

# THE LIGHTHOUSE COMMUNITY CHURCH INC.



## CONSTITUTION

### 1 Name

- 1.1 The name of the church shall be the Lighthouse Community Church Incorporated [hereinafter "the Church"], but the Church may register and use such other names as the members shall decide.

### 2 Membership

- 2.1 Membership shall be open to all who profess repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, show evidence of such faith in daily life, and, subject to 2.2 below, have confessed their faith in Christ through baptism by immersion.
- 2.2 The church believes that the practice of believers' baptism by immersion is in accordance with the scriptures, and all applicants for membership shall have this truth plainly presented to them; but the church may admit to its membership persons who have undergone another form of baptism or dedication in obedience to Christ's bidding,
- 2.3 The church requires members to give general assent to the Declaration of Principles, and accept the responsibilities of membership as prescribed in the By-Laws

### 3 Declaration of principles

*The church accepts as its basic principles:*

- 3.1 The divine inspiration and supreme authority of the scriptures in matters of faith and conduct.
- 3.2 The deity and Lordship of Jesus Christ.
- 3.3 A regenerate church membership.
- 3.4 The priesthood of believers.
- 3.5 The ordinances of believers' baptism and the Lord's Supper.

- 3.6 The vesting of authority for church policy and management with the church members;
- 3.7 Freedom of conscience
- 3.8 All members are ministers and ministry belongs to the whole church. Leadership in ministry is manifested through a plurality of leaders rather than a senior figure.

#### **4 Member of the South Australian Baptist Union Incorporated**

- 4.1 The church is and shall remain a member of the South Australian Baptist Union Incorporated ("SABU")

#### **5 Aims and Objects**

*The church accepts that its aims and objects are:*

- 5.1 To proclaim the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ leading those who repent and believe in Him for salvation into membership in the church.
- 5.2 To proclaim the sole Lordship of Jesus Christ in the lives of Christians and to seek to fulfill His purpose in the life of the Church and the world beyond.
- 5.3 To prayerfully seek to discern the will of God for all aspects of the life of the church and to be obedient to His leading.
- 5.4 To instruct people of all ages in the scriptures and its implications for daily living.
- 5.5 To encourage people to assemble in regular worship of God.
- 5.6 To support the work of the wider fellowship of Baptists through the South Australian Baptist Union, the Baptist Union of Australia and the Baptist World Alliance and to co-operate with other Christian bodies as may be determined by the church.
- 5.7 To work for justice and care with compassion for widows, the fatherless and the needy and oppressed.

#### **6 Government of the Church**

- 6.1 The members of the church shall have power to decide all matters relating to the conduct of the church and its affairs. The government of the church shall be expressed through the members' meetings.
- 6.2 Members may delegate to the Leadership Team the power to make any decision not inconsistent with this constitution. Such power may be revoked at any time and shall not prevent the exercise of any power by members

through members' meetings. In the event of any conflict in the exercise of powers, the decision of members' meetings shall be binding and conclusive.

## **7 The Pastorate**

- 7.1 The church may appoint and set apart individuals as "pastors" to devote themselves to "prepare God's people for works of service".
- 7.2 A pastor shall be a believer who has been baptized by immersion upon public profession of faith.
- 7.3 A pastor shall be appointed for an indefinite period, which may be terminated by either the pastor or the church upon three months' notice in writing, unless otherwise specifically provided for by mutual agreement between the church and the pastor.
- 7.4 Subject to the provisions of this constitution, a pastor shall be appointed on such terms, for such duties and subject to such reviews as the church and the pastor agree in writing.
- 7.5 A pastor shall do all things necessary to obtain or maintain accreditation with SABU and shall fulfill such continuing education or other accreditation requirements that SABU specifies from time to time.
- 7.6 To preserve the integrity of the church, the church may summarily terminate a pastor from ministry in the event of immorality or unlawful conduct on the part of the Pastor.
- 7.7 The procedures of the Advisory Board of SABU, while not binding on the church, shall normally be followed in the matter of pastoral settlement.

## **8 Powers**

- 8.1 For the purpose of carrying out its aims and objects, the church may exercise all the powers of an incorporated association as set out in the Associations Incorporation Act 1985 as amended from time to time.

## **9 Financial Year**

- 9.1 The church's financial year shall commence on the first day of July and conclude on the last day of June.

## **10 Members' Meetings**

- 10.1 Members shall hold an annual general meeting within five months after the end of the church's financial year.

- 10.2 The members may hold other meetings for the management of their affairs as prescribed in the By-Laws.
- 10.3 It shall be the duty of every member entitled to vote to attend all members' meetings unless unable to do so.
- 10.4 All resolutions carried at a duly convened meeting of members shall be binding upon all members, whether present or absent, or refraining from voting.

## **11 Leadership Team**

- 11.1 The church shall appoint officers to the Leadership Team from within the membership to guide the church in carrying out its aims and objectives. The Leadership Team is accountable to the members.
- 11.2 The Leadership Team shall consist of:
  - 11.3 Administrator / Finance Overseer
  - 11.4 Elders / Pastor(s); and
  - 11.5 Other officers as may be appointed by members for the proper conduct of its worship, and the management of its affairs as prescribed in the By-Laws or as determined from time to time by resolution of the members.
- 11.6 All pastors/elders and officers shall work together in the spiritual oversight of the church.
- 11.7 One half of the number of officers of the Leadership Team shall constitute a quorum
- 11.8 The Leadership Team shall meet as often as considered necessary for carrying out its responsibilities as laid down in the By-Laws.
- 11.9 Other committees may be set up by resolution of the members from time to time for specific purposes and time periods.

## **12 Public Officer and Common Seal**

- 12.1 The members shall appoint a Public Officer and Seal-holders.

## **13 Indemnity**

- 13.1 The officers of the church shall be indemnified out of the church's assets against all actions, claims, demands, prosecution, suits and proceedings arising from or relating to the bona fide execution of their duties under this constitution.

## **14 Winding up**

- 14.1 If, for any reason the church is to be wound up pursuant to a resolution of members taken at a special members' meeting, it shall be wound up in accordance with the provisions of the law for the time being relating to the winding up of incorporated associations. The assets remaining after paying all the liabilities of the church and the expenses of the winding up shall be transferred by the liquidator of the church to the South Australian Baptist Union Incorporated.

## **15 Alteration of Constitution and By-laws**

- 15.1 The members shall have power, upon the majority vote of two-thirds of the members present and entitled to vote at a meeting especially convened for the purpose, to repeal, alter, amend or add to the provisions of this Constitution.
- 15.2 The members shall have power, upon the majority vote of two-thirds of the members present and entitled to vote at a meeting especially convened for the purpose, to create By-laws.
- 15.3 Such By-laws shall not be inconsistent with the Constitution and where any inconsistency arises the Constitution shall prevail.
- 15.4 Notice of motion for a proposed change shall be given at a members meeting held at least three months prior to the meeting at which the proposed change is to be considered.
- 15.5 The quorum for the members' meeting where the change is to be considered shall be one sixth of all members entitled to a vote.