

EVANGEL BAPTIST CHURCH

Revised Constitution As Approved By ROS On 29 Oct 2009

CONSTITUTION

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Article 1 : **NAME**

- 1 The name of this Church shall be Evangel Baptist Church.

Article 2 : **INTERPRETATION**

- 2.1 In this Constitution unless the context otherwise requires :

“administrative staff” means the paid administrative staff of the Church who are not ministry staff or part of the Pastorate .

“Articles of Faith” is the statement of biblical doctrines set out in Appendix 2.

“Church” means the society named in Article 1.

“Church Administrative Council” means the officers fulfilling the management and administrative functions of the Church as constituted under Article 11.

“Church Covenant” means the statement of mutual covenants entered into by every member of the Church on his becoming a member as set out in Appendix 1.

“Constitution” shall mean this constitution including any amendments made to it from time to time pursuant to Article 15.

“Member” or “member” shall mean anyone who is listed in the Register of Members as an Ordinary, Associate or Overseas Member.

“Church Ministry Council” means the body constituted pursuant to Article 10.

“ministry staff” means paid staff of the Church who are serving in a ministry of the church and is not a pastor.

“Pastorate” means the body of pastors of the Church as constituted under Article 9.

“Senior Pastor” means the Pastor appointed by the Church to carry out the duties set out in Article 9.3 regardless of the designation of the Pastor.

“Word of God” means the Holy Bible complete with sixty-six (66) books understood according to evangelical protestant theology.

the singular includes the plural and conversely; and a gender includes all genders.

- 2.2 In the event of any ambiguity, the Church Administrative Council's interpretation of the Constitution shall be adopted unless and until such interpretation is overruled in favour of some other at a business meeting.
- 2.3 The Church Administrative Council shall have discretion in the decision of or on any matter upon which this Constitution is silent.

Article 3 : **PLACE OF BUSINESS**

- 3 The place of business shall be at 20 Aljunied Road CPA House, #03-01/02, Singapore 389805 or such other address as may subsequently be decided upon by the Church Administrative Council and approved by the Registrar of Societies.

Article 4 : **OBJECTIVES**

- 4.1 The objectives for which the Church is established are:
 - 4.1.1 to worship, praise and give thanks to the Triune God : Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
 - 4.1.2 to teach the Word of God to believers in order that they may be built up in the faith and equipped for the work of the ministry;
 - 4.1.3 to preach the gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and to teach and encourage personal witnessing of individual believers to this same end;
 - 4.1.4 to support the work of missionaries and agencies of like faith for the furtherance of the gospel;
 - 4.1.5 to meet for prayer, fellowship and the administration of the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper; and
 - 4.1.6 to exercise social concern by ministering to the needs of believers and non-believers alike in a Christ-like spirit.
- 4.2 In order to achieve the objectives of the Church, it may carry out any of the following :
 - 4.2.1 mobilise members of the Church for Christian service by providing avenues and opportunities where possible; and
 - 4.2.2 establish, manage, staff and run institutions for education, welfare homes or any other social and community institutions as the Church may decide.

Article 5 : **MEMBERSHIP**

5.1 ACCEPTANCE OF ORDINARY MEMBER

All and only such persons shall be accepted as Ordinary Member's of this Church who, confessing their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and after due examination by the Church Ministry Council as to their faith and practice as outlined in this Constitution, fulfil any of the following conditions and are received by a vote of Ordinary Members of this Church:

- 1) have been baptised in this Church by immersion;
- 2) have a letter of transfer from another Baptist church;
- 3) have been baptised by immersion as members of other churches and have a letter of recommendation from the last church of which they were member;
or
- 4) as members of other churches who have not been baptised by immersion, but have a letter of recommendation from the last church of which they were members and have been baptised by immersion in this Church as an act of identification with this Church and submission to the Articles of Faith as set out in this Constitution (Art 5) .

If the applicant is unable to obtain a letter of transfer/recommendation from his last church, the Church Ministry Council may recommend that his application for Ordinary Membership be accepted provided he has attended regularly the worship services of this Church for at least six (6) months and meets all other requirements

5.2 ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Associate Members shall consist of three categories :

- 5.2.1 Members of churches outside this Church who desire to retain their membership in their home (original) churches and who subscribe to the Articles of Faith (Appendix 2) of this Church may be received as Associate Members upon the recommendation of the Senior Pastor and/or his representative and vote of the Ordinary Members of this Church;
- 5.2.2 Ordinary Members who neglect or otherwise fail to renew their membership within the period prescribed in Article 5.6.3; and
- 5.2.3 Overseas Members who neglect or otherwise fail to restore their Ordinary Membership within the period prescribed in Article 5.3.2

An Associate Member shall have all the rights and duties of an Ordinary Member except for the right to vote, to be counted in the quorum of business meetings,

to stand for office in the Church Ministry Council or the Church Administrative Council and, subject to Article 15.2 and Article 7.5 to receive notices of business meetings.

5.3 OVERSEAS MEMBERS

5.3.1 An Ordinary Member who intends to reside outside Singapore for six months or more shall give written notice to the Secretary of the Church of the intended period of his residence outside Singapore and his contact address (which may be an address in Singapore or outside). Upon the date which is the later of his departure from Singapore and his written notice as aforesaid, he will be designated as an Overseas Member. An Overseas Member shall have all the rights and duties of an Ordinary Member except for the right to vote, to be counted in the quorum of business meetings, to stand for office in the Church Ministry Council or the Church Administrative Council and, subject to Article 15.2, to receive notices of business meetings.

5.3.2 PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF OVERSEAS MEMBERS

An Overseas Member shall notify the Church Secretary in writing of his return to and residence in Singapore not later than six (6) months after his return to and residence in Singapore whereupon he shall be restored as an Ordinary Member and shall have all the rights and duties of an Ordinary Member. An Overseas Member who fails to restore his membership within the prescribed period shall automatically be designated an Associate Member.

5.3.3 Notwithstanding Article 5.3.2 above, an Associate Member may still renew his Ordinary membership at anytime but in any event not later than four (4) years from the date of his return to and residence in Singapore. Provided that the Church Administrative Council may require good and sufficient reasons for his failure to do so before allowing him to renew his membership.

5.3.4 If for any reason whatsoever an Associate Member under Article 5.3.2 neglects or fails to renew his Ordinary membership within the period prescribed in Article 5.3.3, he shall automatically ceased to be a Member of the Church.

5.4 DUTIES

All Ordinary Members, Overseas Members and Associate Members of this Church shall faithfully carry out their responsibilities as set forth in this Constitution and work together to achieve the objectives for which this Church has been established (Article 4).

5.5 RIGHTS

Only Ordinary Members who are or above 18 years of age (as on the first day of January of the year) shall have the right to vote at the Annual General Meeting or business meetings and to hold office upon election or invitation. Overseas Members and Associate Members are not eligible to stand for office in the Church Administrative Council or the Church Ministry Council and may hold office in the Church by invitation only of the Church Ministry Council or Church Administrative Council; do not have voting rights at the Annual General Meeting or business meetings or be counted in the quorum of business meetings.

5.6 RENEWAL OF CHURCH ORDINARY MEMBERSHIP

- 5.6.1 A membership renewal exercise shall be carried out by the Church Administrative Council at least once every two years or at such intervals as the Church Administrative Council deems fit. The first membership renewal exercise shall take place in 2010.
- 5.6.2 An Ordinary Member shall renew his membership by duly filling and submitting to the Church Secretary a Renewal of Membership Form or by such other means as may be prescribed by the Church Administrative Council within six (6) months from the date the notice of the membership renewal exercise is given.
- 5.6.3 An Ordinary Member who fails to renew his membership within the prescribed period shall automatically be designated an Associate Member.
- 5.6.4 Notwithstanding Article 5.6.3, an Associate Member may still renew his Ordinary membership at anytime but in any event not later than four (4) years from the date the notice of the membership renewal exercise is given. Provided that the Church Administrative Council may require good and sufficient reasons for his failure to do so before allowing him to renew his membership.
- 5.6.5 If for any reason whatsoever an Associate Member under Article 5.6.3 neglects or fails to renew his Ordinary membership within the period prescribed in Article 5.6.4, he shall automatically ceased to be a Member of the Church.
- 5.6.6 A membership renewal exercise shall not affect Associate Members under Article 5.2.1 and Overseas Members whose membership shall continue until it ceases or is terminated on any of the grounds in Article 5.7

5.7 CESSATION AND TERMINATION

The membership of a Member shall be deemed to have ceased upon the following :

- a) voluntary request for the termination of his membership
- b) request for transfer of membership to another church and upon the issuance of a letter of transfer by the Church;

- c) his demise;
- d) failure to renew or restore his membership in the Church; or
- e) termination of his membership pursuant to Article 6.

Article 6 : **DISCIPLINE**

The Church Ministry Council shall take disciplinary action against a Member who :

- i) fails to fulfil his covenant duties as set forth in the Church Covenant to the detriment of the Church;
- ii) renounces the Articles of Faith;
- iii) by his conduct brings or in the opinion of the Church Ministry Council is liable to bring dishonour to our Lord Jesus Christ; or
- iv) brings the name of this Church into disrepute through violation of the teaching of the Word of God.

The purpose of Church discipline is to maintain the purity of the Church in doctrine and practice and to bring about repentance and restoration. Such action shall only be taken after earnest prayer and every effort has been made to bring such a one to repentance according to the principles laid down by our Lord in Mt 18:15-20 and in 1Cor 5:1-13; Gal 6:1. If such a Member remains unrepentant, the Church Ministry Council, may by an 80% majority vote terminate the membership of the Member provided that he has been given not less than three (3) months prior written notice and reasonable opportunity to show cause to the Church Ministry Council why his membership should not be terminated and if he so requests, before the Church at any business meeting. The Chairman of the Church Ministry Council shall inform the Secretary of the Church Administrative Council of any termination within fourteen (14) days of the decision.

Any Member whose membership has been terminated may apply to be restored. The Church upon recommendation of the Church Ministry Council, who having been satisfied with evidence of true repentance and rededication of life, may by a vote restore him as a member of the Church.

Article 7 : **MEETINGS**

7.1 **WORSHIP**

Worship services shall be held weekly and at such other times as may be scheduled by the Pastorate or the Church Administrative Council.

7.2 **BUSINESS MEETING**

A business meeting shall be held regularly at such times as the Church Administrative Council may decide.

7.3 **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting shall be held in March.

7.4 **SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETINGS**

Special business meetings may be convened at the request of a majority of Church Ministry Council or Church Administrative Council members or at the request of at least ten (10) Ordinary Members of the Church each of whom is or above 18 years of age (as on the first day of January of the year), submitted in writing to the Church Administrative Council, stating the reason(s) for such a meeting. Notice of such meeting shall be given within two (2) weeks upon receipt of the written request.

7.5 **NOTIFICATION**

Notice of the Annual General Meeting and the agenda thereof shall be given and circulated to Ordinary Members and Associate Members and announced at the worship service at least two (2) weeks before the meeting. Notice for all other business meetings and special business meetings shall be given in the same manner at least one (1) week before such meeting, except where otherwise provided in this Constitution including, without limitation, Art 15.2. Save for notices of special business meetings pursuant to Article 15.2 (which shall be sent to an Overseas Member by electronic mail or by post to his last known address), no notices of meetings need be given to Overseas Members.

7.6 **QUORUM**

Thirty-five (35) per cent of the Ordinary Members who are or above 18 years of age (as on the first day of January of the year) shall constitute a quorum at business meetings and the Annual General Meeting. In the event of there being no quorum within half an hour of the time appointed for the meeting, the meeting shall be adjourned to the same day and time of the following week or such other

day and time as those Ordinary Members present may determine and should the number then present be insufficient to form a quorum, those Ordinary Members present shall be considered a quorum, but they shall have no power to alter, amend or make addition to any of the existing rules in the Constitution.

7.7 MODERATOR

The Chairman of the Church Administrative Council shall be the moderator at every business meeting and the Annual General Meeting. He shall keep order and state and explain each proposition as may be required but in case of a tie, he shall not have a casting vote. In the absence of the Chairman, or if he resigns as moderator, the Vice Chairman of the Church Administrative Council shall call the meeting to order and those Ordinary Members present shall elect a protem moderator.

7.8 DECISIONS

Except where otherwise provided in this Constitution including, without limitation, Arts 9.4, 12.4, 13.2, 15.1 and 16.1, decisions at the Annual General Meeting, special business meetings and business meetings shall be taken by a simple majority vote of Ordinary Members present at the meeting.

Article 8 : FINANCE

8.1 STEWARDSHIP

A Member uniting with the Church becomes responsible for a just portion of the financial programme of the Church but no levy will be made. Each Member is responsible to God for the stewardship of his resources.

8.2 USE OF FUNDS

Funds received by the Church will be used for the payment of the salary of the Pastorate, ministry staff and administrative staff, administrative and developmental expenses of the Church, its building programme and other purposes consistent with its objectives.

8.3 BUDGET

On or before the expiry of each financial year of the Church, a budget of estimated income and expenditure for the following financial year will be presented to the Church for approval and adoption.

8.4 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Treasurer shall submit audited financial statements on an annual basis to the ensuing Annual General Meeting for approval of the Church.

8.5 AUDIT

All proper books of account shall be kept and the financial statements of the Church shall be audited by a firm of public accountants every year and the audited financial statements presented at the Annual General Meeting.

8.6 SIGNATORIES

All cheques drawn on any of the banking accounts of the Church shall be signed by the Treasurer and other signatory as the Church Administrative Council may appoint

8.7 CONTINGENCY

In the event of any contingency not provided for in the budget, the Church Administrative Council shall have the power to authorise any payments not exceeding in the aggregate Singapore Dollars Five Thousand (\$5,000/-) per quarter.

Article 9: **THE PASTORATE**

9.1 COMPOSITION

The Pastorate shall consist of a Senior Pastor who shall serve as the spiritual leader of the church and may include :

- a) an Associate Pastor who shall assist the Senior Pastor in the spiritual oversight of the church; and
- b) Pastors who are specialists in their assigned fields of ministry.

The Pastorate and ministry staff shall form the pastoral team to minister to the Church.

9.2 QUALIFICATIONS

The Pastorate shall :

- a) agree with the Articles of Faith;
- b) be exemplary in conduct and speech in accordance with the Word of God, such as Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9;
- c) have received theological training; and
- d) have experience in ministry.

9.3 DUTIES

The duties of the Senior Pastor are to :

- 9.3.1 set the vision and provide spiritual direction in the ministry and oversight of the Church
- 9.3.2 minister the Word of God to the Church;
- 9.3.3 provide pastoral care and counselling in partnership with other leaders of the Church; and
- 9.3.4 nurture and equip Members for ministry as disciples of Jesus Christ.

9.4 APPOINTMENT AND TENURE

The Senior Pastor shall be appointed by the Church on the recommendation of the Church Ministry Council and Church Administrative Council. Appointment shall be upon such terms and tenure as may be decided. No Senior Pastor shall be appointed save with the sanction of an eighty (80) per cent majority vote of Ordinary Members present at a business meeting.

The Church Ministry Council and the Church Administrative Council shall by the consensus of 80% of the members of both bodies decide on the choice, appointment and release of Associate Pastor, Pastors and ministry staff.

9.5 TERMINATION OF APPOINTMENT

- 9.5.1 The service of a Senior Pastor, Associate Pastor or Pastor shall be terminated upon the following grounds :
 - a. neglect of duties
 - b. inability to fulfil his duties
 - c. error of the doctrine
 - d. questionability of his personal spiritual life, integrity and character; or
 - e. resignation tendered by him.
- 9.5.2 The Senior Pastor who wishes to resign from his appointment shall give at least three (3) months advance notice of his intention to the Church through the Church Ministry Council and the Church Administrative Council.
- 9.5.3 An Associate Pastor or a Pastor who wishes to resign from his appointment shall give at least three (3) months advance notice of his intention to do so to the Senior Pastor.
- 9.5.4 Except in the case of resignation, the tenure of the Senior Pastor shall be terminated only with the approval of eighty (80) per cent of Ordinary Members present at a business meeting and provided that he has been given not less than three (3) months prior written notice and reasonable opportunity to show cause why his service should not be terminated to the Church Ministry Council and the Church Administrative Council and if he so requests, before the Church at any business meeting.

Article 10 : **CHURCH MINISTRY COUNCIL**

ROLE

The Church Ministry Council shall be entrusted with the leadership and oversight of the spiritual welfare and ministries of the Church.

10.1 COMPOSITION

The Church Ministry Council shall consist of :

- i) the Pastorate;
- ii) the Chairman of the Church Administrative Council; and
- iii) such number of members as the Church Ministry Council deems necessary for effective oversight of the Church ministries.

The Senior Pastor shall be the Chairman of the Church Ministry Council. He shall nominate one of the Church Ministry Council members to be the Deputy Chairman.

10.2 QUALIFICATIONS

A member of the Church Ministry Council :

- i) must agree with the Articles of Faith;
- ii) shall be exemplary in conduct and speech in accordance with the Word of God, such as, Acts 6:3-8; 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and Romans 16: 1-2; and
- iii) must serve in one of the Church ministries.

10.3 DUTIES

The duties of the Church Ministry Council shall be as follows

- i) to serve as co-laborers with the Pastorate;
- ii) to support the Pastorate in the execution of its duties and in fulfilling the objectives of the Church;
- iii) to manage the regular operations of the Church ministries;
- iv) to establish and maintain spiritual and fraternal relations with all members of the Church and to preserve the spirit of harmony and unity within the Church;
- v) to assist in serving the ordinances of the Church, and
- vi) maintain Church discipline.

10.4 VESTED AUTHORITY

In order to fulfil the role and carry out the duties entrusted to the Church Ministry Council, it is vested with the authority to :

- i) act in all spiritual and ministry affairs of the Church; and
- ii) appoint suitable person(s) and establish such committees as it may think necessary or expedient for the better organization of the Church ministries and its activities and may also appoint its members.

10.5 APPOINTMENT AND TENURE

The members of the Church Ministry Council other than the Chairman of the Church Administrative Council and the Pastorate, shall be nominated by the incumbent Church Ministry Council (except the first Council which shall be nominated by the Senior Pastor and the Chairman of the Church Administrative Council) to the Church.

Any member who wishes to nominate a member may do so in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Church Administrative Council. A simple majority vote of Ordinary Members present at an Annual General Meeting shall be required for the successful election of each member. The Church Ministry Council may call for a business meeting for the purpose of by-election to fill any vacancy in or to elect additional members to the Church Ministry Council.

Except for first Church Ministry Council whose term shall be three (3) years, the term of office for the Church Ministry Council shall be for two (2) years. Members elected by by-elections shall hold office immediately upon their election until members elected at the next following general election take office.

Article 11 : **CHURCH ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL**

ROLE

The Church Administrative Council shall assist and support the Church Ministry Council with the management and administration of the Church in accordance with the Constitution.

11.1 COMPOSITION

The Church Administrative Council shall consist of the following members who (except for the Senior Pastor) shall be officers of the Church :

- i) the Chairman;
- ii) the Treasurer;
- iii) the Secretary;
- iv) such number of members which the Church Administrative Council deems as necessary for the proper management of the Church; and
- v) the Senior Pastor (ex officio)

The Chairman shall nominate one of the officers as a Vice Chairman to deputise for the Chairman in his absence.

11.2 QUALIFICATIONS

An officer of the Church Administrative Council :

- a) must agree with the Articles of Faith;
- b) shall be exemplary in conduct and speech in accordance with the Word of God such as Acts 6:3-5 and I Timothy 3:8-13; and
- c) preferably, have experience and skills relevant to the office

11.3 DUTIES

The duties of the Church Administrative Council are :

- 11.3.1 to provide administrative oversight in all matters pertaining to finance, human resource, regulatory compliance, asset management, provision of physical facilities for Church activities, hospitality and any other administrative activity not specifically enumerated in this Article.
- 11.3.2 to ensure that the Church complies with all regulatory requirements affecting or relevant to the status of the Church as a charitable institution registered under the Societies Act (Cap 311) and
- 11.3.3 to support and provide to the Church Ministry Council such other assistance as is required or requested for by the Church Ministry Council to carry out the objectives of the Church.

11.4 DUTIES OF CHAIRMAN

The Chairman shall :

- 11.4.1 preside at and moderate all Church Administrative Council meetings, business meetings, special business meetings and the Annual General Meeting of the Church in accordance with the Constitution;
- 11.4.2 represent the Church in meetings and dealing with regulatory authorities and other third parties; and
- 11.4.3 ensure that the Church Administrative Council provide effective support to the Pastorate and the Church Ministry Council.

11.5 DUTIES OF TREASURER

The Treasurer shall be responsible for the following duties :

- 11.5.1 receive and pay out all monies on behalf of the Church and keep an accurate and proper account of all the income and expenditure;
- 11.5.2 present a report of the financial standing of the church at business meetings as and when required, and an annual report and audited financial statements for the fiscal year at the Annual General Meeting;
- 11.5.3 plan, propose and present an annual budget of estimated income and expenditure for the approval of the Church; and
- 11.5.4 liaise with auditors, banks and relevant government bodies to ensure proper compliance and accountability on all Church financial matters.

11.6 DUTIES OF SECRETARY

The Secretary of the Church shall be responsible for the following duties :

- 11.6.1 maintain an up-to-date register of Members of the Church and categorised according to the types of membership;
- 11.6.2 keep an accurate and comprehensive record of the proceedings at all Church Administrative Council meetings, business meetings, special business meetings, Annual General Meetings; and
- 11.6.3 provide such administrative and secretarial support as may be required by the Church Administrative Council.

11.7 VESTED AUTHORITY

In order to fulfil the role and carry out the duties entrusted to the Church Administrative Council, it shall be vested with the authority :

- i) to act in all matters pertaining to the general affairs of the Church;
- ii) to lay down administrative policies and operating procedures which complement and are consistent with the spiritual goals and direction set by the Church Ministry Council;
- iii) to appoint or release as the case may be, appropriate administrative staff to assist the Church Administrative Council in the proper discharge of its administrative duties; and
- iv) to appoint suitable person(s) or establish such committees as it may think necessary or expedient for better administration of the Church and may appoint its members.

11.8 ELECTION AND TENURE

Officers of the Church Administrative Council shall be nominated by the incumbent Church Administrative Council to the Church and elected by Ordinary Members of the Church at a general election to be held at an Annual General Meeting convened in March.

Any member who wishes to nominate a Member may do so in accordance with the procedures prescribed by the Church Administrative Council. A simple majority vote of the Ordinary Members present at an Annual General Meeting shall be required for the successful election of each officer.

The Church Administrative Council may call a business meeting for the purpose of by-election to fill any vacancy in the Church Administrative Council or to elect additional officers of the Church. Officers elected at a general election shall hold office for a term of two (2) years following their election. Officers elected by by-elections shall hold office immediately upon their election until Officers elected at the next following general election take office. The Treasurer shall not hold office for more than two (2) consecutive terms.

11.9 NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES

Any changes in the Church Administrative Council shall be notified to the Registrar of Societies and the Commissioner of Charities within two (2) weeks of the change.

Article 12 : **TRUSTEES AND PROPERTY**

12.1 APPOINTMENT

The Church Administrative Council shall nominate three (3) Members to be appointed as Trustees of the Church and the Members so nominated shall be appointed by the Church by resolution passed at a business meeting.

12.2 TENURE

Trustees shall hold office for such term as the Church Administrative Council may decide provided that a Trustee may resign his office by notice in writing to the Church Administrative Council and the office of Trustee shall be vacated if a Trustee shall die or go to reside abroad or be incapable or unfit to act in which event the Church may remove him from office in the same manner as he was appointed.

The address of each immovable property, name of each trustee and any subsequent change must be notified to the Registrar of Societies and the Commissioner of Charities.

12.3 DECLARATION OF TRUST

All real property of the Church and all securities shall be vested in the Trustees for the time being of the Church and who shall execute a Declaration of Trust in respect of all such property and securities and subject to Art 12.4, the Trustees shall act in relation to such property and securities only as directed by Church Administrative Council.

12.4 DECISION

No real property or securities of the Church vested in the Trustees shall be sold, assigned, transferred or otherwise parted with save with the sanction of an eighty (80) per cent majority vote of Ordinary Members present at a business meeting.

Article 13 : **BORROWING POWERS**

13.1 PURPOSE

The Church shall have power to borrow or raise money by way of loan, only for the purpose of the purchase of real property or for the construction or refurbishment of buildings on such property belonging to the Church for the fulfilment of the purposes and objectives of the Church.

13.2 DECISION

The decision to borrow or raise money by way of loan shall be made by the Church by an eighty (80) per cent majority vote of Ordinary Members present at a business meeting or Annual General Meeting and only after much prayerful consideration.

Article 14 : **PROHIBITIONS**

- 14.1 Gambling of any kind, such as 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
- 14.2 The Funds of the Church shall not be used to pay the fines of Members who have been convicted in court.
- 14.3 The Church shall not attempt to restrict or in any other manner interfere with trade or prices or engage in any trade union activity as defined in any written law relating to trade unions for the time being in force in Singapore.
- 14.4 The Church shall not hold any lottery, whether confined to its Members or not, in the name of the Church or its officer-bearers, committees or Members.
- 14.5 The Church shall not indulge in any political activity or allow its funds and/or premises to be used for political purposes.
- 14.6 The Church shall not raise funds from the public for whatever purpose without written approval of the Registrar of Societies.

Article 15 : **AMENDMENTS**

15.1 DECISION

This Constitution shall not be amended except by an eighty (80) per cent majority vote of Ordinary Members present at a special business meeting convened solely for such purpose.

15.2 NOTIFICATION

The notice convening such a special business meeting shall be given and circulated to Members and announced at the worship service at least four (4) weeks before the meeting, accompanied by printed form of the proposed amendments, provided that the notice may be delivered, posted or sent electronic mail to those Members not present at that worship service within seven (7) days thereafter.

Article 16 : **DISSOLUTION**

16.1 DECISION

This Church shall not be dissolved except with the consent of eighty (80) percent of the Ordinary Members, testified by their signatures to an instrument of dissolution.

16.2 ASSETS & LIABILITIES

Upon dissolution all debts and liabilities of the Church shall be discharged in full and the assets remaining thereafter shall be donated to charitable organisation(s) with similar objectives in Singapore which are registered under the Charities Act as the members may determine at a Business Meeting.

Notice of the dissolution shall be given to the Registrar of Societies and the Commissioner of Charities within seven (7) days thereof.

Appendix 1 : **THE CHURCH COVENANT**

Having been led by the Holy Spirit to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour and having been baptised in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and, by the profession of our faith, we hereby in the presence of God, angels and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ as follows:

- 1) by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this Church in knowledge and holiness; to promote its unity and to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines;
- 2) to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor and the spreading of the gospel to all nations;
- 3) to maintain family and private devotions, to educate our children in the Christian faith and to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances;
- 4) to obey the command of our Lord Jesus Christ to love our God with all our heart, mind and strength and to love our neighbours as ourselves, and to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements and exemplary in all our conduct; and
- 5) to watch over one another in brotherly love, to remember each other in prayer, to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling, courtesy in speech, to be slow to take offence and always ready for reconciliation and, mindful of the teachings of our Saviour, to secure it without delay.
- 6) guard the purity of the Church by adhering to the biblical doctrines set forth in the Articles of Faith and the Word of God;
- 7) We moreover pledge that when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible affiliate with another church where we can continue to carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

Appendix 2 : ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. THE TRINITY

We believe there is only one true and living God who is infinite in every excellence, and who eternally exists in three persons - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, having precisely the same nature, attributes, and perfection, and worthy of precisely the same homage, confidence and obedience. (Matt 3:16-17; 28:19; Jn 15:26; 1 Cor 12:4-6; 2 Cor 13:14; Eph 4:4-6)

1.1. THE FATHER

We believe in God the Father, the Creator and Lord of the universe, and the Heavenly Father of all who become His children through faith in Jesus Christ. God the Father revealed Himself through Jesus Christ. Through Christ believers have access in one Spirit to the Father. (Gen 1:1; Psa 19:1-3; Jn 1:1-2, 10-14, 18; Eph 2:18)

1.2 THE SON

We believe in God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, true God and true man, miraculously conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, in order that He may reveal God and redeem sinful man. He died on the cross and shed His blood as a substitutionary sacrifice for our sins. He rose bodily from the dead and ascended into heaven and shall come again personally and visibly to receive His church and to judge the living and the dead, as He promised. (Isa 52:13 -- 53:12; Matt 1:18-25; Lk 1:35; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Cor 15:20-23; 1 Jn 2:1-2)

1.3 THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Triune God who, existing eternally with the Father and the Son, came into the world on the day of Pentecost according to the divine promise, and by His baptism unites all believers to Christ in one body. We believe that speaking in tongues was not the common nor necessary sign of the baptism or of the filling of the Holy Spirit. We further believe that the Holy Spirit regenerates, indwells, and seals all believers for the day of redemption. The Holy Spirit gives gifts to believers for service in the church, to build up the body of Christ for the attainment of unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. (Jn 14:26; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:1-4; Rom 8:9, 12:4-8; 1 Cor 3:16; 12:3, 7-10, 12-13, 27-30; Eph 4:11-16)

2. WORD OF GOD

We believe in the Old and New Testaments as the verbally inspired, inerrant and infallible Word of God in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men, and the divine and final authority for Christian faith and life. The Word of God is true and reliable in all matters it addresses. (Num 23:19; Tit 1:1-3; 1 Thess 2:13; 2 Tim 3:14-17; 2 Pet 1:20-21)

3. SATAN

We believe in the existence of Satan as a personal being and a fallen angelic creature of God, who is the originator of sin and the open and declared enemy of God and man and leader of the company of angels who followed him in his fall. In his warfare against God and the people of God he appears as an angel of light, counterfeiting the works of God, denying the person and work of Christ and salvation by grace alone. Satan was defeated and judged at the Cross though that judgment was not then executed. He now rules as the “god of this world”, but is destined to eternal punishment in the lake of fire. (Isa 14:12-15; Eze 28:12-19; Matt 25:41; Jn 8:44, 14:28-31; 2 Cor 11:13-15; Eph 6:10-12; Heb 2:14-15; Ja 4:7-8; Rev 12:9; 20:1-3, 7-10)

4. MAN

We believe that God, the Sole Creator of life, created man and woman in His image and likeness. He joined them together for life as husband and wife, from whom the whole human race has descended. These, our first parents, willfully disobeyed God and fell through sin, plunging the whole human race into condemnation and death. Man is essentially and unchangeably sinful apart from God’s salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. (Gen 1:26-27; 3:1-24; Rom 3:23-24; 5:12-21)

5. REDEMPTION

We believe that, owing to universal death through sin, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless born again to be children of God, having a new nature imparted from above, a new life implanted by the Holy Spirit through the Word. We believe, that our redemption has been accomplished solely by the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, who was made to be sin and a curse for us, dying in our place and stead. We believe that no human effort or works can add to the efficacy of the blood of Jesus Christ or to the merit of the finished work wrought for us by Him who united in His person absolute deity with perfect and sinless humanity. We believe that we are called to be holy, to walk not after the flesh with its sinful nature, but after the Spirit, and so to live in the power of the indwelling Spirit that we will not fulfil the lust of the flesh, to the end of our earthly pilgrimage. (1 Pet 1:13-21; Rom 3:21-26; 8:1-9; Gal 5:16-26)

6. THE CHURCH

We believe in the church universal which consists of all born-again believers baptized into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit. We believe in the church local, the tangible and geographical manifestation of the church universal, a congregation of baptized believers bound together by covenant to accomplish the will and the work of God, making disciples of all the nations. Christ has commanded the church to observe two ordinances, the Baptism of believers which we practise by immersion and the Lord's Supper, both symbolic expressions of the message of salvation. Local churches are autonomous bodies competent to fulfill their ministries under the headship of the Lord. (Matt 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 2:42-47; 11:19-30; 1 Cor 11:23-29; Eph 4:15-16)

7. THE SECOND COMING

We believe in the personal, imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His own, the church, and His subsequent return to earth in power and glory to set up His messianic kingdom . We further believe in the resurrection of the dead, the eternal blessedness of the saved in the presence of the Lord, and the eternal judgment of the unsaved in the lake of fire. (Matt 25:31-46; 1 Cor 15:50-58; 1 Thess 4:13-18; Rev 20:4-6, 11-15)