

Index of Articles

<i>Article 1 Name</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Article 2 Address</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Article 3 Objects</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Article 4 Doctrine</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Article 5 Principle and Practice of Biblical Separation</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Article 6 Main Practices of the Church</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Article 7 Membership</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Article 8 Branches</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Article 9 The Church Government</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Article 10 The Church Session</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Article 11 Election to the Church Session</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Article 12 Pastors</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Article 13 Elders</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Article 14 Deacons and Deaconesses</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Article 15 Responsibilities and Powers of the Church Session</i> ..	<i>14</i>
<i>Article 16 Congregational Meetings</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Article 17 Trustees</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Article 18 Finance and Audit</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Article 19 Rules and By-Laws</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Article 20 Amendments</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Article 21 Interpretation</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Article 22 Prohibitions</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Article 23 Dissolution</i>	<i>21</i>

CONSTITUTION OF SEMBAWANG BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (incorporating Moriah Bible-Presbyterian Church)

Article 1 Name

The name of the Church shall be the Sembawang Bible-Presbyterian Church (hereinafter referred to as “the Church”).

Article 2 Address

The address of the Church shall be at No. 9 Kalidasa Avenue Singapore 789389 or such address as may be decided by the Church and approved by the Registrar of Societies. The Church shall carry out its activities only in places and venues which have the prior written approval from the relevant authorities.

Article 3 Objects

The objects for which the Church is established are:-

- 3.1 The salvation of souls;
- 3.2 The edification of Christians through the teaching of God’s Word;
- 3.3 The promotion of godly worship;
- 3.4 The defence of “the faith which was once delivered unto the saints”;
- 3.5 The establishment and extension of Christian missions and institutions for the furtherance of God’s Kingdom on earth;
- 3.6 The promotion of Christian relief for the poor and needy;
- 3.7 The strengthening of mutual fellowship, encouragement and unity among individual Bible-Presbyterian Churches and among other

Bible-believing churches of similar stand “for the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Rev 1:9).

Article 4 Doctrine

- 4.1 The doctrine of the Church shall be in accordance with that system commonly called “the Reformed Faith” as expressed in the 1647 Confession of Faith as set forth by the historic Westminster Assembly together with the Larger and Shorter Catechisms.
- 4.2 In abbreviated 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 and 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 propitiatory 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 this 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).

Article 5 Principle and Practice of Biblical Separation

- 5.1 The Church upholds and exhorts the members towards holiness in their living as taught in Scripture, which entails rejection of and personal separation from sin and sinful influences in the world.
- 5.2 While the Church as a body may, wherever possible for the advancement of God's kingdom and the benefit of believers, cooperate with other churches and Christian groups which share basically the same fundamental tenets of faith as the Church, it shall seek always to maintain the purity of the faith and "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints: (Jude 3). The Church shall shun association and cooperation with, and warn the members against, any organization and its teachings which, though appearing in name to present a form of Christianity, is opposed to any of the fundamental tenets of faith of the Church or engages in practices or activities which are alien or contrary to the teachings or practices of the Church.

(Scripture references: 1 Peter 1:16 & 3:11, 2 Cor. 7:1, Eph. 5:11, Heb. 2:14, 2 Cor 6:14, 1 Cor 16:17, 1 John 4:1~3, 2 John 7~11.)

Article 6 Main Practices of the Church

The main practices of the Church are as follows:-

- 6.1 **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 are to be baptised (Matt 28:19-20; Acts 2:38-42, 8:35-38, 10:44-48; 1 Cor 7:14).
- 6.2 **REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH:** Baptised infants upon coming of age in that they can satisfy the Elders as to their faith shall be received into communicant membership by reaffirmation of faith.

- 6.3 **THE LORD'S SUPPER:** The remembrance of the Lord's death through the Lord's Supper shall be observed regularly, and normally all baptised believers (except baptised children of constituent 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).
- 6.4 **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).
- 6.5 **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).
- 6.6 **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; 1 Cor 6:19-20, 16:1-2; 2 Cor 8, 9).
- 6.7 **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:** The Church shall conduct a Christian Education programme to build up the members on 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.
- 6.8 **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). 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).

- 6.9 **WEDDINGS:** The solemnisation of marriages in the Church shall be between born-again baptised Christians (2 Cor 6:14; Eph 5:21-33).
- 6.10 **FUNERALS:** The normal practice of the B-P Church is to bury the dead.
- 6.11 **COMMUNITY SERVICES:** The Church may promote and provide community services such as child care and instruction, care for the aged and the sick, relief and assistance for the poor and destitute, counselling and such other services to the community as are within the scope of Christian teaching and practice subject to the approval of the relevant authorities.

Article 7 Membership

7.1 Membership of the Church shall be of two categories:-

7.1.1 Communicant Members - Persons who can satisfy the Elders as to their Christian faith, knowledge, and manner of life and who have been baptised or have reaffirmed their Christian faith or transferred from another B-P Church or another Bible-believing Church shall be Communicant Members. They shall be eligible to vote and to stand for election to the Session provided they are not below the age of 21 years. No communicant members shall be members of another church.

7.1.2 Non-Communicant Members - Baptised children of Communicant Members shall be Non-Communicant Members.

7.2 If any member shall, after due enquiry in accordance with proper disciplinary procedure as laid down by the Church Session under rules or by-laws, be found 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 Session shall have the power to admonish, rebuke, suspend, depose or excommunicate the member.

- 7.3 A communicant member shall remain a member of the Church until he dies or is transferred to another church or excommunicated.
- 7.4 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.
- 7.5 Those below twenty-one years of age shall not be accepted as members without a parent's written consent.
- 7.6 The Session shall maintain an active Register of Members and keep it up-to-date as far as practicable. The Session may also from time to time transfer from the active Register to a list of inactive members those members who, in the opinion of the Church Session, have been entirely absent from the Church for at least three (3) years (except those residing abroad whose current addresses are made known to the Church), provided that:
- a) a notice of such members to be transferred shall be put up in the Church at least three (3) weeks before the transfer is effected; and
 - b) such members shall be restored to the active Register upon their returning to the fellowship of the Church and requesting to be restored.

Article 8 Branches

- 8.1 The Church may establish branches subject to the approval of the Registrar of Societies.
- 8.2 Such branches shall be under the control of the Church and shall function in accordance with the provisions of and any relevant rules made under this Constitution.

Article 9 The Church Government

- 9.1 The government, administration, and discipline of the Church shall be in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and by-laws and rules made under this Constitution. Where necessary or helpful,

and relevant, reference may be made to and guidance be taken from general doctrines and principles of the “Form of Government of the Bible Presbyterian Church” together with its “Book of Discipline” in so far as they are not inconsistent with the express provisions of this Constitution and its by-laws and are capable of being applied in the context of the Church being one not having the formal organs of a governing Presbytery.

- 9.2 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 responsibilities of the Church Session.
- 9.3 Administrative functions of the Church may be delegated by the Church Session to particular Elders and/or Deacons, Deaconesses or other responsible members.

Article 10 The Church Session

- 10.1 The Church Session shall consist of the elected Elders and Deacons/Deaconesses, who shall appoint an Elder from among themselves to be the Session Chairman. In addition, the Pastor serving the Church (or if there be more than one Pastor, the one selected by the Church Session pursuant to Article 12.4) shall be an ex-officio member of the Church Session with the same powers and voting right as an Elder. Unless with the prior approval in writing of the Registrar or an Assistant Registrar of Societies, majority of the Committee Members shall be Singapore Citizens. In addition, the President, Secretary, Treasurer and their deputies shall be Singapore Citizens or Singapore Permanent Residents. Foreign Diplomats shall not serve as Committee Members.
- 10.2 The Church Session shall appoint a Clerk of Session who shall be the Secretary from among its members and define his duties and may appoint such other office bearers as it may think fit.
- 10.3 The Church Session may delegate specific powers to any one of its members and appoint such committees as it deems fit and make such

rules and standing orders to regulate the duties and powers of such persons or committees.

- 10.4 The Church Session may co-opt members of the Church or such other persons as it deems fit to serve on any committee.
- 10.5 The Church Session shall meet once a month or at least once in two months at such place and time as it may determine. Emergency meetings may be convened by the Session Chairman or by any two of the Elders acting jointly. The meetings of the Church Session may be chaired either by the Session Chairman or by each of the other Elders in rotation.
- 10.6 A simple majority of the Session members including not fewer than two Elders shall constitute a quorum for any meeting of the Church Session.
- 10.7 The Church Session shall seek to act by consensus. In the absence of a consensus, any motion may be voted on only by the Elders present, and shall be carried by a simple majority of their votes. In the event of any equality of the Elders' votes, there shall be no casting vote by any person and the motion shall fail.
- 10.8 The Church Session shall at the Annual Congregational Meeting of the Church present a budget for the next fiscal year or period, and the previous financial year's accounts duly audited.
- 10.9 The Church Session, through the Clerk of Session, shall be responsible for keeping the following registers:-
 - 10.9 .1 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 dismissal.
 - 10.1.1 A Minutes Book to record the minutes of the Session and of the Congregational Meetings.

10.10 The Church Session shall have power to authorise the acceptance of loans offered or made to the Church for the purchase of property or development of buildings and facilities to be used for the purposes of the Church, on such terms and conditions as it may approve.

Article 11 Election to the Church Session

11.1 Candidates for election to the Church Session shall satisfy the requirements listed in 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1 and 1 Peter 5. Additionally, and to ensure better objectivity in selection, they shall fulfil the following conditions:-

11.1.1 Demonstrate, 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.

11.1.2 Attend public worship and prayer meetings of the Church regularly unless prevented from doing so for valid reasons.

11.1.3 Make a careful study of the Constitution, in particular the doctrines of the Church as embodied in Article 4, and fully accept and uphold it.

11.1.4 Be willing to participate wholeheartedly in the ministry of the Church, together with the Pastor(s), and to devote time, talents and resources in such ministry which shall include serving in the various departments of the Church.

11.2 The Church Session shall nominate candidates for election as Elders, Deacons or Deaconesses. Nominations may also be submitted by members of the Church to the Church Session, but nominees shall only be put forward for voting if approved and endorsed by the Church Session.

11.3 Nominations of candidates for election as Elders, Deacons or Deaconesses shall be carefully screened by the Church Session to

ensure that only candidates with the essential qualifications and who are in full agreement with the doctrinal stand and practices of the Church as set out in this Constitution are put forward for election by the members.

- 11.4 Elected members of the Church Session shall be formally installed into office at a Service of Consecration to be held soon after election.

Article 12 Pastors

- 12.1 The Church Session may appoint one or more Pastors, Assistant Pastors or other pastoral staff for full-time ministry in the Church for up to three years at a time and on such terms and conditions of employment contract as may be decided and agreed upon. Candidates for such appointments shall possess the requisite qualifications, training and/or experience deemed necessary for the ministry to which they are appointed and subscribe fully to the form of government, doctrines and practices of the Church as contained in this Constitution.
- 12.2 For persons who are qualified for the church ministry in a pastoral appointment but have not yet been ordained, the Church Session may prescribe the preparation and process for ordination, with the guidance and participation of serving pastors of like-minded Bible-believing churches.
- 12.3 Pastors, assisted by Assistant Pastors and/or other staff, if any, and working in conjunction with the Elders and Deacons/Deaconesses, shall have the general oversight of all church matters relating to worship, preaching, teaching, sacraments, pastoral care and functions, evangelistic and mission outreach and other spiritual matters, subject to any specific allocation or assignment as to particular congregations, groups or services. Pastors and Assistant Pastors are to be accorded due respect and honour as having the charge of the flock of God in the Church and having authority as leaders of the Church.

- 12.4 The Pastor shall be an ex-officio member of the Church Session, provided that if there be more than one Pastor in office, the Session shall select and appoint one of them to be the ex-officio member from time to time. In the Session he shall also represent and speak for any other Pastors or Assistant Pastors serving in the Church, provided that, at the discretion of the Church Session, the latter may also be invited to attend meetings of the Church Session.
- 12.5 Pastors, Assistant Pastors and other staff in the Church ministry shall be subject to the discipline of the Church Session.

Article 13 Elders

- 13.1 The number of Elders to be elected to the Church Session shall be variable according to the size and needs of the Church and the availability of suitable candidates, as determined by the incumbent Church Session, subject to a minimum of two and, as a guide only, be in the ratio of about one Elder to every fifty communicant members.
- 13.2 A candidate for election to the office of an Elder shall be or shall have been a Deacon of not less than six years standing, duly nominated by the Church Session, provided that the Church Session may at its discretion and as it deems appropriate, shorten the qualifying period. Election shall require a two-thirds majority vote at a congregational meeting duly convened for the purpose.
- 13.3 Upon election, an Elder shall hold office for a term of 3 years and shall be eligible for re- election.
- 13.4 An Elder may be elected in absentia, with his written consent.
- 13.5 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 nor be entitled to attend and participate at its meetings.

- 13.6 An Elder, with the approval of the Church Session, may serve in another Bible-Presbyterian Church for such duration of time as may be determined.
- 13.7 An Elder shall endeavour by God's grace to serve in full conformity with the standards set forth in the Word of God (1 Tim 3:2-7 and Titus 1:6-9), joining with the Pastor(s) in such duties as visiting and praying for the sick, sorrowing and other members, investigating delinquents and endeavouring to remedy any spiritual weakness in the lives of members.
- 13.8 Elders shall be subject to the discipline of the Church in general meeting.

Article 14 Deacons and Deaconesses

- 14.1 Each of the congregations of the Church shall separately elect its own Deacons and Deaconesses from the members in each respective congregation.
- 14.2 The number of Deacons for each congregation shall be in the ratio of one to every 20 of the communicant members there and the number of Deaconesses for each congregation shall be one to every 30 of the communicant members there.
- 14.3 A Deacon or Deaconess shall be elected at a Congregational Meeting by a majority of the votes of the members of each respective congregation but including also the votes of members of the existing Church Session, Pastors and Assistant Pastors holding office immediately prior to the date of the General Meeting.
- 14.4 Upon election, a Deacon or Deaconess shall hold office for a term of three years and shall be eligible for re-election.
- 14.5 They may be elected in absentia, with their written consent.
- 14.6 They shall endeavour by God's grace to serve in full conformity with the standards set forth in the Word of God (1 Tim 3:8-13).

14.7 Deacons or Deaconesses may be requested by the Pastor or an Elder to assist in the ministration of the Sacraments.

14.8 Deacons and Deaconesses shall be subject to the discipline of the Church Session.

Article 15 Responsibilities and Powers of the Church Session

Subject to Article 10 of this Constitution, the responsibilities and powers of the Church Session shall be as follows:-

15.1 The Church Session, comprising the Elders, Deacons/Deaconesses and any Pastor who is an ex-officio member of the Church Session under Article 10.1 shall be the governing body of the Church in accordance with Article 9 of this Constitution.

15.2 In the deliberation and exercise of its duties and responsibilities the Church Session may also, wherever necessary or appropriate, invite the participation of any Pastor and/or Assistant Pastor serving in the Church who is not an ex-officio member of the Church Session.

15.3 The responsibilities and powers of the Church Session shall include the following:

15.3.1 The overall welfare and ministry of the Church;

15.3.2 Overseeing the public worship and preaching services, the ministration of the Sacraments, the conducting of 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;

15.3.3 Receiving members into the Church by confession and reaffirmation of faith and by transfer from other churches;

15.3.4 Appointing or employing such staff or workers or engaging the services of others as may be needed;

- 15.3.5 Exercising discipline in the Church according to the Word of God and Article 9 of (and rules or by-laws made under) this Constitution;
 - 15.3.6 Enquiring into the knowledge and Christian conduct of members of the Church;
 - 15.3.7 Calling before them offenders and witnesses;
 - 15.3.8 Admonition and rebuke of those found to deserve censure, and suspending or excluding offenders from partaking of Holy Communion;
 - 15.3.9 Determining all matters concerning the religious services and spiritual life of the Church and the suitability of candidates for election to the Church Session.
- 15.4 The Church Session may, on specific matters, including disciplinary cases, and as it may deem fit, appoint a committee from among its members to examine and determine the issues in question and make recommendations for the decision of the Church Session.
- 15.5 All powers not in this Constitution specifically granted to the Church Session are reserved to the Congregation.

Article 16 Congregational Meetings

- 16.1 Any Congregational Meeting of the Church may be constituted as a general meeting 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.
- 16.2 Congregational Meetings shall be opened with Scripture reading and prayer and closed with prayer.
- 16.3 Congregational Meetings shall be of two kinds; namely, Annual Congregational Meeting and Extraordinary Congregational Meeting.

- 16.3.1 The Annual Congregational Meeting for the transaction of business pertaining to the Church shall be held by April of each year.
- 16.3.2 At such Meeting the Church Session shall report on the spiritual and temporal conditions of the congregation and announce plans for the coming year.
- 16.3.3 Items of business shall include the Annual Report, the Treasurer's Report, the Budget, appointment of Auditors, and any other matters on the agenda.
- 16.3.4 An Extraordinary Congregational Meeting for the transaction of particular business pertaining to the Church may be held at any time upon due notice being given.
- 16.3.5 An Extraordinary Congregational Meeting for a by-election to fill vacancies created by Session members before expiry of their term may be held at any time upon due notice being given, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Constitution.
- 16.3.6 Only such business as is specifically mentioned in the notice of meeting may be considered at such a meeting.
- 16.3.7 The Church Session shall call an Extraordinary Congregational Meeting when so requested in writing by twenty per cent of all communicant members on the latest active Register of Members.
- 16.4 The quorum for a Congregational Meeting in the election of Church Session members and in the amendment of the Constitution shall be fifty per cent of all communicant members on the latest active Register of Members.
- 16.5 The quorum for a Congregational Meeting for all other business shall be one-third of all communicant members on the latest active Register of Members.

16.6 In the event of a lack of quorum at any Congregational Meeting, the Chairman shall adjourn the meeting for half an hour, after which the meeting shall commence regardless of whether there is a quorum, but if the number then present be less than the required quorum, the meeting shall have no power to pass any amendment to the Constitution or alter, abolish or add to any existing rules. Provided that where different businesses requiring different quorums are to be transacted at the same meeting, and the quorum is sufficient for any business requiring a lower quorum, the meeting may proceed as normal for that business, and the time that shall elapse from the commencement of it shall be counted towards the half-hour adjournment time for the meeting to proceed on the business or businesses requiring the higher quorum.

16.7 The election of Church Session members shall be by secret ballot.

16.8 The election of Church Session members other than Elders and the adoption of resolutions on all other businesses shall require a simple majority vote (while the election of Elders shall require a two-thirds majority vote) of the eligible voting members present at the meeting, but no amendment to the Constitution shall be adopted without a two-thirds majority vote and the required quorum present.

16.9 The Chairman of the Church Session shall be the chairman for all Congregational Meetings except for prudential reasons, when the Church Session shall appoint another of the Elders or the Pastor who is an ex-officio member of the Church Session to be the Chairman for a particular Congregational Meeting.

Article 17 Trustees

17.1 The Church shall have the power to acquire immovable property in its name and vest it in trustees (who shall be serving Elders in the Church Session at the time of the vesting) of not less than two nor more than four in number.

17.2 Any trustee may resign his trusteeship.

17.3 When a trustee dies or is found to be of unsound mind, or becomes a bankrupt or emigrates

- from Singapore or ceases membership of the Church, or is incapacitated for any reason, his trusteeship is deemed to have ceased.
- 17.4 When a trustee is guilty of misconduct of such a kind as to render it undesirable that he continue to be a trustee, the Congregational Meeting may remove him from his trusteeship.
- 17.5 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. The address of immovable properties, names of trustees and any subsequent changes must be notified to the Registrar of Societies and the Commissioner of Charities.
- 17.6 The trustees shall not effect any sale or mortgage of any property without the prior approval of the Church Session.

Article 18 Finance and Audit

- 18.1 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 not contrary to the Holy Scriptures.
- 18.2 In the use of and dealing with the funds of the Church, the following principles shall be observed:
- 18.2.1 All transactions shall be traceable and properly accounted for in the books.
- 18.2.2 All dealings shall be above board and in keeping with Scriptural principles both in spirit and in the letter.
- 18.2.3 The Church Session shall exercise good governance and in particular the person appointed from among them as the Treasurer shall ensure proper control in the receiving and dispensing of funds.

- 18.3 The Church Session shall elect one of its members as Treasurer and another member as Assistant Treasurer, if necessary. (The Treasurer and/or the Assistant Treasurer shall not hold office for the same or related post for another consecutive term.) The Church Session may appoint a Finance Committee from among its members to take charge of the financial affairs of the Church .
- 18.4 The Church Session shall appoint an independent auditing firm to audit the accounts of the Church and to certify the correctness of the accounts for presentation to the Annual Congregational Meeting at the end of each financial year ending on 31 December.

Article 19 Rules and By-Laws

The Church Session may make rules or by-laws not inconsistent with this Constitution for giving effect to the provisions of this Constitution for, but not limited to, the following matters:

- 19.1 The way and manner in which the activities of the Church business shall be administered.
- 19.2 The appointment of staff workers, secretaries, clerks and other personnel for the proper functioning of the Church.
- 19.3 Processes and procedures for the conduct/hearing and adjudication of disputes and disciplinary cases involving members or office-bearers, the setting up of appropriate tribunals for such purposes, and the enforcement or implementation of rulings or decisions on those matters.

Article 20 Amendments

- 20.1 No amendments to this Constitution shall be made except at a Congregational Meeting of the Church.
- 20.2 No amendments to the Constitution shall be adopted without at least a two-thirds majority vote and the required quorum present.

- 20.3 No amendments to the Constitution shall come into force without the prior approval of the Registrar of Societies and the Commissioner of Charities.

Article 21 Interpretation

In any event of any question or matter arising out of any point which is not expressly provided for in the Constitution, the Church Session shall decide on the interpretation to be adopted or the necessary steps to be taken.

Article 22 Prohibitions

- 22.1 Gambling of any kind and the playing of paikow or mahjong, 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.
- 22.2 The funds of the church shall not be used to pay the fines of members who have been convicted in Court.
- 22.3 The Church shall not engage in Trade Union activity as defined in any written law relating to trade unions for the time being in force in Singapore.
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 relating to any goods or services to be supplied to them.
- 22.4 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.
- 22.5 The Church shall not indulge in any political activity or allow its funds and / or premises to be used for political purposes.

- 22.6 The Church shall not raise funds from the public for whatever purpose without the prior approval in writing of the Registrar of Societies and other relevant authorities.

Article 23 Dissolution

- 23.1 The Church shall not be dissolved, except with the consent of not less than three-fourths of the members 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.
- 23.2 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. The remaining funds shall be distributed to other charitable organisations which are registered under the Charities Act (Cap. 37) as the members of the Church may determine at a Congregational Meeting.
- 23.3 A Certificate of dissolution shall be given to the Registrar of Societies and the Commissioner of Charities within seven (7) days of the dissolution.

END OF CONSTITUTION