: WE BELIEVE in the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to set up His millennial reign on this earth - Zechariah 14:5; Daniel 7:22; Revelation 5:9-10; Psalms 96:10-13; Psalms 11; Revelation 20:1-10.

2.20 THE PUNISHMENT OF THE WICKED: WE BELIEVE in the final judgment and the everlasting punishment of the wicked (in the sense of eternal torment) who willfully reject and despise the love of God manifested in the great sacrifice of His only Son upon the cross for their salvation - Matthew 25:46; 13:49-50; Luke 12:47-48; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:11-15. We believe that the devil and his angels and whosoever is not found written in the book of life shall be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death - Revelation 19:20; Revelation 20:10-15.

2.21 THE NEW HEAVENS AND THE NEW EARTH: "We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness" - 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation Chapters 21 and 22. The righteous will share the glory of God in the new

heaven and the new earth for eternity – Matt. 13:43; John 17: 24; 2 Pet. 3:13; Heb. 11:10; Rev. 21:1-2, 10, 22-23.

2.22 CREATION: WE BELIEVE that the heavens and earth and all original life-forms, including man, were made by the specific immediate creative acts of God as described in the account of origins presented in Genesis, and that all biological changes which have occurred since creation are limited to variation within each species – Gen. 1 and 2.

2.23 MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY: WE BELIEVE that marriage is a provision of God whereby a man and a woman enter a lifelong relationship through a marriage ceremony, which is recognized, by the church - Gen. 2,24; Matt. 19:6.

Marriage establishes a "one-flesh" relationship – Matt. 19:5; Mal. 2:15, which goes beyond a physical union and is more than either a temporary relationship of convenience intended to provide personal pleasure or a contract which binds two people together in a legal partnership. Marriage establishes an emotional and spiritual oneness which enables both partners to respond to the spiritual, physical and social needs of the other – Gen. 2:18; 1 Cor. 7: 2-5; Heb. 13:4. It provides the Biblical context for the procreation of children – Gen. 1: 28. Marriage is to be an exclusive relationship that is maintained in purity – Eph. 5:3, 26 - 27. It is intended by God to be a permanent relationship. It is a witness to the world of the relationship between Christ and His Church – Eph. 5: 25, 31-32.

Marriage requires a commitment of love, perseverance, and faith. Because of its sanctity and permanence, marriage should be treated with seriousness and entered only after prayer for God's guidance. The Bible recommends Christians to marry only those who are believers – 2 Cor. 6:14-15. An individual who becomes a believer after marriage should remain with his or her partner in peace, and should give witness to the Gospel in the home – 1 Cor. 7:12-14,16.

Marriage can only be broken by marital unfaithfulness involving adultery, homosexuality, or incest – Matt. 5:32; 19:9. While the Scriptures give evidence that the marriage vow and "one-flesh" union are broken by such acts, and therefore do recognize the breaking of the marriage relationship, the Scriptures do recommend that the most desirable option would be forgiveness and reconciliation - Eph. 4:32.

2.24 DIVORCE: WE BELIEVE that divorce is not God's intention – Mal. 2:16. It is God's concession to the "hardness of men's hearts - Matt 19:8.

Our objective is reconciliation and the healing of the marriage union where possible. Marital unfaithfulness should not be considered so much an occasion or opportunity for divorce but rather an opportunity for Christian grace, forgiveness, and restoration. Church ought to restrict the idea of divorce, in the sense of dissolution of marriage, to reasons specified by the Scriptures. Jesus gives one explicit cause for the dissolution of marriage: marital unfaithfulness – Matt. 5:31-32. Also, Apostle Paul said, "if unbeliever leaves (*believing husband or wife- cursive added*), let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances..." 1 Cor. 7:15-17. Where all attempts at reconciliation have failed and a divorce has been finalized, we extend Christian love and compassion.

2.25 REMARRIAGE: WE BELIEVE that remarriage is regarded as acceptable by the Scriptures in the event of the death of the former spouse – Rom. 7:2-3; 1 Cor.7:39. It is also regarded as acceptable when there has been sexual immorality on the part of the former

partner (including remarriage of the former partner) or where the non Christian former partner left the believer – Matt. 5:31-32; 19:9; 1 Cor. 7: 15-16.

2.26 TITHING: WE BELIEVE that tithing was divinely instituted by God under the old covenant and was compulsory upon the people who worshipped God – Lev. 27: 30-32; Mal.3:10. Under the new covenant we are not bound by arbitrary laws; but the principles of right and wrong, blessings and curses – Mal.3:9-10 as expressed by the law are fulfilled in the believer's life through grace. Grace should produce as much as, or more than, law demanded. Regular systematic giving is clearly taught in the New Testament. It is known as the grace of giving – 2 Cor 9: 6-15. The gauge or rule of this systematic giving is defined in the Old Testament, known as the law of tithing. All Christians should conscientiously and systematically tithe their income to God.

3. PRINCIPAL OBJECTS

3.1 To preach and teach and generally to further the cause of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and to advance the Christian Faith in Australia and other Nations and to work for the building up and extension and renewal of the Christian Church – Matt.28:19-20; Mark 16: 15-18.

3.2 To meet for the worship of God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the preaching and teaching of the Word of God and the administration of the Sacraments mentioned in 5 hereof.

3.3 To further and propagate the Christian Faith in Australia or elsewhere by the conduct of Evangelism or by the establishment of further Churches or missionary works with similar objectives.

3.4 To develop assistant ministers and to train Christian leaders to function within the Church and throughout the world.

3.5 To render Spiritual oversight, care and assistance (whether material or otherwise) and such other help as may be deemed appropriate to meet the needs of Church members, those associated with the Church and as far as practicable, to all persons everywhere.

3.6 To make donations to assist, undertake the oversight of or in any way co-operate with other churches, organisations, societies or individuals who have similar objects.

3.7 To provide some educational or other programs or institutions as will assist members to live whole and balanced lifestyles and to be a blessing to the society in which they live.

4. SECONDARY OBJECTS

For carrying out the Principal Objects in their spiritual and secular context, the Church shall have the further objects and powers as follows:

- 4.1** To collect and raise moneys for the purpose of purchasing or otherwise acquiring land and buildings.
- 4.2** To purchase, take on, lease, hire, exchange or acquire by gift or otherwise and to manage, sell, transfer, lease, hire, mortgage or otherwise dispose of, invest or deal with any real or personal property or any estate or interest therein.
- 4.3** To borrow or raise or secure the payment of money for the purposes of the Church whether the same shall have been borrowed or is intended to be borrowed on overdrawn account or otherwise in such manner and upon such terms and whether with or without security as may seem expedient.
- 4.4** The buying, selling, and/or supplying of, and dealing in, goods of all kinds.
- 4.5** The construction, maintenance, and alteration of buildings or works necessary or convenient for any of the objects or purposes of the Church.
- 4.6** To guarantee, indemnify, or receive payment, or act as Trustee on behalf of another body, association, company or person, as the Board deems appropriate.
- 4.7** To engage, conduct, enter joint venture, partnership or contract with another body, association, company or person for such purpose as the Board deems appropriate.
- 4.8** To act as Trustee in respect of any trust, as the Church in general meeting may deem expedient.
- 4.9** The accepting of any gift whether subject to a special trust or not, for any one or more of the objects or purposes of the Church.
- 4.10** The taking of such steps from time to time as the Board or the Church in general meeting may deem expedient for the purposes of procuring contribution to the funds of the Church whether by way of donation, subscriptions or otherwise.
- 4.11** The printing and publishing of such newspapers, periodicals, books, leaflets or other documents as the Board or the Church in general meeting may think desirable for the promotion of the objects and purposes of the Church.
- 4.12** The making of gifts, subscriptions or donations to any fund, authority or institution or individual as determined by the Board.
- 4.13** The establishment and support or aiding in the establishment and support of associations, institutions, funds, trust schemes, and conveniences, calculated to benefit servants or past servants of the Church and their dependents, and the granting of pensions, allowances, or other benefits to servants or past servants of the Church and their dependents and the making of payments towards insurance to any of those purposes.
- 4.14** The establishment and support or aiding in the establishment or support of any other association formed for any of the basic objects of the Church.
- 4.15** Purchase or acquisition and undertaking of all or any part of the property, assets, liabilities and engagements of any church or association with which the Church may at any time become amalgamated.

4.16 The doing of all such other lawful things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objects.

5. MINISTRATIONS AND CEREMONIES

The following shall be observed as a church ordinance or as commanded by the Holy Scriptures:-

5.1 Baptism by single immersion in water – Matt. 28:19 in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit shall be administered to all those who have repented their sins and believed in the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of their souls, and who give clear evidence of their salvation – Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2,12. The ordinances of water baptism shall be administered by the Senior Minister; or as otherwise determined by the Senior Minister or the Church Board.

5.2 The ordinance of the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion shall be regularly observed as enjoined in the Scriptures – Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11: 23-26.

5.3 The Dedication of infants and children – Matt. 19:13-15.

5.4 Prayer for the sick upon their request with the anointing of oil and laying on of hands by the Eldership – James 5:14-15.

5.5 The ministry of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit to those seeking the power of God – Acts 8:14-17; 19:1-7.

5.6 The institution of Christian marriage.

5.7 Funeral services shall be conducted.

6. MEMBERSHIP

The Church must maintain church membership in accordance with the provisions of CCVT's Affiliation Agreement and the requirements of this clause whilst also ensuring the minimum number of Board members stipulated in Tem 13.3.

6.1 Conditions of Membership

Two ministry team members shall be appointed by the Senior Minister to interview the applicant and report on their interview to the Senior Minister or Church Board.

The Board may grant membership of the Church if such applicant shall:

1. Be born again believer and give credible profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour. They shall give evidence of compliance with the Biblical standard of Christian practice and manifest spiritual growth by giving evidence of the fruit of the Spirit: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" – Gal. 5:22,23.

They shall refrain from "acts of the sinful nature: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery, idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like" Gal. 5:19-21. Sexual immorality shall be interpreted to mean common-law marital relationships, pre-marital and extra-marital sexual relationships- 1 Cor. 6:15-18; 7:1-2; 1 Thess. 4:3-8; Heb. 13:4, and all forms of homosexual activity, pornography along with other practices deemed inexcusable for Christian conduct, and which place a person under God's judgment Rom. 1:26-2:11.

2. Be baptised in water in accordance with 5.1 hereof.
3. Accept the Statement of Faith and to express willingness to abide by this Constitution.
4. Have attained the age of 17 years.
5. Except as herein after provided, attend the assembly regularly for a period of three months prior to the date of such application.
6. Apply to the Senior Minister or Church Secretary (a copy of this Constitution shall be given to each applicant).
7. Indicate the desire to live in harmony with this body of believers, be a regular financial supporter of the Church. Matt 18:15-17

6.2 Privileges and Obligations of Membership

All Members are expected to live in accordance with the principles of the New Testament and support the ministry, and maintain the fellowship of the Church, especially by:

- I. Attendance at the Services and other Church activities.
- II. Prayers and intercessions.
- III. Engaging in service for Christ through the Church.
- IV. Sharing in the life of the Church by attendance at Members Meetings.
- V. Conscientious tithing and giving.
- VI. To resign from any other church membership.

6.3 Probational Membership

Notwithstanding the provisions of 6.2 and 6.4 hereof, the Board may accept a member subject to such period of probation or other condition as it sees fit. A probational member shall have no right to vote at any meeting of the Church.

6.4 Evidence of Membership

Inclusion of the name of a person in the Church Roll shall be prima facie evidence of membership.

6.5 Office Holders

All Office holders shall be members of the Church.

6.6 Staff Membership

A full time or part time paid staff appointee or the spouse of such a person may be given full membership of the Church whether the condition imposed by 6.2 has been complied with.

Any person appointed to the Ministry Team shall immediately be granted membership in the Church. In appropriate circumstances such membership shall equally apply to his/her spouse.

6.7 Membership Transfer

Members of this Church in good standing who wish to terminate their membership and affiliate with another Evangelical Church shall be entitled to receive a letter of recommendation to that church.

6.8 Discipline and Cancellation of Membership

6.8.1 The Board may, by resolution, remove the name of a member from the membership roll or endorse such roll to the effect that such membership is probational for such period as it thinks fit or that such membership is otherwise conditional, if it is of the opinion that such member no longer fulfils the conditions of membership in Clause 6 hereof, provided always that before so resolving, the Board shall give opportunity to such member to be heard before it after reasonable notice has been given to such member of such hearing.

6.8.2 The Board may, by resolution, remove the name of a member from the membership roll if such member has moved his/her place of residence away from the community and no longer attends the Church or if in their opinion a member has failed to attend the services of the Church without legitimate excuse (in the terms of 15.5 for a period of three months).

6.8.3 The Board may maintain a roll of inactive members for those persons unable to participate in the activities of the Church but who desire to maintain their association with the Church.

7. SENIOR MINISTER

The Senior Minister must be (and continue to be) a Member and Accredited with CCVT.

7.1 Nomination

The Board of the Church shall constitute a Nominating Board for the purpose of recommending a suitable person/s to fill the position of Senior Minister whenever such a vacancy shall occur. The Church by secret ballot may choose a Senior Minister from among the nominees or the nominee so recommended at a special general meeting announced to be held no less than fourteen (14) days after the Nominating Board has met to recommend such nominee or nominees.

Should the Nominating Board, after due deliberation, refuse to recommend to the Church any person proposed as Senior Minister, the Church at such special general meeting shall be given a satisfactory answer and reason for this decision within three months of the Senior Minister leaving.

7.2 Remuneration

The Board shall negotiate and determine the remuneration and conditions of the Senior Minister's appointment.

7.3 Resignation

The Senior Minister may resign his appointment by giving the Board at least three (3)

months written notice. A lesser resignation period shall only be with the mutual consent of the Senior Minister and the Board.

7.4 Powers and Duties of Senior Minister

7.4.1. The Senior Minister shall be responsible for conducting himself with godliness and dignity befitting his position and to be an example – 1 Tim.3:2-7. He shall give himself to prayer and the Word of God to be effective in preaching and administering the sacraments.

7.4.2. The Senior Minister shall be a person who qualifies for membership of the Church and is baptised with the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4.

7.4.3. The Senior Minister shall preside at all meetings of the Church and be Chairman of the Board and be entitled to chair all Business Meetings and every board committee or department meeting as he shall think fit.

7.4.4. No meeting shall be held by any committee, board or department without prior notice having been given to the Senior Minister informing him of the time, place and purpose of the meeting. This requirement may be waived by the Senior Minister if he/she sees fit.

7.4.5. No leader, committee, board or department shall depart from the established policies of the Church without prior consultation with the Senior Minister.

7.4.6. The Senior Minister may vote on any question arising at any meeting of the Church or of any board, department or committee with the exception of any voting to set the level and manner of remuneration of the Senior Minister.

7.4.7. The Senior Minister shall oversee all meetings of the Church with full power, subject to this constitution, to decide who shall participate in them and in what manner.

7.4.8. The Senior Minister, after consultation with the Board, may create special groups within the Church and appoint Departmental leaders in consultation with the Board for whatever purpose or term at his sole discretion.

7.4.9. The Senior Minister shall have the power to employ and dismiss staff members and assistant ministers at his sole discretion after consultation with the Board. Remuneration in all cases shall be set by the Board.

7.4.10. The Senior Minister shall have such other powers and duties as is set out by this Constitution.

7.4.11. The expression “Senior Minister” means the person acting in that position for the time being.

8. ASSOCIATES AND ASSISTANTS

8.1 Associate Appointment

Upon the recommendation of the Senior Minister (but not otherwise) the Board may appoint an Associate Minister. Such an office shall only be created as the need arises and at the request of the Senior Minister who shall nominate to the Board of the Church a suitable

candidate. If the proposed Associate Minister is approved by the Board, the same shall be appointed.

8.2 Powers and Duties of Associate Ministers

8.2.1 Upon the recommendation of the Senior Minister (but not otherwise) the Board may empower the Associate Minister to function in any or all of the responsibilities and exercise any or all of the powers of the Senior Minister as defined in 7.4.

8.2.2 The Associate Minister may not assume any of the powers or responsibilities of the Senior Minister unless first requested to do so by the Senior Minister and approved to do so by the Board.

8.2.3 The Associate Minister shall fulfill the conditions as set out in 7.4.1 and 7.4.2.

8.3 Appointment of Assistant Ministers

Assistant Ministers shall be selected and appointed to the Ministry Team of the Church at the sole discretion of the Senior Minister provided always that such appointments are ratified by the Board.

8.4 Powers and Duties of Assistant Ministers

8.4 1 Assistant Ministers shall function only within the specific portfolio assigned to them by the Senior Minister and shall be responsible directly to him in all matters relating to their ministry.

8.4.2 Assistant Ministers shall have no legal or administrative powers except those specifically assigned to them by the Senior Minister. Notwithstanding, they may be elected to the Board of the Assembly and exercise such powers and duties as are consistent with that office.

8.4.3 Assistant Ministers shall fulfill the conditions as set out in 7.4.1 and 7.4.2.

9. DISCIPLINE OR DISMISSAL OF MINISTERS

9.1 Grounds for Discipline or Dismissal

Any complaint against the Senior Minister on the following grounds:-

9.1.1 Moral Failure

9.2.2 Doctrinal Error

9.2.3 Financial misappropriation, mismanagement, or illegalities shall be attested to where possible by at least two witnesses and addressed in writing to the Secretary. 2 Cor 13:1

9.2 Procedure

9.2 1. Upon receipt of the complaint, the Secretary shall bring the matter before a meeting of the Board in the presence of the Senior Minister and consider whether the grounds have been established. The Senior Minister shall not be Chairman of any meeting in which this complaint is to be discussed.

9.2.2 If the Board considers the complaint to be groundless, the Secretary shall notify the complainant accordingly.

9.2.3 Should the complaint be on grounds other than in 9.1 and the Board consider the grounds upon which the complaint has been made to be established, it shall deal with the matter in its sole discretion. If the Board considers the matter to be of sufficient consequence, it shall be referred to a meeting of members.

9.3 Termination

The Assembly may terminate the Senior Minister's appointment at any meeting of the Church providing that:-

9.3.1 Fourteen (14) days' notice of the meeting is circulated to each member in writing.

9.3.2 The notice of motion to terminate the Minister's services is contained in the Notice of Meeting.

9.3.3 Such notice of motion is recommended by the Board.

9.3.4 Notwithstanding the provisions of 15.9.3 and the motion to terminate is carried by at least 60 per cent of the current members.

9.3.5 Such termination shall be affected three (3) months from the date of the meeting, or the Minister may be dismissed forthwith and receive three (3) months' salary in lieu of continuing in the Church's employment providing that the termination was not for moral failure or financial misappropriation. In such a case the Board, in their absolute discretion, may terminate the Minister's employment without further financial reimbursement except holiday pay, long service and superannuation reimbursements.

9.4 Discipline of Associates and Assistants

A complaint against any action, decision, or teaching of an Associate or Assistant Minister shall be referred in writing to the Senior Minister who shall deal with the matter at his discretion. Should he find that disciplinary action is necessary, the matter shall be referred to the Board of the Church for appropriate action.

Should such a complaint addressed to the Senior Minister be ignored, the complainant may refer the matter in writing to the church Secretary who shall bring it to the attention of the church Board.

10. ELDERS AND DEACONS

10.1 Appointment

The Senior Minister may with the approval of the Board, appoint persons from among the members of the Assembly who are of evident maturity, spirituality, and ability as Elders or Deacons or Deaconesses to assist the Ministers in the spiritual oversight of the Church or in the carrying out of any of the objects of the Church as the Senior Minister may see fit.
Titus 1:6-9

10.2 Term of Office

All such appointments shall be for whatever term or upon whatever conditions the Senior Minister, together with the Board, may specify.

10.3 Termination

The termination of such appointments shall be at the discretion of the Senior Minister.

11. SECRETARY

11.1 Term

The Secretary of the Church shall be nominated by the Senior Minister for election by the Church at the Annual General Meeting to serve for a term of twelve (12) months.

11.2 Powers and Duties

11.2.1. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Church to record and keep on file the minutes of all meetings of the Church.

11.2.2. To keep on file all records of legal transactions such as Deeds, Mortgages, and Contracts which have been entered into by the Church.

11.2.3. To maintain an up up-to-date record of Members of the Church.

11.2.4. To write such letters as he/she is directed to write by the Church, retaining duplicate copies for permanent file and to receive and place on file any correspondence received.

11.2.5. To notify in writing the members of the Church of any General Meeting thereof when so instructed.

11.2.6. The records, documents, official stamps and seal and correspondence placed in the care of the Secretary of the Church are not his/her personal property nor under his/her personal control but the property of the Church and are under the control of the Church as directed by the vote of the Church or by the authority of the Board of the Church in accordance with this Constitution.

11.2.7. The Secretary of the Church shall have no power to act in office without special authority from the Senior Minister, Church or Board, except in so far as the provisions of this Constitution provides.

12. TREASURER

The Board, on the recommendation of the Senior Minister, may combine the offices of Secretary and Treasurer.

12.1 Term

The Treasurer of the Church shall be nominated by the Senior Minister for appointment by the Church at the Annual General Meeting, to serve for a term of twelve months.

12.2 Duties

The Treasurer shall have such duties as are set out in this Constitution.

13. THE BOARD

13.1 Appointment

13.1.1. The Board shall be elected by the Church at the Annual General Meeting upon the nomination of the Senior Minister. Board members who are so elected shall hold office for one year and may be re-elected.

13.1.2. The Board shall include: The Senior Minister who is not elected but holds the position of Chairman of the Board by virtue of his/ her office.

Other Board Members shall be selected from the:

- * Associate Minister/s.
- * Assistant Minister/s.
- * Elders.
- * The Secretary of the Assembly.
- * The Treasurer of the Assembly.
- * Such other Assembly Members at the discretion of the Senior Minister.

13.1.3. The Board shall consist of a minimum of three (3) members and a maximum of seven (7) members.

13.2 Powers of the Board

13.2.1. Management of the affairs of the Church shall be vested in the Board which may exercise all such power and functions as may be exercised by the Church other than those powers and functions required by this Constitution to be exercised by the Church in General Meeting or those required to be exercised by the Senior Minister.

13.2.2. The Board or its nominee shall have power to draw upon the Treasurer for such amounts as they shall decide to be necessary for the proper conduct of the affairs of the Church.

13.2.3. The Board may delegate such powers or functions as it sees fit from time to time.

13.2.4. Should the Senior Minister be incapacitated by prolonged illness, or insanity or be otherwise prevented from exercising the oversight of the Church, the Board shall be empowered to appoint an Acting Senior Minister who shall be responsible for the oversight of the Church until the return of the Senior Minister (providing that his absence was not due to certified insanity) or until the appointment of the Acting Senior Minister is revoked by the Board.

13.2.5. In the event the Board shall cease to exist or be reduced to a number below that required for a quorum, a Special General Meeting of the Church shall be called for the purpose of electing sufficient members to provide a quorum.

13.3 Meetings of the Board

13.3.1. The Board shall meet at least once in every three (3) months to exercise its functions. Seven days notice shall be given for all general Board Meetings.

13.3.2. A Special Meeting of the Board shall be convened by the Secretary on the requisition in writing of not less than one third members of the Board which requisition shall clearly state the reason why such Special Meeting is being convened and the nature of the

business to be conducted thereat. Except in the case of 9.2, the Senior Minister shall be the Chairman of all meetings.

13.3.3. At every meeting of the Board, one more than a simple majority shall constitute a quorum.

13.3.4. The Board may meet and regulate its proceedings as it thinks fit PROVIDED THAT questions arising at any meeting of the Board shall be decided by a majority of votes and in the case of equality of votes on any question or at any meeting of the Board the question shall be deemed to be decided in the negative.

13.3.5. Not less than forty-eight (48) hours' notice shall be given to members of the Board of any Special Meeting of the Board. Notwithstanding, a meeting of the Board may be held at any time providing all members agree to meet.

13.3.6. The Board may conduct its business by memorandum on such conditions, as it shall see fit.

13.3.7. The duly recorded minutes of a Board Meeting shall be prima facie evidence of a decision or resolution of the Board, which decision or resolution shall be constituted by a majority vote of those present.

13.4 By-Laws

The Board may make By-Laws and amend and vary same from time to time for the administration of the Church or any part or department thereof.

14. DISCIPLINE OR DISMISSAL OF OFFICE BEARERS

14.1 The Senior Minister shall have the power to withdraw his endorsement of or call for the recall from the office of any Board members of the Church at any time whatsoever. The Board shall then consider the Senior Minister's reasons and decide the matter by a majority of its votes.

14.2 Should any member of the Church consider that any person elected or appointed to office in the Church, other than the Senior Minister, be incompetent or in any way unworthy to remain in office they shall report the same to the Senior Minister in writing. If he considers it necessary, he/she may convene a meeting of the Board giving at least seven (7) clear days' notice in writing of such meeting and the purpose thereof to the person concerned. The Board at such a meeting shall hear the charges and shall permit the person concerned to answer the allegations of the petitioners. If the allegations of the petitioners have been substantiated and the answer of the person concerned is unsatisfactory, the Board shall call upon such person to resign their office or on failing to do so, the Board may cancel their appointment, and/or implement whatever restorative process it sees fit.

14.3 Should the Board find the allegations of the petitioners unsubstantiated it shall counsel, rebuke or discipline the petitioners, as the case shall require.

15. GENERAL MEETING

15.1 Notification of Church General Meeting

15.1.1 The Annual General Meeting of the Church shall be held each year at a time determined by the Board after at least fourteen (14) days notice to the congregation. Accidental omission to give notice to any member shall not invalidate the meeting.

15.2 The Business

The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be:-

15.2.1. Presentation of Reports for the previous twelve (12) months from the Senior Minister, Secretary, Treasurer and from all Departments of the Church.

15.2.2. To appoint or re-appoint to office for the ensuing twelve months:

- * The Secretary of the Church.
- * The Treasurer of the Church.
- * Other Board members except for Senior Minister.
- * The Auditor.

15.2.3. To present the auditor's report upon the books and accounts of the Church for the preceding financial year.

15.2.4. To attend to all other business set down on the Agenda by the Senior Minister and Board.

15.3 Agenda

The Agenda for a General Meeting shall be determined by the Senior Minister and the other members of the Board. Any member of the Church may submit matters to the Board which shall be included on the agenda, provided such submission:

- * be in writing in the form of a draft resolution.
- * include details of the mover and seconder.
- * be submitted to the Secretary at least seven clear days prior to such meeting.

15.4 Extraordinary General Meeting

15.4.1. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be held when considered necessary from time to time by the Board after seven (7) days notice to the congregation or such shorter notice as may subsequently be ratified by a resolution of that meeting. Accidental omission to give notice to any member shall not invalidate the meeting.

15.4.2. An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be called in any emergency as the Senior Minister and the Board may decide, or upon a notice in writing of an appeal against a decision of the Board or upon requisition in writing signed by not less than one third of the members of the Church and clearly stating the purpose for which the Extraordinary General Meeting is desired.

15.5 Voting

Members who, in the opinion of the Board, have attended the services of the Church for a majority of Sundays in the three-month period prior to any Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting of the Church and have not been suspended or placed on probation shall be entitled to one vote exercised in person, by attendance at the meeting.

Those members, who in the opinion of the Board have been legitimately prevented from attendance at Sunday services of the Church by sickness, family circumstances, or travel, or any other reasonable excuse, shall be entitled to vote in any business meeting of the Church.

15.6 Quorum

A quorum shall be constituted by one third of those entitled to vote.

15.7 Chairman

The Senior Minister or his nominee shall preside as Chairman of all General Meetings and extraordinary Meetings of the Church.

The Chairman shall conduct the meetings in a proper and orderly manner in accordance with the principles of Scripture and the provisions of this Constitution.

15.8 Adjournments

15.8.1. The Chairman with the consent of a properly constituted meeting may adjourn the meeting from time to time and place to place, but no business shall be transacted at an adjourned meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting at which the adjournment took place.

15.8.2. Where a meeting is adjourned for twenty-one (21) days or more, the like notice of the adjourned meeting shall be given as in the case of the original meeting.

15.8.3. If within half an hour after the appointed time for the commencement of a general meeting, a quorum is not present, the meeting shall be adjourned until a date, time, and place to be fixed by those Board members present, not exceeding 30 days from the date of adjournment and if at the adjourned meeting the quorum is not present within half an hour after the time appointed for the commencement of the meeting, the members present (being not less than seven) shall be a quorum.

15.9 Transaction of Business

15.9.1. The business of the meeting shall be transacted by motion or by resolution of the Chairman.

15.9.2. A question may be determined by secret ballot at the discretion of the Chairman or at the request of any member.

15.9.3. A question (other than the question of the purchase, sale, mortgage, or other dealing with real property) shall be determined on the show of hands by a majority of those present and eligible to vote (50%+1) and a declaration by the Chairman that a resolution or motion has, on such show of hands, been carried or carried unanimously, or carried by a particular majority, or lost and an entry to that effect in the Church Minute Book is evidence of the fact, without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of, or against, that resolution or motion.

A motion or resolution involving the purchase, sale, mortgage, or other dealing with real property shall require a two-thirds majority to be carried.

15.9.4. All elections to office in the Church shall be by secret ballot.

15.10 Notices

A notice may be served by or on behalf of the Church upon any member, either personally, or by sending it through the post by a pre-paid letter addressed to the member at his usual or last-known place of abode, but notice may be given to members generally by announcement from the pulpit in a service of worship or in such bulletin or magazine which the Church may publish weekly or from time to time.

15.11 Amendment of Constitution

No amendment shall be made to this Constitution except by motion carried by a 75% majority at an Annual General Meeting or extraordinary General Meeting held at least seven (7) days after the text of such amendment has been notified to members with notice of such meeting and PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT no amendment shall be made to this clause 15.11, clause 2 or clause 16.1.

- (a) The Church may only alter these Rules by Special Resolution in accordance with the Act.
- (b) The Members must not pass a Special Resolution that amends these Rules if passing it causes the Church to no longer be a Charity.

15.12 Interpretation of the Constitution

The Board shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of this Constitution and regulations made thereunder, and a decision of the Board upon any question of interpretation or upon any matters affecting the Church and not provided for by this Constitution, shall be final and binding on the members.

In these Rules:

- A. If an expression in these Rules has a meaning in the Act, the meaning from the Act will apply to the expression - except where a contrary intention appears in these Rules.
- B. A reference to any legislation or to any provision of any legislation includes any modification or re-enactment of it, any legislative provision substituted for it, and all regulations and statutory instruments issued under it.

16. INCOME AND PROPERTY

16.1 Application

The income and property of the Church whenever derived shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Church as set down in clause 2 of this Constitution, and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise howsoever by way of profit to the persons who at any time are or have been members of the Church or to any of them or to any person claiming through any of them PROVIDED THAT nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith or remuneration to any officers or servants of the Church or to any member thereof or other person in return for services actually rendered to the Church or for goods supplied in the

ordinary way of business (but not for services rendered as an office bearer) nor prevent the payment of interest on borrowed money, the maximum rate of interest to be not more than the current rate charged by Banks in the State in similar circumstances or the payment of rent for premises or goods let or hired to the Church.

16.2 Designated Income

All designated gifts and offerings whatsoever, of money or otherwise shall, except with the express permission and consent of the donor of such gifts and offerings, or their personal representative, be applied to the purpose or purposes for which they are designated. If, in the opinion of the Board, it should prove impossible to effect such designated purpose, the Board may refer the matter to the donor or, if the donor is not living, to the donor's personal representative and if no personal representative has been appointed, then the Board may apply the gift to a purpose or purposes as near as possible to the intention of the donor as the Board may determine.

16.3 Accounts

True accounts should be kept in the manner determined by the Board of all sums of money received and expended by the Church and of the property, assets and liabilities of the Church and proper reports are to be delivered to the Board as it shall require.

16.4 Financial Records

The Treasurer of the Church shall be responsible to keep all financial records in the manner and at such place as determined by the Board.

16.5 Banking

The Treasurer shall ensure that all moneys received on behalf of the Church are accounted for and duly banked as soon as practicable with such bank or banks in the name of the Church as the Board from time to time determines.

16.6 Signatories

The Board shall designate signatories of all banking accounts from time to time and the Treasurer shall notify the bank or banks accordingly.

16.7 Expenditure Authority

No cheque shall be drawn or a debit in any other manner incurred on the Church's bank account and no expenditure shall be incurred except when authorised by the Board. The Board may, by resolution, authorise designated persons to draw cheques to a limit determined by it from time to time.

16.8 Financial Year

The financial year of the Church shall commence on the first day of July and conclude on the thirtieth day of June following or such other period as determined by the Board.

16.9 Auditor

The Board shall recommend to the Church a person or firm as Auditor prior to the Annual General Meeting which such Auditor shall give an opinion as to the correctness of the accounts and shall report thereon to the Annual General Meeting of the Church.

16.10 Trustee

By resolution of a duly constituted General Meeting, the Church may appoint a Trustee or Trustees (whether a corporate body or natural person) to hold its real property subject to

trusts approved by the Board and may in the same manner cancel or vary such appointment.

16.11 Finance Committee

The Board by resolution may appoint a Finance Committee from among its members or the general membership of the church to:-

16.11.1. Advise the Board concerning the financial administration of the Church.

16.11.2. Recommend the level and manner of remuneration of all staff members.

16.12 Other Bodies

If the Board so determines from time to time, it may establish or join in the establishment of, or promote or constitute such other body (whether incorporated or not) or trust or entity, ancillary to or for the benefit of, or to better carry out or promote the objects of the Church, provided always that the documents constituting such body shall provide, inter alia, the following:-

16.12.1. that upon dissolution of the body in question, the property or assets thereof be applied to or for the benefit of the Church.

16.11.2. that no person who is not appointed by the Board hold office or be appointed as a director or be a member thereof.

16.12.3. any person appointed to hold office pursuant to 16.12.2 hereof may have such appointment revoked at any time by the Board.

16.12.4. a provision in similar terms to 16.1 and 16.2 hereof.

16.13 Indemnity

Any Senior Minister, Associate Minister, Assistant Minister, Elder, Office-bearer or any other person acting in any authorised capacity on behalf of the Church is hereby indemnified and saved harmless against any claim or other action against such person arising in any way out of the proper performance of their duties on behalf of the Church which claim or Judgment in any action and the costs thereof shall be paid for and on behalf of such person out of the Church assets and funds.

17. SELF-GOVERNING AUTOMONY

The Church shall always be an autonomous self-governing congregation and can affiliate with any evangelical association if such affiliation doesn't affect its autonomy and contradict its Statement of Faith and this Constitution.

The Church shall meet all financial obligations in providing a place of worship and its operation, and adequate support for its minister/s such as salaries, car allowances, suitable parsonage facilities and financial provision for other services.

The Church shall have properly qualified leadership available for election and be able to maintain standards of discipline and doctrine over its members.

18. AFFILIATION

The Church is an Affiliate of CCVT and is bound by the CCVT Constitution and Policies through its Affiliation Agreement with CCVT.

19. LEGAL ACTION

No Pastor, officer, or member of the Church may involve or bind the Church in legal action, whether by instigation or defence, without the written consent of the Board of officers who shall bring the matter before the members of the Church at a special General Meeting for decision.

20. WINDING UP

20.1 Distribution of assets on winding up

20.1.1 If on the winding up of the Church or dissolution of the Church, there is a surplus of assets after satisfying all the Church's liabilities and expenses, the surplus:

1. must not be paid or distributed to a Member in their capacity as a Member; and
2. must be given or transferred to CCVT, provided that entity still exists and:
 - a. is a Charity;
 - b. has similar purposes to those of the Church as described in these Rules and;
 - c. Prohibits the distribution of profit or gain to its Members in their capacity as Members.

20.1.2 If for any reason, CCVT is unable or unwilling to receive the surplus assets, the surplus assets must go to an entity or entities ("the recipient") which is:

- a. a Charity;
- b. has similar objects to those of the Church as described in these Rules; and prohibits the distribution of profit or gain to its Members in their capacity as Members.

20.1.3 The identity of the recipient will be decided by resolution of the Members on or before the time of any winding up or dissolution. If the Members fail to decide, the identity of the Charity or Charities must be determined by application to the Supreme Court in the State of incorporation.

Definitions

In these Rules the following definitions apply in addition to those defined elsewhere within this Constitution:

“Accredited/Accreditation” refers to the status and accompanying process by which a person in ministry in the Church, whether in a paid or voluntary capacity, is both authorised by CCVT (and continues to be authorised by CCVT) to engage in ministry.

“ACNC” means the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

“ACNC Legislation” means the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (Cth) and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (Consequential and Transitional) Act 2012* (Cth).

“Act” means the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012* (Vic).

“Affiliate” means a member of CCVT.

“Affiliation Agreement” means the written agreement between the Church and CCVT that describes the nature of the Church’s relationship to CCVT in accordance with the Constitution of CCVT.

“asset” means a resource with economic value that the Church owns or controls.

“auditor” may mean a reviewer, if permitted by the Act or ACNC Legislation.

“chairperson” means the person chairing a meeting.

“Chair” means the person appointed to the position of Chair under rule 13.2

“Charity” means a charity registered under the ACNC Legislation.

“CCVT” means Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania Incorporated (ABN 26 403 323 495).

“Council” means the committee responsible for the governance of the church in accordance with the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act (2012)*, and which may also be referred to as the Church Board (or similar).

“General Meeting” means a meeting of Members (including an Annual General Meeting).

“Item” means an Item in Schedule 1.

“Member” means a person whose name is entered in the Register as a Member of the Church in accordance with rule 6.

“Minister” means any senior ministry leader serving as an official of the church whether in a paid or voluntary capacity who is and remains Accredited with CCVT.

“Office Bearer” means Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

“person” includes a natural person and a corporation within the meaning of s 57A of the Act.

“Principal Purpose” means the purpose set out in rule 1.

“Register” means the register of Members under the Act.

“Registrar” means the Registrar of Incorporated Associations in Victoria.

“Senior Minister” means the individual appointed to serve as the executive officer of the Church in pursuant to clause 7.

“Special Resolution” means a resolution passed at a general meeting:

C. of which 7 days’ notice specifying the intention to propose the resolution as a Special Resolution has been given pursuant to these Rules and the Act; and

D. by not less than 50%+1 of the Members entitled to vote who are present at a general meeting.

“Statement of Faith” means the Statement of Faith set out in Schedule 2.