



Chinese Christian Church
雪梨華人基督教會

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Amended 4 March 2016

**THE CONSTITUTION OF
THE CHINESE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, SYDNEY
(Adopted at Annual General Meeting 1 May 2016)**

I. NAME

The Church shall be called the Chinese Christian Church.

II. OBJECTS

The objects of the Church are the advancement of Christ's kingdom by spreading the Gospel; the education of the members in the Scriptures, in worship, in Christian service and in witness; and the co-operation with other churches of similar faith in evangelism and missionary at home and overseas.

III. DOCTRINES

The Church believes and maintains the following:

1. The unity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit in the God-head.
2. The sovereignty of God in creation, revelation, redemption and final judgement.
3. The divine inspiration and infallibility of Holy Scripture, as originally given, and its supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
4. The universal sinfulness and guilt of human nature since the Fall, rendering man subject to God's wrath and condemnation.
5. Redemption from the guilt, penalty and power of sin only through the sacrificial death (as our Representative and Substitute), of Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Son of God, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
6. The physical resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and His ascension to the right hand of the throne of God the Father.
7. The necessity of the work of the Holy Spirit to make the death of Christ effective to the individual sinner, granting him repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ.
8. The indwelling and the work of the Holy Spirit in the believer.
9. The one holy universal church, which is the Body of Christ, and to which all true believers belong.
10. The expectation of the personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

IV. SACRAMENTS

1. BAPTISM:

- (a) The Church believes that those who have assurance of salvation should be baptised. Authority to accept candidates for baptism shall rest with the Minister who performs the baptism. Infants of Christian parents may be baptised or dedicated. Those who have been baptised during infancy may receive the Confirmation of faith.
- (b) Candidates for baptism shall themselves choose to be baptised either by affusion or by immersion.

2. HOLY COMMUNION:

The Church follows the teachings of the Holy Scriptures in observing the Lord's Supper.

V. MEMBERSHIP

1. The membership of the Church shall be open to those who have been baptised or confirmed in this Church or in other Christian churches. Authority to admit applicants to membership shall rest with the Board of Elders.
2. Members are obliged to -
 - (a) attend at general meetings;
 - (b) support the Church by -
 - (i) meeting regularly for corporate worship, fellowship, prayer and Holy Communion.
 - (ii) prayerful stewardship of time, talents and money, in the life and work of the Church.
3. Members who have attained the age of 18 shall have the right to vote. Members whose age is 35 or over shall be eligible for election as elder. Members whose age is 21 or over shall be eligible for appointment as deacon.
4. Members who have been continually absent for a considerable period of time from the church may be removed from ordinary membership by the Board of Elders and be transferred to Associate membership. The Board of Elders may also transfer Associate membership to ordinary membership.
5. Associate members shall have no voting rights.
6. Any members who are employees of the church are not eligible to vote at any general meeting.

VI. MINISTERS

1. The call to a Minister and the term and conditions of office shall be recommended by the Board of Elders and accepted by three quarters majority of voting members at the General Meeting.
2. The Ministers shall be the spiritual leaders of the Church and shall shepherd the flock in accordance with scriptural teaching and the objects and doctrines of the Church.

VII. ORGANISATION

1. THE GENERAL MEETING

- (a) The ultimate authority of this Church is vested in the General Meeting. The Annual General Meeting shall be held within 5 months of the end of December of each year.

- (b) If necessary, an Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by the Board of Elders.
- (c) A quorum at these General Meetings shall consist of one fifth of the ordinary membership. The time and place of these meetings shall be determined by the Board of Elders, and shall be announced from the pulpit at least 6 Sundays prior to an Annual General Meeting, and 2 Sundays prior to an Extraordinary General Meeting.
- (d) The Chairman and Secretary of the Board of Elders shall be Chairman and Secretary of these General Meetings. The Chairman shall have a second and casting vote.

2. THE BOARD OF ELDERS

- (a) The Board of Elders shall consist of the elders and the following ex officio members: the ministers, pastors, and the Chairman of the respective Branch churches and of the Boards of Deacons. The Board of Elders may invite Deacons to become ex officio members of the Board. Only the elders shall have the right to vote.
- (b) The Board of elders shall meet every month and a quorum shall consist of a majority of elders of the Board.
- (c) The Chairman may call an Extraordinary meeting of the Board of Elders; or he must do so at the written request of any two members of the Board.
- (d) The Elders shall be elected for a term of 3 years and shall be eligible for re-election.
- (e) Elders so elected shall be the members of the Board of Directors, with the Chairman of the Board of Elders as the Managing Director and the Vice Chairman the Deputy Managing Director of the Chinese Christian Church, as registered.
- (f) Elders must be members who have demonstrated their faithful service to God, and have made themselves examples to others in their speech, conduct, love, faith and purity as outlined in the bible (1 Timothy 3:1-7: Titus 1:6-9).
- (g) The number of elders for each term shall be up to twelve, unless the Annual General Meeting determines otherwise.
- (h) The election of elders shall be by nomination from the members or by the Board of Elders followed by a ballot to be conducted prior to the Annual General Meeting with the results of the ballot to be announced at the Annual General Meeting. The nominated member is elected if that person is in receipt of at least 50% of the votes of the members in the ballot. If more than twelve members are nominated and each received more than 50% of the votes in the ballot, only the first twelve who received the most votes are elected.
- (i) All employees of the Church are not eligible to accept nomination as elders.
- (j) The Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.
- (k) The Board of Elders shall be responsible for:
 - (i) assisting the Ministers in the administration of the sacraments, and in the advancement of the spiritual welfare of the Church.
 - (ii) the general oversight of the Church.
 - (iii) the management of all properties owned by the Church.
 - (iv) the recommendation of the call of a new minister or pastor and the engagement and termination of lay staff members.
 - (v) the approval of membership, termination of membership and the maintenance of the Membership Roll.

- (vi) acceptance of resignation from ministers or elders owing to illness or other reasons.
 - (vii) the appointment of new elders from members of the Church to fill casual vacancies.
 - (viii) the appointment of deacons for the respective Congregations.
 - (ix) forming various committees with terms of reference approved by the BoE when the need arises.
 - (x) preparation for the nominations of elders.
 - (xi) deciding which matters require special resolutions with three-quarters majority of voting members present at the General Meeting.
- (l) The Officers of the Board of Elders shall consist of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer shall be elected by the elders.
- (i) The Chairman shall preside at the General Meetings and the meetings of the Board of Elders, and is responsible for the co-ordination of church affairs. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman shall assume his duties.
 - (ii) The Secretary shall be responsible for the minutes of the General Meetings and all meetings of the Board of Elders and for the safekeeping of all the church records and documents. In the absence of the Secretary, the Assisting Secretary shall assume his duties.
 - (iii) The Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial matters of the Church, and shall report to the monthly meetings of the Board of Elders. He shall submit an audited Annual Financial Report to the Annual General Meeting. In the absence of the Treasurer, the Assistant Treasurer shall assume his duties.
- (m) An elder may be removed from his office by three-quarters majority of the elders of the Board of elders, subject to a three-quarters majority of the voting members present at a general meeting.

3. THE BOARDS OF DEACONS

- (a) There shall be a Board of Deacons for each of the separate Congregations of the Church to assist the minister and the elders, in the ministry of the congregations including the administration of the sacraments.
- (b) The number of deacons for each of the Boards shall be determined by the Board of Elders.
- (c) Members who fulfil the qualifications set out in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 may be appointed for a term of 2 years by the Board of Elders upon the recommendation of the ministers.
- (d) Each Board of Deacons shall elect a Chairman and other officers as deemed necessary.
- (e) A deacon may be removed from the Board when deemed necessary by the Board of elders.

4. CHURCH DEPARTMENTS AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- (a) For the advancement of church affairs various departments or special committees may be formed by the Board of Elders as need arises.
- (b) Such departments or special committees are to operate under the standing orders approved by the Board of Elders.
- (c) The heads of all departments and Chairman of all special committees shall be approved by the Board of Elders.

5. BRANCH / ASSOCIATED CHURCHES

- (a) Branch churches may be established where and when deemed desirable by a General Meeting.
- (b) The branch church shall be managed by a Board of Deacons according to the standing orders approved by the Board of Elders and shall be responsible to the Board of Elders for the functioning of the branch church and the activities of all its departments.
- (c) The members of the Board of Deacons shall be appointed by the Board of Elders upon the recommendation of the ministers and the branch church.
- (d) The branch church shall maintain a membership roll in accordance to the standing orders approved by the Board of Elders. The members of the branch church may be deemed associate members of the Church.
- (e) At an appropriate time, the branch church shall form itself into a separate legal entity and become an associated church.

VIII. CHURCH FINANCE

Church income shall be from freewill offerings and donations.

IX. DISCIPLINE

Those members who act against the teaching of the bible or against the objects and doctrines of the church, shall, if deemed fit by the minister and the elders, be exhorted, admonished, and/or disciplined; or if deemed necessary by a three-quarters majority of the Board of Elders, be removed from membership.

X. APPENDICES

1. If during the General Meeting or a Board of Elders meeting, discussion is centred upon a person, such a person may be asked to leave the meeting, if this action is deemed necessary by a majority of the voting members present.
2. Interpretation of this constitution and matters not covered by the constitution shall be resolved by the Board of Elders according to Scriptural teaching and normal Church practices.
3. This constitution may be changed by a three-quarters vote of the members present at a General Meeting. Proposed changes to the Constitution must be submitted in writing to the Board of Elders at least 4 weeks and be published at least 2 weeks prior to the date of the General Meeting.
4. Translation of this Constitution into the Chinese language is published for information only. The English text shall be the proper constitution.

XI. APPLICATION OF INCOME FOR OBJECTS ONLY

1. APPLICATION OF INCOME AND PROPERTY

The income and the property of the Church, however derived:

- (a) must be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Church as set out in clause II, and
- (b) may not be paid or transferred to the members, in whole or in part, either directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise.

2. PAYMENT IN GOOD FAITH

Clause XI 1. does not prevent payment in good faith to a member, or to a firm of which a member is a partner.

- (a) of reasonable remuneration for services to the Church;
- (b) for goods supplied in the ordinary course of business;
- (c) of fair and reasonable interest on money borrowed from a member at a rate not exceeding that fixed for the purposes of this clause XI (2) by the Church in a General Meeting; or
- (d) of reasonable rent for premises let by a member.

XII. WINDING UP

1. GUARANTEE BY MEMBERS

- (a) Each member undertakes to contribute to the Church's property if the Church is wound up while they are a member, or within one (1) year after they cease to be a member.
- (b) This contribution is for:
 - (i) payment of the Church's debts and liabilities contracted before they ceased to be a member;
 - (ii) the costs of winding up; and
 - (iii) adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves.
- (c) The amount is not to exceed \$20.

2. APPLICATION OF PROPERTY

- (a) If any property remains on the winding up or dissolution of the Church and after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, that property may not be paid to or distributed among the members but must be given or transferred to some other institution:
 - (i) having objects similar to the objects of the Church; and
 - (ii) whose constitution prohibits the distribution of its income and property among its members to an extent the least as great as imposed on the Church under this Constitution.
- (b) The institution will be determined by the members at or before the time of dissolution.

3. REVOCATION OF AUSTRALIAN TAX OFFICE ENDORSEMENT

- (a) Where the Church has been endorsed as a deductible gift recipient as an organization or in relation to a public fund under Subdivision 30-BA of the *Income Tax assessment Act 1997* (Cth), then where:
- (i) the Church is wound up;
 - (ii) the fund is wound up; or
 - (iii) the endorsement under Subdivision 30-BA of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997* (Cth) is revoked;

then any surplus assets of the Church or fund remaining after payment of all liabilities must be transferred to an institution or fund that complies with clause XII (2) and is an endorsed deductible gift recipient.

- (c) Where the Church operates more than one fund for which it is a deductible gift recipient and its endorsement under Subdivision 30-BA of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997* (Cth) is revoked only in relation to one of those funds then it may transfer any surplus assets of that fund after payment of all liabilities to any other fund for which it is endorsed as a deductible gift recipient.

Signed as a true and correct record by the chairman:

Name: FRANK LEE
Signature: Frank Lee
Date: 5th May 2016

