

## **MILL PARK BAPTIST CHURCH CHURCH CONSTITUTION**

### **1. Name**

Mill Park Baptist Church ("the Church").

### **2. Not-For-Profit Status**

- 2.1** The assets and income of the Church shall be applied solely in furtherance of its purposes and no portion shall be distributed directly or indirectly by way of profit to the members.

### **3. Basis of Church Fellowship**

- 3.1** The Church is a body of Christian people who have responded to the Word of God and the call of the Holy Spirit and have been united to Jesus Christ and to his people in their own confession of faith and in their baptism.
- 3.2** The Church baptises professing believers, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, as a sign of their salvation and their initiation into the membership of the body of Christ. Wherever practicable, baptism is practiced by immersion in water as the form of baptism normative in the New Testament because it portrays "going down" into death with Christ and "coming up" into resurrection with Christ.
- 3.3** Affirming Baptist understandings of the Gospel, the Church is a member Church of The Baptist Union of Victoria and accepts as expressions of the Christian faith the *Doctrinal Basis* and the *Principles and Ideals of the Baptist Faith* contained in the Constitution of that Union and printed as Appendices I and II to this Constitution.
- 3.4** In common with the whole Church, this Church accepts its commission to participate in Christ's ministry to all creation, to proclaim and live out the gospel message of reconciliation to God and to one another. All members have been gifted by the Holy Spirit for their part in this ministry and are called to fulfil the meaning of their baptism by exercising their gifts together in nurturing the growth of Christian faith, peace and love.

### **4. Membership**

- 4.1** The membership of the Church consists of people who are personally committed to Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and to the mission of the Church.



- 4.2** Membership of the Church is open to all who personally profess repentance towards God and faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and:
- 4.2.1** have witnessed to this through baptism by immersion; or
  - 4.2.2** for physical or medical reasons cannot be baptised; or
  - 4.2.3** have been baptised and confirmed or christened and confirmed in some other recognised tradition and, in conscience, hold that experience to be of similar significance to baptism by immersion (although in this case the Church will actively encourage the person/s to take the additional step of baptism by immersion) [see Appendix III for detail].
- 4.3** A person is received into the membership of the Church by the approval of the Elders. It must be clear to the Elders that the person:
- 4.3.1** has made their own free decision to commit themselves to Christ and to the Church;
  - 4.3.2** has participated in appropriate membership preparation;
- and
- 4.3.3** has been, or is about to be, baptised as a testimony of their own faith in and commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour;
- or
- 4.3.4** meets the other criteria listed at 4.2.2 or 4.2.3.
- 4.4** The Elders are to inform the Church members of their intention to accept any person into membership and invite the members to contact the Elders over the coming two weeks if they have any concerns over the person/s concerned being accepted into membership.
- 4.5** If the Elders receive any negative feedback in this instance, they will attempt to resolve this matter with the person/s giving the feedback. In the event that these concerns are not able to be resolved between the Elders and the person/s, the Elders are to refer the matter to the next Church Meeting for consideration by the Church members.
- 4.6** Presuming the matter is handled in the first instance by the Elders and the person is then accepted into membership, the Elders are to inform the Church members of this acceptance. In any event, the new member/s is/are to be welcomed into membership at a communion service.
- 4.7** A roll will be kept of the names of the members of the Church ("Membership Roll").



- 4.8** Each member is expected to:
- 4.8.1** contribute positively to the Church's life;
  - 4.8.2** deal with any personal grievances, relationship difficulties, or concerns with the Church leadership in Godly, positive, constructive, and loving ways;
  - 4.8.3** attend as often as possible the worship services and Members' Meetings of the Church;
- and
- 4.8.4** contribute to the funds of the Church by giving according to their ability.
- 4.9** A name may be removed from the Membership Roll at any time if the member:
- 4.9.1** becomes a member of another Church;
  - 4.9.2** requests removal from the Membership Roll;
  - 4.9.3** dies;
- or
- 4.9.4** has their membership removed by a decision of a Church Meeting for disciplinary reasons (two weeks notice of the date and purpose of that Church Meeting must have been given to the member concerned).
- 4.10** The Membership Roll will be revised at each Annual General Meeting on the basis of a report prepared by the Elders. Unless the meeting notes that special circumstances apply, the names of members who have not attended the Church in the past year will be removed.

## **5. Leadership**

- 5.1** The Church, through the Church Members' Meeting, has final authority in deciding every matter which affects the Church's life.
- 5.2** The whole Church fellowship has received from the Lord of the Church a commission to exercise the ministry of the Word, sacrament, and pastoral care to all humankind. All members in particular are called upon to fulfil this ministry by exercising the gifts which the Holy Spirit has given them. In this ministry all accept the responsibility to encourage and edify the whole fellowship and at the same time receive from the fellowship that nurture and discipline essential to their own growth in grace.



### **5.3 The Pastor(s)**

- 5.3.1** The Pastoral Team, led by the Senior Pastor, is responsible for the day-to-day leadership, equipping and management of the Church, especially its ministries and their teams.
- 5.3.2** A Pastor of the Church will be a person who the Church believes has been called and gifted by the Lord of the Church to fulfil a ministry of pastoral leadership within the Church.
- 5.3.3** To become a Pastor of the Church, a person must be eligible for membership, and become a member of, the Church.
- 5.3.4** The following decisions about a Pastor of the Church each require a two thirds majority of members who are present and who vote at a Special Church Members' Meeting:
  - 5.3.4.1** The calling of a Pastor.
  - 5.3.4.2** The approval of any extension of term if a Pastor has been called for a specific term.
  - 5.3.4.3** The removal of a Pastor. A proposal to remove a Pastor is not to be put to a Church Members' Meeting before the Church has consulted with the Director of Ministries of the Baptist Union of Victoria about the matter.

### **5.4 The Elders**

- 5.4.1** The Elders are the leadership body of all other leadership bodies within the Church, responsible for the spiritual wellbeing and oversight of the Church, the accountability and welfare of the Pastoral Team, and the wellbeing of the Church family.
- 5.4.2** The Elders consist of lay Elders from the Church and the Senior Pastor. Other Pastors, whilst not forming an official or formal part of the Elders, are welcome and encouraged to attend and contribute to Elders' Meetings.
- 5.4.3** Elders (as distinct from Pastors) are appointed for an initial three year term by the following process:
  - 5.4.3.1** Any person within the Church can suggest the name of a potential Elder to the Elders (or the Elders may discuss a potential Elder at their own initiative);



- 5.4.3.2** The Elders will endeavour to give meaningful feedback to the person who made the suggestion, but they are not obliged to do so. In the event that the Elders believe the suggested person is not a suitable candidate as an Elder, in some circumstances it will not be appropriate for them to communicate the reasons for the decision to the person who made the suggestion;
- 5.4.3.3** The Elders as a group will prayerfully consider the suitability of that person as an Elder, in particular considering the character and gifting of the person;
- 5.4.3.4** In the event that the Elders believe the suggested person is a suitable candidate as an Elder, they will contact the person concerned and invite them to prayerfully consider the matter;
- 5.4.3.5** If the person and the Elders later agree that they sense God's gifting and calling in the person, the Elders will communicate this verbally to the Church family, introducing and explaining a three week process asking the Church family to prayerfully consider the proposal and provide any thoughts, feedback, or discernment to the Elders;
- 5.4.3.6** The Elders will then consider the whole situation, including any thoughts, feedback or discernment gathered from the Church family, and make a firm decision as to calling the person as an Elder;
- 5.4.3.7** If the person agrees, the appointment will then be confirmed by the Elders and communicated to the Church.
- 5.4.4** Upon completion of their three year term of service, Elders are eligible to serve one more three year term. After serving two three year terms (ie six years in total), Elders are to take a sabbatical break of at least twelve months (with a view to renewal and refreshment) before becoming eligible to serve again.
- 5.4.5** Elders who are to be re-appointed for a second three year term are appointed by the same process as described in 5.4.3.
- 5.4.6** The Senior Pastor is to chair Elders' Meetings or to delegate that role to another of the Elders. In the event that the meeting is to deal with matters concerning the Senior Pastor, the meeting is to appoint another Elder to chair the whole meeting or that part of the meeting in question.
- 5.4.7** The Senior Pastor is to initiate a biennial review of the Elders, set to coincide with the Church's Annual General Meeting, and report the results of that review to the Church membership.



## **5.5 The Board**

- 5.5.1** "The Board" fulfils within the Church the role and responsibility traditionally known as that of "the Diaconate" or "the Deacons".
- 5.5.2** The Board is responsible for the financial and legal administration of the Church and the maintenance of its buildings and facilities.
- 5.5.3** The Board consists of lay members of the Church, the Church Administrator and the Senior Pastor (although the Senior Pastor may delegate this role solely to the Church Administrator or another Pastor). The Board consists of at least six and no more than eight members (including the Church Secretary and Church Treasurer but not including the Pastor or Administrator).
- 5.5.4** Board members (as distinct from Pastors and the Church Administrator) are appointed for a two year term by the following process:
  - 5.5.4.1** A potential Board member is to be nominated in writing (usually in the months leading to the Annual General Meeting, but it can be at any time);
  - 5.5.4.2** The nomination is to be in writing, signed by two Church members and the nominee;
  - 5.5.4.3** The Elders will prayerfully consider the suitability of the nominee as a Board member, in particular considering the character and gifting of the nominee, and make a decision as to whether or not the nomination may proceed;
  - 5.5.4.4** The Elders will contact the nominee and inform them of the outcome of their considerations;
  - 5.5.4.5** Sections 5.5.4.6 to 5.5.4.10 inclusive apply in the event that the nomination is approved by the Elders. In the event that the Elders do not approve the nomination, the matter will proceed no further.
  - 5.5.4.6** Church members are to be given two clear Sundays' notice of the nomination and asked to prayerfully consider it;
  - 5.5.4.7** At the Annual General Meeting (or another Members' Meeting, as the case may be), the Church members will vote by secret ballot as to the appointment of Board members.



**5.5.4.8** Any appointment to the Board must have a confidence vote of two thirds majority of members who are present and voting at the meeting for the appointment to be confirmed.

**5.5.4.9** Any Board member being appointed at a Members' Meeting other than the Annual General Meeting shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting, at which time the appointment is to be considered as officially commencing.

**5.5.4.10** The two year terms of service for Board members are to be so arranged that one half of the Board members shall be appointed each year.

**5.5.5** Upon completion of their two year term of service, Board members are eligible to serve two more such terms. After serving three two year terms (ie six years in total), Board members are to take a sabbatical break of at least twelve months (with a view to renewal and refreshment) before becoming eligible to serve again. In the case of a Board member being re-appointed for a second or third two year term, all the provisions of 5.5.4 apply to the re-appointment.

**5.5.6** The Church Board will nominate the Secretary and Treasurer of the Church from its number and communicate that information to the Church membership as necessary.

**5.5.7** The Secretary may be a lay member of the Board or the Administrator employed by the church, dependent upon current circumstances and the assessment of the Board as to the most suitable person to fulfil the role. The Secretary is not to be a Pastor.

**5.5.8** The Treasurer is not to be a Pastor.

**5.5.9** The Senior Pastor is to chair Board Meetings or to delegate that role to another Pastor, the Church Administrator, or a Board member.

## **6. Church Meetings**

**6.1** "Church Meetings" consist of Church Members' Meetings, the Annual General Meeting, Special Church Members' Meetings, and Extraordinary Church Members' Meetings. They are held to consider aspects of and, where appropriate, to make decisions regarding the life and ministry of the Church.



- 6.2** The Senior Pastor is to chair Church Meetings or to delegate that role to another Pastor, Elder, or Board member. In the event that the meeting is to deal with matters concerning the Senior Pastor, the meeting is to appoint another Pastor, Elder, or Board member to chair the whole meeting or that part of the meeting in question.
- 6.3** An Annual General Meeting is to be held once per year (normally during the month of February). Church Members' Meetings are to be held once per quarter, with one of these to be held on the same day as the Annual General Meeting.
- 6.4** Special Church Members' Meetings will be called if requested by the Senior Pastor, the Elders, the Board, or one sixth of the Church membership.
- 6.5** Extraordinary Church Members' Meetings will be called if requested by the Senior Pastor, the Elders, or the Board, and can be held at any time, subject to the provisions of 6.6, to consider extraordinary business outside of a normally timed Church Members' Meeting.
- 6.6** Notice of the time, place, and major agenda items for a Church Meeting must be given to Church members on at least two consecutive Sundays prior to the holding of any Church Meeting. In the event that any amendment to the Constitution is proposed, at least four Sundays' notice must be given.
- 6.7** Church Meetings are open to anyone from the Church family who would like to attend. All persons at the meetings are entitled to voice opinions, offer feedback, and ask questions. In the event of a formal vote or ballot, only those persons who are Church members are eligible to participate.
- 6.8** Every Church Meeting must have an agenda prepared by the Pastoral Team.
- 6.9** Minutes of all Church Meetings must be kept and a copy made available to Church members at least two Sundays prior to the next meeting.
- 6.10** The quorum for any Church Meeting shall be one quarter of the Church membership.
- 6.11** A motion put to a Church Meeting will be carried by a simple majority (50% plus one of the members who are present and voting) unless otherwise provided for in the Constitution or unless the meeting decides that a particular decision will require a larger majority.
- 6.12** Absentee or proxy voting is not permitted.





- 6.13** The Board will provide independently audited financial statements for the Church membership not less than once every three years. The audit is to be conducted by an external individual/organisation who does not employ any person who regularly attends the church, and must be CPA or equivalently qualified.
- 6.14** The Board will provide financial statements for the Church membership at each Church Members' Meeting and the Annual General Meeting.
- 6.15** A budget for the next year must be approved by a Church Meeting in every year.
- 6.16** Special Church Members' Meetings are needed to consider any decision regarding the removal of a Pastor, or any transaction affecting any land or buildings of the church. Special Church Members' Meetings are governed under different rules set out in Schedule B to the *The Baptist Union Incorporation Act 1930* (a summary of which is attached as Appendix IV).

## **7.0 Winding Up**

- 7.1** If a church group ceases to function, the Church becomes the owner of any property purchased or owned by that group and any money in its possession.
- 7.2** In the event of the winding up or dissolution of the Church, any assets of the Church remaining after payment of the Church's liabilities shall, subject to any requirements imposed by the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission, be transferred to:
  - 7.2.1** The Baptist Union of Victoria, provided that at the time of such transfer the BUV is endorsed as an income tax-exempt entity;
  - or
  - 7.2.2** In default of the Baptist Union of Victoria; such other income tax-exempt entity or entities as decided by the Baptist Union of Victoria.

## **8. Alteration to Constitution**

- 8.1** Any proposed amendment to the Constitution must first be considered by the Elders and Board before proceeding to a Church Members' Meeting.
- 8.2** Any proposed amendment to the Constitution not emanating from the Church leadership groups is to be communicated in writing to the Elders allowing not less than three months' notice before the matter is to proceed to a Church Members' Meeting.



- 8.3** Where a proposed amendment to the Constitution is brought to a Church Meeting, notice of the wording of the proposed alteration must be given to members at least four weeks prior to the meeting date. If the Church is in debt to The Baptist Union of Victoria, any proposed alteration does not take effect until approved by the Executive Council of The Baptist Union of Victoria.
- 8.4** This Constitution remains in operation until it is revised or replaced by a Church Meeting.
- 8.5** The Church's Constitution should be reviewed regarding its continued suitability and relevance at least once every five years, and a Church Meeting asked to either reaffirm it or arrange a submission for any recommended amendment.

**9.0 Document Revision History:**

Version	Date	Revised by	Details
1.0	20/8/1989	---	First Constitution – adopted 20 August 1989
2.0	17/5/2009	Elders/Board/Members	Comprehensive re-write of original Constitution
3.0	13/4/2014	Elders/Board/Members	Several items revised
4.0	21/2/2016	Elders/Board/Members	5.4.7 – Review of Elders now to biennial.
5.0	15/5/2022	Elders/Board/Members	No revisions.



## **Appendix I**

### **The Doctrinal Basis from the Constitution of the Baptist Union of Victoria**

1. The divine inspiration and supreme authority of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.
2. The existence of one God in three persons - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
3. The deity and incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Son of God, the second person of the Holy Trinity.
4. The fallen, sinful and lost estate of all people.
5. The salvation of men and women from the penal consequences and power of sin through the perfect obedience of the Lord Jesus Christ, his atoning death, his resurrection from the dead, his ascension to the right hand of the Father, and his unchanging priesthood.
6. The immediate work of the Holy Spirit in the regeneration of men and women, in their sanctification, and in their preservation to the heavenly Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ.
7. The necessity, in order to know salvation, of repentance towards God and of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
8. The resurrection of the dead, and the final judgment of all people by the Lord Jesus Christ.
9. The two ordinances of the Lord Jesus Christ, namely Baptism and the Lord's Supper, which are of perpetual obligation: Baptism being the immersion of believers upon the profession of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and a symbol of the fellowship of the regenerate in his death, burial and resurrection; the Lord's Supper being a memorial, until he comes, of the sacrifice of the body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.



## **Appendix II**

### **The Principles and Ideals of the Baptist Faith from the Constitution of the Baptist Union of Victoria**

**Whilst holding many phases of Christian Truth in common with other denominations, Baptists place a distinctive emphasis upon the following fundamental principles of the Christian Faith, as revealed in the New Testament.**

#### **1. The Child in the Kingdom**

- (a) Baptists believe that infants are God's little ones, whether children of Christian or non-Christian parents, and accept without modification the word of the Lord, "Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven". This Christian view of the child makes the external act of "Infant Baptism" unnecessary.
- (b) Baptists approve of the presentation of children to God by parents, if thereby they solemnly undertake to train them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, in the home and in the Church.

#### **2. The Significance of Conversion**

- (a) To all who at the stage of personal responsibility, ignore God's law, and wander as prodigals from the Father's Home, Baptists preach the gospel of the Father's love, and the message of the cross, as the Way of Life. Conversion is acceptance of Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.
- (b) This acceptance of Christ is a personal and deliberate act, involving the assent of the mind, the decision of the will, and the love of the heart.
- (c) This avowal of allegiance to Christ implies a constant endeavour to live a life worthy of, and well-pleasing to him in all things.

#### **3. The Church - a Spiritual Society**

Baptists hold that the Church, as established by the Lord Jesus Christ, should consist of persons who have personally and intelligently accepted him as Saviour and Lord, and pledged themselves to discipleship and service in the Kingdom of God.

#### **4. The Lordship of Christ in the Church**

- (a) Baptists hold and teach that Jesus Christ alone is the Head of the Church, and that without any human intervention or ritualistic ceremony.
- (b) Therefore, he is the sole authority in all matters of faith and conduct, in the life both of the Church and of the individual.
- (c) This involves liberty of thought and conscience, and the rights of the Believer and the Church, freed from any ecclesiastical or other external authority, to interpret his mind.



## **5. The Standard of Belief**

- (a) Believing that the voice of the Church is subordinate to the voice of Christ, and that the mind of the Master is the Standard of Christian belief, Baptists do not subscribe to any formal Church Creed lest it hamper the development of Christian thought.
- (b) Further, in their interpretation of the Lord's farewell declaration, "When he, the Spirit of Truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth", Baptists accept the principle that God has yet "more light and truth to break forth from His Word".
- (c) Therefore, Baptists claim the personal privilege, and accept the Christian responsibility of courageously thinking God's thoughts after him, under the guidance and inspiration of the Spirit of Truth.

## **6. The Ministry of Leadership**

- (a) In adopting the Congregational Principles of Church government, with no formal creed, with no external authority, and no defined ecclesiastical policy, and each member having equal rights and responsibilities, the Baptist Church is largely dependent on the reality and vigour of the spiritual life of its individual members.
- (b) This spiritual life is generated by the understanding and inspiration of Christ's ideals, and by the creation and maintenance of a spiritual atmosphere, in which all that is unworthy dies, and in which Christian life becomes healthy and aggressive.
- (c) Baptist pastors accept their office from the Lord of the Church, and while they are "servants of the Church" the Church is not master over them. They are the spiritual leaders in the life and ministry of the Church.
- (d) Associated with the pastors in the spiritual oversight of the Church are men and women chosen for their Christian gifts and graces, who are called to be examples to the members of the Church, in conduct, zeal, self-denial and generosity.
- (e) Church officers are appointed as spiritual leaders to work in sympathetic cooperation with the pastor(s) and Church members.
- (f) The periodic Church Business Meeting is the seat of authority in the management of Church business.

## **7. The Christian significance of Baptism**

- (a) Christian Baptism, by which is meant the immersion of believers as instituted by our Lord, is a personal, public confession of the believer's identification with Christ, and also a means of grace to the Christian.



- (b) Baptism is an outward act which symbolises, but does not effect, regeneration, and salvation is not dependent on it.
- (c) Baptism is a glorious privilege and a personal responsibility, and is a help to all believers in reminding them of their spiritual union with Christ in his death, burial and resurrection.

#### **8. The Fellowship of the Lord's Supper**

- (a) To Baptists the Church is not so much an organisation as a fellowship, effective only as there is spiritual association with the Head of the Church.
- (b) The Lord's Supper is a service of spiritual fellowship whereby, through remembrance of his Life and Death believers may experience in supreme degree the reality and influence of his Presence.
- (c) It is an opportunity of entering into close fellowship with the Lord in the Holy of Holies, where there is a rekindling of love and a reconsecration of life to his service.

#### **9. The Church and the Kingdom**

Baptists recognise their responsibility to strive for the establishment of the Kingdom of God in the world and teach that membership in the Church implies service and sacrifice. This involves a stewardship of time, talents and money which aims at being worthy of the Son of God who loved and served humankind, even unto death.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CDH' followed by a long, wavy line.

### **Appendix III**

#### **The Position of Mill Park Baptist Church Regarding Baptism**

1. We maintain the biblical principles regarding baptism and strongly affirm baptism of believers by immersion as the biblical form of baptism. We will continue to teach, encourage and practise it. Accordingly the normal practice of this church will be to accept into membership those believers who have been baptised by immersion in an accepted Christian Fellowship upon profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. We are prepared to make an exception to the above principle and church practice where an applicant comes from another Christian tradition, where believers' baptism by immersion has not been practised, provided that he/she has been baptised in some way and subsequently confirmed. This gives discretion to the church to include other believers in its membership regardless of their mode of baptism.
3. It must be clear that the applicant for church membership fully understands that a Christian is one who has been identified with Christ's death realising that they were buried with him and that they now share in his resurrection and walk in newness of life (Romans 6:3). It also needs to be clear that evidence of a genuine Christian faith is apparent in the life of the applicant and has been demonstrated through his/her involvement in the life of his/her previous, and/or our own, Church Fellowship.
4. The application for membership of such believers will be received by the Eldership. The Elders shall fully consider the application to determine:
  - (a) The genuineness of the salvation experience of the applicant.
  - (b) That through his/her Christian walk and participation in the life of the Church, that experience is clearly demonstrated.
  - (c) That the applicant accepts the doctrinal basis of this Church, and with regard to believers' baptism, would encourage others, including their own family members, to adhere to it (the Elders may request that the applicant undertakes a series of studies on believers' baptism).
  - (d) That the applicant believes that God has led him/her to enter into the life and witness of this church and is willing to publicly state this and briefly tell of his/her spiritual experience (testimony).



## **Appendix IV**

### **Schedule B to The Baptist Union Incorporation Act 1930 ... a plain English summary ...**

*This summary has been prepared by the Union office as a guide to the operation of Schedule B. It is a guide only. We recommend that Schedule B in its original form be read when specific questions arise.*

The Baptist Union of Victoria ("Union") holds property on trust for its member Churches for the following purposes and subject to the following conditions:

1. To allow the member Church concerned ("Church" to build/alter a sanctuary, manse or other buildings/structures as desired by the Church). These buildings are to be used as directed by the Church.
2. Based firmly on the principles of congregational government, the Church has complete discretion to manage its affairs, subject to clause 10 below.
3. The Church is entitled to direct the use of money received by it.
4. A pastor called (including for a new term) to the Church:
  - 4.1 must be Baptist;
  - 4.2 must be called (including for a new term) by a Special Church Meeting complying with clause 10 below;
  - 4.3 must subscribe to the Doctrinal Basis [reproduced as Appendix II].  
and  
a pastor removed from the Church must be dismissed by a Special Church Meeting complying with clause 10 below.
5. The Church is entitled to use its property as security to borrow money. The decision to mortgage or otherwise charge the Church property must be made at a special Church Meeting complying with clause 10 below.
6. The Church is entitled to:
  - 6.1 create easements over;
  - 6.2 construct roads over;
  - 6.3 sell;its property.

Without the consent of the Executive Council of the Union ("Executive Council"), the Church may not sell its property at substantially less than current market value.





**7.** Money received by the Church:

- 7.1** raised by way of mortgage of Church property;
- 7.2** derived by sale of Church property;
- 7.3** received as an insurance payout in relation to Church property;

must be used for further property purchase or building improvements. Moneys so derived are deposited with the Union in the normal course until the Church directs the use of the money.

**8.** The Church is entitled to rent Church property on terms decided by a **Special Church Meeting** complying with clause 10 below.

**9.** Where the Union receives money on behalf of the Church, the payee has no further responsibility to follow up the payment.

**10.** The **Special Church Meeting** referred to above:

- 10.1** may generally be called at any time;
- 10.2** may be called by the Church leadership;
- 10.3** must be called upon the written request of at least one-sixth of the members of the Church;
- 10.4** must be convened by 14 days' clear notice specifying the time, place and purpose of the meeting.

At a **Special Church Meeting**:

- 10.5** persons voting must be over 18 years, must have been members of the Church for at least 6 months, and must have been present at Church for communion at least once in the preceding 6 months; and
- 10.6** a two-thirds majority vote is required (the two-thirds rule relates to two-thirds of all those members present and voting. ...if the vote is by ballot and invalid votes are cast, the number of invalid votes must still be included in the total number of votes against which the two-thirds requirement is measured).

**11.** A minute signed by the chairperson of a Church Meeting is sufficient evidence that the minute is an accurate record of a Church decision.

**12.** (transitional provision)

**13.** In special circumstances of the Church owing money that the Union is liable to pay, the Union may, having given 6 months written notice to the Church, mortgage or sell Church property so as to cover the debt.

**14.** The beneficial ownership and control of Church property by the Church is not affected per se if the Church moves to another locality.



**14A.** In relation to the powers vested in the Church by clauses 4,5,7,8 and 13 above, the Church may, at any time, ask Executive Council to stand in the shoes of the Church and be able to exercise those powers in the Church's stead. Executive Council and the Church may later both determine that those powers will revert back to the Church.

**15.** If:

**15.1** the Church is dissolved;

**15.2** the Church is dispersed;

**15.3** the membership of the Church is reduced below 6; or

**15.4** public worship in the Church sanctuary property stops for six months (not being for building alterations) the Union automatically assumes full control of the Church property.

[At this stage any proceeds of sale of Church property by the Union would be deposited in the Union's Advancement Fund.]

**15A.** If the resident membership of the Church is reduced to less than 29 but more than 5, Executive Council may exercise the powers vested in the Church by clauses 4,5,7,8 and 13 above. Executive Council may only exercise this discretion to stand in the shoes of the Church if it has given three months written notice of its intention to the Church and to Assembly. The Executive Council action must also have the endorsement of Assembly. Executive Council and the Church may later agree and both determine that the powers vested in Executive Council will revert back to the Church.

**16.** If the Church moves to another locality and leases the original Church property, then, until the end of the lease, the clause 15 "trigger" above, relating to the absence of public worship for at least six months, does not apply.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. M. L.', is located at the bottom left of the page.