

CONSTITUTION

GETHSEMANE
BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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OF
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CONSTITUTION
OF
GETHSMANE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NAME

1. The Church shall be known as the “Gethsemane Bible-Presbyterian Church”, hereafter referred to as the “Church”.

PLACE OF BUSINESS

2. The place of business of the Church shall be at “4, Loyang Besar Close, Singapore 1750” or such address as may subsequently be decided upon by the Session 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.

OBJECTS

3. The objects for which the Church is established are : -
 - a. The salvation of souls;
 - b. The edification of Christians through the teaching of God’s Word;
 - c. The promotion of godly worship
 - d. The defence of the “faith which was once delivered unto the saints”;
 - e. The establishment and extension of Christian missions and institutions (including Childcare Centre and Kindergarten) for the furtherance of God’s Kingdom on earth;
 - f. The promotion of Christian relief for the poor and needy;
 - g. The strengthening of mutual fellowship, encouragement and unity among other fundamental and Bible-believing churches of similar stand “for the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Rev 1:9).

DOCTRINE

- 4.1 The doctrine of the Church shall be in accordance with that system commonly called “the Reformed Faith” as expressed in the Confession of Faith as set forth by the historic Westminster Assembly together with the Larger and Shorter Catechisms.
- 4.2 In abbreviate form the chief tenets of the doctrine of the Church, apart from the Apostles’ Creed, shall be as follows :-

- 4.2.1 We believe in the divine verbal and plenary inspiration of the Scriptures in the original languages, their consequent inerrancy and infallibility, and, as the Word of God, the supreme and final authority in faith and life.
- 4.2.2 We believe in one God existing in three co-equal and co-eternal Persons, Father, Son & Holy Spirit.
- 4.2.3 We believe that Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and is true God and true man.
- 4.2.4 We believe that man was created in the image of God, but sinned through the fall of Adam, thereby incurring not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature and become sinners in thought, word and deed.
- 4.2.5 We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died a propitiation and expiatory death as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, and that all who repent of their sins and believe in Him are justified before God on the grounds of His shed blood.
- 4.2.6 We believe in the bodily resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His ascension into Heaven, and in His exaltation at the right hand of God, where He intercedes for us as our High Priest and Advocate.
- 4.2.7 We believe in the personal, visible and premillennial return of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to judge the world and bring peace to the nations.
- 4.2.8 We believe that salvation is by grace through faith, not by works, and that all who repent and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour are born again by the Holy Spirit and thereby become the children of God.
- 4.2.9 We believe that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ and to convict and regenerate the sinner, indwell, guide, instruct and empower the believer for godly living and service.
- 4.2.10 We believe that Christ instituted the Sacrament of Baptism for believers and their children and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, which sacraments shall be observed by His Church till He comes.
- 4.2.11 We believe in the eternal security, bodily resurrection and eternal blessedness of the saved and in the bodily resurrection and eternal conscious punishment of the lost.
- 4.2.12 We believe in the real, spiritual unity in Christ of all redeemed by His precious blood and the necessity of faithfully maintaining the purity of the Church in doctrine and life according to the Word of God and the principle and practice of biblical separation from the apostasy of the day being spearheaded by the Ecumenical Movement (2 Cor 6:14-18; Rev 18:4).

PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNMENT

5. The Church, in setting forth the form of government which it maintains as being founded upon and agreeable to the Word of God, reiterates, by way of introduction, several cardinal principles which are basic to and regulative of its form of church government.
 - 5.1 “God alone is Lord of the conscience” and “hath left it free from the doctrine and commandments of men, which are in any thing contrary to His Word, or beside it in matters of faith or worship”. Therefore we consider the rights of private judgment, in all matters that respect religion, as universal and inalienable. We do not even wish to see any religious institution aided by the civil power further than may be necessary for protection and security and, at the same time, be equal and common to all others.
 - 5.2 In perfect consistency with the above principle of common right every Christian Church, or union or association of Christian churches is entitled to declare the terms of admission into its communion and the qualifications of its ministers and members, as well as the whole system of its internal government which Christ has appointed. In the exercise of this right it may, notwithstanding, err in making the terms of communion too lax or too narrow; yet, even in this case, it does not infringe upon the liberty or the rights of others, but only makes an improper use of its own liberty and rights.
 - 5.3 Our blessed Saviour, for the edification of the visible Church, which is His body, appointed officers, not only to preach the Gospel and administer the Sacraments but also to exercise discipline for the preservation both of truth and duty; it is incumbent upon these officers and upon the whole Church, in whose name they act, to censure or cast out the erroneous and scandalous, observing in all cases the rules contained in the Word of God.
 - 5.4 Truth leads to goodness; the great touchstone of truth is its tendency to promote holiness; according to our Saviour’s rule, “by their fruits ye shall know them”. No opinion can be either more pernicious or more absurd than that which brings truth and falsehood upon a level and represents it as of no consequence what a man’s opinions are. On the contrary, we are persuaded that there is an inseparable connection between faith and practice, truth and duty; otherwise it would be of no consequence either to discover truth or to embrace it.
 - 5.5 Under the conviction of the above principle, we think it necessary to make effectual provision that all who are admitted as teachers be sound in faith. We also believe that there are truths and forms with respect to which men of good character and principles may differ. And in all of these we think it the duty both of private Christians and societies to exercise mutual forbearance toward each other.
 - 5.6 Though the character, qualifications and authority of church officers are laid down in the Holy Scriptures, as well as the proper method of their investiture and institution, yet the election of persons to the exercise of his authority, in any particular society, is in that society.
 - 5.7 All Church power whether exercised by the body in general or in the way of representation by delegated authority, is only ministerial and declarative; that is to

say, the Holy Scriptures are the only rule of faith and conduct; no church court ought to pretend to make laws to bind the conscience by virtue of its own authority; all its decisions should be founded upon the revealed will of God.

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

PRINCIPLE AND PRACTICE OF BIBLICAL SEPARATION

- 6.1 The doctrine of separation from sin unto God is a fundamental principle of the Bible.
- 6.2 This doctrine arises out of the holiness of God. Both the purity and righteousness of God (Lk 1:75) are involved. "Be ye holy; for I am holy". (1 Pet 1:16, 3:11; Ex 15:11; Isa 6:3; 2 Cor 7:1).
- 6.3 The Bible does speak of co-operation ("be of one mind", "that they may all be one", "laboured together", "keep the unity of the Spirit", "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord", also "That there should be no schism in the body"). However, biblical co-operation is based upon TRUTH. It involves the united effort of God's people. This is not a co-operation born of a spirit of undiscerning pluralism, or that of seeking "truth" in all religions.
- 6.4 We maintain that Scripture teaches a separation that is based on the holiness of God, producing purity in all of life, personal and ecclesiastical.
- 6.5 It is a duty of true churches of the Lord Jesus Christ to make a clear testimony to their faith in Him, especially in these darkening days of apostasy in many professing churches, by which apostasy whole denominations in their official capacity, as well as individual churches, have been swept unto a paganising stream of modernism under various names and in varying degrees.
- 6.6 There has been a notable growth of autocratic denomination on the part especially of modernistic leaders by whom the rightful powers of true churches are often usurped and are now being usurped.
- 6.7 The commands of God to His people to be separate from all unbelief and corruption are clear and positive. "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers" (2 Cor 6:14; see also Matt 6:24, Rom 16:17, Gal 1, Eph 5:11, 2 Thess 3:6, 14, 2 Tim 3:1-7, Titus 3:10, 2 Pet 2:1-3, 1 Jn 4:1-3, 2 Jn 7-11, Jude 3, 20-24, and Rev 18:4). We reach out to warn those who are part of any system which involves compromise with error, and who thus ought to "come out from among them (2 Cor 6:17), separate themselves unto the "Father ... the Lord Almighty" (2 Cor 6:18), thus "cleansing themselves" and perfecting holiness in the fear of God (2 Cor 7:1).

- 6.8 In loyalty to the revealed Word, we, as an organised portion of the people of God, are obliged to oppose all forms of modernism, cultism, Romanism and false religions. Dialogue for the purpose of reaching a compromise between all true Bible believers and representatives of such beliefs is impious, unbiblical, treasonous and unfaithful to the holy God, as He has revealed Himself to us in His infallible, inerrant Word.
- 6.9 We are opposed to all efforts to obscure or wipe out the clear line of separation between these absolutes: truth and error, light and darkness (See Jer 5:20, 2 Cor 6:14-18). We refer to such efforts by New Evangelicals, Charismatic Christians, promoters of ecumenical cooperative evangelism and of the social gospel, and all churches and other movements and organisations that are aligned with or sympathetic to the Ecumenical Movement.
- 6.10 The Church, having been founded on the principle of Biblical Separation may seek fellowship with like-minded Bible Presbyterian and other fundamental, Bible-believing churches of similar stand “for the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Rev 1:9).

MAIN PRACTICES OF THE CHURCH

- 7.1 **BAPTISM:** The observance of the Baptism of believers is by sprinkling on personal confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Infants of one or both the believing parents who are members of the church are to be baptized (Matt 28:19-20; Acts 2:38-42, 8:35-38, 10:44-48; I Cor 7:14). Believing parents shall endeavour to bring up their children in the fear of the Lord and to lead them into a saving knowledge of the Lord by regular instruction of the Word of God (Prov 22:6; Deut 6:4-9; Eph 6:4).
- 7.2 **REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH:** Baptised infants upon coming of age in that they can satisfy the Board of Elders or Pastor as to their faith shall be received into communicant membership by reaffirmation of faith.
- 7.3 **THE LORD’S SUPPER:** The remembrance of the Lord’s death through the Lord’s Supper shall be observed regularly, and normally all baptised believer (except baptised children of communicant members who have not reaffirmed their faith) whose conduct is consistent with their confession of their faith shall be received at the Lord’s Table (Lk 22:14-29; Acts 2:42, 46, 20:7; Rom 14:19, 15:7; 1 Cor 5:6-8, 11, 23-26).
- 7.4 **WORSHIP:** All members shall meet regularly for the public worship of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and shall maintain family and personal devotions (Ps 27:4, Heb 10:24, 25; Song of Solomon 1:6; Ps 122:1, Ps 1:1-3). They shall keep the Lord’s Day holy (Ex 20:8; Rev 1-10).
- 7.5 **FELLOWSHIP AND DISCIPLESHIP:** Every member shall participate in fellowship, prayer and instruction with other believers and the exercise of spiritual gifts for the edification of the Church (Rom 12:6-8; 1 Cor 12; Eph 4:1-16; Heb 10:23-25; 1 Pet 4:7-11).

- 7.6 EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS: The local Church in obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ, both as individual and collective witnesses, shall proclaim the Gospel to their families, neighbours, colleagues, friends, the nation as well as the regions beyond (Matt 28:18-20; Mk 16:15, Lk 24:44-48; Acts 1:8, 1 Pet 2:9, 3:15).
- 7.7 STEWARDSHIP: Every member shall have the responsibility and privilege to contribute his gifts, talents, time and resources to the work of God and the extension of His Kingdom. It shall also be the responsibility and privilege of each member to tithe and contribute willingly, regularly and generously according to his ability as God enables (Rom 12:1-13; I Cor 6:19-20, 16:1-2; 2 Cor 8, 9).
- 7.8 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: The Church shall conduct a Christian Education programme to build up the members in the most holy faith (Jude 20) through Sunday School, Bible study classes, Bible study groups, catechism classes, Christian publications, Gospel tracts and such other similar measures as the Church Session may decide.
- 7.9 CHURCH DISCIPLINE: All members are required to follow the Scriptures in their teaching and practice (I John 2:3-5; I Timothy 3:14-16). If a member breaches the Scriptural standards of doctrine and behaviour, that person will be disciplined according to the Scriptures and Bible-Presbyterian Book of Discipline. Church discipline is to be practised primarily to confront and correct the erred members (2 Thess 3:14; Titus 1:13; Galatians 6:1). Secondly, it is to keep the church from the influence of unscriptural doctrines and practices (Romans 16:17-18; I Corinthians 5:9; 2 Timothy 3:1-5).
- 7.10 WEDDINGS: The solemnisation of marriages is to be between born-again believers. The bride and groom must be baptised believers (2 Cor 6:14; Eph 5:21-33).
- 7.11 FUNERALS: The normal practice of the Bible-Presbyterian Church is to bury the dead. Christian funeral is to be conducted only for born-again believers.
- 7.12 BIBLE VERSION: We affirm the King James Version as the official version for use at all public meetings of the Church.

MEMBERSHIP

- 8.1 Membership of the Church shall be of three categories: –
- 8.1.1 Communicant Members – Persons who can satisfy the Board of Elders as to their Christian faith, knowledge and manner of life and who have been baptised or having reaffirmed their Christian faith or transferred from another Bible-believing Church shall be Communicant members. They shall be eligible to vote at Congregational Meetings provided that they are 18 years and above. No member under the age of 18 years shall be eligible to stand for election to the Church Session;
- 8.1.2 Inactive Communicant Members – Members who have been absent from worship for continuous period of six months other than for reasons of illness, temporary posting overseas or other valid reasons acceptable to the Session,

shall automatically be moved into the Register of Inactive Communicant Members. However, Inactive Communicant Members who attend worship services regularly for a continuous period of three months shall be restored to the status of Communicant Members. Inactive Communicant Members shall have no right to vote in all Congregational Meetings of the Church; and

- 8.1.3 Non-Communicant Members – Baptised children of Communicant Members shall be Non-Communicant Members. They shall not be eligible to vote nor hold office.
- 8.2 Members are expected to strive conscientiously to live according to the light given to them by the Holy Spirit through God's Word, and to support wholeheartedly the services and activities of the Church.
- 8.3 Persons who are below 18 years of age shall not be accepted as members without their parent's or guardian's written consent.
- 8.4 A person who wishes to join the Church should submit his/her particulars to the Clerk of Session on a prescribed form. The Board of Elders will decide on the application for membership. A copy of the Constitution shall be furnished to every approved member.
- 8.5 If any member shall be found by the Board of Elders to have acted in a manner unbecoming of a member or by his act or omission be likely to hinder the witness of the Church or render it of ill repute, the Board of Elders shall require him to appear before the Board of Elders. The Board of Elders shall have the power to admonish, rebuke, suspend, depose or ex-communicate the member in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Bible-Presbyterian Book of Discipline. The member concerned shall have the right to appeal to a congregational meeting, against the decision of the Board of Elders, whose decision shall be final and binding on such a member.
- 8.6 Communicant membership in the Church may be terminated by death, transfer, removal or ex-communication.
- 8.7 Members shall maintain membership only in one Church (except for overseas membership). If a person is found to be a member of another church, irrespective of whether such church is officially registered, such person's membership shall be deemed to be automatically terminated. If a member worships regularly in another church instead for a continuous period of 18 to 24 months, the Church Session may terminate that person's membership. If an inactive communicant member is absent from worship, for a continuous period of 18 to 24 months, the Church Session may terminate that person's membership.

FINANCE

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

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

BRANCHES

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

FELLOWSHIP OF BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES

11. The Church may seek fellowship with like-minded Bible-Presbyterian Churches for the strengthening of mutual support, encouragement and unity, and “for the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Rev 1:9).

THE CHURCH GOVERNMENT

- 12.1 The government, administration and discipline of the Church shall be in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and with the Form of Government and the Book of Discipline of the Bible-Presbyterian Church, except in those instances where specific statements in this Constitution supersede them.
- 12.2 The spiritual oversight of the Church in matters of doctrine, principles of government, church elections, admission and discipline of members and the administrative oversight of the Church shall be the specific responsibilities of the Board of Elders.
- 12.3 The general spiritual oversight of the Church may be delegated by the Board of Elders to the Deacons and Deaconesses.
- 12.4 In the absence of the Board of Elders, the Pastor in his capacity as ruling and teaching elder, shall assume the responsibility of the Board of Elders.
- 12.5 Elected Elders, Deacons and Deaconesses shall be formally installed into office at a Service of Consecration to be held on an appropriate Lord’s Day soon after election.

BOARD OF ELDERS

- 13.1 The Board of Elders shall consist of the Pastor and Elders; the Assistant Pastor and/or Supervisory Pastor, if any.
- 13.2 The Pastor shall be the Chairman of the Board of Elders. In his absence or in the event of conflict of interest or duties, one of the Elders shall act as Chairman.
- 13.3 The Board of Elders may appoint or invite Deacons or Deaconesses to take part in any meeting of the Board of Elders without voting right.

- 13.4 The Board of Elders shall meet when necessary. A simple majority of the Board of Elders in Singapore shall form a quorum.
- 13.5 Subject to Article 16.5, the Board of Elders shall act by consensus or by majority vote of all members present.
- 13.6 The Board of Elders shall record the minutes of all Board meetings in the Minutes' Book.

POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF ELDERS

Subject to article 12 of this Constitution, the Board of Elders shall:-

- 14.1 be responsible for the spiritual welfare and ministry of the Church;
- 14.2 supervise all public worship and preaching services, the ministration of the Sacraments, Bible Classes, Prayer Meetings, Special Meetings and all similar efforts aimed at reaching the lost for Christ and at building up Christians in the faith;
- 14.3 receive members into the Church by confession and reaffirmation of faith and by transfer from other churches;
- 14.4 appoint staff workers and other office staff as deems necessary;
- 14.5 exercise discipline in the Church according to the Word of God and the Bible-Presbyterian Book of Discipline;
- 14.6 enquire into the knowledge and Christian conduct of the members of the Church;
- 14.7 call before them offenders with witness or witnesses from within or without their congregation;
- 14.8 admonish and rebuke those who are found to deserve censure, suspend or exclude offenders from the Holy Sacrament; and
- 14.9 determine by itself or when it deems necessary, in consultation with the Deacons and Deaconesses, all matters concerning the religious services and spiritual life of the Church and the suitability of candidates for election to the Church Session.

PASTORS

- 15.1 The Pastor and/or Assistant Pastor shall be elected by the members of the Church at the Annual Congregational Meeting by a majority of the votes cast and shall hold office for a term of two years but shall be eligible for re-election.
- 15.2 No Minister shall be ordained to be the Pastor of the Church except through the laying of hands by the Bible-Presbyterian Pastors and Elders at the recommendation of the Board of Elders (1 Tim 4:14).

- 15.3 The Pastor shall possess the spiritual, educational and other qualifications as set forth in the Bible-Presbyterian Form of Government or such other qualifications as the Board of Elders or Church Session may determine.
- 15.4 The Pastor, Assistant Pastor and/or Supervisory Pastor shall be subject to the discipline of the Board of Elders and in the absence of Board of Elders or lack of consensus by the Board of Elders, then the matter may be referred to the Church Session. In the event of a conflict of interests or duties, the matter may be referred to the congregation for a decision. They may appeal to the congregation against the Board of Elders or Session's decision.
- 15.5 The Pastor shall have the general oversight of the spiritual life, regular service, and ministration of the Sacraments of the Church and the ordination of Elders.
- 15.6 The Pastor shall be the ex-officio member and advisor of all committees connected with the Church.
- 15.7 When the Church has no Pastor of its own, or when the Pastor is away or overseas, the Pastor or retired Pastor from another Bible-Presbyterian Church so invited by the Church to serve as Supervisory Pastor shall chair all the meetings of the Church and be vested with all the rights and powers of an elected Pastor of the Church, except in cases where the Church has appointed an Elder as acting Chairman.

ELDERS

- 16.1 The office of Elders shall be borne by spiritually matured and God-fearing men (I Tim 3:1-7).
- 16.2 A candidate for election to the office of an Elder shall be a Deacon of not less than six years' standing, duly nominated by the Board of Elders and elected by a majority vote of the members of the Church at the Annual Congregational Meeting, save that the Board of Elders may in its absolute discretion, shorten the qualifying period.
- 16.3 Upon election, an Elder shall hold office for a term of 2 years and may be eligible for re-election.
- 16.4 An Elder may be elected in absentia, with his written consent.
- 16.5 An Elder once elected and ordained, shall not be divested of his status as Elder when he is not re-elected or when he declines re-election. In either case, he shall not be a member of the Church Session or Board of Elders.
- 16.6 An Elder, with the approval of the Church Session, may serve in another Bible-Presbyterian Church for such duration of time as he may deemed necessary.
- 16.7 An Elder shall endeavour by God's grace to serve in full conformity with the standards set forth in the Word of God (I Tim 3:2-7 and Titus 1:6-9) joining with the Pastor in the government, administration and discipline of the Church, visiting the sick and sorrowing members, investigating delinquents and endeavouring to remedy any spiritual weakness in the lives of members.

- 16.8 Elders shall be subject to the discipline of the Board of Elders and in the absence of Board of Elders or lack of consensus by the Board of Elders, then the matter shall be referred to the Church Session. In the event of a conflict of interest or duties, the matter may be referred to the congregation for a decision. They may appeal to the congregation against the Board of Elders or the Church Session's decision.

DEACONS AND DEACONESSES

- 17.1 The office of Deacon and Deaconess shall be borne by men and women of integrity and honest report (Acts 6:1-7), (Rom 16:1).
- 17.2 Deacons and Deaconesses play a vital supportive role to the Pastors and Elders in the administration of the Church (Acts 6:1-7).
- 17.3 A Deacon or Deaconess shall be elected by a majority vote of the members of the Church at the Annual Congregational Meeting, provided the candidate shall have attained 18 years of age at the time of nomination.
- 17.4 Upon election, a Deacon or Deaconess shall hold office for a term of two years and may be eligible for re-election.
- 17.5 They may be elected in absentia, with their written consent.
- 17.6 They shall endeavour by God's grace to serve in full conformity with the standards set forth in the Word of God (I Tim 3:8-13).
- 17.7 Deacons may be requested by the Pastor or Elder to assist in the ministration of the Holy Communion.
- 17.8 Deacons or Deaconesses shall be subject to the discipline of the Board of Elders and in the absence of Board of Elders or lack of consensus by the Board of Elders, then the matter shall be referred to the Church Session. They may appeal to the congregation against the Board of Elder's or the Church Session's decision.

SUPREME AUTHORITY AND CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

- 18.1 The supreme authority of the Church is our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The expression of this authority which is the final authority, is vested in a Congregational Meeting of the members presided over by the Chairman.
- 18.2 An Annual Congregational Meeting shall be held in the month of September.
- 18.3 At other times, an Extraordinary Congregational Meeting must be called by the Chairman on the request in writing of not less than one-quarter of the Communicant Members or may be called at anytime by order of the Church Session. The notice in writing shall be given to the Clerk of Session setting forth the business that is to be transacted. The Extraordinary Congregational Meeting shall be convened within two months from receiving the request to convene the Extraordinary Congregational Meeting.

- 18.4 If the Church Session does not within two months after the date of the receipt of the written request proceed to convene an Extraordinary Congregational Meeting, the members who requested for the Extraordinary Congregational Meeting shall convene the Extraordinary Congregational Meeting by giving two week's notice to voting members setting forth the business to be transacted and simultaneously posting the agenda on the Church's notice board.
- 18.5 Any Congregational Meeting may be constituted for the transaction of business, provided announcement of the said meeting has been given from the pulpit at two regular worship services on the two preceding Lord's Days or by two weeks' written notice to members.
- 18.6 Only such business as is specifically brought up and mentioned in the Agenda which shall be sent by the Clerk of Session to all members at least 7 days before the Congregational Meeting, may be considered at such a Meeting.
- 18.7 Congregational Meetings shall be opened with Scripture reading and prayer and closed with prayer.
- 18.8 At the Annual Congregational Meeting, the Church Session shall report on the spiritual and temporal conditions of the congregation and announce plans for the coming year.
- 18.9 Items of business at the Annual Congregational Meeting shall include:
 - a. The Church Session's Annual Report
 - b. The Treasurer's Reports, comprising the previous financial year's accounts and the Budget
 - c. Where applicable, the election/appointment of office-bearers and Honorary Internal Auditors for the following term
 - d. Any other matter on the Agenda.
- 18.10 Any member who wishes to include an item on the agenda of a Congregational Meeting may do so provided he gives notice to the Clerk of Session 10 days before the Meeting is due to be held.
- 18.11 The quorum for a Congregational Meeting which includes the election of the Pastor, Assistant Pastor, Elders, Deacons and Deaconesses and for the amendments of the Constitution shall be the presence of a simple majority of all Communicant Members.
- 18.12 The quorum for a Congregational Meeting for all other business shall be one-third of all such Communicant Members in the transaction of other business.
- 18.13 In the event of a lack of quorum at the commencement of a Congregational Meeting, the Chairman shall adjourn the meeting for half an hour and should the number then

present be insufficient to form a quorum, those present shall constitute the quorum, but they shall have no power to amend any of the existing rules of the Constitution.

- 18.14 The election of Session Members, and decisions on all other business of the Church shall only be adopted by a simple majority vote of those present except for the amendments to the Constitution and the dissolution of the Church.
- 18.15 The Pastor shall be the Chairman of the Congregational Meeting except when there is a conflict of interest or duties, when the Board of Elders shall appoint one from among them as Chairman of the Meeting.

MANAGEMENT AND COMMITTEE

- 19.1 The administration of the Church shall be entrusted to the Church Session consisting of the following to be elected at each alternate Annual Congregational Meeting:
- A Chairman (who shall be the Pastor or in his absence an Elder)
 - A Clerk of Session
 - A Treasurer
 - Ordinary Session Members (up to a maximum of 6 or one for every 50 communicant members, whichever is greater).
- 19.2 Unless with the prior approval in writing of the Registrar or an Assistant Registrar of Societies, all members of the Church Session shall be either Singapore Citizens or Singapore Residents.
- 19.3 Names for the above offices shall be proposed and seconded at the Annual Congregational Meeting and election will follow on a simple majority vote of the members. All office-bearers, except the Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer may be re-elected to the same or related post for a consecutive term of office. The term of office of the Session is two years.
- 19.4 Election will be by secret ballots. In the event of a tie, the Chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote.
- 19.5 A Session meeting shall be held at least once every two months after giving 7 day's notice to Session Members. The Chairman may call a Session meeting at any time by giving five day's notice. At least half of the Session Members must be present for its proceedings to be valid.
- 19.6 Any member of the Session absenting himself from three meetings consecutively without satisfactory explanations shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the Session and a successor may be co-opted by the Session to serve until the next Annual General Meeting. Any change in the Session shall be notified to the Registrar of Societies and the Commissioner of Charities within two weeks of the change.

- 19.7 The duty of the Session is to organise and supervise the daily activities of the Church. The Session may not act contrary to the expressed wishes of the general meeting without prior reference to it and always remains subordinate to the general meetings.
- 19.8 The Church Session may delegate specific powers to any one of its members and appoint such sub-committee as it deems fit and make such by-laws and standing orders to regulate the duties and powers of such persons or sub-committees. The Church Session may co-opt members of the Church or such other persons as it deems fit to serve in any committee except the Church Session.
- 19.9 The Church Session shall act by consensus or by a simple majority vote when necessary. In the event of equality of votes, the Chairman shall have the casting vote.

THE CHURCH SESSION

- 20.1 The Church which has no Pastor and/or Elder of its own, may co-opt a Pastor and/or Elder from another Bible-Presbyterian Church who shall have all the rights and powers of the same office, including the power to vote.
- 20.2 Candidates for election to Church Session shall satisfy the requirements listed in I Timothy 3, Titus 1 and I Peter 5. In addition, to ensure better objectivity in selection, they shall fulfil the following conditions:-
- a demonstrate beyond reasonable doubt and over a sufficient length of time that they are faithful and mature members of the Body of Christ and faithfully devote themselves to personal prayer and study of the Word;
 - b attend public worship and prayer meetings of the Church regularly unless prevented from doing so for valid reasons;
 - c make a careful study of the Constitution, in particular the Principle and Practice of Biblical Separation and fully accept it;
 - d be willing to participate wholeheartedly in the ministry of the Church with the Pastor, and to devote time, talents and resources in such ministry which shall include serving in the various departments of the Church.
- 20.3 Proposals for election to the Church Session shall be carefully screened by the Board of Elders to ensure that only those with the essential qualifications and who are in full agreement with the doctrinal stand of the Church and its Principle and Practice of Biblical Separation, are considered for nomination and election to the Church Session.

DUTIES OF OFFICE-BEARERS

- 21.1 The Chairman shall act as the chairman at all Congregational and Session meetings. He shall also represent the Church in its dealings with outside persons.
- 21.2 The Clerk of Session shall keep all records, except financial, of the Church and shall be responsible for its correctness. He will keep minutes of the Session Meetings and of the Congregational Meetings. He shall maintain an up-to-date Register of Members

with full particulars of name, address, date and place of birth, baptism, reaffirmation of faith, transfer, marriage, death or termination.

- 21.3 The Assistant Clerk of Session shall assist the Clerk of Session and deputise for him in his absence.
- 21.4 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. He will not keep more than \$1,000 in the form of cash and money in excess of this will be deposited in a bank to be named by the Church Session. Cheques for withdrawals from the bank will be signed by the Treasurer and either the Chairman or the Clerk of Session.
- 21.5 The Assistant Treasurer shall assist the Treasurer and deputise for him in his absence.
- 21.6 Ordinary Session Members shall assist in the general administration of the Church and perform duties assigned by the Church Session from time to time.

AUDIT AND FINANCIAL YEAR

- 22.1 Two Communicant Members, not being members of the Church Session, shall be elected as Honorary Internal Auditors at each alternate Annual Congregational Meeting and will hold office for a term of two years and shall not be re-elected for a consecutive term. They:
- a will be required to audit each year's accounts and present a report upon them to the Annual Congregational Meeting
 - b may be required by the Chairman to audit the Church's account for any period within their tenure of office at any date and make a report to the Church Session.
- 22.2 The financial year shall be from 1st July to 30th June.

TRUSTEES

- 23.1 If the Church at any time acquires any immovable property, such property shall be vested in trustees subject to a declaration of trust.
- 23.2 The trustees of the Church shall:
- a. not be more than four and not less than two in number
 - b. be elected from communicant members by the members at a Congregational Meeting
 - c. have the power to sell or mortgage its movable property to secure any loan or loans for the purchase and/or development of immovable property for the purposes of the Church in accordance with terms and conditions as may be approved by the Church Session

- d. at all times act and perform their duties in accordance with the directives of the Church as effected through the resolution passed at a Congregational Meeting.
- 23.3 The office of the trustee shall be vacated:
- a. if the trustees dies or is found to be of unsound mind
 - b. if he becomes a bankrupt
 - c. if he emigrates from Singapore
 - d. if he ceases membership of the Church, becomes an inactive Communicant Member of has his or her membership terminated
 - e. if he is incapacitated for any reason
 - f. if he is guilty of misconduct of such a kind as to render it undesirable that he continues as a trustee
 - g. if he submits notice of resignation from his trusteeship
- 23.4 The decision of the Congregational Meeting as to whether a trustee has ceased to be a Communicant Member of the Church shall be final and conclusive.
- 23.5 Notice of any proposal to remove a trustee from his trusteeship or appoint a new trustee shall be given in the Church Bulletin or announced at the regular worship service two weeks preceding the Congregational Meeting convened for the purpose.
- 23.6 The address of the immovable properties, names of trustees and any subsequent change must be notified to the Registrar of Societies and the Commissioner of Charities.

PROHIBITIONS

- 24.1 Gambling of any kind whether for stakes or not, is forbidden on the Church's premises. The introduction of materials for gambling or drug taking and of bad characters into the premises is prohibited.
- 24.2 The funds of the Church shall not be used to pay fines of members who have been convicted in Court.
- 24.3 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.
- 24.4 The Church shall not attempt to restrict or interfere with trade or make directly or indirectly any recommendation to, or any arrangement with its members which has the purpose or is likely to have the effect of fixing or controlling the price or any discount, allowance or rebate to any goods or service which adversely affects consumer interests.

- 24.5 The Church shall not indulge in any political activity or allow its fund and/or premises to be used for political purposes.
- 24.6 The Church shall not hold any lottery, whether confined to its members or not, in the name of the church or its office-bearers, Church Session or members.
- 24.7 The Church shall not raise funds from the public for whatever purpose without the prior approval in writing of the Head, Licensing Division, Singapore Police Force and other relevant authorities.

AMENDMENTS TO RULES

- 25 No amendment to this Constitution shall be made except at a Congregational Meeting of the Church and with the consent of two-third of the voting members present at the Congregational Meeting, and they shall not come into force without the prior sanction of the Registrar of Societies and the Commissioner of Charities.

INTERPRETATION

- 26 In the event of any question pertaining to the day to day administration of the Church, over which there is dispute in meaning or which is not expressly provided for in the Constitution, the Board of Elders, in consultation with the Deacons and Deaconesses, shall decide on the interpretation to be adopted or the necessary steps to be taken. The decision of the Board of Elders shall be final unless it is reversed at a Congregational Meeting of the Members.

DISPUTES

- 27.1 In the event of any dispute arising amongst the members, the matter shall be referred to the Board of Elders. In the absence of the Board of Elders or in the event of conflict of interest or duties, the matter shall be referred to the Session for a decision and the party who is involved shall abstain from such a meeting. Should the Session fail to resolve the matter, it may be referred to a Congregation Meeting for a decision.
- 27.2 The Church shall resolve its problems among its members as the Scriptures requires it (I Cor 6:1-7); and shall be guided at all times by principles laid out in Scriptures, discussing the matter in the spirit of brotherly love (Heb 13:1) and mutual forbearance (Eph 4:2,3; Col 3:12-15).
- 27.3 Should the Congregation fail to resolve the matter, they may bring the matter to a court of law for settlement.

BY-LAWS AND STANDING ORDERS

- 28.1 The Board of Elders and/or the Church Session may make by-laws and standing orders not inconsistent with this Constitution for giving effect to the provisions of this Constitution for, but not limited to, the following matters:
- a. The way and manner the activities of the Church business shall be administered.

- b. The appointment of staff workers, secretaries, clerks and other personnel for the proper functioning of the Church.

DISSOLUTION

- 29.1 The Church shall not be dissolved, except with the consent of not less than three-fourths of the total voting membership of the Church for the time being resident in Singapore expressed either in person or by proxy, at a Congregational Meeting convened for the purpose.
- 29.2 In the event of the Church being dissolved as provided above, all debts and liabilities legally incurred on behalf of the Church shall be fully discharged, and the remaining funds will be disposed of in such manner as the Congregational Meeting of members may determine or donated to an approved charity or charities in Singapore.
- 29.3 A Certificate of Dissolution shall be given to the Registrar of Societies and the Commissioner of Charities within seven (7) days of the dissolution.