

# LOCAL CHURCH CONSTITUTION FOR INCORPORATION

## ELDERSHIP GOVERNMENT


### PREFACE

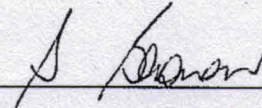
This Constitution is recommended to all New South Wales Assemblies of God Churches by the NSW State Executive.

This Local Constitution hereby becomes the governing document of this Church, by virtue of:

1. Having been adopted by a properly constituted meeting of members on:

08 / 03 / 10

Signed:   
(Senior Minister)

Signed:   
(Secretary)

- OR -

2. Having been inaugurated as a Pioneer Work:

on:     /    /    

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorised Person (State Position)



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## DEFINITIONS

Association/Church - is interpreted as the legal entity that is registered under the Associations Incorporation Act 1984 (and subsequent amendments), and not to the local body of believers referred to in Biblical terms.

Members and Membership – is interpreted as the members of the Association. The local Church congregation is referred to as partners. The government and legal responsibility for the Association/Church, vests in the Associations Board and membership.

Church/church – are used interchangeably in the singular and plural, and are to be read in the context of the paragraph, sub paragraph and section in which it appears.

Partnership – is an adult church attendee who has committed them self to be a faithful supporter of the local church and who complies with the qualifications in Appendix D of this constitution.



1. **THE ASSOCIATION / CHURCH**

- 1 The name of the Association/Church:  
The name of the Church shall be:

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Beachside Church.

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2 Affiliation:

This Association/Church is a member Church of the Assemblies of God in Australia. The United Constitution, National By-Laws, State By-Laws, and District Charter of the Assemblies of God in Australia are endorsed and accepted together with all National, State and District Conference decisions. By reason of this, the Association/Church is also a member church of Australian Christian Churches.

3 Withdrawal from Assemblies of God:

The Association/Church's affiliation with the Assemblies of God in Australia may be revoked by a resolution carried by not less than three-fourths (seventy-five percent) of the current Church membership.

4 Dissolution:

The Association/Church shall be dissolved if membership shall become less than five persons or the members may, at a meeting called only for that purpose, resolve to dissolve the Association/Church if such resolution is carried by a three-quarters majority. The Board may appoint a casual Board member to a vacancy that occurs for a period up to and not exceeding the date of the next Annual General Meeting.

If the Association/Church should be dissolved and there be any property or assets after satisfaction of its liabilities, the same shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Association/Church, but shall be paid forthwith, without demand to the State Executive of the Assemblies of God in Australia. If such an Executive is not in existence, or unwilling to receive such payment, then too such other organisation with similar objects as the members present at the meeting to dissolve the Association/Church shall determine or in default thereof as determined by the National Executive of the Assemblies of God in Australia.

- 5 The assets and income of the church shall be applied solely in furtherance of the principal and secondary objects, and no portion shall be distributed directly or indirectly to the members of the church, except as a bona fide compensation for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the organization.



## 2. PRINCIPAL OBJECTS

1. To preach and teach and generally to further the cause of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and to advance the Christian Faith in Australia and other Nations and to work for the building up and extension and renewal of the Christian Church.
2. To meet for the worship of God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the preaching and teaching of the Word of God and the administration of the Sacraments mentioned in 5 hereof.
3. To further and propagate the Christian Faith in Australia or elsewhere by the conduct of Evangelism or by the establishment of further Assemblies or missionary works with similar objectives.
4. To develop assistant ministers and to train Christian leaders to function within the Association/Church and throughout the world.
5. To render Spiritual oversight, care and assistance (whether material or otherwise) and such other help as may be deemed appropriate to meet the needs of Church members, those associated with the Church and as far as practicable, to all persons everywhere.
6. To make donations to assist, undertake the oversight of or in any way co-operate with other Churches, organisations, societies or individuals who have similar objects.
7. To provide some educational or other programs or institutions as will assist members to live whole and balanced lifestyles and to be a blessing to the society in which they live.
8. To be a co-operative fellowship of the Assemblies of God in Australia as defined in the United Constitution of the Assemblies of God in Australia (National Conference) from time to time.
9. To provide a Christian focused ministry for the relief of poverty, suffering, distress, misfortune and helplessness of people wheresoever found in Australia regardless of age, sex, race, ethnic background, religion, political beliefs or material status.



### 3. SECONDARY OBJECTS

For the purpose of carrying out the Principal Objects in their spiritual and secular context, the Association/Church shall have the further objects and powers as follows:

1. To collect and raise moneys for the purpose of purchasing or otherwise acquiring land and buildings.
2. To purchase, take on, lease, hire, exchange or acquire by gift or otherwise and to manage, sell, transfer, lease, hire, mortgage or otherwise dispose of, invest or deal with any real or personal property or any estate or interest therein.
3. To borrow or raise or secure the payment of money for the purposes of the Church whether the same shall have been borrowed or is intended to be borrowed on overdrawn account or otherwise in such manner and upon such terms and whether with or without security as may seem expedient.
4. The buying, selling, and/or supplying of, and dealing in, goods of all kinds.
5. The construction, maintenance, and alteration of buildings or works necessary or convenient for any of the objects or purposes of the Church.
6. To guarantee, indemnify, or receive payment, or act as Trustee on behalf of another body, association, company or person, as the Board deems appropriate.
7. To engage, conduct, enter into joint venture, partnership or contract with another body, association, company or person for such purpose as the Board deems appropriate.
8. To act as Trustee in respect of any trust, as the Church in general meeting may deem expedient.
9. The accepting of any gift whether subject to a special trust or not, for any one or more of the objects or purposes of the Church.
10. The taking of such steps from time to time as the Board or the Church in general meeting may deem expedient for the purposes of procuring contribution to the funds of the Church whether way of donation, subscriptions or otherwise.



11. The printing and publishing of such newspapers, periodicals, books, leaflets, CD's, multi media or other documents as the Board or the Church in general meeting may think desirable for the promotion of the objects and purposes of the Church.
12. The making of gifts, subscriptions or donations to any fund, authority or institution or individual as determined by the Board.
13. The establishment and support or aiding in the establishment and support of associations, institutions, funds, trust schemes, and conveniences, calculated to benefit servants or past servants of the Church and their dependents, and the granting of pensions, allowances, or other benefits to servants or past servants of the Church and their dependents and the making of payments towards insurance to any of those purposes.
14. The establishment and support or aiding in the establishment or support of any other association formed for any of the basic objects of the Church.
15. Purchase or acquisition and undertaking of all or any part of the property, assets, liabilities and engagements of any Church or association with which the Church may at any time become amalgamated.
16. Subject to the provisions of the current State Trust Act, the investment of any moneys of the Association/Church not immediately required for any of its objects or purposes in such manner as the Board may from time to time determine.
17. The doing of all such other lawful things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objects.



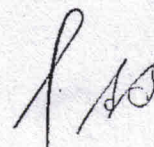
#### 4. DOCTRINAL BASIS

The Association/Church shall have such Doctrines as are expressed in the United Constitution of the Assemblies of God in Australia Article 5 from time to time (see Appendix A).

#### 5. MINISTRATIONS AND CEREMONIES

The following shall be observed as a Church ordinance or as commanded by the Holy Scriptures:

1. Baptism by single immersion in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit in respect to all those who have repented and believed in the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. The Lord's Supper or Holy Communion.
3. The Dedication of infants and children.
4. Prayer for the sick upon their request with the anointing of oil and laying on of hands by the Eldership.
5. The ministry of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit to those seeking the power of God.
6. The institution of marriage.
7. Funeral services shall be conducted.





## 6. MEMBERSHIP

### 1 Conditions of Membership:

See Addendum A

### 2 Register of Members:

a. The public officer of the Association/Church must establish and maintain a register of members of the association specifying the name and address of each person who is a member of the association together with the date on which the person became a member.

b. The register of members must be kept at the principal place of administration of the association and must be open for inspection, free of charge, by any member of the association at any reasonable hour.

### 3 Membership Fee:

There will be no Membership Fees.

### 4 Discipline and Cancellation of Membership:

a. The Board may, by resolution, remove the name of a member from the membership roll or endorse such roll to the effect that such membership is probational for such period as it thinks fit or that such membership is otherwise conditional, if it is of the opinion that such member no longer fulfils the conditions of membership in Clause 6. The Board shall give opportunity to such member to be heard before the Board, after 21 days notice has been given to such member of such hearing. Should no appeal be forthcoming, after 7 further days the said membership shall be cancelled.

b. The Board may, by resolution, remove the name of a member from the membership roll if such member has moved his/her place of residence away from the community and no longer attends the Association/Church or if in their opinion a member has failed to attend the services of the Church without legitimate excuse (in the terms of 15.5 for a period of six months).



## 7. SENIOR MINISTER

### 7.1 Nomination:

In the event of the death, incapacitation or termination of ministry from the Association/Church, of the Senior Minister, or proven misconduct (immorality, misappropriation of funds, or doctrine contradicting the Articles Of Faith Of The AOG In Australia), the Board of the Church shall constitute a Nominating Board for the purpose of appointing a suitable person holding Assemblies of God credentials to fill the position of Senior Minister whenever such a vacancy shall occur.

Should the Nominating Board after due deliberation, refuse to recommend to the Board any person proposed as Senior Minister within a 4 month period, or shall be unable, the Board shall then notify the State Executive and they will then appoint an interim pastor until the Board can choose a permanent Senior Minister. The decision of the Board shall be carried by a 3/4 majority. The decision of the Board shall be final.

Upon the appointment of the new Senior Minister all key leadership (ie. Elders, deacons and Advisory Boards) shall voluntarily tender their resignations (upon the Senior Pastors request) to the new Senior Minister but may continue to act in an advisory capacity and be subject to reappointment at his discretion within a period of 12 months of the Senior Minister's appointment.

### 7.2 Remuneration:

The Board shall negotiate and determine the remuneration and conditions of the Senior Minister's appointment with reference to the guidelines set down by the National Executive and obtainable from the National Office.

### 7.3 Resignation:

The Senior Minister may resign his appointment by giving the Board at least three (3) months written notice. A lesser resignation period shall only be by the mutual consent of the Senior Minister and the Board.

### 7.4 Powers and Duties of Senior Minister:

1. The Senior Minister shall be responsible to conduct himself with godliness and dignity befitting his position and to be an example. He shall give himself to prayer and the Word of God to be effective in preaching and administering the sacraments.



2. The Senior Minister shall be a person who qualifies for membership of the Church and is Baptised with the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4.
3. The Senior Minister shall preside at all meetings of the Association/Church and be Chairman of the Board and be entitled to chair all Business Meetings and every board, committee or department meeting as he shall so decide.
4. No meeting shall be held by any committee, board or department without notice having been given to the Senior Minister informing him of the time, place and purpose of the meeting. This requirement may be waived by the Senior Minister if he shall so decide.
5. No leader, committee, board or department shall depart from the established policies of the Association/Church without prior consultation with the Senior Minister.
6. The Senior Minister may vote on any question arising at any meeting of the Association/Church or of any board, department or committee with the exception of;
  - a. any voting to set the level and manner of remuneration of the Senior Minister.
  - b. any disciplinary action as mentioned in paragraph 9.
7. The Senior Minister shall be in charge of all meetings of the Association/Church with full power, subject to this Constitution, to decide who shall participate in them and in what manner.
8. The Senior Minister, after consultation with the Board, may create special groups within the church and appoint Departmental leaders in consultation with the Board for whatever purpose or term at his sole discretion.
9. The Senior Minister shall have the power to employ and dismiss staff members and assistant ministers at his sole discretion after consultation with the Board. Remuneration in all cases shall be set by the Board in consultation with the Senior Minister.
10. The Senior Minister shall have such other powers and duties as is set out by this Constitution.



11. The expression "Senior Minister" means the person acting in that position for the time being.

7.5 Chief Executive Officer:

See Addendum B

## 8. ASSOCIATES AND ASSISTANTS

### 1 Associate and Appointment:

Upon the recommendation of the Senior Minister (but not otherwise) the Board may appoint an Associate Minister. Such an office shall only be created as the need arises and at the request of the Senior Minister who shall nominate to the Board of the Association/Church a suitable candidate. If the proposed Associate Minister is approved by the Board, the same shall be appointed.

### 2 Powers and Duties of the Associate Minister:

a. Upon the recommendation of the Senior Minister (but not otherwise) the Board may empower the Associate Minister to function in any or all of the responsibilities and exercise any or all of the powers of the Senior Minister as defined in 7.4.

b. The Associate Minister may not assume any of the powers or responsibilities of the Senior Minister unless first requested to do so by the Senior Minister and approved to do so by the Board.

c. The Associate Minister shall fulfil the conditions as set out in 7.4.1 and 7.4.2.

### 3 Appointment of Assistant Ministers:

Assistant Ministers shall be selected and appointed to the Ministry Team of the Church at the sole discretion of the Senior Minister provided always that such appointments are ratified by the Board.

### 4 Powers and Duties of Assistant Ministers:

a. Assistant Ministers shall function only within the specific portfolio assigned to them by the Senior Minister and shall be responsible directly to him in all matters relating to their ministry.

b. Assistant Ministers shall have no legal or administrative powers except those specifically assigned to them by the Senior Minister. Notwithstanding, they may be elected to the Board of



the Association/Church and exercise such powers and duties as are consistent with that office.

- c. Assistant Ministers shall fulfil the conditions as set out in 7.4.1 and 7.4.2.

5. Resignation:

This shall be in accordance with Section 7, point 3 and 4, with the exception that the time period shall be a minimum of one month.

## 9. DISCIPLINE OR DISMISSAL OF MINISTERS

### 9.1 Grounds:

Any complaint against the Senior Minister upon the following grounds shall be attested to by at least two witnesses and addressed in writing to the Secretary:

1. Moral Failure
2. Doctrinal Error contradicting the Articles of Faith of the A.O.G. in Australia.
3. Financial misappropriation, mismanagement, or illegalities
4. Conduct unbecoming of a minister as determined by the State Executive.

### 9.2 Procedure:

1. Upon receipt of the complaint, the Secretary shall bring the matter before a meeting of the Board in the presence of the Senior Minister and consider whether the grounds have been established. The Senior Minister shall not be Chairman of any meeting in which this complaint is to be discussed.
2. If the Board considers the complaint to be groundless, the Secretary shall notify the complainant accordingly.
3. Should the complaint be on grounds other than in 9.1 and the Board consider the grounds upon which the complaint has been made to be established, it shall deal with the matter in its sole discretion.
4. If the Senior Minister is aggrieved by the decision of the Board in the matter, he may appeal to the State Executive Presbytery of the Assemblies of God in Australia by notice in writing to the State Secretary thereof (a copy of such notice shall be given to the Church Secretary).



9.3 State Discipline:

Should the Board find that a charge against a Senior Minister be substantiated in the terms of 9.1 they shall refer the matter immediately to the District Leader and State President who, together with the State Executive Presbytery of the Assemblies of God, and in consultation with the Board of the Assembly shall deal with the matter at their sole discretion.

Should the State Executive Presbytery find the charge against the Minister proven, they may:

1. . Reprove him, in which case the Board of the Association/Church may invoke the provision set out in 9.2 at its sole discretion.
2. Suspend, remove State credentials or recommend the removal or suspension of National credentials in which case the Board shall terminate his appointment forthwith.

Such termination shall be effected three (3) months from the date of the meeting, or the Minister may be dismissed forthwith and receive three (3) months' salary in lieu of continuing in the Churches employment providing that the termination was not for moral failure or financial misappropriation (items in 9:1). In such a case the Board in their absolute discretion, may terminate the Minister's employment without further financial reimbursement except holiday pay, long service and superannuation reimbursements.

9.4 Appeal Costs:

In the event of an appeal to the State Executive of the Assemblies of God in Australia, the expenses of the said State Executive in determining the appeal shall be met by the Association/Church.

Notice of the determination of the question by the said State Executive shall be transmitted to the Minister and to the Church Secretary who shall refer the matter to the Board.

9.5 Discipline of Associates and Assistants:

A complaint against any action, decision, or teaching of an Associate or Assistant Minister shall be referred in writing to the Senior Minister who shall deal with the matter at his discretion. Should he find that disciplinary action is necessary, the matter shall be referred to the Board of the Association/Church for appropriate action.

Should a complaint against a credentialed Minister be in the terms of 9.1 and be substantiated, the Senior Minister shall refer the



matter to the State Executive Presbytery for the review of such Minister's credential.

Should such a complaint addressed to the Senior Minister be ignored, the complainant shall refer the matter in writing to the State Secretary who shall bring it to the attention of the State Executive.

## 10. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION/CHURCH

The Government of the Association/Church is invested in the Church Eldership and/or Advisory Board (see Appendix C) and chaired by the Senior Minister. Here after this GOVERNING BODY shall be referred to as THE BOARD.

### 1 Appointment:

The Senior Minister may appoint persons from the partners of the Association/Church who are of evident maturity, spirituality, and ability as Elders, Deacons or Deaconesses, or Advisory Boards (ie. Advisory Business Board, Advisory Missions Board, Advisory Building Board, etc.) to assist the Senior Minister in the spiritual and financial oversight of the Church, as the Senior Minister may see fit.

### 2 Procedure:

1. Elders, Deacons, and/or Advisory Board Members are appointed or dismissed by the Senior Minister in consultation with existing Board Members.
2. Elders, Deacons, and/or Advisory Board Members are not self appointed.
3. Elders, Deacons, and/or Advisory Board Members are not appointed by the partners /members of the Church.
4. Appointments or dismissals of Elders, Deacons, and/or Advisory Board Members shall be endorsed by the existing Board.

### 3 Term of Office:

All such appointments shall be for whatever term or upon whatever conditions the Senior Minister, together with the Board, may specify.

### 4 Size of the Governing Board:



The Board shall consist of a minimum of five (5) members and a maximum of nine (9) members.

5 Responsibilities of the Board:

1. Management of the affairs of the Association/Church shall be vested in the Board which may exercise all such power and functions as may be exercised on behalf of the Association/Church.
2. The Board shall be the financial appointees of the Association/Church.
3. The Board or its nominee shall have power to draw upon the Treasurer for such amounts as they shall decide to be necessary for the proper conduct of the affairs of the Church.
4. The Board may delegate such powers or functions as it sees fit from time to time.
5. Should the Senior Minister be incapacitated by prolonged illness (4 months), or mental illness or be otherwise prevented from exercising the oversight of the Church, the Board shall be empowered to appoint an Acting Senior Minister (in conjunction with the State Executive or their appointee) who shall be responsible for the oversight of the Church until the return of the Senior Minister (providing that his absence was not due to certified insanity) or until the appointment of the Acting Senior Minister is revoked by the Board.

6 Meetings of the Board:

1. The Board shall meet at least once every six weeks to exercise its functions. Seven days notice shall be given for all General Board Meetings.
2. A Special Meeting of the Board shall be convened by the Secretary on the requisition in writing of not less than five (5) members of the Board which requisition shall clearly state the reason such a Special Meeting is being convened and the nature of the business to be conducted thereat. Except in the case of 9.2, the Senior Minister shall be the Chairman of all meetings.
3. At every meeting of the Board, one more than a simple majority shall constitute a quorum.



4. The Board may meet together and regulate its proceedings as it thinks fit provided that questions arising at any meeting of the Board shall be decided by a majority of votes. The chairman shall have a casting vote.
5. Not less than forty-eight (48) hours notice shall be given to members of the Board of any Special Meeting of the Board. Notwithstanding a meeting of the Board may be held at any time providing all members agree to meet.
6. The Board may conduct its business by electronic means on such conditions as it shall see fit.
7. The duly recorded minutes of a Board Meeting shall be prima facie evidence of a decision or resolution of the Board, which decision or resolution shall be constituted by a majority vote of those present.

7 By-Laws:

The Board may make By-Laws and amend and vary same from time to time for the administration of the Association/Church or any part or department thereof.

## 11. SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATION

- 1 Appointment:  
The Secretary of the Association/Church shall be nominated by the Senior Minister and whose appointment must be ratified by the Board. If the position is not filled by one of the Board, the position shall be non voting.
- 2 Powers and Duties:
  - a. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Church to record and keep on file the minutes of all meetings of the church.
  - b. To keep on file all records of legal transactions such as Deeds, Mortgages, and Contracts which have been entered into by the Church.
  - c. To write such letters as he is directed by the recognised governing body of the Church Association/Church retaining duplicate copies for permanent file and to receive and place on file any correspondence received.



- d. To notify in writing the members of the Association/Church of any general meeting thereof when so instructed.
- e. The records, documents, official stamps and seal and correspondence placed in the care of the Secretary of the Association/Church are not his personal property nor under his personal control, but are the property of the Association/Church and are under the control of the Church as directed by the vote of the Church or by the authority of the Board of the Church in accordance with this Constitution.
- f. The Secretary of the Association/Church shall have no power to act in office without special authority from the Senior Minister, or Board except in so far as the provisions of this Constitution provides.

## 12. TREASURER

### 1 Appointment:

The Treasurer of the Association/Church shall be nominated by the Senior Minister and whose appointment must be ratified by the Board. If the position is not filled by one of the Board, the position shall be non voting.

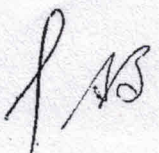
### 2 Duties:

The Treasurer shall have such duties as are set out in this Constitution. On the recommendation of the Board, the officers of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined.

## 13. GENERAL MEETING

### 1 Notification of AGM:

It is the responsibility of the Board to call an Annual General Meeting within 6 months of the closure of the Churches financial year. At least fourteen (14) days notice will be given to the members. Accidental omission to give notice to any member shall not invalidate the meeting. The Senior Minister or his appointee shall chair such meeting.





2 The Business:

The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be:

1. Presentation of Reports for the previous twelve (12) months from the Senior Minister, Secretary, Treasurer and from all Departments of the Association/Church.
2. To present the auditor's report upon the books and accounts of the Association/Church for the preceding financial year.
3. To attend to all other business set down on the Agenda by the Senior Minister and Board.

3 Agenda:

The Agenda for a General Meeting shall be determined by the Senior Minister and other members of the Board. Any member of the association/church may submit matters to the Board which shall be included on the Agenda, provided such submission:

1. be in writing.
2. be submitted to the Secretary at least seven clear days prior to such meeting.
3. be included only at the discretion of the Board.

4 Extraordinary General Meeting:

1. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be held when considered necessary from time to time by the Board after seven (7) days notice to the members.
2. This meeting shall be called for the association/church to vote on matters of property, sale or purchase, raising of loans, and amendments to the Constitution. Any of the above must be carried by a two thirds (2/3rds) majority of the members present.
3. Accidental omission to give notice to any member shall not invalidate the meeting or the resultant outcome.
4. A quorum shall be constituted by one third 1/3 of the current membership being present at the said meeting.

5 Chairman:

The Senior Minister or his nominee shall preside as Chairman of all General Meetings and Extraordinary Meetings of the association/church.



The Chairman shall conduct the meetings in a proper and orderly manner according to the provisions of this Constitutions and the practices of the Assemblies of God in Australia.

6 Interpretation of Constitution:

The Board shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of this Constitution and regulations made thereunder and a decision of the Board upon any question of interpretation or upon any matters affecting the association/church and not provided for by this Constitution, shall be final and binding on the members.

**14. INCOME AND PROPERTY**

1 Application:

The income and property of the Association/Church whensoever derived shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Association/Church. No portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise howsoever by way of profit to the persons who at any time are or have been members of the Association/Church or to any of them or to any person claiming through any of them.

Provided that nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith or remuneration to any officers or servants of the Association/Church or to any member thereof or other person in return for services actually rendered to the association/church or for goods supplied in the ordinary way of business (but not for services rendered as an office bearer) nor prevent the payment of interest on borrowed money, the maximum rate charged by Banks in the State in similar circumstances or the payment of rent for premises or goods let or hired to the Association/Church.

2 Designated Income:

All designated gifts and offerings whatsoever, of money or otherwise shall, except with the express permission and consent of the donor of such gifts and offerings, or their personal representative, be applied to the purpose or purposes for which they are designated. If, in the opinion of the Board, it should prove impossible to effect such designated purpose, the Board may refer the matter to the donor or, if the donor is not living, to the donor's personal representative and if no personal has been appointed, then the Board may apply the gift to a purpose or purposes as near



as possible to the intention of the donor as the Board may determine.

3 Accounts:

True accounts should be kept in the manner determined by the Board of all sums of money received and expended by the Association/Church; and of the property, assets and liabilities of the Association/Church and proper reports are to be delivered to the Board as it shall require.

4 Financial Records:

The Treasurer of the Association/Church shall be responsible to keep all financial records in the manner and at such place as determined by the Board.

5 Banking:

The Treasurer shall ensure that all moneys received on behalf of the Association/Church are accounted for and duly banked as soon as practicable with such bank or banks in the name of the association/church as the Board from time to time determines.

6 Signatories:

The Board shall designate signatories of all banking accounts from time to time and the Treasurer shall notify the bank or banks accordingly. All accounts must be operated by any two authorised signatures otherwise approved by the Association/Church.

7 Expenditure Authority:

No cheque shall be drawn or a debit in any other manner incurred on the Association/Church bank account and no expenditure shall be incurred except when authorised by the Board. The Board may, by resolution, authorise designated persons to draw cheques to a limit determined by it from time to time.

8 Financial Year:

The financial year of the Association/Church shall be determined by the Board.

9 Auditor:

The Board shall recommend to the Association/Church a person or firm as Auditor and, or Accountant from time to time which such Auditor and, or Accountant shall give a written report thereon to the Annual General Meeting of the Association/Church.

10 Trustee:

By resolution of a duly constituted General Meeting, the Association/Church may appoint a Trustee or Trustees, whether a corporate body or natural



person(s) to hold its real property subject to trusts approved by the Board, and may in the same manner cancel or vary such appointment. In particular the Assemblies of God NSW Pty Ltd should be considered as Trustee.

11 Finance Committee:

The Board by resolution, may appoint a Finance Committee from its members or the general membership of the association/church to:

1. Advise the Board concerning the financial administration of the Association/Church.
2. Recommend the level and manner of remuneration of all staff members.

12 Other Bodies:

If the Board so determines from time to time, it may establish or join in the establishment of, or promote or constitute such other body (whether incorporated or not) or trust or entity, ancillary to or for the benefit of, or to better carry out or promote the objects of the Association/Church, provided always that the documents constituting such body shall provide, include the following:

1. that upon dissolution of the body in question, the property or assets thereof be applied to or for the benefit of the association/church.
2. that no person who is not appointed by the Board hold office or be appointed as a director or be a member thereof.
3. any person appointed to hold office pursuant to sub-clause (b) hereof may have such appointment revoked at any time by the Board.
4. a provision in similar terms to 16.1 and 16.2 hereof.

13 Fees, Subscriptions & Members Liabilities:

The liability of a Member of the Association/Church to contribute towards the payment of the debts and liabilities of the Association or the costs, charges and expenses of the winding up of the Association is limited to the amount, if any, unpaid by the Member in respect of Membership of the Association as required by rule 2.9.



## 15. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

1. The State Executive of the Assemblies of God in Australia may be invited to hold a meeting of members or to assist or advise in the business or affairs of the Association/Church by the Senior Minister, or the Board, or by 20% of the current membership of the Association/Church by written and signed request notwithstanding the contrary opinion of any of these.
2. Such meetings shall be chaired by an appointee of the State Executive.
3. The meeting shall be conducted according to the provisions of this Constitution except that the Agenda shall be set by the State Executive.
4. All business conducted shall be according to the Constitution of the Association/Church, and the State or National Executive official of the Assemblies of God in Australia may not institute any rule, take any action, or make any decision affecting the Church unless such motions are carried by 1/3 of the members.
5. Notwithstanding the attendance at any meeting of the Association/Church of members of the State or National Executives of the Assemblies of God in Australia, who are not members of this Association/Church, any business conducted at any such meeting according to this Constitution shall be and remain of full force and effect and be binding on the members of the Association/Church.

## 16. AUTONOMY

The Association/Church shall at all times be an autonomous Church of the Assemblies of God in Australia unless:

1. It is a pioneer Church not having achieved full Registered status with the Assemblies of God, eg 50 adults in regular attendance; or
1. Its membership has fallen below the minimum required for Registered status, eg 30 adults in regular attendance.
2. The State President and/or the District Leader or their appointee shall have the right to attend and chair the Board Meetings and Members' Meetings of all unregistered Churches pastored by those holding a Probationary Minister's Certificate or a Specialised Ministries Certificate except those under a mother Church.



In either case it shall come under the oversight of the State Executive or its appointee until its Registered Status is achieved or restored.

**17. LEGAL ACTION**

No, Pastor, officer, or member of the Association/Church may involve or bind the Church in legal action, whether by instigation or defence, without the written consent of the Board or officers who shall bring the matter before the members of the Association/Church at a Special General Meeting for decision.

**18. COMMON SEAL**

"The Common seal must not be affixed to any instrument except by the authority of the Committee and the affixing of the Common seal must be attested by the signatures either of two members of the Committee or of one member of the Committee and of the Public Officer or Secretary."



APPENDIX: A.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

**Preamble:** The Holy Scriptures, known as the Bible are the inspired Word of God and our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice.

These **ARTICLES OF FAITH** of the **CHURCH** grounded in these Scriptures, are given as a basis for belief, fellowship and ministry "**that we all preach the same thing**" (1 Cor 1:10). Let it be remembered, however; that this is not given as a summary of the complete revelation of biblical truth, only that it covers our present needs as to these fundamental doctrines.

1. **THE ETERNAL GODHEAD: WE BELIEVE** in the unity of the true and living God who is the eternal, self-existent one, who has revealed Himself as one being in three persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and who is the Creator and preserver of things visible and invisible - Deut 6:4, Mk 12:29; Matt 28:19; Gen 1:1; Ps 86:9-10; Isa 43:10-11; Jn 1:1-3.
  
2. **THE LORD JESUS CHRIST: WE BELIEVE** in the Lord Jesus Christ, the second person of the triune Godhead, who was and is the eternal Son of God; that He became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and was born of the virgin Mary.
  19. **WE BELIEVE** in His sinless life, miraculous ministry, substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, glorious ascension, and abiding intercession - Isa 7:14; Matt 1:23; Heb 7:26; 1 Pet 2:22; Acts 2:22; 10:38; 2 Cor 5:21; Heb 9:12; Lk 24:39; 1 Cor 15:4; Acts 1:9; Eph 4:8-10; Rom 8:34; Heb 7:25.
  
  20. **THE HOLY SPIRIT: WE BELIEVE** in the Holy Spirit, the third person of the triune Godhead, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, and is ever present and active in the work of convicting and regenerating the sinner, and sanctifying and guiding the believer into all truth - Jn 14:26; Jn 16:8-11; 1 Pet 1:2; Rom 8:14.



21. **THE HOLY SCRIPTURES: WE BELIEVE** in the verbal, plenary inspiration of the Holy Scriptures, namely the Old and New Testaments in their original writings. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is infallible, inerrantly revealing the will of God concerning us all in all things necessary to our salvation, and is absolutely supreme and sufficient in authority in all matters of faith and conduct. The Bible does not simply contain the Word of God, but is, in reality, the complete revelation and very Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that whatever is not contained therein is not to be enjoined as an article of faith - Matt 5:17,18; 24:35; Jn 4:39; 2 Tim 3:16,17; 2 Pet 1:19-21.
22. **THE DEVIL: WE BELIEVE** in the personality of the devil, who, by his influence, brought about the downfall of man, and now seeks to destroy the faith of every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ - Gen 3:1-15; Matt 4:1-11; Lk 4:1-13; Jam 4:7; 1 Pet 5:8; Jn 13:2.
23. **THE FALL OF MAN: WE BELIEVE** that man was created by God by specific immediate act and in His image and likeness, morally upright and perfect, but fell by voluntary transgression. Consequently, all men are separated from original righteousness, being depraved and without spiritual life - Gen 1:26-31; Gen 3:1-7; Rom 5:12-21.
24. **THE ATONEMENT: WE BELIEVE** that God's answer to man's sinful state is in the death of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ upon the cross, whose sufferings and shed blood have made full atonement for the sins of the whole world, both original and actual, and that there is no other ground for salvation - 2 Cor 5:18-21; Gal 1:4; Eph 1:7; Col 1:14; Heb 9:25,26; 1 Pet 1:19,20.
25. **SALVATION OF MAN: WE BELIEVE** salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. This experience is also known as the new birth and is an instantaneous and complete operation of the Holy Spirit whereupon the believing sinner is regenerated, justified, and adopted into the family of God and becomes a new creation in Christ Jesus, (Tit 2:11; 3:5-7; 1 Pet 1:23; 1 Jn 5:1) and heir of eternal life.
26. **THE CHURCH: WE BELIEVE** the Church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfilment of her **Great Commission**. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the General Assembly and Church of the First-born which are written in heaven - (Eph 1:22,23; 2:22; Heb 12:23).



27. **WATER BAPTISM: WE BELIEVE** that baptism, by single immersion, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, is enjoined upon all who have repented and have believed in Christ as Saviour and Lord, and that it is symbolic of our identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection - Matt 28:19,20; Acts 10:47,48; 2:38,39; Rom 6:4,5; Col. 2:12; Mk 16:16.
28. **THE LORD'S SUPPER: WE BELIEVE** the Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements of bread and the fruit of the vine, is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Pet 1:4); a memorial of His sufferings and death (1 Cor 11:26); and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Cor 11:26), and is enjoined upon all believers "**until He comes**" - Lk 22:15-20; Matt 26:26-28; Acts 20:7.
29. **SANCTIFICATION:** Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God. **WE BELIEVE** it is the glorious provision for every believer in Christ to be made pure in heart and wholly sanctified, through the operation of the Holy Spirit, by the blood of Jesus and the Word of God - Jn 17:15-19; Acts 15:8,9; 1 Thess 4:3,4; Heb 2:11; 1 Thess 5:23,24; Heb 10:16-19; Rom 12:1,2.
30. **THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT: WE BELIEVE** that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is the bestowing of the believer with power to be an effective witness for Christ. This experience is distinct from, and subsequent to, the New Birth; is received by faith, and is accompanied by the manifestation of speaking in tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, as the initial evidence - Lk 24:49; Acts 1:4,5,8; Acts 2:1-4; 8:15-19; 11:14-17; 19:1-7.
31. **GIFTS: WE BELIEVE** in the present day operation of the nine supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit, as recorded in 1 Cor. 12. We also believe in the ministry gifts of Christ, as recorded in Eph 4:11-13.
32. **DIVINE HEALING:** In accordance with the teachings of the Scriptures, we trust our heavenly Father to protect and heal our bodies from sickness and disease. **WE BELIEVE** that divine healing for the body, as with all redemptive blessings of God, has been provided for us by the atoning death and victorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ; it is the privilege of all believers and it is appropriated by faith in our heavenly Father's unfailing promises - Ex 15:26; Isa 53:4; Matt 8:16,17; 1 Pet 2:24; Ps 103:3; Jam 5:14,15; Mk 16:17,18.





33. **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST: WE BELIEVE** in the pre- millennial, imminent and personal return of our Lord Jesus Christ to gather His people unto Himself. Have this glorious hope and earnest expectation we purify ourselves, and even as He is pure, so that we may be ready to meet Him when He comes - Jn 14:1-3; Jam 5:7,8; Tit 2:13; 1 Thess. 4:15-17; 2 Thess, 2:1; 1 Jn 2:28; 3:2,3.
34. **THE MILLENNIUM: WE BELIEVE** in the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to set up His millennial reign on this earth - Zech 14:5; Dan 7:22; Rev 5:9,10; Ps 96:10-13; Ps 11; Rev 20:1-10.
35. **THE PUNISHMENT OF THE WICKED: WE BELIEVE** in the everlasting punishment of the wicked (in the sense of eternal torment) who wilfully reject and despise the love of God manifested in the great sacrifice of His only Son upon the cross of their salvation - Matt. 25:46; 13:49,50; Lk 1:47,48; 2 Thess. 1:8,9; Rom. 6:23; Rev. 20:11-15. We believe that the devil and his angels and whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life shall be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death - Rev. 19:20;
36. **THE NEW HEAVENS AND THE NEW EARTH:** We, according to His promise, look for "*new heavens and a new earth wherein dwells righteousness*" - 2 Pet 3:13; Rev. 21-22:



APPENDIX: B.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

(Please read carefully before completing)

1. SURNAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CHRISTIAN NAMES: \_\_\_\_\_

2. ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ POST CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

3. DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ 4. MARITAL STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_

5. WHEN WERE YOU SAVED?: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

6. HAVE YOU BEEN BAPTISED IN WATER BY IMMERSION? \_\_\_\_\_

7. HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT (ACTS 2:4; 10:44-46)? \_\_\_\_\_

8. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN ATTENDING THIS CHURCH? \_\_\_\_\_

(A) HAVE YOU READ THE "**ARTICLES OF FAITH OF THE CHURCH**"? YES/NO

(B) DO YOU ENDORSE IT? YES/NO

10. IF YOU HAVE ANY DOCTRINES OR BELIEFS THAT CONFLICT WITH THESE "**ARTICLES OF FAITH**", PLEASE SET FORTH YOUR BELIEFS ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER.

11. DO YOU RECOGNISE THE LEADERSHIP OF THIS CHURCH AS "**YOUR SPIRITUAL OVERSIGHT**", AND READILY AGREE TO COMPLY WITH HEBREWS 13:17? \_\_\_\_\_

12. DO YOU AGREE WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF TITHING TO THE LOCAL CHURCH AND IN GIFTS AND OFFERINGS? MATT 23:23; LUKE 11:42; MAL 3:8-10. \_\_\_\_\_

13. WILL YOU ACCEPT THE OVERSIGHT OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THIS CHURCH AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THEIR DECISIONS? YES/NO

**PLEASE NOTE:** A negative answer will not necessarily affect your application for membership.



APPENDIX: C.

**1. CHURCH GOVERNMENT**

In the case of pioneer church it is not necessary to immediately appoint Elders due to the Biblical qualification of the position of Elder (as stated below). The Senior Minister may appoint an Advisory Board to assist him in the development and running of the church. This structure shall not continue past a period of twelve months (12 months) except in consultation with and approval of the district committee.

**2. BIBLICAL GUIDELINES FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF ELDERS**

2.1. Elders are recognised as men with Scriptural qualifications to minister, and of spiritual stature.

2.2. The duty of Elders is to cooperate with the Senior Minister in the spiritual activities and well being of the church, under his direction.

**1. As To Lifestyle**

- Is to be blameless or above reproach. Titus 1:6-7; 1 Timothy 3:2.
- Must be of good behaviour. 1 Timothy 3:2.
- Righteous (Just) and Holy. Titus 1:8

**2. As To Temperament**

- Not a brawler. 1 Timothy 3:3; not involved in arguments.
- Patient and gentle. 1 Timothy 3:3.
- Not self-willed or easily offended. Titus 1:7.
- Must be self-controlled in all things. Titus 1:8.

**3. As To Family Relationships**

- The husband of one wife. 1 Timothy 3:2
- Rules own house well. 1 Timothy 3:4-5; Titus 1:6.



4. **As To Character and Reputation**

- Good reputation (must be honest). 1 Timothy 3:7.
- Not given to wine. 1 Timothy 3:3.
- Not greedy for money. 1 Timothy 3:3.

5. **As To Faith**

- Is to hold fast faithfully to The Word. Titus 1:9-11.

6. **As To Ability**

- Must have an ability to teach and minister God's Word. 1 Timothy 3:2.

7. **Must Not Be A Novice**

- SPIRITUALLY mature and experienced in the Christian walk. 1 Tim 3:6.

2.3. Elders are to demonstrate the following abilities, gifts and/or ministries in shepherding the flock of God.

1. **Administrative**

- Given oversight of the Church - Acts 20:28; to rule the church, 1 Timothy 5:17.

2. **Pastoral**

- Shepherd the flock. John 21:16; Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2.

3. **Educational**

- Is to teach and instruct the Church. 1 Timothy 3:2, 5:17; Titus 1:9.

4. **Representative**

- Acts 20:17, 15:2. To preside over matters relating to the welfare of the whole church. James 5:14, in praying for the sick.

5. **Spiritual**

- To be a person committed to prayer and the study of God's Word.



## APPENDIX: D

### PARTNERSHIP

#### Qualifications

1. A Partner of the Association is defined as an individual who, subject to the provisions of rule 4.3:
  - a. participates in the activities of the Association; and
  - b. makes voluntary donations to the Association in the form of tithes, offerings, pledges, etc; and
  - c. is qualified to be a partner as described in Appendix 3.
2. Partnership of the Association is unlimited in number and is for those who consider the church to be their spiritual home, are in regular fellowship and desire to be supportive and part of the vision of the Association. Partnership shall be voluntary and is not intended to exclude other persons from active participation in any activities conducted by the Association.
3. The committee of the Association may impose whatever conditions, rules, provisions or requirements as it may from time to time deem necessary for nomination, application, termination, discipline, transfer of Partnership, in accordance with the spirit of this constitution.
4. Inclusion of the name of a person in the Partnership list shall be prima facie evidence of Partnership.
5. Disqualification from Partnership will arise if misconduct, divisiveness or unsuitability is determined by the Eldership. Any disciplinary action shall be administered within the jurisdiction of the Eldership and shall be motivated by a desire to bring about repentance leading to restoration. Such disciplinary action as described in Matthew 18:15-17 shall be the responsibility of the Eldership to determine.
6. Membership of the Association does not exclude other persons from active participation in the activities conducted by the Association, because it is not intended that the whole body of the congregation of the Christian Church conducted by the Association will be Members of the Association under this constitution. Rather, the body of the congregation will be Partners of the Association and, in a broad sense, therefore, "members" of the Christian Church conducted by the Association, which shall be determined in accordance with this constitution. In particular, any voluntary donations in the form of tithes, offerings, gifts, pledges, etc are to be dealt with as the Association in its absolute discretion sees fit.



ADDENDUM: A.

**CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP**

The Board may grant membership to a partner of the Association/Church if such applicant shall:

- a. be a Born Again Believer in the Lord Jesus Christ and exhibit positive evidence of a consistent Christian Life.
- b. be baptised in water in accordance with 5.1 hereof.
- c. accept the doctrinal basis set out in 4 hereof.
- d. have attained the age of 18 years.
- e. except as herein after provided, attend the church regularly for a period of three months prior to the date of such application.
- f. apply in writing to the Board (see Appendix B).
- g. express willingness to attend regularly and to support the church.
- h. Be a credentialed pastor, elder, board member, department head.



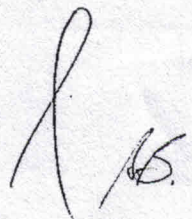
ADDENDUM: B.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

The Senior Minister shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Incorporation/ Church and may from time to time exercise Executive powers, such powers shall be within the spirit of this constitution and shall not extend to;

- Alteration of this constitution
- Sale of property or asset
- Purchase of property or asset

In the event of the exercise of such power, should 75% of the membership oppose any or such a decision/s, appeal can be made to the NSW State Executive for adjudication, whose decision shall be final.

Handwritten signature or initials, possibly 'R.B.', located in the bottom right corner of the page.