

PREAMBLE

OUR HERITAGE

THE SPRINGPARK BAPTIST CHURCH is a merger of Park Holme Baptist Church Inc., and the Wellspring Baptist Fellowship. As such the church inherits all of the assets and liability of both pre-existing bodies at the time of merger.

1. OUR NAME

This Church shall be called **SPRINGPARK BAPTIST CHURCH** Incorporated, herein after called, 'The Church'.

2. PURPOSE

The church is a not-for-profit organization that shall exist for the purpose of:

Sharing the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ both locally and globally (*Matthew 28:19-20*).

Building godly lives that we may demonstrate love and compassion, especially of the household of faith (*John 15:12, 1 Peter 4:10*).

Connecting people through small groups and other means where they can be nurtured in the faith and to be equipped for the ministry (*Ephesians 4:11-16*)

This sums up our vision statement as; 'helping people experience spiritual transformation through God's Word and our mission statement with the motto; 'Come, Connect, Serve'.

3. STATEMENT OF FAITH [What We Believe]

THE SCRIPTURES

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is the record of God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, and therefore it is wholly without error. It is sufficient as our only infallible rule of faith and practice. [*1 Corinthians 2:7-14; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 1 Corinthians 2:13; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Matthew 5:18, 24:35; John 10:35; Hebrews 4:12; Psalm 119:89*]

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. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being. [*Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:5-7; 1 Corinthians 8:4; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Timothy 2:4*]

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 loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become His children through faith in Jesus Christ. *Psalm 145:8-9; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Genesis 1:1-31; Ephesians 4:6; John 1:12; Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:5; Hebrews 12:5-9*

God the Son

Jesus 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, hence the God-Man. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself the demands and necessities of human nature and identifying Himself completely with mankind, yet without sin.

He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised 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 where He is the One Mediator, and in whose person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. [*John 10:30, 14:9; 1 John 1:3; Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 1:2; Philippians 2:5-8; 1 Timothy 2:5*]

God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Savior and effects regeneration.

He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows 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 assurance of God to 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. [*1 Corinthians 2:10-13, 12:1-6, Ephesians 4:30; Matthew 28:19; Acts 5:3-4, 28:25-26; Hebrews 10:14-15; John 16:7-14*]

MAN

Man was created by the special act of God, in His own image, and is the crowning work of His 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 into the human race. Only the grace of God can bring a man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. [*Genesis 2:7,15-25; James 3:9; John 3:36; Romans 3:23, 6:23; 1 Corinthians 2:14; Ephesians 2:1-3; 1 John 1:8*]

SALVATION

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense, salvation includes regeneration, repentance and faith, sanctification, and glorification.

- **Regeneration**, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. [*John 3:3-8; Titus 3:5*]
- **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 surrender of one's entire person to Him as Lord and Savior.
- **Justification** is the declarative act of God by which, on the basis of the sufficiency of Christ's atoning death, He pronounces every believer to be righteous, that is, to have fulfilled all of the requirements of the law. Justification brings the believer into a personal relationship of peace and favor with God. [*Acts 20:20-21; Romans 5:1*]
- **Sanctification** is the experience, beginning at the new birth, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward Christ-likeness through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit indwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the believer's life. [*Acts 20:32; 1 Corinthians 1:2,30, 6:11; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; Hebrews 2:11; 1 Peter 1:2*]
- **Glorification** is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed. [*Romans 8:16-17; 2 Peter 1:4; 1 John 3:2-3*]

RESURRECTION

There will be a final resurrection for all men, the just and unjust. Those who surrendered their lives to Jesus Christ during this life will be raised to everlasting life in Heaven, but those who did not surrender their lives to Jesus Christ in this life will be raised to everlasting condemnation in Hell. [*Acts 24:15; Hebrews 9:27; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; Revelation 20:15, 21:8*]

THE CHURCH

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a local body of baptized believers who are associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the two ordinances of Christ, committed to His teachings, exercising gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend this message of the gospel to the ends of the earth.

The church is an autonomous body with each member equally responsible. It operates under the Lordship of Christ following Scriptural teachings. The New Testament speaks also of the church body as the body of Christ, which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages. [*1 Corinthians 12:12-13; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:23-32; Revelation 19:7-8; Ephesians 1:22, 4:15; Colossians 1:18*]

BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

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 symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior; 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 public testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is a prerequisite to the privileges of church membership.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, remember the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming. [*Acts 2:38-42, 8:36-39; Romans 6:1-11; Acts 2:41-42; 1 Corinthians 10:16, 11:23-32*]

4. OUR COMMITMENTS [*membership covenant*]

Serve on a Ministry Team

We believe serving is a great place to build relationships with others who share your interests and giftedness. Great joy is found when you serve others as a member of a team and express your faith in tangible ways. Your life is transformed when you are part of something bigger than yourself. [*1 Peter 4:10*]

Participate in a Small Group

We believe that the ideal place for Christian growth is in a small community of believers that can challenge, affirm, and comfort us in both our good and bad times. CARE Groups are where discipleship and relationships collide. [*Romans 14:19*]

Reach the unreached

We believe that the spiritual condition of our lost friends matters to God and should therefore matter to us. [*John 3:16*]

Influence and witness

We believe that our Christian walk as led by the Holy Spirit should influence others and will make a difference as a witness to our community and the world. [*Philippians 1:27*]

Nourishment in Worship

We believe that consistently attending a service to worship, pray, learn, and take communion with other believers is a fundamental necessity of the Christian walk. It puts us in God's presence, so that we can encounter Him and He can shape and transform us spiritually. [*Hebrews 10:25*]

Give our Tithes & Offerings Faithfully

We believe that our individual faithfulness opens doors to accomplishing great things as a church. [*Malachi 3:10*]... This helps us develop a

Positive Attitude Reflecting Kingdom-values

5. AFFILIATION

5.1. While the church, in accord with Baptist tradition is an autonomous body of believers, it is formally affiliated with the Baptist Churches of South Australia Incorporated, hereafter referred to as BCSA, and commits itself to association with other member churches.

5.2. The church may fellowship with and participates in ministries with other Christian churches and Christian organizations of common conviction and purpose as necessary.

6. GOVERNMENT

The government of the Church will be vested in the members, who will have full power to manage its affairs and to determine any matter not otherwise specifically provided for in the Constitution. Meetings of Members will be conducted for these purposes in accordance with this Constitution.

7. POWERS OF THE CHURCH

The church shall not engage in activities for personal individual or collective financial gain (See By-Laws Section 13.2)

The church shall have power to:

- 7.1 Organise committees, ministries and other such bodies as necessary for carrying out its purpose [See Section 2].
- 7.2 Purchase, lease or otherwise acquire and maintain any property.
- 7.3 Organise, to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of any property of the church.
- 7.4 Will accept donations, subscriptions or bequests.
- 7.5 Employ staff to facilitate the Church's ministry, as the need arises
- 7.6 Raise and borrow monies upon the securities of any or all of the property of the church.
- 7.7 Invest and deal with monies of the church, including granting donations, as may be determined.
- 7.8 To do all other lawful things as are appropriate and related to the purpose of the church.

BY LAWS

1. MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be open to all those who profess repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and who have publicly confessed their faith in Him normally through baptism by immersion, who adhere to our Statement of Faith and who accept the responsibilities of membership as laid down in sections 5.3

1.1 Application. All applications for Membership shall be made to the Church Secretary.

- a). Upon receipt of an application for membership, the Pastor may appoint two Elders to interview the applicant regarding baptism and/or church membership and assisting the applicant in understanding membership responsibilities. The Interviewing Elders shall present their report to the Officers Meeting for consideration of membership.
- b). In the event an applicant is a current member of another church a letter of recommendation from that church can be considered at the Elders Meeting.
- c). An applicant for church membership is required to study about the responsibility and role of members and commit themselves to the 'Membership Covenant.' (See section 4 and 8.3)
- d). New members shall be received into the fellowship at the service of Communion, or at a time considered suitable by the Pastor or Officers in consultation with the new member.
- e). Any person's membership shall become void if there has been no participation in the life of the church for a period of six months unless reasons for non-involvement are made known to the Elders.
- f). Resignations shall be conveyed to the secretary and become effective when accepted by the Elders meeting or members' meeting whichever is closest to the date of receipt.

1.2.Membership Roll.

The Active Membership Roll shall be reviewed at least annually or as occasion requires.

1.3 Membership Responsibilities

- a). Seek to co-operate with others in a spirit of harmony and uphold the 'Membership Covenant' [See Section 4]
- b). Help in the overall development and progress of the church and the accomplishment of its mission.
- c). Attend services of the church where applicable, group meetings and the two (2) members' meetings.
- d). Render assistance in the promotion of a positive, healthy and safe environment of the church.
- e). Engage wherever possible to support the life and ministry of the Church through prayer, involvement and generous financial giving.

2. MEMBERS MEETINGS

- 2.1 The governance of the Church, in accordance with the fundamental Baptist principle of autonomy of the local church, shall be vested in its membership, who shall have full power to manage the affairs of the Church as herein provided (See Section 6 and 7).
- 2.2 Members' meetings shall be held twice a year or at other times as required. The meetings being the last Sunday of February and one meeting being the last Sunday of August as the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The AGM shall be held, normally within eight (8) weeks after the end financial year (30th June).
- 2.3 The Annual General Meeting will be held for the purpose of:
 1. Presentation of the new elected Elders and recognition of any outgoing leaders.
 2. Encouragement to one another as we listen to reports from each of our ministry team leaders
 3. Acknowledgment of God's provision for the year and the willing volunteers of our church.
 4. Consideration of the Treasurer and the auditor's report for the financial year
 5. Ensure that issues or other matters pertaining church governance and its objectives are accomplished efficiently and effectively, and any other business that may arise.
- 2.4. A valid Members Meetings for the transaction of any business shall be by a simple majority (50% + 1) of the present members who are eligible to vote.
- 2.5. The minutes of meetings shall be kept by the secretary and made public to the members.
- 2.6. The Members Meeting shall appoint Pastor, Elders and officers from the membership to assist the Church in carrying out its purpose.
- 2.7 Special Member's Meeting may be called as deemed advisable. Notice of such Members Meetings shall be given by the Secretary at least two (2) Sundays prior to the holding of the meeting.
 - (a) If a request signed by not less than one fifth of the Members eligible to vote is received by the Administrator for a Special Members Meeting to be convened, the Church Leadership must arrange for the Special Members Meeting to be held no later than 28 days after the date of receipt of the request by the Administrator.
 - (b) Special Members Meetings will deal only with the business specified when notice is given.

3. VOTING

1. A motion put to a Meeting will be carried by a simple majority (50% + 1) of Members who are present and voting) unless otherwise provided for in this constitution or unless the Meeting decides that a particular decision will require a larger majority.
2. Any person who is 18 years of age and above will have voting rights at all the members meeting.
3. Voting will be by either a show of hands or by a secret ballot decided at the discretion of the Meeting.
4. Absentee or proxy voting is not permitted.

4. QUORUM

1. No business can be conducted at a Meeting unless a simple majority (50% + 1) of the Members entitled to vote is present.
2. Subject to paragraph (4.3), if a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the appointed time for the commencement of the Meeting then the Meeting will be adjourned to a day, place and time nominated by the Leadership within the following two (2) weeks. Notice of such an adjourned Meeting will be given at all worship services in the intervening period. The subsequent Meeting will be competent to transact the adjourned business whether or not there is a quorum.
3. If a quorum is not present within 30 minutes after the appointed time for the commencement of a Special Members Meeting called on receipt by the Administrator of a request signed by not less than one fifth of the Members eligible to vote, the meeting will lapse.
4. The elected Chairperson for the current term will chair the Leaders' and Member's Meetings.

5. DISCIPLINE

- 5.1 The Elders shall exercise disciplinary action, in accordance with **Matthew 18:15-17**, for the overall benefit and spiritual welfare of the fellowship.
- 5.2 When a simple majority of the eldership is in agreement, membership of the one being disciplined shall be terminated immediately. Such termination shall be reported to a special member's meeting no later than seven days following the decision to terminate membership.
- 5.3 Any person whose membership has been terminated for an offence may be restored by the vote of the church, upon evidence of his/her repentance.

6. SERVICES AND ORDINANCES

- 6.1 The church shall arrange for corporate worship on Sunday. The Elders and other leaders may determine other worship occasions.
- 6.3 **Believer's baptism** is normally by immersion except in situations where medically or other

physical limitation in inadvisable for the applicant.

6.2 **The Lord's Supper** shall be observed once a month or as determined by the church and or in special occasions as needed.

6.4 Baby dedication and other special services shall be arranged upon request.

7. OFFICERS/ LEADERS

The Officers, in co-operation with the Pastor, shall be responsible for managing the business of the church, its committees, property, insurance and oversee financial matters, subject to the general direction of the members.

7.1 Eligibility for Church Leadership

Elected Church Leadership members will have been active Members of the Church for at least twelve months prior to their election and shall be willing to comply with the Springpark's covenant for church leaders.

7.2 The Officers of the Church shall be:

- (a) Administrator
- (b) Secretary
- (c) Treasurer
- (d) Elders
- (e) Ministry Team Coordinators/Leaders
- (f) The Pastor/s as an ex-officio member
- (g) Other officers as may be determined from time to time.

7.3 The Officers' meeting shall appoint a chairperson from amongst its members.

7.4 Officers' meeting shall be held monthly or as considered necessary for carrying out their responsibilities. A simple majority of those elected and present shall constitute a quorum.

7.5 The Officers make appointments to fulfill the function of the Church.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS /LEADERS

8.1 The term of appointment of Elders, excluding the pastor/s, shall be for two years alternating annually. All other officers as described in Section 7.1, and except for the Elders shall be by appointment.

8.2 Should an office become vacant or a new office created between the annual meeting such offices may be filled only until the expiry date of that office.

8.3 Not less than two Sundays notice shall be given prior to the meeting at which an election is to be held.

8.4 Nominations shall be made in writing by any member with the proviso that nominee/s accepts such nomination.

8.5 Each nomination shall be received by the church secretary, who then arranges an interview and suitability of the candidates with either the Pastor/s or with the concurrent Elders.

6. Such nominations shall be advised to the members no later than the Sunday prior to the Members Meeting.

8.7 Voting for all officers shall be by secret ballot. The results shall be proclaimed at the following Sunday meeting after the election.

9. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF OFFICERS/LEADERS

To aid in coordinating the work of all church programs and services, a church council is needed. The church council is made up of all elected church leaders. They are responsible to the Pastor and report to the Officers' Meeting and the Members' Meeting.

9.1 CHAIRPERSON

The Chairperson of the congregation serves as the presiding officer for church business meetings: being the Members meeting on the last Sunday of February and the Annual General Meeting (AGM), on the last Sunday of August.

- a). The Chairperson plans and conducts the church business meetings and coordinates the work of the church officers and leaders.
- b). Prepares agenda in advance for church business meetings and confers with officers and leaders about reports to be made to the business meeting.
- c). Coordinate with the Administrator in other matters of business of the church.

9.2 ADMINISTRATOR AND ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

9.2.1 The Administrator shall ensure that:

- a) *The church complies with the Constitution, By- Laws and all statutory obligations and follows appropriate recommended procedures by government bodies and the Baptist Churches of South Australia (BCSA)*
- b) *An up-to-date inventory of the Church's insurable assets is prepared and maintained.*
- c) *The necessary administrative tasks of the Church are carried out, including regular communication with those fulfilling administrative functions and liaising with the BCSA.*

9.2.2 The Administrator is an ex-officio member of the Eldership, Property and Finance Teams and is the Church's Responsible Officer unless another person is appointed for such office.

9.2.3 The Office of the Secretary and the Administrator may be filled or taken by one person if necessary or as situation demands.

9.2.4 The Assistant Administrator will take minutes of the member's meeting and circulate them, fulfill the role of the Administrator in the Administrator's absence and assist the Administrator as appropriate.

9.3 ELDERS

Elders shall assist the Pastor(s) in providing spiritual leadership and share in ministries such as Preaching, Oversight, Teaching, and Counseling and Pastoral visitation and care. They shall meet regularly for prayer, mutual encouragement and accountability. Furthermore Elders should:

9.3.1 Encourage Pastor/s and support as they fulfill their role and ministry to the church.

9.3.2 Listen to God and to each other through prayer, and Biblical reflection for the life of the church.

9.3.3 Develop pastoral care policies and procedures that enhances our systems and administration.

9.3.4 Ensure that confidentiality regarding private matters is highly observed.

9.3.5 Reflect the Biblical ideals for being an effective Elders as set out in 1 Timothy 3:2-7 and Titus 1:6-9

9.3.6 Serve with patience, humility and dedication with a mix of passion, purity and love.

9.4 CHURCH SECRETARY

An efficient Church Secretary is essential to the orderly functioning of the Church. The duties of the Church Secretary include the recording of and keeping of the minutes of both the Members' meeting and the Officers Meeting, maintaining the Membership Roll and other duties such as:

9.4.1 Record and keeps all the minutes of both the Members meeting and the Leaders meeting.

9.4.2 Ensure that minutes of the church business meetings are accurate and well kept.

9.4.3 Compile statistical data of the church and may be shared to BCSA and other organizations if necessary.

9.4.5 Overall records and membership roll should be maintained and updated as required.

9.4.6 Requests for letters of transfers or of dismissal should be written promptly.

9.4.7 Dedication and diligence to this role and its challenging tasks is highly commendable.

9.5 CHURCH TREASURER

9.5.1 Prepare an annual Budget, recommend fiscal policies and to supervise its management.

9.5.2 Ensures that reports are given at each Leaders meeting and the regular Members Meeting.

9.5.3 Receives, records, disburses and manage all monetary transactions and other items of value paid or given to the church.

9.5.4 Arrange for financial records to be audited before presentation to the Annual General Meeting.

9.5.5 Strive to attend the combined leaders meetings as scheduled and/ or as requested by the Elders.

9.5.6 Organise a finance team of 3-5 people helping in financial administration, planning and stewardship campaign promotion.

9.6 MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS

9.6.1 Lead the ministries assigned to them in accomplishing the church's purpose and mission.

9.6.2 Evaluate programs in the ministry and recommend changes to maintain efficiency.

9.6.3 Assist the church to plan and coordinate its work in the leaders monthly meeting and prayer.

9.6.4 Discover church and community needs and to recommend plans or ways to meet those needs.

9.6.5 Ensure that written reports are presented to the annual general meeting of the church.

9.6.6 Responsible for planning, scheduling, and coordination with others for various church activities.

9.6.7 Share resources and cooperate together so as to align every ministry to achieve our vision.

9.7 NOMINATIONS & ELECTION OF OFFICERS/ LEADERS

- 9.7.1 Members of the Church Leadership (other than the Senior Pastor) will be elected by Members at an specified time or at least two months before the AGM or, in case of casual vacancies, at any Members Meeting in accordance with Section 2
- 9.7.2 **Casual vacancies** may be filled by the members at any time. Any person so elected will hold office only for the unexpired term of a person vacating the office.

9.8 SEAL HOLDERS

- 9.8.1 The Church shall from time to time appoint from amongst the membership or from the leadership two (2) seal holders, one of who shall be the responsible officer. The term of this appointment shall be a maximum of 2 years.
- 9.8.2 The common seal of the church shall be fixed to any document only by direction of the church on the authority of a resolution carried by at least the majority of those members present and eligible to vote at a duly convened meeting of the members.
- 9.8.3 The seal shall be affixed and attested by the two seal holders in the presence of each other.

9.9 THE PASTOR

The current guidelines set by BCSA Advisory Board for Ministerial Settlement may be followed for appointments, terminations or alterations to the pastorate provided the church's autonomy is not sacrificed.

9.9.1 **Appointment.** The Pastor will be appointed by members upon recommendation of the Church Leadership to a special members meeting called for the purpose. Such recommendation will require the majority of the members present and eligible to vote.

9.9.2 Role of the Pastor/s

- Any Pastor/s shall be, or eligible to be, Accredited with the BCSA and shall be willing to comply with the BCSA Code of Ethics (or equivalent document).
- The Pastor/s of the church shall be of the Baptist persuasion, whose call to the Pastorate should be made in accordance under this section.
- Within the Church's policies and procedures, the Pastor is the person who is entrusted with spiritual oversight and guidance of the church and its ministries.

9.9.3 Right of participation at Members Meetings

- The Pastor/s shall be a member of the church and, except where otherwise provided, will have the right of attendance, participating and voting at all meetings of the church and its auxiliaries (except a meeting considering the pastorate).
- The Pastor/s will not be entitled to vote on any resolution for their appointment or review of their pastoral call and will leave the meeting for the discussion and vote.
- The length of the term of contract and the employment package shall be negotiable between the church and the pastor.
- Arrangements for the supply of the pulpit shall be the responsibility of the Pastor/s or the Elders.

9.9.4 Resignation and or Dismissal

- Notwithstanding any such notification, the Church may dismiss a Pastor immediately for any significant breach of the BCSA Code of Ethics (or equivalent document).
- Three months notice of termination of appointment is normally required by either the church or the Pastor, unless otherwise specifically provided for by mutual agreement between the church and the pastor.

10. CHURCH LEADERSHIP MEETINGS

Meetings of the Church Leadership will be chaired by the elected chairperson

- 10.1 **Frequency.** Church Leadership meetings will generally take place monthly, and/or as necessary.
- 10.2 **Quorum.** No business can be conducted at the Church Leadership meeting unless majority (50% + 1) of the Church leadership are present.
- 10.3 **Chairperson.** The Chairperson of the Leadership will be elected as per Section 8 (*or from time to time in the event of a vacancy*) from within the elected membership of the Church Leadership. There is no limit to the number of terms a person can be elected to this position.
- 10.4 **Decision Making**
- The Church Leadership will make decisions consistent with God's Word, the stated purpose (set out in Section 2), the Statement of Faith (set out in Section 3) and any applicable laws, rules, regulations and government requirements.
 - Whenever possible, the Church Leadership will endeavor to reach decisions by consensus but, in the absence of agreement and unless this Constitution specifies otherwise, a decision will be determined by a simple majority (50% + 1) of those leaders present.

11. FINANCES

- 11.1 The Church Financial records shall be kept by the Church Treasurer, such records shall be accessible to any member for inspection.

- 11.2 The Church Financial records shall be audited annually before being presented to the AGM.
- 11.3 An annual budget shall be presented to the Annual General Meeting.
- 11.4 Financial transactions shall be performed with two signatories from the Elders.
- 11.5 Investment decisions are made by the Finance Team in consultation with the Elders.
- 11.6 Church investments shall not be made in high risks money markets.
- 11.7 An auditor or auditors (2) shall be appointed by the members meeting to audit the financial books in preparation for the annual general meeting.
- 11.8 The auditors cannot be drawn from the Leaders of the church.

12. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

In the event of any dispute or difference causing serious division in the Church or any dispute between a Pastor and the church that is not reaching satisfactory settlement, such dispute or difference will be referred by the Church Leadership, and may be referred by a resolution of the members at the Members Meeting, for decision to a moderator or panel of arbitrators appointed by the BCSA, whose decision will be conclusive and binding on all parties.

13. DISSOLUTION OF THE CHURCH

- 13.1. In the event of the dissolution of the church, the assets, material or financial, shall be dispersed to other Christian not-for-profit organisations in accord with the Church's purpose as defined in Section 2 of the Constitution.
- 13.2. No church asset, material or financial, shall be dispersed for the benefit or personal gain of any individual associated with the church.
- 13.3. Assets remaining after paying all liabilities of the church and expenses of winding up will be transferred by the Liquidator to the BCSA for the furtherance of its work.

14. ALTERATIONS TO THIS CONSTITUTION

- 14.1 Proposed alterations shall be referred to the Elders for consideration before presentation to a Member's meeting.
- 14.2 Two weeks notice shall be given to all members of any meeting called to discuss the proposed changes of alterations, which shall be circulated to the members at that time.
- 14.4 No change, or changes shall be made to the Constitution except by the majority (50% + 1) of members present and eligible to vote at a members meeting.
- 14.5 Amendments to this Constitution shall come into effect immediately unless specified otherwise.

End of Constitution and By-Laws

Date_28 February 2016

Credits: Thanks to the Springpark BC Elders; Jerry Flores, Dean Hawkins, Eli Ignacio, Dan Labios, Jonathan Monotilla and to Elaine Ignacio who contributed a lot in discussions so as to finalise this revised constitution.