

CONSTITUTION



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TRUST DEED AND CONSTITUTION

1 NAME

The name of the church shall be JEFFREYS BAY BAPTIST CHURCH, (hereinafter referred to as "THE CHURCH")

2 BAPTIST UNION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

2.1 Membership

The Church as and when fully constituted, shall seek and maintain membership with the Baptist Union of Southern Africa but shall be independent of any control by it save as hereinafter provided. Having become a member of the Baptist Union of Southern Africa the Church shall remain in membership unless the Church membership shall resolve otherwise by a 90% (ninety percent) vote of members present at a properly constituted meeting of members.

2.2 Cessation of Membership

In recognition of the fact that the financial support ultimately making possible the church's acquisition of immovable property will have been provided directly or indirectly either by the Baptist Union, or by a Baptist Union Territorial Association, or by persons or organisations firmly committed to the Baptist Principles set forth in Clause 4.2 or by one or more of the above, the following stipulation shall be of force and effect: In the event of the church ceasing to be in membership with the Union as the said Union is presently constituted in terms of the declaration of principle amplified in the Statement of Belief, 1924, and the Statement of Principles either voluntarily or following a resolution of the Baptist Union pursuant to Clause 4.3, all immovable property owned by the church shall immediately thereupon be forfeited to and vest in the Baptist Union. To this end the property shall be transferred accordingly without payment of any consideration. Costs of transfer shall be borne by the Baptist Union. This article may not be deleted or amended without the written approval of the Baptist Union Executive.

3 CHURCH GOVERNMENT AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Governance

The church recognises Jesus Christ as its supreme Head and undertakes to manage its affairs according to New Testament teaching, believing that as the Body of Christ it is equipped by His Spirit to act, decide and direct as set out in Clause 5.4.1. This Clause

shall be read subject to the special circumstances envisaged in Clause 2.2 and 4.3 and their relevant stipulations.

3.2 Object of the Church

The object of the Church shall be:

- 3.2.1 To glorify the Lord Jesus, the Head of the Church.
- 3.2.2 To proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ as revealed in the Scriptures and to encourage and support the proclamation of that Gospel (*Matthew 28:18-20*) to the ends of the earth.
- 3.2.3 To provide instruction and fellowship for believers, seeking to build them up to the measure and stature of the fullness of Christ (*Ephesians 4:13*).

4 CHURCH BELIEFS

4.1 Statement of Belief

The church believes:

- 4.1.1 In the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament in their original writings as fully inspired of God and accepts them as the final authority for faith and life.
- 4.1.2 In one God eternally existing in three persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- 4.1.3 That Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary and is true God and true man.
- 4.1.4 That God created man in His own image; that man sinned and thereby incurred the penalty of death, physical and spiritual; and that all human beings inherit a sinful nature; which issues (in the case of those who have reached moral responsibility) in actual transgression involving personal guilt.
- 4.1.5 That the Lord Jesus died for our sins, a substitutionary sacrifice, according to the Scriptures and that all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood.
- 4.1.6 In the bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, His ascension into Heaven and His present life as our High Priest and Advocate.
- 4.1.7 In the personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 4.1.8 In the personality of the Holy Spirit, His regenerating work and abiding presence in the true believer.

- 4.1.9 That all who receive the Lord Jesus Christ by faith are born again of the Holy Spirit and thereby become children of God.
- 4.1.10 That all Christians are called to a life of holiness, devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ and service for Him. It is the duty and privilege of every believer to witness for Christ and to seek to bring others to Him.
- 4.1.11 In the resurrection both of the just and the unjust, the eternal blessedness of the redeemed and the eternal banishment of those who have rejected the offer of salvation.
- 4.1.12 That God has sanctioned marriage between a man and a woman, therefore we believe in heterosexual relationships between a natural man and a natural woman within the confines of lawful matrimony. Adherence to this stated principle of sexual behaviour is an inherent requirement for membership of the Jeffreys Bay Baptist Church.

4.2 Statement of Baptist Principles

The Church further believes in the following distinctive Baptist emphases:

- 4.2.1 The **CHURCH** as the whole company of those who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ and regenerated by the Holy Spirit. The local church, being a manifestation of the universal church, is a community of believers under the Lordship of Jesus Christ in a particular place where the Word of God is preached, and the ordinances of Believer's Baptism and the Lord's Supper are observed. It is fully autonomous and remains so notwithstanding responsibilities it may accept by voluntary association.
- 4.2.2 **BELIEVER'S BAPTISM** as an act of obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ and a sign of personal repentance, faith and regeneration; it consists of the immersion in water into the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- 4.2.3 The principle of **CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH GOVERNMENT**, namely, that a constituted church meeting is, under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the highest court of authority for the local church; and that each individual member has the inalienable right and responsibility to participate fully in the life and government of the church, including the appointment of its leaders.
- 4.2.4 The **PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS**, by which we understand that each Christian has direct access to God through Christ our High Priest, and shares with Him in His work of reconciliation. This involves intercession, worship, faithful service and bearing witness to Jesus Christ even to the ends of the earth.
- 4.2.5 The principle of **RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**, namely, that no individual should be coerced either by the State or by any secular, ecclesiastical or religious

group in matters of faith. The right of private conscience is to be respected. For each believer this means the right to interpret the Scriptures responsibly and to act in the light of one's conscience.

- 4.2.6 The principle of **SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE** in that, in the providence of God the two differ in their respective natures and functions. The Church is not to be identified with the State nor is it, in its faith or practice, to be directed or controlled by the State. The State is responsible for administering justice ensuring an orderly community and promoting the welfare of its citizens. The Church is responsible for preaching the Gospel and for demonstrating and making known God's will and care for all mankind.

4.3 Changes to Baptist Principles

Any change within the Church structure or organisation which is in conflict directly or indirectly with one or more of the stated Baptist Principles will be invalid unless approved by at least 90% (ninety percent) of the members present and entitled to vote at a duly constituted Special Church meeting of which at least three months' notice has been given. Any change to be made, shall not be of force and effect unless and until details thereof shall have been conveyed in writing to the General Secretary of the Baptist Union. It is recognised and accepted that the Baptist Union shall have the right, in the light of such change, to terminate the membership of the church, with the Baptist Union. The implications of such a termination are recognised as viewed in the light of the provisions of Clause 2.2. The Clause may not be deleted or amended without approval of the Executive of the Baptist Union.

5 MEMBERSHIP

5.1 Composition of Membership

The membership shall consist of:

- 5.1.1 Those whose names are in the Church register of members at the time of the adoption of the Constitution.
- 5.1.2 JBC shall practise an open membership. In other words, membership shall be granted to those who have declared their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and have confessed the same in baptism by immersion. Persons who have declared their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ but have not yet been baptised by immersion. Those who have given evidence and publicly professed their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and have indicated their acceptance of this Constitution by signing the appropriate section in the Membership Application Form.

- 5.1.3 Those who for medical reasons cannot be baptized by immersion, who verbally, in front of the congregation make a statement of their belief, which were it not for the medical advice, they would have confessed their faith in Baptism by immersion as per Clause 5.1.2 and have accepted this Constitution.
- 5.1.4 Those who have been accepted by transfer from some other Church and having accepted this Constitution in terms of Clause 5.2.2.

5.2 Admission of Members

- 5.2.1 Every application shall be decided on at a General Meeting.
- 5.2.2 Application for church membership under Clause 5.1.2 and 5.1.3 shall be made in the first instance to the Leadership. The Leadership shall appoint two members who will interview and make careful enquiry regarding the applicant's spiritual experience and submit their report to the Leadership. The Leadership shall then submit their recommendation to a General Meeting called for that specific purpose as per Clause 7.3.1.4 and 7.3.2.
- 5.2.3 Application for Church membership under Clause 5.1.4 shall be made in the first instance to the Leadership. The Leadership shall appoint two members who will interview and make careful enquiry regarding the applicant's spiritual experience and submit their report to the Leadership. The Leadership, if satisfied, will apply for a letter of transfer for submission to a General Meeting called for that specific purpose as per Clause 7.3.1.4 and 7.3.2.

5.3 Transfer of Members

- 5.3.1 Any member in good standing who desires to join another Church shall be given a letter of transfer upon application from the Church concerned.
- 5.3.2 A general meeting shall be advised of any transfers.

5.4 Privileges and Obligations of Church Membership

- 5.4.1 Under the divine Headship of the Lord Jesus Christ, the final authority and responsibility in all matters touching the life and service of the Church rests with the membership. Each individual member has the responsibility and right to participate fully in the Church's life and government, including the appointment of its Leadership.

- 5.4.2 Every member shall be entitled and expected to attend General Meetings, unless prevented by some reasonable cause and to exercise his/her vote for the welfare of the whole Church in a spirit of prayer and love.
- 5.4.3 Members shall be expected to support the ministry and maintain the fellowship of the Church:
 - 5.4.3.1 by prayer
 - 5.4.3.2 by attendance at services whenever possible
 - 5.4.3.3 by engaging in some specific service
 - 5.4.3.4 by conscientious giving as God's provision enables
 - 5.4.3.5 by introducing people to the Church.
- 5.4.4 The Church encourages the practice of dedication of children.

5.5 Church Discipline

- 5.5.1 If any member is absent from services of the Church and/or neglects to comply with any of the privileges and obligations of membership for a prolonged period without apparent good reason, the Leadership shall make enquiry. Should no satisfactory response result, the Leadership may submit a recommendation to a General Meeting.
- 5.5.2 In the unhappy event of members reported to be guilty of improper or unworthy conduct, or to be in conflict with the Statement of Baptist Principles included in this Constitution, the Leadership shall, after carefully enquiry, submit a recommendation to a Special General Meeting.
- 5.5.3 The suspension or expulsion of any member shall be resorted to only if all efforts at restoration prove unsuccessful.
- 5.5.4 In purely personal matters, members shall be expected to act in accordance with the Lord's injunction in *Matthew 18:15-17*.

6 THE ORDINANCES

6.1 Baptism

In addition to those desiring to join the Church in accordance with Clause 5.1.2 and 5.1.3 the Church shall be free to baptize by immersion any believer who desires thus to confess personal faith in the Lord Jesus.

6.2 The Lord's Supper

Communion shall be observed as the Leadership shall decide and not less than once per month. Attendance shall be open to all who love the Lord Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

6.2.1 Unfermented wine/grape juice shall be used.

7 GENERAL MEETINGS

7.1 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

- 7.1.1 The Church business year shall end on 30th September and the Annual General Meeting shall be held as soon as possible thereafter, but not later than the end of November.
- 7.1.2 Reports and audited financial statements shall be submitted by the Pastor and Treasurer respectively.
- 7.1.3 Reports shall be submitted by all departments of the Church.
- 7.1.4 The Annual elections of Deacons shall take place.
- 7.1.5 The Agenda shall be made available to all members prior to the meeting.
- 7.1.6 Shall be open to all members and adherents with the proviso that only members may vote as per Clause 7.6.1.

7.2 Quarterly General Meeting (QGM)

- 7.2.1 Quarterly General Meetings shall be held not later than the end of February, May and August.
- 7.2.2 The Agenda shall be made available to members prior to the meeting.
- 7.2.3 Shall be open to all members and adherents with the proviso that only members may vote as per Clause 7.6.1.

7.3 Special General Meeting (SGM)

- 7.3.1 Special General Meetings shall be convened:
 - 7.3.1.1 as required in this Constitution.
 - 7.3.1.2 on the initiative of the Leadership
 - 7.3.1.3 upon written request handed to the Leadership of at least 5 members (stating the purpose) which shall be held within one month of such request.

7.3.1.4 for the specific purpose of voting for applications for membership as per Clause 5.2.2 and 5.2.3.

7.3.2 Notice shall be given at services on two Sundays preceding the date of the meeting and as required by Clause 7.5, except for Clause 7.3.1.4 where one weeks' notice is required.

7.3.3 Shall be held in camera and only attended by members entitled to vote as per Clause 7.6.1.

7.4 Quorum

7.4.1 20% (twenty percent) of the total membership eligible to vote provided that the minimum shall not be less than 10 members present when a meeting proceeds to business, shall constitute a Quorum.

7.4.2 If a General Meeting fails to procure a Quorum, it shall automatically reconvene seven days later and not less than 10 members eligible to vote then present shall constitute a Quorum.

7.5 Notice of Meetings

Notice of all General Meetings shall be given at the service on two Sundays preceding the date of the meeting. The Agenda for Special General Meetings shall be displayed on the Church Notice Board during the period of notice excepting in the case of Clause 7.3.1.3.

7.6 Voting

7.6.1 Only members who have attained the age of 18 years shall be entitled to vote.

7.6.2 Unless otherwise required elsewhere in this Constitution, all matters shall be decided by the majority vote of those present and eligible to vote.

7.6.3 Voting shall be by show of hands unless otherwise required elsewhere in this Constitution or one member requests a ballot.

7.6.4 There shall be no postal or proxy voting.

7.7 Chairman

7.7.1 The Leadership shall elect a Chairman for all General and Leadership meetings.

- 7.7.2 In the absence of the elected Chairman the Leadership shall elect an alternate person as stand-in.
- 7.7.3 The Chairman shall have a deliberative and a casting vote.
- 7.7.4 If 20% (twenty percent) of members present and entitled to vote object, to any matter brought up without proper prior notice, the Chairman shall rule that it be referred to a future General Meeting.

8 THE LEADERSHIP

8.1 General Provisions

- 8.1.1 The Pastor or Pastors, together with Deacons and Elders (if any), shall constitute the Leadership.
- 8.1.2 The Leadership shall act as generally or specifically directed by the Church at a General Meeting and shall be accountable to the Church for all tasks delegated it and for the proper administration of the Church.
- 8.1.3 The Leadership shall meet at least once per month.
- 8.1.4 50% (Fifty percent) of the Leadership shall constitute a Quorum.
- 8.1.5 At their first meeting after the Annual General Meeting, the Leadership shall appoint from its own number, a treasurer. This appointment to be confirmed at the next General Meeting.

8.2 Deacons

- 8.2.1 The Church may elect Deacons from its membership who, at the time of election, will be:
 - 8.2.1.1 over 21 years of age
 - 8.2.1.2 in membership for not less than six months
 - 8.2.1.3 In compliance with the Scriptural requirements given in *Timothy* and *Titus*
 - 8.2.1.4 be baptised by immersion.
- 8.2.2 The number of Deacons shall be a maximum of one for every ten members and preferably a minimum of four.
- 8.2.3 A Deacon shall hold office for two consecutive years but shall be eligible for nomination for re-election for two further two-year consecutive periods. At the end of which the Deacon shall not be available for re-election for a period of one year.

- 8.2.4 Nomination for the office of Deacon shall be submitted in writing to the Leadership duly signed by the nominee, proposer, and seconder not later than eight days prior to the date of the meeting when the election shall take place.
- 8.2.5 The names of all nominees shall be made known at the service on the Sunday prior to the date of the meeting at which the election shall take place.
- 8.2.6 In the event of a vacancy occurring in the office of Deacon such vacancy may be filled in the aforesaid manner at a General Meeting, but only for the unexpired period of the previous incumbent's term of office.
- 8.2.7 Voting shall be by ballot.
- 8.2.8 Only nominees receiving more than 67% (sixty seven percent) of the votes of members present shall be declared elected to fill any vacancies.
- 8.2.9 The Leadership may co-opt suitable persons onto the Leadership for the purpose of performing a special or specific task which has a limited timeframe.
- 8.2.10 Notwithstanding the contents of paragraph 8.2.3 above, the Church Membership may agree, by majority vote, and on recommendation from the Leadership, to allow a person who has already served for the full period to be nominated for another period of service. The election of this person shall then be treated in accordance with the process set out in paragraphs 8.2.4, 8.2.5, 8.2.7, 8.2.8 and the person shall then serve for a further period of two years. This would normally happen where a special office requiring special skills needs to be filled.

8.3 Elders

- 8.3.1 The Church may, from time to time, see fit to appoint to the office of Elder such person/persons recognized as gifted by the Holy Spirit for this office, and who satisfy the requirements as detailed in Timothy and Titus.
- 8.3.2 After having also considered any suggestions from Church members, the Leadership shall recommend to a General Meeting such person/persons from its member of maturity, good standing in the Faith and in the secular world, as it considers suitable for appointment to this office. The name/s of the person/s to be recommended shall be made known at the time notice of the meeting is given, the nominee's prior consent having been obtained.
- 8.3.3 Be baptised by immersion.
- 8.3.4 The initial appointments of each recommended candidate shall be on the favourable ballot vote of 75% (seventy five percent) of the members present.

- 8.3.5 Each Elder shall hold office for two consecutive years and continuance in office for further periods of two years shall be on the favourable vote of 75% (seventy five percent) of the members present at a General Meeting.
- 8.3.6 Elders shall be members of the Leadership.
- 8.3.7 The number of Elders deemed desirable shall be decided from time to time at a General meeting on the recommendation of the Leadership.
- 8.3.8 The Elder shall consult with and assist the Pastor/s in the caring ministry and spiritual well-being of the church.

9 THE PASTORATE

The choice and appointing of a Pastor/Pastors is vested in the membership of the Church.

9.1 Appointment Process

When an appointment becomes necessary the procedure shall be as follows:

- 9.1.1 A General Meeting shall appoint not less than four members, who have been baptized by immersion, preferably two ladies and two men, to serve with the Leadership as a Call Committee.
- 9.1.2 The Call Committee shall recommend only one name at a time to a Special General Meeting, provided that such a person receives 75% (seventy five percent) of the vote of the Call Committee.
- 9.1.3 The invitation shall be contingent upon the following:
 - 9.1.3.1 At least 75% (seventy five percent) of members present and eligible to vote shall vote in favour by ballot.
 - 9.1.3.2 The prospective Pastor shall have been baptized by immersion as a believer, and shall accept in writing, this Constitution.
 - 9.1.3.3 The Pastor shall become a member of the Church upon assuming the pastorate.
 - 9.1.3.4 The Pastor shall be entitled to receive a stipend from the Church.
 - 9.1.3.5 Any engagement between the Church and the Pastor shall be terminable by three months' notice on either side, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon.
 - 9.1.3.6 The prospective Pastor's name shall be on one of the Ministerial Lists of the Baptist Union of Southern Africa.

10 CHURCH DEPARTMENTS

10.1 General Provisions

- 10.1.1 The appointed leaders of all departments shall be Church members.
- 10.1.2 The leader appointed by each department shall be approved by the Leadership.
- 10.1.3 Each ministry shall appoint its own team which shall be ratified by the Leadership.

11 FINANCE

11.1 General Provisions

- 11.1.1 The Church shall be supported by voluntary giving.
- 11.1.2 The methods of voluntary giving shall be decided upon by the Leadership.
- 11.1.3 Proper books of account shall be maintained.
- 11.1.4 The members shall appoint annually a competent person or persons who shall examine the Church securities, audit the accounts and financial records of the Church and furnish a report thereon to the members in writing, not less than 14 days prior to the Annual General Meeting (see 7.1.2). Such report shall 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.

11.2 Financial Transactions

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, building societies or approved organizations 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 by passing mortgage and notarial bonds for registration with the proper authorities and to open and operate upon 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 or duly constituted Church having objectives wholly or partly similar to the objectives of this Church and to enter into guarantee or suretyships of every description.

11.3 Immovable Property

- 11.3.1 All immovable property acquired by the Church in any manner shall be registered in the name of the Trustees of the Church.
- 11.3.2 The Trustees for the time being, of the Baptist Union of Southern Africa shall be the Trustees of the Church. They shall act as required by resolution of General Meeting.
- 11.3.3 All acquisitions of immovable property in any manner shall require the approval of a General Meeting, due notice having been given of the proposed transaction.
- 11.3.4 Any proposal to sell, donate, exchange, mortgage, hypothecate, or otherwise alienate or encumber any immovable property shall have the prior approval of a Special General Meeting by a 75% (seventy five percent) majority vote of the members present and eligible to vote.

11.4 Sale of Property

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.

11.5 Indemnity of Officers

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 such as they shall incur by their own wrongful action done intentionally or with gross negligence.

12 DISSOLUTION

12.1 General Provisions

- 12.1.1 The dissolution of the Church may be effected by the 75% (seventy five percent) majority vote of members present at a Special General Meeting.
- 12.1.2 In the event of 12.1.1 such meeting shall thereupon authorize the Leadership to take the necessary steps to wind up the affairs of the Church and to transfer the immovable property in due and proper form to the Baptist Union (see 12.1.4).
- 12.1.3 Should the number of Deacons be less than required by Clause 8.2.2, the meeting shall appoint and authorize any other person or persons to comply with the requirements.

- 12.1.4 In the event of the Church at any time ceasing to exist, all acquired property or rights to property at such time shall ipso facto vest in and become the property of the Baptist Union which shall hold, administer or deal with it in such manner as the said Union through its Executive Committee may deem best fitted to secure the objects in Clause 3.
- 12.1.5 The Church shall be deemed to have ceased to exist:
- 12.1.5.1 when dissolution shall have been resolved in accordance with 12.1.1.
 - 12.1.5.2 when public worship shall have been discontinued for a consecutive period of six calendar months.
 - 12.1.5.3 when the number of members whose names and full addresses are known, has dropped to below 10.

13 MODIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION

13.1 General Provisions

- 13.1.1 Any proposal to change this Constitution may be submitted by way of Notice of Motion to any General Meeting.
- 13.1.2 Such Notice of Motion shall be circulated to all members for consideration at a Special General Meeting convened not less than three months after the General Meeting referred to in 13.1.1.
- 13.1.3 Proposed changes shall require the approval of 75% (seventy five percent) of the members present and eligible to vote at the meeting with the reservation that the number so present shall be not less than ten, regardless of the number of members on the membership roll.
- 13.1.4 This Constitution was approved at a Quarterly General Meeting held on 22 May 2016 and supersedes all previous Constitutions.
- 13.1.5 In that approval of this Constitution by the Executive of the Baptist Union of Southern Africa is a pre-requisite to membership of such Union, any amendment of this Constitution or any replacement therefor, shall likewise be subject to the approval of such Executive as a condition of continuing membership.
- 13.1.6 Notwithstanding anything to be contrary hereinbefore contained, no modification of this Constitution may be made which has the effect directly or indirectly of modifying the principle outlined in Clause 2 (BU Membership) and Clause 3.1 (the nature of the Church) and Clause 5.4.1 (final authority resting with membership).

- 13.1.7 It shall be understood that Clause 3.1, 5.4.1 and 13.1.6 are entrenched, and may not be revoked, amended or amplified.
- 13.1.8 The Statement on Baptist principles contained in Clause 4.2 is an entrenched provision and may not be revoked or amended save on a 90% (ninety percent) majority vote of members present and entitled to vote at a duly constituted special Church meeting of which at least three months' notice has been given.

14 RESOLUTION OF DIFFERENCES OF CONCERN

14.1 Dispute Resolution Process

In the unhappy event of serious disputation or concern:

- 14.1.1 As between a group or groups of members and the remaining membership, or
- 14.1.2 As between the Pastor and the whole membership or a group or groups within that membership, or
- 14.1.3 As between a Pastor and his Leadership, or
- 14.1.4 As between the Leadership and the membership, or
- 14.1.5 As between Pastor and Pastor

Which in the opinion of any one of the disputants above mentioned is impinging on (touching upon) the effective ministry of the Church or is seriously threatening its unity, it shall be the right and privilege of any such Pastor or of any four members of the Leadership or of any ten Church members to call for a Special meeting. The membership of the Church shall attempt to resolve its own problems or to strive to reconcile the differences. If it is unable to do so a Special Meeting shall be called. At such a meeting, three persons nominated by the Association or Baptist Union of SA, and who are not members of the Church shall be present.

14.2 General Provisions

- 14.2.1 It shall be the obligation of the disputants and of the Church membership as a whole to afford the Church Leadership and the three Association representatives when so invoked, every reasonable opportunity to assist in bringing about a God-honouring solution. The Association representatives may, if they so elect, submit a written report with appropriate recommendations.
- 14.2.2 In the unlikely event of these deliberations still not resulting in any satisfactory resolution of the differences or the areas of concern the

assistance of the Baptist Union of Southern Africa shall be sought. It shall likewise be the obligation of the disputants and of the Church membership as a whole to afford the Baptist Union (including its Executive and/or its Officers) when so invoked, the same opportunity as is envisaged in 14.2.1 above. The Baptist Union representatives, like those of the Association, may also if they so elect, submit a written report with appropriate recommendations.

- 14.2.3 Should the local Territorial Association acting through its Leadership or alternatively should the Baptist Union acting either through its Executive or through its Officers seek of its own volition and on its own initiative to assist in the circumstances of disputation envisaged in 14.1 above, but in the absence of formal request, the Church shall give due and proper consideration to such an approach.

15 APPROVAL

DATE APPROVED BY CHURCH:

Original approved on 31 January 1999

Revision 1 approved at Quarterly General Meeting on 26 May 2009

Revision 2 approved at Annual General Meeting on 25 November 2012

Revision 3 approved at Quarterly General Meeting on 22 May 2016

Revision 4 approved at Leadership Meeting on 13 May 2024

Directions to Members

1. Those joining the membership of the church are earnestly reminded of the solemn responsibilities involved in their union with the Church: that hence-forth they are responsible in their measure for its strength and weakness, its prosperity or decline.
2. To this end, members are affectionately urged to support the Ministry and maintain the fellowship of the Church, especially by prayer, attendance at the services and Church meetings wherever possible, engaging in some conscientious giving as God's provision enables. It is the special privilege and duty of members to seek to win others to the Lord Jesus Christ, and to introduce strangers to the Church.
3. When a member is in affliction or distress, a communication to that effect should be made to the Pastor(s), Elder(s) or one of the deacons.
4. Members changing their residence are requested to communicate the fact immediately to one of the Church Leadership.
5. Members are expected to regard all matters of business transacted at Church meetings as confidential.
6. In purely personal matters members shall be expected to act in the spirit of the Lord's injunction recorded in *Matthew 18:15 - 17*

FOUNDATION MEMBERS

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Rev. Roy Allan Newton..... | <i>R. Newton</i> | Joy Eveleigh Newton..... | <i>J. Newton</i> |
| Arnoldus Greyling Bezuidenhout..... | <i>A. Bezuidenhout</i> | Ann-Marie Bezuidenhout..... | <i>A. Bezuidenhout</i> |
| Percy Zeiler Botha..... | <i>P. Botha</i> | Theresa Maude Botha..... | <i>T. Botha</i> |
| Oscar Victor Goschen..... | <i>O. Goschen</i> | Maureen Francis Goschen..... | <i>M. Goschen</i> |
| Gerald Stanley Kumm..... | <i>G. Kumm</i> | Ethné Gladys Kumm..... | <i>E. Kumm</i> |
| Hugh Mason..... | <i>H. Mason</i> | MARIE Phyllis Matie Mason..... | <i>M. Mason</i> |
| Peter Andrew Muller..... | <i>P. Muller</i> | Hester Magritha Muller..... | <i>H. Muller</i> |
| Nicolaas Jacobus Naude..... | <i>N. Naude</i> | Yvonne Sarah Naude..... | <i>Y. Naude</i> |
| Douglas Thomas Pearson..... | <i>D. Pearson</i> | Petra Olive Pearson..... | <i>P. Pearson</i> |
| Harold James Ralph..... | <i>H. Ralph</i> | Charlotte Ralph..... | <i>C. Ralph</i> |
| Andrew Boyd Reid..... | <i>A. Reid</i> | Joan Mary Reid..... | <i>J. Reid</i> |
| Sidney Thomas Shraga..... | <i>S. Shraga</i> | Helen Joan Shraga..... | <i>H. Shraga</i> |
| Aletta Sterckx..... | <i>A. Sterckx</i> | Zena Sterckx..... | <i>Z. Sterckx</i> |
| Reginald Ralph Concer..... | <i>R. Concer</i> | Elinor Philadelphia Swanepoel..... | <i>E. Swanepoel</i> |
| Percy Charles Wood..... | <i>P. Wood</i> | Vida Wyattville Woods..... | <i>V. Woods</i> |

