

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
MMABATHO

CONSTITUTION
2015

**CONSTITUTION OF THE CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH,
MMABATHO**

**WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH,
MMABATHO, HEREBY ADOPT THE FOLLOWING CONSTITUTION:**

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ANNEXURE A CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

CHAPTER 1

DEFINITIONS IN THE CONSTITUTION

- 1 **Definitions** In this Constitution, unless the context indicates otherwise -

“Church” means the congregation of believers who originally formed the Calvary Baptist Church in terms of the 1988 Constitution and which congregation of believers is perpetuated in the current membership as contemplated in section 24.1 and any additional members as contemplated in sections 24.2 and 24.3;

“Church Executive” or “Executive” means the leadership of the Church comprised of the Elders, Deacons and Pastor as contemplated in section 47;

“Deacon” means a servant member of the leadership as contemplated in section 38;

“Elder” means a teaching member of the leadership as contemplated in section 32;

“members of the Church” includes members of the Church as at the date of the adoption of this Constitution as contemplated in section 24.1 and those person accepted into membership as contemplated in sections 24.2 and 24.3;

“Pastor” means the remunerated Elder appointed in terms of section 45; and

“1988 Constitution” means the original “Constitution and by-laws” of the Church adopted in 1988.

CHAPTER 2

NAME, LEGAL STATUS, OBJECTS AND AFFILIATION OF THE CHURCH

2 Name of the Church

The Church shall be known as the Calvary Baptist Church and it shall have its principal place of meeting at 38 Makhene Road, Unit 6, Mmabatho in the North West Province of the Republic of South Africa.

3 Legal Status of the Church

3.1 The Church is an autonomous voluntary association with perpetual succession, a legal entity, in its own right, apart from its members, formed as a non-profit organisation, as contemplated by the laws of the Republic of South Africa, with the objects contemplated in section 4 of this Constitution.

- 3.2 The Church is the continuation of the Church contemplated by the 1988 Constitution.

4 Objectives of the Church

The objectives of the Church are:

- 4.1 To honour, worship, glorify and obey God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit;
- 4.2 To proclaim and teach the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ as revealed in the scripture in accordance with the commission given by Him to His disciples; ¹
- 4.3 To support, financially and otherwise, the proclamation of that Gospel and to provide the means for communal worship and fellowship of believers and for the instruction of members in Biblical doctrine for the purposes of Christian maturity and effective outreach and service; ²
- 4.4 To provide other services not inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution to members of the Church, non-members and members of the local community.

5 Church Affiliation

- 5.1 The Church may affiliate to an organisation representative of and formed by churches whose principles of faith and objects are in common with those of the Church;

¹ Matthew 28:18 - 20
² Ephesians 4:13

- 5.2 Any such affiliation shall not derogate from the independence, identity and legal status of the Church.

CHAPTER 3

PRINCIPLES OF FAITH OF THE CHURCH

The Church believes and adheres to the following principles:

6 **The Scriptures**

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, in its original writings. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation. ³

7 **God**

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing; and His perfect

³ Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1 – 2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalms 19:7 – 10; 119:11, 89, 105, 140; Isaiah 34:16; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 36:1 – 32; Matthew 5:17 – 18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44 – 46; John 5:39; 16:13 – 15; 17:17; Acts 2:16ff; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25 – 26; 2 Timothy 3:15 – 17; Hebrews 1:1 – 2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19 – 21.

knowledge extends to all things, past, present and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being as described in sections 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3 below. ⁴

7.1 God the Father

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude towards all men.

7.2 God the Son

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honoured the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised physically from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God

⁴

Genesis 1:1; 2:7; Exodus 3:14; 6:2 – 3; 15:11ff; 20:1ff; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Psalm 19:1 – 13; Isaiah 43:3, 15; 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; 17:13; Matthew 6:9ff; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark 1:9 – 11; John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6 – 13; 17:1 – 8; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14 – 15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:6; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7.

where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to fulfill His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord. ⁵

7.3 God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Saviour, and effects regeneration. At the moment of regeneration He baptises every believer into the Body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character, faith, spiritual fruit, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service. ⁶

8 Man

⁵ Genesis 18:1ff.; Psalms 2:7ff.; 110:1ff.; Isaiah 7:14; 53; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16,27; 17:5; 27; 28:1-6,19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18,29; 10:30,38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16,28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20,28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20; Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,34; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8,24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; 8:9; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15,24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Revelation 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16.

⁶ Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalms 51:11; 139:7ff.; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10,12; Luke 1:35; 4:1,18-19; 11:13; 12:12; 24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4,38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17,39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Romans 8:9-11,14-16,26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11,13; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Timothy 3:16; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8,14; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Revelation 1:10; 22:17.

Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin and death into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence whereby his posterity inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. Therefore, all of Adam's descendents become transgressors of the divine law and are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfil the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human life (beginning at conception) is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.⁷

9 **Salvation**

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification as set out below in this section: There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

9.1 Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is

⁷ Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18,29; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19,21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11.

a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace. Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Saviour.

- 9.2 Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of His righteousness of all sinners who repent and believe in Jesus Christ. Justification brings the believer into a relationship of peace and favour with God.
- 9.3 Sanctification is the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart for God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerated person's life.
- 9.4 Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed in heaven.⁸

10 God's Purpose of Grace

⁸ Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matthew 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22-28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14,29; 3:3-21,36; 5:24; 10:9,28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3ff.; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18,29-39; 10:9-10,13; 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18,30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1ff.; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8,14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6-2:11; Revelation 3:20; 21:1-22:5.

- 10.1 Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means of grace in connection with the end. It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.
- 10.2 All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves, but they shall be kept by the power of God and his unconditional promises through faith unto salvation.⁹

11 The Local Church and the Body of Christ

- 11.1 A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptised believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to all humanity. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ, through democratic processes. In a congregation each

⁹ Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-8; 1 Samuel 8:4-7, 19-22; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31ff.; Matthew 16:18-19; 21:28-45; 24:22,31; 25:34; Luke 1:68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-48; John 1:12-14; 3:16; 5:24; 6:44-45,65; 10:27-29; 15:16; 17:6,12,17-18; Acts 20:32; Romans 5:9-10; 8:28-39; 10:12-15; 11:5-7,26-36; 1 Corinthians 1:1-2; 15:24-28; Ephesians 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11; Colossians 1:12-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:12; 2:10,19; Hebrews 11:39-12:2; James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:2-5,13; 2:4-10; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:19; 3:2.

member is a believer priest responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its scriptural officers are Pastors, Elders and Deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of Pastor and Elder is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

- 11.2 The New Testament speaks of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all ages, believers from every tribe, and language, and people, and nation.¹⁰

12 Ordinances

- 12.1 Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolising the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead.

- 12.2 The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the

¹⁰ Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42,47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23,27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11,21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Hebrews 11:39-40; 1 Peter 2:9; 1 Peter 5:1-4; 1 Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3.

¹¹ Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12.

fruit of the vine, memorialise the death of Jesus Christ, the Redeemer, and anticipate His second coming. ¹¹

13 **The Lord's Day – Sunday Worship**

The church shall have corporate worship on the first day of the week which is the Lord's Day. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and includes exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. Activities on the Lord's Day should be commensurate with the Christian's conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. ¹²

14 **The Kingdom of God**

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over persons who wilfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which individuals enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labour that the Kingdom will come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age. ¹³

15 **Last Things**

¹² Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 12:1-12; 28:1ff.; Mark 2:27-28; 16:1-7; Luke 24:1-3,33-36; John 4:21-24; 20:1,19-28; Acts 20:7; Romans 14:5-10; I Corinthians 16:1-2; Colossians 2:16; 3:16; Revelation 1:10.

¹³ Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Matthew 3:2; 4:8-10,23; 12:25-28; 13:1-52; 25:31-46; 26:29; Mark 1:14-15; 9:1; Luke 4:43; 8:1; 9:2; 12:31-32; 17:20-21; 23:42; John 3:3; 18:36; Acts 1:6-7; 17:22-31; Romans 5:17; 8:19; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 11:10,16; 12:28; 1 Peter 2:4-10; 4:13; Revelation 1:6,9; 5:10; 11:15; 21-22.

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord. ¹⁴

16 **Evangelism and Missions**

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavour to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ. ¹⁵

17 **Education**

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- ¹⁴ Isaiah 2:4; 11:9; Matthew 16:27; 18:8-9; 19:28; 24:27,30,36,44; 25:31-46; 26:64; Mark 8:38; 9:43-48; Luke 12:40,48; 16:19-26; 17:22-37; 21:27-28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 17:31; Romans 14:10; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 15:24-28,35-58; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 1:5; 3:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 5:1ff.; 2 Thessalonians 1:7ff.; 2; 1 Timothy 6:14; 2 Timothy 4:1,8; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:27-28; James 5:8; 2 Peter 3:7ff.; 1 John 2:28; 3:2; Jude 14; Revelation 1:18; 3:11; 20:1-22:13.
- ¹⁵ Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:18-30, 37-43; 16:19; 22:9-10; 24:14; 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-18; 24:46-53; John 14:11-12; 15:7-8,16; 17:15; 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2-3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 3:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; 2 Timothy 4:5; Hebrews 2:1-3; 11:39-12:2; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Revelation 22:17.

17.1 Christianity is the faith of enlightenment and intelligence. In Jesus Christ abide all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. All sound learning is, therefore, part of our Christian heritage. The new birth opens all human faculties and creates a thirst for knowledge of God. Moreover, the cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches. An adequate system of Christian education is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people.

17.2 In Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility. Freedom in any orderly relationship of human life is always limited and never absolute. The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college or tertiary educational institution is limited by the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists. ¹⁶

18 **Christian Stewardship**

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all what we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the Gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognise all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of

¹⁶ Deuteronomy 4:1,5,9,14; 6:1-10; 31:12-13; Nehemiah 8:1-8; Job 28:28; Psalms 19:7ff.; 119:11; Proverbs 3:13ff.; 4:1-10; 8:1-7,11; 15:14; Ecclesiastes 7:19; Matthew 5:2; 7:24ff.; 28:19-20; Luke 2:40; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 2:3,8-9; 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:14-17; Hebrews 5:12-6:3; James 1:5; 3:17.

God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth. ¹⁷

19 **Christian Co-operation**

19.1 Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organise such associations and conventions as may best secure co-operation for the objects of the Kingdom of God. Such organisations have no authority over one another or over the individual churches. They are voluntary and advisory bodies designed to elicit, combine, and direct the energies of our people in the most effective manner. Members of the New Testament churches should co-operate with one another in carrying forward the missionary, educational, and benevolent ministries for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. Christian unity in the New Testament sense is spiritual harmony and voluntary co-operation for common ends by various groups of Christ's people.

19.2 Such co-operation shall not be provided if it involves any violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to the Lord Jesus Christ and His Truth. ¹⁸

20 **The Christian and Civil Society**

¹⁷ Genesis 14:20; Leviticus 27:30-32; Deuteronomy 8:18; Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 6:1-4, 19-21; 19:21; 23:23; 25:14-29; Luke 12:16-21, 42; 16:1-13; Acts 2:44-47; 5:1-11; 17:24-25; 20:35; Romans 6:6-22; 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 12:15; Philippians 4:10-19; 1 Peter 1:18-19.

¹⁸ Exodus 17:12; 18:17ff.; Judges 7:21; Ezra 1:3-4; 2:68-69; 5:14-15; Nehemiah 4; 8:1-5; Matthew 10:5-15; 20:1-16; 22:1-10; 28:19-20; Mark 2:3; Luke 10:1ff.; Acts 1:13-14; 2:1ff.; 4:31-37; 13:2-3; 15:1-35; 1 Corinthians 1:10-17; 3:5-15; 12; 2 Corinthians 8-9; Galatians 1:6-10; Ephesians 4:1-16; Philippians 1:15-18.

All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality and pornography. We will work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless and the sick. We will speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.¹⁹

21 **Religious Liberty and Separation of Church and State**

God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favoured by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed

¹⁹ Exodus 20:3-17; Leviticus 6:2-5; Deuteronomy 10:12; 27:17; Psalm 101:5; Micah 6:8; Zechariah 8:16; Matthew 5:13-16, 43-48; 22:36-40; 25:35; Mark 1:29-34; 2:3ff.; 10:21; Luke 4:18-21; 10:27-37; 20:25; John 15:12; 17:15; Romans 12-14; 1 Corinthians 5:9-10; 6:1-7; 7:20-24; 10:23-11:1; Galatians 3:26-28; Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; Philemon; James 1:27; 2:8.

will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.²⁰

22 The Family

- 22.1 God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood or adoption.
- 22.2 Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to Biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.
- 22.3 The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect and to lead his family. A

²⁰ Genesis 1:27; 2:7; Matthew 6:6-7,24; 16:26; 22:21; John 8:36; Acts 4:19-20; Romans 6:1-2; 13:1-7; Galatians 5:1,13; Philipians 3:20; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; James 4:12; 1 Peter 2:12-17; 3:11-17; 4:12-19.

wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

- 22.4 Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on Biblical truth. Children are to honour and obey their parents.²¹

CHAPTER 4

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHURCH

23 Qualifications for Membership

Membership of the Church is open only to persons who have:

23.1 professed faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and who have:

23.2 been baptised by total immersion in water as an act of obedience to Him after salvation as a symbol of their personal

²¹ Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8,14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.

repentance, faith, regeneration and identification with Him in His death and resurrection;

23.3 promised to be obedient to Him;

23.4 accepted the Principles of Faith set out in Chapter 3 of this Constitution; and

23.5 after due process as set out below in section 25, signed the "Membership Covenant" annexed to this Constitution as Annexure A.

23.6 applicants under the age of 14 must be approved by a legal guardian.

24 **Membership**

The membership of the Church shall consist of:

24.1 those persons whose names appear on the register of Church members at the date of the adoption of this Constitution;

24.2 those persons who personally apply for membership and who comply with the provisions of section 23.

24.3 those persons who apply to be accepted as members by transfer from another church who comply with the provisions of section 23.

25 **Application for Membership**

- 25.1 All applications for membership including transfer membership shall be submitted to the Pastor and Elders of the Church for consideration.
- 25.2 All applicants for membership including transfer membership shall be interviewed by not less than two Elders and/or the Pastor and an Elder, who shall satisfy themselves that the applicant complies with the qualifications for membership contemplated in section 23. Also the congregation will be notified of applicants so that their input can be given to the Pastor or Elders.
- 25.3 If in the view of the interviewing Elders and/or Pastor and Elder, the applicant does not qualify for membership, the applicant will be refused membership. This decision is final.
- 25.4 Where an applicant's application is approved, the applicant shall be welcomed into membership, after signing the "Membership Covenant", at a worship service on the Lord's Day.

26 **Members' Privileges and Duties**

- 26.1 The privileges and duties of members of the Church are those set out in Annexure A to this Constitution.
- 26.2 Members of the Church are to financially support the ministry of the Church and to pray for, support and submit to those serving in the Church leadership. ²²

²²

Hebrews 13:17.

27 Discipline of Members

- 27.1 All members of the Church are expected to continue to meet the membership requirements contemplated in section 23(2) and (3) and the terms of the "Membership Covenant".
- 27.2 Should any member wilfully depart from the scriptural standard contemplated in section 23 and the "Membership Covenant" and engage in conduct which conflicts with that standard the offended member shall personally, privately discuss the matter with the offending member with a view to repentance, confession and restoration of the unity of membership.²³
- 27.3 In the event that the step contemplated in section 27.2 is not successful, the step is to be repeated in the presence of not less than two witnesses,²⁴ in a spirit of humility, gentleness and loving honesty.²⁵
- 27.4 If after these steps of reproof are taken there is still no repentance then the matter is to be reported to the Church Executive who shall delegate the Pastor and not less than one Elder to discuss the matter with the offending person and to counsel and pray with him.²⁶
- 27.5 If after a reasonable time has elapsed since the step taken by the Church leadership in section 27.4, there is still no evidence of repentance then the offending person shall be removed from the membership and fellowship of the Church.²⁷

²³

Matthew 18:17.

²⁴

Matthew 18:16.

²⁵

Galatians 6:1; Ephesians 4:25.

²⁶

Matthew 18:17.

²⁷

Matthew 18:17; 1 Corinthians 5:11; 2 Thessalonians 3:14 – 15.

27.6 A disciplinary decision contemplated in section 27.5 is final and shall be taken by the Pastor and Elders and communicated to the offending person concerned and then to the Church.

28 **Termination of Church Membership**

Membership of the Church is terminated in the event of:

28.1 The death of a member;

28.2 Exclusion from membership as contemplated in section 27;

28.3 Transfer of membership upon a member joining another church. Such transfer shall be granted to a member in good standing, on request by the church which the member proposes joining, by way of a letter of transfer.

28.4 He or she is absent from the church services for more than 6(six) consecutive months without notice or reasonable cause.

28.5 The Church shall be advised of all terminations of membership.

29 **Restoration of Membership**

The Pastor and Elders may approve the restoration to membership of any person removed and excluded from Church membership in terms of section 27.²⁸

30 **Meetings of Members**

²⁸ 2 Corinthians 2:6 – 10.

30.1 Meetings of members shall be held at such time and place for worship and other such reasons as the Executive may from time to time determine. It is the intention of the Church to keep the members of the Church fully aware of all-important matters relating to the Church and to encourage members to provide both feedback as to such matters and to otherwise openly communicate with the Church on any other matters. In this regard, the Church will have at least one “business” meeting of its membership each year. In addition, members are encouraged to communicate openly with the Executive and Deacons.

30.2 The Pastor, or in the absence of a Pastor, the senior (longest serving) Elder shall be the chairperson at all “business” meetings of the Church : Provided that when the position of Pastor or the incumbent Pastor is under consideration, the senior Elder shall act as chairperson for that part of the meeting.

31 **Voting Privileges of Members**

Membership in the Church shall not vest in any member any proprietary rights therein, but shall entitle a member to vote (from the age of 18) at meetings of the members on those matters submitted to the Church membership by the Executive. Such matters include, but are not limited to, the calling of a Pastor, the approval of a major capital stewardship campaign, approval of the Church annual budget and transactions in respect of immovable property contemplated in section 51 and approval of all changes to the Constitution.

CHAPTER 5

CHURCH LEADERSHIP : ELDERS, DEACONS AND PASTOR

A ELDERS

32 **Qualifications for Elders**

Elders shall be male members of the Church who are:

- 32.1 over the age of 21 ; and
- 32.2 whose conduct is in all respects above reproach as prescribed in Scripture; ²⁹ and
- 32.3 able to accurately and actively teach Scriptural doctrine.
- 32.4 prior positions of leadership and experience in church related ministry.
- 32.5 shall be a member of the church for at least one year or served as a deacon for at least one term and will remain eligible as long as they are active members

33 **Number of Elders**

- 33.1 There shall at all times be a plurality of Elders. ³⁰ In the event there are only 2 elders eligible to serve then the Elders and Deacons will work together as an Executive until more Elders are eligible for service. The church will have as many elders as

²⁹

1 Timothy 3:1 – 7; Titus 1:6 – 9.

³⁰

Acts 14:23; Acts 20:28; Titus 1:5; Philippians 1:1.

needed, the church always has the option to nominate at a given time but to change their minds later.

- 33.2 The Pastor shall automatically serve as an Elder and shall lead the Elders as a leader among equals, with mutual respect and accountability between themselves.

34 Term of Office of Elders

- 34.1 An Elder shall serve for an indefinite term.
- 34.2 An Elder may take sabbatical leave from his active duties as an Elder on his own request or as deemed necessary by the remaining number of Elders.
- 34.3 A person will only be designated an Elder while he is actively functioning as such.

35 Selection of Elders

- 35.1 The Executive shall select any new Elders or Deacon candidates: Provided that the first Elders appointed under this Constitution shall be selected by the Pastor and the "Interim Committee" appointed by the members of the Church under the 1988 Constitution.
- 35.2 Not less than once a year the Church members will be given the opportunity to nominate men for the office of Elder. A committee consisting of Elders, or appointed by the Elders, shall review the nominations. After this review the committee shall bring a recommendation to the entire Executive. After review by the Executive and any necessary revisions are made, the Executive shall publish a list of proposed Elders to the

Church. With this list the members of the Church are invited to respond to the Executive concerning any question about the fitness or qualifications of anyone on the list. The Executive shall immediately contact the person who indicates a concern regarding the fitness of a candidate for office in order to clarify the concern. If necessary, the Executive, or Elders appointed by the Executive, shall then interview the candidate and take appropriate action to address the concern. Should the concern be an issue which disqualifies the candidate, the Executive shall remove his name from current consideration. Should the concern not be sufficient to remove the candidate from consideration, his name shall remain on the list. In any instance, after the interview with the candidate the Executive shall personally respond to the person voicing the particular concern with the result of their interview with the candidate as pertains to the issue in question. From this point the Executive shall deliberate among themselves as well as personally interview all the prospective candidates. After a period of not less than two weeks, the Executive shall present the approved candidates at a regular worship service on the Lord's Day for the purpose of setting apart these men for the office of Elder. These men shall begin to serve immediately.

36 Elders' Functions and Responsibilities

36.1 The Elders are responsible for the general oversight of the spiritual welfare of the Church, ³¹ and in particular for ensuring that the doctrine of the Church is in accordance with Scripture and ensuring that the direction of the Church is consistent with this Constitution.

³¹ Acts 20:38; 1 Peter 5:1 – 3.

36.2 In this regard the Elders are to deal with the following matters:

- 36.2.1 Doctrinal issues that require clarification for the Church;
- 36.2.2 Changes in eliminating existing ministries or starting new ministries;
- 36.2.3 Major changes in the direction or operation of existing ministries;
- 36.2.4 Deal with matters of Church discipline and the results will be reported to the members in an appropriate and timely manner;
- 36.2.5 Problem solving with staff and lay leadership;
- 36.2.6 Financial decisions, in conjunction with the church Executive;
- 36.2.7 Church wide ministry projects;
- 36.2.8 to oversee the recommendation and interviews of a new Pastor or Co-Pastor;
- 36.2.9 to oversee the selection of Elders and Deacons;
and
- 36.2.10 Developing long range purpose, vision and goals for the Church.

36.3 The Elders shall be the final authority in the Church in the interpretation of this Constitution in the event that no agreement is reached by the Church members.

37 Removal of Elders from Office

37.1 An Elder may be removed from office if:

37.1.1 he evidently becomes physically or mentally incapable of performing his functions as an Elder;

37.1.2 he becomes Scripturally disqualified; or

37.1.3 his inability to serve is established by the remainder of the Elders.

37.2 Any accusations against an Elder will be dealt with in terms of section 27.

37.3 An Elder may recuse himself from office for personal reasons.

B DEACONS

38 Qualifications for Deacons

Deacons shall be male or female and shall be members for at least one year of the Church who are:

38.1 over the age of 21; and

38.2 whose conduct is in all respects above reproach as prescribed in Scripture;³² and

38.3 who are able and proven servants.³³

39 **Number of Deacons**

The number of Deacons shall be as many as are qualified and are needed to carry out the functions and duties of Deacons : Provided further that no fewer than 3 Deacons are in office at any one time.

40 **Terms of Office of Deacons**

40.1 Deacons shall hold office for two consecutive years.

40.2 Deacons shall be eligible for reappointment for further consecutive two year periods at the discretion of the Executive.

41 **Selection and Appointment of Deacons**

41.1 Deacons shall be selected and appointed according to the provisions of section 35.2.

41.2 During the nomination process the members will be asked to consider the qualifications and capacity in which Deacons will serve.

41.3 Upon appointment, deacons will be asked to sign a Deacon covenant.

42 **Deacons' Functions and Responsibilities**

³² 1 Timothy 3:8 – 13.
³³ Acts 6:1 – 7.

42.1 The Deacons shall assist the Executive in giving leadership and service in ministries of the Church primarily, but not limited to spiritual gifts.³⁴

42.2 For the purposes of section 42.1, Deacons will meet together with the Executive not less than once a quarter for a joint meeting at a time and place designated by the Executive or by the Elder whose designated ministry is the oversight of the Deacon ministry. These meetings will be held for the purpose of fellowship, teambuilding, encouragement, instruction in ministry, and discipleship. The Deacons may also choose to meet as a group at designated times for special purposes and may call a special meeting with the co-operation of the Executive or the Elder for Deacon ministry, if necessary.

43 **Removal of Deacons from Office**

The provisions of section 37 are applicable to the removal of Deacons from office.

C THE PASTOR

44 **Qualifications of the Pastor**

The Pastor of the Church shall be:

44.1 eligible and required to become a member of the Church;

44.2 eligible for appointment as an Elder of the Church; and

³⁴

Acts 6:1 – 7.

- 44.3 able to shepherd the congregation; and
- 44.4 able to preach, counsel, and model basic things for church growth such as discipleship, evangelism, follow-up and training of new leaders; and
- 44.5 able to preach in English and meet the needs of the multicultural and multilingual congregation.

45 Appointment of the Pastor

- 45.1 A committee selected by the Executive and consisting of at least one Elder serving as Chairman shall choose a person for the list of eligible candidates. This "Search Committee" will present the chosen candidate pastor to the Executive for their approval or disapproval. Upon approval, the candidate pastor will be presented to the Church members at a meeting called for that purpose. In the interest of being sensitive to the body, the Executive shall then invite responses concerning his qualifications, capabilities and calling. A decision to approve or disapprove shall thereafter be made by the Executive. In the event of such approval, the final decision to approve shall be made by a vote of the members of the Church by a majority vote of not less than 75% of members present. Should a vacancy occur in the office of Pastor, the Elders shall carry out the Pastor's duties during that period.
- 45.2 The office of Pastor is a remunerated position, the terms and conditions of the contract of service being negotiated and agreed to by the Executive of the Church and the prospective pastor and reduced to writing.

45.3 The labour laws of the Republic of South Africa are applicable to a contract of service contemplated in section 45.2.

46 Functions and Responsibilities of the Pastor

46.1 The Pastor shall be the lead Elder as provided in section 33.2.

46.2 In that capacity the Pastor will perform the functions and duties contemplated in section 36.

46.3 The Pastor shall oversee all corporate worship services of the Church.

46.4 The Pastor should be responsible to oversee member care.

46.5 The Pastor shall ensure that the Church has proper representation at school activities and proper functioning of the school committee.

47 Removal of Pastor from Office

The provisions of Section 37 are applicable to the removal of Pastor from office.

CHAPTER 6

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

48 The Church Executive

48.1 The Pastor and Elders shall function as the Church Executive and the Pastor shall preside as Chairman at all meetings of the Executive except when his own position or decisions concerning changes in his financial remuneration or job

performance is under consideration or in the event he elects to vacate the chair.

48.2 The Executive shall annually appoint from their own number:

48.2.1 a Vice-Chairman who shall perform the functions of the Chairman whenever the latter is absent, incapacitated or unable to act;

48.2.2 a Secretary, who shall keep or cause to be kept a book of minutes of all the meetings of the Elders (whether meeting as Church Executive or not) and committees of Elders and all membership records of the Church;

48.2.3 a Treasurer who shall keep and maintain the financial records and books of account of the Church in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice; and

48.2.4 such other officers as may from time to time be necessary to perform such functions and duties as the Executives may delegate to them.

49 **Meetings of Church Executive**

49.1 Meetings of the Executive shall be held at the Church premises or such other venue as the members thereof may agree.

49.2 Regular meetings of the Executive shall be held. Such meetings shall be open to attendance by Church members except when a meeting is discussing personal matters,

disciplinary matters or for other matters of a confidential nature in "Executive Session".

- 49.3 Special meetings of the Executive may be called from time to time as may be deemed necessary. The purpose for all special meetings shall be stated in advance. The Chairman or Vice Chairman may call special meetings. Special meetings of the Executive shall be held upon not less than four days notice by e-mail or not less than a twenty-four-hour notice given personally or by telephone or similar means of communication.
- 49.4 A majority of Elders present, whether or not a quorum is present may adjourn any Executive meeting to another time and place. Notice of any adjournment to another time or place shall be given prior to the time of the adjourned meeting to the Elders who were not present at the time of the adjournment. Such notice shall be in accordance with the provisions of section 48.3 for a Special Meeting.
- 49.5 A quorum shall require the presence of not less than two-thirds of the Elders at any meeting where a vote is required to be taken.
- 49.6 Members of the Executive may participate in a meeting through use of a conference telephone or similar communications equipment, so long as all members participating in such meeting can hear one another.
- 49.7 Every member of the Executive shall have the absolute right at any reasonable time to inspect all books, records and documents of every kind and to inspect the physical properties

of the Church, for the purpose reasonably related to such person's interest as member of the Executive.

49.8 Decisions of the Executive shall be reached after prayerful consideration by a unanimous vote of those Elders present, with at least 75 percent of the executive overall, conducted in a spirit of humility without regard to self interest.³⁵

49.9 The Pastor is a voting member of the Executive except when his own position is under consideration.

50 **Church Ministries**

50.1 The Executive shall determine the ministries of the Church which may include, but are not limited to:

50.1.1 an evangelism ministry;

50.1.2 a men's ministry;

50.1.3 a women's ministry;

50.1.4 a youth ministry;

50.1.5 a children's ministry

50.1.6 a music ministry; and

50.1.7 an education ministry: Provided the education ministry shall in all respects comply with the registration and

³⁵

Philippians 2:3 – 4.

other requirements for schools in accordance with the laws of the Republic of South Africa.

50.2 All ministries of the Church shall fall under the oversight of the Executive who may delegate functions and duties to the appointed leaders of the ministries : Provided that notwithstanding any such delegation the Executive may repeal, revoke or amend any such delegated function or duty and is not divested of its original authority in any respect.

50.3 Leaders of ministries and any members of any committees appointed for ministries shall be Church members in good standing.

51 Church Finance and Records

51.1 The Church shall be supported by the voluntary giving of monetary and other offerings by the members of the Church and congregation. ³⁶

51.2 Special fund raising projects may be initiated subject to recommendation by the Executive.

51.3 All monetary gifts, designated or undesignated, shall be paid into the churches bank account with a registered commercial bank and thereafter administered according to the provisions of this Constitution.

51.4 The Church shall have authority to invest any funds belonging to it in any manner it may deem fit.

³⁶

2 Corinthians 9.

- 51.5 Proper books of account and records shall be maintained by the Church Treasurer with the assistance of an executive member as contemplated in section 47.2.3. Such books of account and records shall be open for inspection at all reasonable time by the Executive. The Treasurer shall make or cause to be made available the financial reports at each regular Executive meeting and the Church's annual business meeting. The Treasurer shall oversee the reception of funds and also disbursement of funds subject to the authorisation by the Executive.
- 51.6 The Pastor or any member of the Pastor's family should not be able to issue money from the church accounts unless by the authority of the Executive.
- 51.7 The Executive shall appoint annually an independent, competent person or persons who is not an Elder or Deacon, as an auditor who shall examine the Church securities, audit the accounts and financial records of the Church and furnish a report thereon to the Church members in writing, no later than 3 months from the financial year end. Such report shall also refer to the existence of the securities and the adequacy of the records maintained and shall express an opinion on the accuracy of the accounts presented.
- 51.8 The Church's financial year shall end on 31 December.

52 **Church Property and Investments**

- 52.1 The Church shall have power to buy, sell, donate, let or hire, exchange, transfer, receive by way of donation or otherwise, movable and immovable property and to invest its funds in Government or Municipal stock, mortgage bonds, or on fixed deposit or otherwise, in banks, Post Offices or approved financial organisations and shall further have power to borrow money with or without security in such manner as the Church shall think fit, negotiate loans from bankers or others by overdraft or otherwise and to pass mortgage and notarial bonds for registration with the proper authorities, and to open and operate banking accounts, and to make, draw, accept, discount, execute and issue promissory notes, bills of exchange and other negotiable and transferable instruments to guarantee the performance of contracts by any person authorised by the Church or the Executive (as the case may be).
- 52.2 The Executive may authorise any officer of the Church or any agent designated for that purpose, to enter into any contract or execute any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Church. Such authority may be general or confined to specific instances. Unless authorised by the Executive, no member, officer, agent or employee of the Church shall have the power or authority to bind the Church by any contract or agreement, or to pledge its credit, or to render it liable for any purpose or to any amount.
- 52.3 All immovable property acquired by the Church in any manner shall be registered in the name of the Church. Provided the said Trustees will not be required to furnish security for such trusteeship in terms of the laws of the Republic of South Africa.

- 52.4 The Trustees and all officers of the Church shall be fully indemnified against all actions, costs, charges, losses, damages and expenses which they or any of them shall or may incur in the execution of their duties, except those as they incur by their own wrongful action done intentionally or with gross negligence.
- 52.5 All acquisitions of immovable property in any manner shall require the approval of a Church meeting, due notice having been given of the proposed transaction.
- 52.6 Any proposal to sell, donate, exchange, mortgage, hypothecate, or otherwise alienate or encumber any immovable property shall have the prior approval of a Church meeting called for that purpose by a 75% majority vote of the members present.
- 52.7 The proceeds derived from the sale or other disposal of any property of the Church shall be used in such manner as the Church may deem best fitted to secure the furtherance of its objects.

53 Settlement of Disputes

If any dispute arises between Church members themselves or with the Pastor or staff (if any) or any dispute arises pertaining to any matters of spiritual teaching or practices or Church finances or title to property purchased with Church contributions, the dispute shall be resolved by the Executive. If no resolution can be reached then mediation can be requested from the body which the church is affiliated.

54 Dissolution of Church

54.1 The Executive may propose an admendment of this constitution at any time in the exercise:

54.1.1 No change shall be made unless at least three-fourths of the members present at such a Meeting actually record their votes in favour of the suggested admendment either in its original form or with such admendemnts as the Meeting itself may make, as well as;

54.1.2 Any admendment in the Constitution shall be made only if seventy-five percent of the total resident membership of the Church vote in favour of suggested alteration.

54.2 In the event of the dissolution of the Church the remaining members shall take the necessary steps to wind up the affairs of the Church and to transfer its assets (both movable and immovable) to a non-profit organisation which has the objects specified in section 4.

54.3 The Church shall be deemed to have dissolved when the number of members falls below 1.

55 Amendment of Constitution

55.1 This Constitution may be amended at any time by the Executive in the exercise of power granted to said Executive by the Constitution. In the interest of being sensitive and open to the Church membership, the Executive shall publish in a Church publication or notice the proposed amendment at least three weeks prior to adoption, inviting response and comment from

the members. The Executive may then make a final decision on the proposed amendment: Provided that the objects of the Church set out in section 4 and the principles set out in Chapter 3 are entrenched.

- 55.2 Whenever an amendment in this Constitution is adopted, it shall be copied in the book of minutes with this Constitution, in the appropriate place. If any section of this Constitution is repealed, the fact of repeal with the date of the meeting at which the repeal was enacted or written assent was given shall be stated in said book.

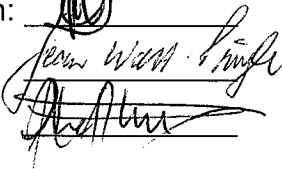
56 Repeal and Commencement

- 56.1 This Constitution shall come into effect on the date of its ratification according to the June 2013 Constitution, Section 20.
- 56.2 The June 2013 Constitution is hereby repealed.
- 56.3 This Constitution shall be known as the Constitution of the Calvary Baptist Church, Mmabatho, 2015.
- 56.4 This constitution was approved and accepted by members of the Church at a Annual General Meeting held on 8 (day) of April (month), 2015, at Calvary Baptist Church (place) and supersedes all previous Constitutions and Trust Deeds.

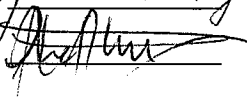
Chairperson:



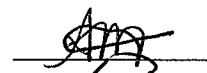
Treasurer:



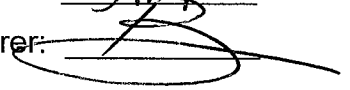
A. Member:



Secretary:



A. Treasurer:



ANNEXURE “A”

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Having been convicted and led as I believe, by the Spirit of God, to repent, believe and receive the Jesus Christ as my Saviour and Lord, and profess my allegiance to Him; and having been baptised by immersion in water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, I now, in the presence of God and in this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with the members of the Calvary Baptist Church as the body of Christ.¹

I covenant too:

work and pray for our unity in the bond of peace, with the power of the Holy Spirit and to walk together in Christian love.²

be a faithful witness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ where I am to pursue the salvation of any person I meet who does not know Christ as Saviour and Lord (including family, colleagues and acquaintances).³

strive for the growth of this Church and myself in biblical knowledge and holiness; promote its well-being and spirituality; to participate and sustain worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; and submit to its leaders as they are faithful to Christ.⁴

¹ Acts 2:38, Mark 9:23, John 11:26, Hebrew 11:6, John 1:12 – 13, 1 Pet. 2:6, Matthew 28:19 – 20, Romans 8:1

² 1 Cor. 13:1 – 13, Eph. 4:1 – 6, John 13:34

³ Matt. 28:19, Luke 24:44 – 48, Acts 1:3 – 8, Gen. 12:3

⁴ Hebrews 10:24 – 25, Hebrews 13:17, 1 Thess. 4:12 – 15

be in prayer for the spiritual awakening of the lost in our community. I will also be in prayer with and for my fellow church members. I will also not neglect to pray for my co-members and others.

tithe and contribute cheerfully and regularly to support the expenses of the Church and its ministries including the relief of the poor and the advancement of the Gospel.⁵

attend Church meetings regularly and not forsake the assembling of ourselves together.⁶

Strive to maintain a personal prayer and bible study time. If I have a family I will seek to educate my family members in the Christian faith and demonstrate the love of Christ in all of my household relationships.⁷

watch over the other members in brotherly love; by aiding them in sickness and distress, to be just in my dealings, faithful in my engagements, and exemplary in my conduct, and to walk uprightly in the world.⁸

cultivate Christian empathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offence; to think the best of one another; and always be ready for Biblical reconciliation being mindful of the teachings of our Saviour to secure it without delay, so far as it depends upon me.⁹

⁵ 1 Cor. 9:1 – 27, Prov. 15:15, Job 34:19, Matt. 5:3, Mark 10:21, Luke 4:18

⁶ Hebrews 10:25, Hebrews 5:5, Acts 2:42 – 47

⁷ Eph. 6:1 – 4, Psalm 78, Deut. 6:1 – 9

⁸ Matt. 19:15 – 20, Col. 2:9 – 10, Eph. 5:1 – 2, Eph. 5:15, Eph. 6:18

⁹ Psalm 19:14, Psalm 34:13 – 14, Eph. 4:29, 1 Peter 3:8 – 12, Matt. 5:21 – 26, Titus 3:10, Prov. 26:20 – 26

abstain from gluttony, drunkenness, illicit drugs, and entertainments or practices which jeopardize my own or another's faith; strive to avoid all Scriptural prohibitions, such as gossip, backbiting and unrighteous anger, to refrain from speaking evil of another.¹⁰

submit to Biblically defined Church discipline for the purpose of reconciliation with God and man. I accept that refusing to communicate or to flee is to undermine the authority of the Church and breaks this covenant.¹¹

Understanding and agreeing with this *Church Membership Covenant* and the *Calvary Baptist Church Constitution*, I commit myself to this Church body.

Signature _____ Printed _____ Date _____

As Elders of Calvary Baptist Church, and having interviewed this member, we affirm his / her readiness for membership, and witnessed the formal acceptance by the congregation.

Signature _____ Printed _____ Date _____
(Pastor)

Signature _____ Printed _____ Date _____
(Elder)

¹⁰ Psalm 1:1 – 6, Eph. 5:3 – 12, Col. 3:1 – 17, II Cor. 12:20, Romans 1:30, Lev. 19:16, Eccl. 10:11, Galatians 5:21, Deuteronomy 21:20, I Corinthians 6:10, Proverbs 23:21, Psalm 101:1 – 2

¹¹ Matt. 18:15 – 20, Heb. 12:11, 1 Cor. 5:1 – 13, John 2:19, 1 Timothy 1:20, 2 Cor. 2:1 – 11, Luke 17:4

Membership Process

The membership of this Church shall consist only of persons who have repented of their sins and confess faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who give evidence of regeneration by living a lifestyle consistent with their profession and with the views of faith, doctrine and practice of this Church; who have been baptised in believer's baptism by immersion, and who have been received into membership according to their agreement with the Principles of Faith in this Constitution and this Covenant.

There is a two step process:

- 1 Membership applicants will complete the membership process specified in the Constitution, meet with an Elder to communicate their Christian testimony, history in past churches, discuss the commitments of the Church and affirm their agreement with the documents of the Church by reviewing them during that meeting.
- 2 Upon approval, new members will be publicly affirmed as to their acceptance into the membership of the Church.

All actions regarding membership, either of admission or dismissal, shall be conducted at any of the regular meetings for worship. The Church may, without special notice, act upon the reception of members, or upon transfer of members to other churches.

Instruction to New Members

All persons uniting with this Church in any of the ways set out in the Constitution shall beforehand be made acquainted with this *Church Covenant* and the *Calvary Baptist Church Constitution* by the Elders. New members shall pledge themselves to fulfil their stewardship obligations as to worship, service and giving, when they make public profession of faith and join the Church.

Eldership Covenant

I _____, believing that God has called me to be an overseer of Calvary Baptist Church, His church which He purchased with His own blood. I will seek to adhere to the qualifications set forth in God's Word for this position. (1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9) In so doing, I make this covenant:

(1) I will care for and tend to my own relationship with God through the spiritual disciplines provided by God to glorify Him, to enjoy Him, and to protect the integrity of the council of elders. (1Cor 9:27)

(2) I will pastor and care for my own family, understanding that if I don't manage my own home well, I am in no position to care for God's church. (1Tim 3:4)

(3) I will pastor and care for the church. I will remember the way in which God gently, graciously, and patiently shepherds me as I live out my calling as an under-shepherd of God's people seeking to gently, graciously, and patiently shepherd them. (1Pet 5:1-5)

(4) I will seek to pastor and teach through my own brokenness by the power of the Holy Spirit in order that in all things we may boast in God and He may receive all the glory. (1Cor 1:27-30)

(5) I will seek to preach and teach God's Word (willing and able to serve in the same capacities as the senior Pastor) in such a way that God is glorified through the gospel, God's people are equipped with the gospel, and non-Christians are saved by the gospel. (Rom 1:16)

(6) I will hold to and contend for the essential doctrines of God as summarized in our church's Statement of Faith. I will protect the flock from false teachers and, if needed, protect the truth from the flock. (Jude 3-4, 2Tim 4:1-5)

(7) I will remember the love God shows for me in His discipline and correction as I seek to lovingly carry out the discipline and correction of God's people in this local church. (Heb 12:5-6)

(8) I will humbly and thankfully accept correction and rebuke myself, believing that God uses His people to sharpen one another for their good and His glory. (Heb 12:5-6)

(9) I will graciously submit to and support the opinions and decisions of the council of elders. (Heb 13:17)

(10)) In recognition that certain behaviours can be a stumbling block to unbelievers, as well as young believers, if asked by fellow elders or my pastor, I will be willing to refrain from any questionable practice that might hinder my witness and testimony for the Lord. (Rom. 14:21, 1 Cor. 8:9-12)

(11) I commit, furthermore, to resign the office of an Elder if my fellow Elders, Pastor, or the church deem my conduct inappropriate or if my circumstances render me ineffective for service.

Signature _____

Date _____

Deacon Covenant

I _____ believe God has called me to serve as a deacon and with all humility commit myself to faithful service unto the Lord and His church. I will seek to adhere to the qualifications set forth in God's Word for this position. (Acts 6:1-7, 1 Timothy 3:1-13) In so doing, I affirm the following:

(1) I have personally put my faith and trust in Jesus Christ as my Saviour and Lord. As an outward symbol of this salvation, I have been scripturally baptized by immersion. (Rom 10:9, Matt. 28:19)

(2) I believe the Bible is the inerrant, infallible and sufficient Word of God. Moreover, I believe such doctrines as the virgin birth, the blood atonement of Jesus, the bodily resurrection of Christ, His literal Second Coming, and the reality of both heaven and hell to be true.

His word is my guide and final authority. (2 Tim. 3:16, 2 Peter 1:20-21)

(3) I believe salvation and eternal life come only by grace through faith in Christ, as there is no other way to heaven. (Ephesians 2:8-10 John 14:6, Acts 4:12)

(4) I will seek to be consistently involved in the services and ministries of my church and to model servant leadership not only in my role as a deacon, but every area of ministry within the church to which God leads me. (Heb. 10:24-25, Heb. 12:28)

(5) I will seek to develop the character quality of being a cheerful giver, recognizing that God uses His people for the advancement of His kingdom. (Lev. 27:30, Mal. 3:8-10, 2Cor. 9:7)

(6) I will seek to work with the pastor as God leads to shepherd our church and to cooperate in a spirit of humility to carry out the Great Commission of our Lord. (1 Thess. 5:12-13, Matt 28: 18-20)

(7) I will strive to be the faithful spouse and parent God has called me to be. I am confident my family will be a supportive asset to God's service, as well as to our church leadership. (1 Tim. 3:4, 1 Tim. 3:11)

(8) I will seek to grow in my walk with God and to develop the regular habit of prayer, Bible study, and devotions. (John 15:7)

(9) In recognition that certain behaviours can be a stumbling block to unbelievers, as well as young believers, if asked by fellow deacons or my pastor, I will be willing to refrain from any questionable practice that might hinder my witness and testimony for the Lord. (Rom. 14:21, 1 Cor. 8:9-12)

(10) I commit, furthermore, to resign the office of deacon if my fellow deacons, pastor or the church deem my conduct inappropriate or if my circumstances render me ineffective for service.

Signature _____

Date _____