

# LONGREACH BAPTIST CHURCH

  

# CONSTITUTION



**Our Mission:** ✨ Love God ✨ Follow Christ ✨ Reach the Lost ✨ Build Believers

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## **1. Preamble**

1.1 This constitution acknowledges that the Longreach Baptist Church as it is known in its community is more than just the group of people who are its official members, as defined later in this constitution.

This constitution acknowledges the regular attendance of other persons, including children, having not been duly admitted to membership but still participate in the life of the church.

1.2. This Church shall be known as the Longreach Baptist Church. It shall consist of persons who have been duly admitted to membership. These persons shall hold the following teachings (Section 2) as an essential part of their Christian belief (the said teachings being in accordance with those set out in the Declaration of Principles of the Baptist Union of Queensland).

1.3 These persons in accordance with that belief must have

- accepted and publicly professed faith in the Lord Jesus Christ,
- been baptised by immersion in water into the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and
- after these things, been admitted into the membership of the church in accordance with its constitution.

## **2. Essential Teachings (Statement of Faith)**

2.1. The Divine inspiration<sup>1</sup> and supreme authority of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

2.2. The existence of One God in Three Persons - The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit.

2.3. The Deity<sup>2</sup> and Incarnation<sup>3</sup> of the Lord Jesus Christ who is the Son of God, the second person of the Holy Trinity.

2.4. The fallen, sinful and lost condition of all mankind.<sup>4</sup>

2.5. The salvation of mankind from penal consequences<sup>5</sup> and the power of sin through the perfect obedience of the Lord Jesus Christ, His atoning death, His resurrection from the dead, and His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and His unchanging priesthood.

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<sup>1</sup> By 'Divine inspiration' it is meant that God, even though He used human writers, so worked through them that what they wrote was exactly what He wanted and that it was without error.

<sup>2</sup> 'Deity' meaning that He is God.

<sup>3</sup> The 'incarnation' of Christ refers to Him taking on human form and becoming a man.

<sup>4</sup> By 'fallen' it is meant that man fell away from a relationship with God into sin, and that he is no longer what God meant him to be.

<sup>5</sup> The 'penal consequences' of sin refers to the judgement that will come on us because of our disobedience to God's laws.

2.6. The present work of the Holy Spirit in the regeneration<sup>6</sup> of people in their sanctification<sup>7</sup>, and their preservation to the heavenly kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ.

2.7. In order to receive salvation, the necessity of repentance<sup>8</sup> towards God, and of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

2.8. The resurrection of the dead, and the final judgement of all people by the Lord Jesus Christ.

2.9. The Divine Ordinances<sup>9</sup> to be observed by the church shall be Baptism, and the Lord's Supper, which are of lasting necessity. Baptism upon the profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, as a symbol of the fellowship of the regenerate in His death, burial and resurrection. The Lord's Supper being a memorial, until He comes, of the sacrifice of the body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **3. Rules for Membership**

#### 3.1. Admission of Members

Membership may be applied for

- on profession of faith in Christ and baptism, or
- by transfer from sister churches, or
- by restoration (in cases of persons previously removed from membership).

#### 3.2. Application for Membership

All persons applying for membership, shall be interviewed by two members of the church appointed by the leadership.

#### 3.3. Church Constitution

Each applicant shall, as soon as possible, be furnished with a copy of the accepted Constitution of the church. The appointed visiting members shall ensure that the applicant is fully aware of the contents of the Church Constitution and that they are willing to subscribe to the provisions of the Constitution.

3.4 The Leadership shall advise the church on two occasions of the proposed admission to membership, either during a church service or at a congregational meeting, at least 14 days prior to receiving the persons into membership.

3.5. No objections to the admission of any person to membership shall be entertained unless the person so objecting shall make a definite charge. Any such objections must be brought to the leadership privately within the 14 days following the initial advice of the

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<sup>6</sup> 'Regeneration' means 'giving new life'. It refers to the fact that we are born dead spiritually and as we accept Christ the Holy Spirit gives new life to our spirits so that we can now live on a spiritual level.

<sup>7</sup> 'Sanctification' is the process whereby the Holy Spirit refines the character of Christians so that they become increasingly like Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> 'Repentance' means to turn back from one's sinful way of life and to start to live according to God's ways.

<sup>9</sup> By 'divine ordinances' we mean the visible ceremonies that Jesus has commanded us to practise.

proposed membership. In such cases the application shall be held over for consideration by the Pastor and leaders, on whose report a decision shall be reached at a subsequent meeting of the church. If no such definite charges are made and/or proven against the candidate, the candidate will be accepted for membership at a congregational meeting.

3.6. All persons who have been accepted for membership shall be received into membership by the Right Hand of Fellowship at a worship service, or at a duly constituted church meeting.

### 3.7. Membership Roll

The Secretary shall enter the names and addresses of all members of the Longreach Baptist Church with the manner of their admission, in the church membership roll. The church shall revise the roll of the members once in every year at the Annual Church Meeting in August as per 9.3.

## **4. Conditions of Fellowship**

4.1. As baptised believers meeting together in the Longreach Baptist Church, we join ourselves together in a holy union and fellowship in reverence to our Lord.

4.2. God enabling us, we will

- endeavour to walk in holiness and brotherly love,
- watch over each other for each other's good,
- endeavour to encourage one another to love and good works,
- especially pray for one another and for the welfare of the church,
- be committed to each other,
- bear one another's burdens, seek to resolve all causes of divisions, and
- endeavour to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

4.3. God enabling us, we will

- meet together on the Lord's day and at other times as we have opportunity,
- encourage one another,
- pray for and encourage, the officers of the church in the discharge of their duties (see section 7),
- esteem and acknowledge our Pastor(s) as over us in the Lord,
- pray for our Pastor(s), attend his/their ministry, and, by all means, endeavour to encourage him/them,
- contribute freely of our finances and possessions for our Pastor'(s') support, and for the expenses of the church, and
- generally observe and do all other duties urged upon us in the Word of God.

4.4. We shall work together to extend the Kingdom of Christ in our locality and to the furthestmost parts of the earth.

## **5. Discipline**

5.1. All cases appearing to call for discipline shall be investigated by the Pastor(s) and leaders in a manner consistent with the Word of God (for example Matthew 18:15-17). Upon their report and recommendation to the membership a vote on that recommendation shall be taken without public discussion of the details. The church may, if desired, appoint no more than three members to confer with the Pastor(s) and Leadership prior to the taking of the vote. Upon these three members report the final vote shall be taken.

5.2. No member shall be allowed to resign his/her connection with the church in order to escape discipline for any act committed by him/her.

5.3. Members placed under discipline shall have the fact notified to them in writing by the Church Leadership together with reasons why, having all privileges of membership suspended.

5.4. Members placed under discipline shall agree to meet regularly, and for a specific period of time, with a person or persons nominated by the Pastor(s) and Leadership, for the purposes of accountability, encouragement and restoration. Following such process, there shall be an assessment by the Church leadership, with a view to their restoration to 'member in good standing'.

5.5. Failure to submit to church discipline and a process of accountable restoration shall be viewed as a rejection of God-sanctioned authority, and it shall be advised to the Church by the Leadership that such a person may be asked to cease regular attendance at church activities. In such case, they may, at the discretion of the Leadership, have their name removed from the membership roll, until such time as they have agreed to undergo such restoration process.

5.6. Members absenting themselves from the church service for a period of six months, when not prevented by sickness, duty or distance, shall be liable to have their names removed for non-attendance, provided they have been visited or written to, before such action is taken.

## **6. Communion**

The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be observed, normally at least twice a month, or at such other times as may be arranged, and shall be open to all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. Usually, one of the Pastor(s) or Leadership shall preside, unless otherwise arranged or approved by them.

## **7. Church Officers**

The executive officers of the church shall be the Pastor(s) and Leadership.

## **8. Election of Elders and Leaders**

The election of Elders, when the church has an Eldership, and Leaders shall be conducted as follows

The election of Elders and Leaders shall be conducted as follows

8.1. At least eight weeks prior to the annual meeting, recommendations shall be called.

8.2. The process of nominating a person to the position of elder or leader shall be as follows:<sup>10</sup>

### **The role of the person making the recommendation:**

Without approaching the candidate, the person making the recommendation will prayerfully consider the candidate in light of the scriptures set out in section 10.1, 10.2, 11.1 and 11.2 of this Constitution, fully equating themselves with the serious role that an elder or leader is called to function in. Following this process, if the person making the recommendation believes the candidate fulfils these qualifications, they can recommend the candidate by giving the candidates name to the church secretary.

### **The role of the leadership:**

The name of the candidate will be brought to the next leadership meeting for discussion and if appropriate, two of the leadership team will be selected to approach the candidate to inquire as to the candidates' interest in the role. If the candidate is willing, an interview with the candidate and his/her spouse will be arranged utilising the relevant scriptures as a guide for discussion and prayer. The findings of this interview will be communicated at a leadership meeting where the leadership will prayerfully consider and make a decision whether to proceed or not. At this point, the recommending member and the candidate will be informed as to the outcome. If the decision is made to proceed and the candidate is willing to be nominated, the leadership will formally present their name to the membership two weeks before the Annual Church meeting.

### **The role of the candidate:**

To prayerfully examine themselves in light of the scriptures set out in section 10.1, 10.2, 11.1 and 11.2 of the Constitution, making themselves available, being faithful and teachable.

### **The role of the membership:**

To prayerfully consider any nomination in light of the relevant scriptures listed in section 10.1, 10.2, 11.1 and 11.2 of the Constitution, placing their vote in response to the Holy Spirit's leading.

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<sup>10</sup> For nomination form see Appendix 1.

8.3. The election of Leaders and Elders shall take place at the Annual Church Meeting. Every nomination<sup>11</sup> received shall be submitted to secret ballot. To be elected as Leader or an Elder, a nominee must have two-thirds of the votes counted. Only Members are entitled to vote. A Member unable to attend may vote by proxy or apply to the church secretary for an absentee vote.

8.4. The Leaders of all ministries of the church shall be approved of or affirmed at a church meeting.

8.5. Vacancies in the office of Leader or Elder may be filled by the church at any regular church meeting in accordance with the foregoing rules. Any member so elected shall hold office only during the unexpired term of the Leader or Elder whose place they have been elected to fill.

## **9. Terms of Office**

9.1 Every elected Leader and Elder shall serve for a two-year term.

9.2 Elections for Leaders and Elders need only occur at an Annual Church Meeting every two years.

9.3 The Annual General Meeting shall normally occur on the fourth Sunday of August each year.

9.4 Retiring Leaders are eligible to be re-nominated for election.

## **10. The Role of Church Eldership**

10.1. The Eldership shall consist of mature men whose lives are in accordance with the standards set by 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.

10.2. In accordance with Acts 20:28 the role of the Eldership shall be to

- guard the church from error,
- oversee all the life and ministry of the church, and
- shepherd the church.

10.3. The Pastor(s) shall be considered to be full member(s) of the Eldership.

## **11. The Role of the Leadership**

11.1. The Leadership shall consist of men and women in accordance with 1Tim. 3:8- 13.

11.2. In accordance with Acts 6:1-4 the Leadership shall

- assist the Eldership in specific tasks so as to release the Eldership to concentrate on their own role, and

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<sup>11</sup> For voting procedure see Appendix 2.

- co-ordinate all practical aspects of the life and ministry of the church.

11.3. One of the Pastors shall normally co-ordinate the liaison between the Leaders and Eldership.

## **12. Church Secretary and Treasurer**

The Church Leadership shall, at their first meeting after the annual meeting of the church, shall elect or affirm, whichever the case may be, a Church Secretary and a Church Treasurer.

## **13. The Duties of the Church Secretary**

13.1 The Church Secretary shall

- have the custody of the church records,
- keep, in a proper minute book or computer disk, minutes of all the proceedings of the church, and
- receive and conduct all church correspondence on its behalf.

## **14. Duties of the Treasurer**

14.1. The Treasurer shall

- receive and account for all church funds,
- discharge all liabilities under the direction of the church,
- render regular account to the church meetings, and
- prepare a full statement of receipts and payments, duly audited, for presentation to the Annual General Meeting. Such a statement shall be made up to the 30th June in each year.

14.2. The treasurer or his delegate and one other person shall count all offerings. All monies received shall be banked and payments made by cheque or direct debit.

14.3. It is the responsibility of the Treasurer to pay the salary (ies) of the Pastor(s) and to avail him/her self of the current conditions pertaining to the salary (ies) of Pastor(s). The Baptist Union of Queensland sends regular updates regarding this matter.

## **15. Auditor**

The church shall appoint an auditor annually as per the recommendation of the Baptist Union of Queensland, with the Treasurer preparing and making available the accounts for the ensuing year.

## **16. Church Meetings**

16.1. The church shall meet at least once a quarter for the transaction of business and between such meetings the Leadership shall attend to the business, provided that the

questions of membership and previously unauthorised significant expenditures shall always be reserved for the church meeting.

16.2. A special meeting of the church may be called at any time by the Leadership on their own initiative, or on the written and signed request of not less than six (6) members. Such meetings shall be called whether in writing or by notice from the church pulpit at a church service two (2) Sundays prior to the meeting. This is provided such notice is given at least seven (7) clear days prior to the meeting. The nature of the special business meeting shall be transacted at the meeting.

16.3. Ordinary church meetings shall be called by announcement from the church pulpit at a church service no later than the Sunday prior to the meeting.

16.4. Minutes of preceding meetings, regular or otherwise shall be read and confirmed before new business is proceeded with.

16.5. A quorum at the church meetings shall be at least 20% of voting membership, with a minimum of five (5) members.

16.6. All members are eligible to vote. A Member unable to attend may vote by proxy or apply to the church secretary for an absentee vote.

16.7. All adherents are encouraged to participate in church meetings, but are ineligible to vote.

### **17. Chairman of Meetings**

The Senior Pastor or a member of the Leadership shall preside as Chair at all meetings.

### **18. Church Finances**

18.1. It is expected that members shall exercise good stewardship concerning their financial obligation.

18.2. The Leadership of the church shall reserve the right to refuse any donation or gift that comes from, what they may deem an unworthy or inappropriate source.

18.3. No financial appeals for any persons or organisation shall be circulated by anyone without first obtaining the approval of the Leadership.

18.4. On occasions when services or meetings for any persons or organisation are held in the church, no charge shall be set for admission. In all such cases contributions shall be voluntary offering only.

18.5 The Leadership of the church has authority to approve church expenditure up to \$1000 (exclusive of GST) without the need for a vote from members; and will obtain more than one quote for expenditure over \$500 (exclusive of GST).

18.6 Application of income - The assets and income of the church shall be applied solely in furtherance of the above-mentioned objects and no portion shall be distributed directly or indirectly to the members of the church except as bona fide compensation for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the church.

18.7 Winding up - In the event of the Longreach Baptist Church being dissolved, the amount that remains after such dissolution and the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities shall be transferred to another organisation with similar purposes, that is charitable at law, and which is not carried on for the profit or gain of its individual members.

## **19. Church Property**

19.1. No church premises or property can be used for any other purpose than that of our own organisations, without first obtaining the approval of the Leadership or persons delegated by the Leadership.

19.2. All property purchased or alterations of a major nature, the encumbrances of the church property by mortgage or lease, or the sale or exchange of the property shall be the subject of seven (7) clear days notice in writing to all members, before being dealt with at a church meeting.

19.3. Equipment purchased by any ministries of the church shall be deemed the property of the church.

19.4. Any real property or any interest therein now held or hereafter acquired by or owned by, or on behalf of the church, shall be transferred and assigned and vested in The Baptist Union of Queensland on behalf of the church. This clause shall not be rescinded or amended without prior consultation with the Baptist Union of Queensland.

## **20. The Pastor(s)**

20.1. The Pastor(s) shall normally be accredited ministers of the Baptist Union of Queensland, but when a vacancy occurs, the church shall be competent to fill the position by appointing a suitable person in an acting capacity for a limited interim period.

20.2 Where one or more pastors are appointed by the church, one shall be designated as Senior Pastor and they shall function as a team under the direction of the Senior Pastor.

20.3. All business connected with the pastorate shall, in the first instance, be introduced to the church meeting as a recommendation from the Leadership who may appoint from the church membership the services of a Pastoral Calling Committee. The Leadership or the Pastoral Calling Committee whichever the case may be, may avail themselves of the

service of the Ministerial Committee of the Baptist Union of Queensland. In the case of a call, this does not exclude the church meeting from nominating another name for consideration.

20.4. The call shall be made at a properly constituted meeting, of which two (2) full weeks notice has been given in writing to all members. A majority of two-thirds of the members present at the meeting is necessary to issue a call. The desired result would be unanimous.

20.5. The call shall be for an indefinite period, and may be terminated after one (1) month's notice from either the Pastor or the church.

20.6. If a Pastor shall be found guilty of any moral offence or guilty of any misconduct (deemed such by the Ministerial Committee of the Baptist Union of Queensland), his pastorate shall automatically terminate.

20.7. The Senior Pastor shall be an ex officio member of all committees operating within the church.

## **21. Alterations to this Constitution**

21.1. The original constitution, which was approved by the church at a special meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August 1996, did recognise that changes may need to be made in the future and that guidelines therein would be subject to revision by the church leaders as per page 19 of the original constitution.

21.2 This particular constitution was acceptable by the membership by a two-thirds majority vote of the members voting at a special meeting convened for the purpose on Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 2002. For that meeting all members were given a draft copy of this constitution one-month in advance.

21.3 Section 9.3 of this constitution was changed from 'The Annual General Meeting shall normally occur on the fourth Sunday of July each year' to '**The Annual General Meeting shall normally occur on the fourth Sunday of August each year**' following a two-thirds majority vote of the members present at a special meeting convened for that purpose and of which meeting one-month's previous notice was given in writing to all members, setting out proposed alterations. This voting occurred on Sunday, 22 August 2004.

21.4 Section 8.1 and s. 8.2 of this constitution was changed to '**The election of Elders and Leaders shall be conducted as follows**

**8.1. At least eight weeks prior to the annual meeting, recommendations shall be called.**

**8.2. The process of nominating a person to the position of elder or leader shall be as follows:<sup>12</sup>**

**The role of the person making the recommendation:**

**Without approaching the candidate, the person making the recommendation will prayerfully consider the candidate in light of the scriptures set out in section 10.1, 10.2, 11.1 and 11.2 of this Constitution, fully equating themselves with the serious role that an elder or leader is called to function in. Following this process, if the person making the recommendation believes the candidate fulfils these qualifications, they can recommend the candidate by giving the candidates name to the church secretary.**

**The role of the leadership:**

**The name of the candidate will be brought to the next leadership meeting for discussion and if appropriate, two of the leadership team will be selected to approach the candidate to inquire as to the candidates' interest in the role. If the candidate is willing, an interview with the candidate and his/her spouse will be arranged utilising the relevant scriptures as a guide for discussion and prayer. The findings of this interview will be communicated at a leadership meeting where the leadership will prayerfully consider and make a decision whether to proceed or not. At this point, the recommending member and the candidate will be informed as to the outcome. If the decision is made to proceed and the candidate is willing to be nominated, the leadership will formally present their name to the membership two weeks before the Annual Church meeting.**

**The role of the candidate:**

**To prayerfully examine themselves in light of the scriptures set out in section 10.1, 10.2, 11.1 and 11.2 of the Constitution, making themselves available, being faithful and teachable.**

**The role of the membership:**

**To prayerfully consider any nomination in light of the relevant scriptures listed in section 10.1, 10.2, 11.1 and 11.2 of the Constitution, placing their vote in response to the Holy Spirit's leading'.**

following a two-thirds majority vote of the members present at a special meeting convened for that purpose and of which meeting one-month's previous notice was given in writing to all members, setting out proposed alterations. This voting occurred on Sunday, 26 April 2009.

21.5 Section 3.3 and 3.4 of this constitution was changed to:

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<sup>12</sup> For nomination form see Appendix 1.

**3.3** 'Each applicant shall, as soon as possible, be furnished with a copy of the accepted Constitution of the church. The appointed visiting members shall ensure that the applicant is fully aware of the contents of the Church Constitution and that they are willing to subscribe to the provisions of the Constitution.

**3.4** All persons accepted for membership shall be received into membership by the Right Hand of Fellowship at the Communion of the Lord's Supper, or at a duly constituted church meeting.'

following a two-thirds majority vote of the members present at a special meeting convened for that purpose and of which meeting one-month's previous notice was given in writing to all members, setting out proposed alterations. This voting occurred on Sunday, 20 July 2014.

21.6 Section 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 4.3, 5.1, 8.3, 16.2, 16.3, 16.6, 17 and 18.5 of this constitution were changed to:

### **3.1. Admission of Members**

**Membership may be applied for**

- on profession of faith in Christ and baptism, or
- by transfer from sister churches, or
- by restoration (in cases of persons previously removed from membership).

### **3.2. Application for Membership**

**All persons applying for membership, shall be interviewed by two members of the church appointed by the leadership.**

### **3.3. Church Constitution**

**Each applicant shall, as soon as possible, be furnished with a copy of the accepted Constitution of the church. The appointed visiting members shall ensure that the applicant is fully aware of the contents of the Church Constitution and that they are willing to subscribe to the provisions of the Constitution.**

**3.4 The Leadership shall advise the church on two occasions of the proposed admission to membership, either during a church service or at a congregational meeting, at least 14 days prior to receiving the persons into membership.**

**3.5. No objections to the admission of any person to membership shall be entertained unless the person so objecting shall make a definite charge. Any such objections must be brought to the leadership privately within the 14 days following the initial advice of the proposed membership. In such cases the application shall be held over for consideration by the Pastor and leaders, on whose report a decision shall be reached at a subsequent meeting of the church. If no such definite charges are made and/or proven against the candidate, the candidate will be accepted for membership at a congregational meeting.**

**3.6. All persons who have been accepted for membership shall be received into membership by the Right Hand of Fellowship at a worship service, or at a duly constituted church meeting.**

### **3.7. Membership Roll**

**The Secretary shall enter the names and addresses of all members of the Longreach Baptist Church with the manner of their admission, in the church membership roll. The church shall revise the roll of the members once in every year at the Annual Church Meeting in August as per 9.3.**

### **4.3. God enabling us, we will**

- **meet together on the Lord's day and at other times as we have opportunity,**
- **encourage one another,**
- **pray for and encourage, the officers of the church in the discharge of their duties (see section 7),**
- **esteem and acknowledge our Pastor(s) as over us in the Lord,**
- **pray for our Pastor(s), attend his/their ministry, and, by all means, endeavour to encourage him/them,**
- **contribute freely of our finances and possessions for our Pastor'(s') support, and for the expenses of the church, and**
- **generally observe and do all other duties urged upon us in the Word of God.**

**5.1. All cases appearing to call for discipline shall be investigated by the Pastor(s) and leaders in a manner consistent with the Word of God (for example Matthew 18:15-17). Upon their report and recommendation to the membership a vote on that recommendation shall be taken without public discussion of the details. The church may, if desired, appoint no more than three members to confer with the Pastor(s) and Leadership prior to the taking of the vote. Upon these three members report the final vote shall be taken.**

**8.3. The election of Leaders and Elders shall take place at the Annual Church Meeting. Every nomination<sup>13</sup> received shall be submitted to secret ballot. To be elected as Leader or an Elder, a nominee must have two-thirds of the votes counted. Only Members are entitled to vote. A Member unable to attend may vote by proxy or apply to the church secretary for an absentee vote.**

**16.2. A special meeting of the church may be called at any time by the Leadership on their own initiative, or on the written and signed request of not less than six (6) members. Such meetings shall be called whether in writing or by notice from the church pulpit at a church service two (2) Sundays prior to the meeting. This is provided such notice is given at least seven (7) clear days prior to the meeting. The nature of the special business meeting shall be transacted at the meeting.**

**16.3. Ordinary church meetings shall be called by announcement from the church pulpit at a church service no later than the Sunday prior to the meeting.**

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<sup>13</sup> For voting procedure see Appendix 2.

**16.6. All members are eligible to vote. A Member unable to attend may vote by proxy or apply to the church secretary for an absentee vote.**

### **17. Chairman of Meetings**

**The Senior Pastor or a member of the Leadership shall preside as Chair at all meetings.**

**18.5 The Leadership of the church has authority to approve church expenditure up to \$1000 (exclusive of GST) without the need for a vote from members; and will obtain more than one quote for expenditure over \$500 (exclusive of GST).**

following a two-thirds majority vote of the members present at the Annual General Meeting and of which meeting one-month's previous notice was given in writing to all members, setting out proposed alterations. This voting occurred on Sunday, 26 August 2018.

21.7 Section 18.6 and 18.7 were added:

**18.6 Application of income - The assets and income of the church shall be applied solely in furtherance of the above-mentioned objects and no portion shall be distributed directly or indirectly to the members of the church except as bona fide compensation for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the church.**

**18.7 Winding up - In the event of the Longreach Baptist Church being dissolved, the amount that remains after such dissolution and the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities shall be transferred to another organisation with similar purposes, that is charitable at law, and which is not carried on for the profit or gain of its individual members.**

following a two-thirds majority vote of the members present at a special meeting convened for the purpose and of which meeting one-month's previous notice was given in writing to all members, setting out proposed alterations. This voting occurred on Sunday, 28 October 2018.

21.8 This constitution may not be altered, cancelled, or added to except by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present at a special meeting convened for the purpose, and of which meeting one-month's previous notice shall be given in writing to all members, setting out proposed alterations.