

THE CONSTITUTION OF KALGOORLIE BAPTIST CHURCH INC

1. **Name**
The name of the Church shall be the Kalgoorlie Baptist Church Inc (hereinafter referred to as "the Church".)
2. **Affiliation** The Church shall be affiliated with the Baptist Union of Western Australia Incorporated.
3. **Doctrinal Basis**
We believe:
 - a) **God**
Is the one true God: eternally existing in three persons - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, these being in the same substance and equal in power and glory. (Genesis 1:26, Isaiah 6:3, John 15:26, Mark 1: 10-11, 2 Corinthians 13:14)
 - b) **Scripture**
That the whole of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as originally given, are the verbally inspired Word of God, supreme in authority and completely free from error. (John 17:17, 2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:21)
 - c) **Jesus Christ**
In the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, His perfect humanity, His substitutionary death, His bodily resurrection and ascension, His presence at the right hand of the Father, His unchanging priesthood and future bodily return in glory. (Hebrews 1:3-8, Colossians 2:9, Luke 1:31-35, 1 Peter 2:22, Mark 16:19, Hebrews 5:6, Mark 13:26)
 - d) **The Devil**
In the personal existence and malignancy of the Devil. (1 Peter 5:8, Ephesians 6:11)
 - e) **State of Humanity**
In the fallen, sinful and lost estate of all humanity, and the universality and heinousness of sin. (Romans 5:12, Galatians 3:22, Romans 3:23, 7:11-13)
 - f) **Salvation**
In the divine provision of salvation through the substitutionary death of Christ, both from the penalty and the power of sin. All who come to Christ receive salvation by repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. (1 John 1:9, Ephesians 2:8, John 5:24, 3:16, Romans 5:9)
 - g) **Holy Spirit**
In the work of the Holy Spirit- in the immediate regeneration of all who believe, in their sanctification and in their eternal preservation. (John 3:5-7, 2 Thessalonians 2:13, Romans 8:14-16, John 10:28)
 - h) **The Church**
That the Universal Church is the company of all who have been born of the Holy Spirit and have been formed into one body of which Christ is the Head. (Colossians 1:18, Ephesians 1:22-23)
 - i) **Eternity**
In the eternal consciousness of the soul, the resurrection of the body, the everlasting divine fellowship and joy of the saved, and the eternal punishment of the lost. (2 Corinthians 5:1, Luke 16:22-24, 1 Corinthians 15:42-44, John 5:28-29, 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10)
 - j) **Baptism and the Lord's Supper**
That the observance of the two ordinances of the Lord Jesus Christ, namely Baptism and the Lord's Supper are an obligation on all His children.

THE CONSTITUTION OF KALGOORLIE BAPTIST CHURCH INC

Baptism is the immersion of believers on the profession of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and a symbol of the fellowship of the regenerate in his death, burial and resurrection. The Lord's Supper is a memorial, till Christ's return, of the sacrifice of the body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:19, Luke 22:19-20, Acts 8:38-39, Romans 6:4, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

4. Objects and Purpose of the Church

(1) The objects and purpose of the Church are:

Our Vision

To be a dynamic, multi congregational church growing our people and revealing the pure gold of Jesus Christ to the community of Kalgoorlie-Boulder and beyond

Our Mission

Revealing the PURE GOLD of Jesus Christ, through community, discipleship, evangelism, ministry and worship.

Our Values

People far from God
Unity
Relationships
Excellence in ministry

Giving
Ongoing change
Living in community
Discipleship

(2) The property and income of the Church shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Church and no part of that property or income may be paid or otherwise distributed, directly or indirectly, to members, except in good faith in the promotion of those objects.

5. Powers of the Church

The powers of the Church shall be those conferred on the Church by section 13 of the Associations Incorporation Act.

6. Incidental Powers of the Church

The Church has the power:

- (a) To purchase, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire and maintain any real or personal property and any rights and privileges.
- (b) to erect, add to, improve, repair, pull down and rebuild buildings and other structures.
- (c) To sell, exchange, lease, mortgage, hire, dispose of, turn to account or otherwise deal with all or any part of the real and personal property of the Church.
- (d) to accept donations whether of real or personal estate and devises and bequests.
- (e) To borrow or raise or secure the payment of money in such manner as the Church thinks fit with power to issue debentures, grant mortgages, charge or any other class of security upon or charging all or any of the property real or personal both present and future of the Church and to redeem or pay off any existing or future security.
- (f) To invest and deal with the monies of the Church not otherwise required for the purposes of the Church in such manner as may from time to time be determined.

THE CONSTITUTION OF KALGOORLIE BAPTIST CHURCH INC

- (g) To hold any property on any trusts,
- (h) To make gifts to any charitable objects in accordance with the law of the State of Western Australia or for any other purposes approved by a Court of Law.
- (i) To sue.
- (j) To do all other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of its objects.

7. Church Government

The Church shall be governed on congregational principles and shall have the authority to manage its own affairs as an autonomous Church, affiliated with the Baptist Union of Western Australia Inc.

8. Membership and Associate Membership

a) Obtaining Membership

- i) The qualification for membership shall be evidence that the person's profession of faith is genuine, seen in:
 - (a) A scriptural experience of conversion.
 - (b) A belief in the truths summarised in the doctrinal basis.
 - (c) Evidence in practice of consistent Christian living.
 - (d) Baptism by immersion following repentance and faith.
 - (e) Willing acceptance of the teaching and government of the Church and of the standard of Membership attached.
- ii) Except in cases involving transfer of membership from other Baptist Churches, persons seeking Membership shall normally worship regularly in the Church for a minimum period of three months before admission into Membership.
- iii) The Church Members' Meeting, the Elders' Meeting, or the Pastor(s) shall appoint two Members or Associate Members to interview the applicant for Membership.
- iv) A person shall be accepted as a Member of the Church on a favourable majority vote at a Church Members Meeting following the interviewer's report.
- v) Members shall normally be welcomed into Membership by the right hand of fellowship at a Sunday Worship Service.
- vi) Upon Members of other Baptist Churches seeking membership with the Church, the Secretary shall ensure the other Church is notified of the receipt of the application and invite comments on the suitability of the applicant for Membership. Upon acceptance into Membership, the Secretary shall ensure the other Church is notified.
- vii) A person may be refused Membership or may have their Membership withdrawn, if they continue in active association with any sect or organisation which is considered by the Membership of the Church to be heretical on scriptural grounds.
- viii) Members under the age of eighteen years shall be encouraged to take part in discussion at Church Members Meetings but shall not be entitled to vote.

b) Obtaining Associate Membership

- i) The qualification for associate membership shall be evidence that the person's profession of faith is genuine, seen in:
 - (a) A scriptural experience of conversion.

THE CONSTITUTION OF KALG ORLIE BAPTIST CHURCH INC

- (b) A belief in the truths summarised in the doctrinal basis.
 - (c) Evidence in practice of consistent Christian living.
 - (d) Baptism as practiced by another Christian Denomination.
 - (e) Willing acceptance of the teaching and government of the Church and of the standard of Membership attached.
- ii) Except in cases involving transfer of membership from other Baptist Churches, persons seeking Membership shall normally worship regularly in the Church for a minimum period of three months before admission into Associate Membership.
 - iii) The Church Members' Meeting, the Elders' Meeting, or the Pastor(s) shall appoint two Members or Associate Members to interview the applicant for Membership.
 - iv) A person shall be accepted as an Associate Member of the Church on a favourable majority vote at a Church Members Meeting following the interviewer's report.
 - v) Associate Members shall normally be welcomed into Membership by the right hand of fellowship at a Sunday Worship Service.
 - vi) A person may be refused Associate Membership or may have their Membership withdrawn, if they continue in active association with any sect or organisation which is considered by the Membership of the Church to be heretical on scriptural grounds.
 - vii) Associate Members under the age of eighteen years shall be encouraged to take part in discussion at Church Members Meetings but shall not be entitled to vote.
- c) Resigning Membership or Associate Membership**
In order to resign from membership or associate membership, a member or associate member should inform the Secretary of their intention to resign in writing.
- d) Standards of Membership and Associate Membership**
Members and Associate Members are;
- i) expected to live in conformity with scriptural precepts. (Titus 2:2-8, 1 Thessalonians 5:22, 1 Peter 2: 11-14)
 - ii) encouraged to participate in the regular services of the Church . This includes the services on the Lord's day, midweek fellowship and the fellowship of the Lord's Table. (Hebrews 10:25, Acts 2:42)
 - iii) expected to engage in the fellowship of regular giving to the Church. (1 Corinthians 16:1-2, 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, Malachi 3:10, 1 Timothy 2:1)
 - iv) expected to engage in some form of active service for Christ through the Church according to their talents as they are able and to share in the government of the Church by their attendance at the Church Members Meetings. (Matthew 25:14-30, Romans 12:6-8)
 - v) expected to pray regularly for and help each other, remembering we are all Members of the Body of Christ. (Hebrews 10:24, 1 Corinthians 12:25-26, Galatians 6:2)
 - vi) expected to abide by the disciplinary actions of the Church. (Matthew 18:15-18, John 20:23, 1 Corinthians 5:11, 1 Timothy 5:20, Galatians 6:1)

THE CONSTITUTION OF KALGOORLIE BAPTIST CHURCH INC

e) **Membership Roll**

The Church Roll shall be kept in three sections:-

i) **The Resident Members Roll.**

The Resident members Roll shall be kept by the Secretary to which shall be added the names of those who become members of the Church.

ii) **The Resident Associate Members Roll.**

The Resident Associate members Roll shall be kept by the Secretary to which shall be added the names of those who become associate members of the Church.

iii) **The Non-Resident Members Roll.**

Members absent from the district because of employment in another district, or because of full-time Christian work and unable to transfer to another Baptist Church shall have their names placed on the Non-Resident Members Roll by the Church.

All Rolls shall be revised as and when necessary but at least annually at the Annual Members Meeting after consideration by the Diaconate. For the purpose of a quorum at a Members Meeting the Members on the Resident Roll only shall be used. All Rolls must be so kept and maintained at the Secretary's place of residence or at such other place as the members at a general Church Members Meeting decide.

iv) **Subscriptions for Membership and Associate Membership**

There are no subscriptions or entrance fees for Membership or Associate Membership.

Church Discipline

i) Church Discipline arises out of the responsibility of Church Membership, Its purpose is to uphold the glory and rule of Christ in His Church, to maintain its purity here on earth, to sanctify each Member and Associate Member and restore those who err.

ii) How it is administered: Any action shall be carried out in the Spirit of Christian love and humility. Matters of personal offence should be settled by Members and Associate Members according to the procedure laid down in Matthew 18:15-18.

iii) Any Member or Associate Member who wilfully neglects the responsibility of church membership or associate membership, who fails into Doctrinal error or into open sin will be subject to the discipline of the Church.

iv) Disciplinary action may take one of the forms set out below, according to the seriousness of the case. Any of these steps may be taken at the recommendation of the Elders:

(a) Private admonition or rebuke.

(b) Loss of Voting privileges.

(c) Public admonition or rebuke before the Church.

(e) Removal of Membership or Associate Membership, in which case the member or associate member may not partake of the Lord's Supper, have voting privileges or undertake any service in the Church. He/ She will be encouraged to attend the preaching services.

If there is evidence of repentance, then forgiveness and restoration to membership or associate membership will be granted at the recommendation of the Elder's Meeting.

9. **Ordinances**

a) The Ordinance of Baptism shall be administered by the Church normally through the Pastor; or as otherwise determined by the Elder's Meeting, or Church members Meeting.

THE CONSTITUTION OF KALGOORLIE BAPTIST CHURCH INC

- b) The Ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be open to all true believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, and shall be observed on at least one Sunday in each Calendar month.

10. Church Officers

- a) The Church officers shall be the Pastor(s), Elder(s) and Deacons, and subject to any decision of the Church Members meeting shall have oversight of the affairs of the Church.

b) Pastors

- i) The Pastor(s) eligible to be called to the Church shall conform to all requirements of Church Membership, meet the New Testament requirements for Pastors and shall be called by a favourable majority vote at a Special members meeting convened for that purpose and announced during each service on the two preceding Sundays.
- ii) Subject to fulfilment of the Membership requirements, a Pastor Elect and his wife (if married) shall automatically become members upon induction to the Pastorate.

c) Elders

- i) An Elder or Elders may be elected from the male members of the Church on the resident members roll who are 21 years and over. Such a person shall fulfil the Scriptural qualifications for the Office.
- ii) With the Pastor(s) the Elder(s) shall be Responsible for the Pastoral care and spiritual oversight within the Church. In the absence of the Pastor(s), the Elders shall have the responsibility to act on behalf of the Church regarding matters that would normally be dealt with by the Pastor.
- iii) The call shall be made effective by a favourable majority vote at a Church Members Meeting that has been announced at each service on the two preceding Sundays. Such a call shall be for not more than one year and may be renewed.

d) Deacons

- i) Deacons shall be elected from the male and female members of the Church on the Resident Members Roll or Resident Associate Members Roll who are 21 years and over and who meet the New Testament requirements for Deacons.
- ii) Deacons shall be elected at the Annual Church Meeting by a favourable majority vote and shall normally serve for a term of one year, and on completion of their term in office are eligible for re-election.
- iii) The number of Deacons shall be decided upon by a favourable majority vote at a Church members Meeting prior to the Annual Church Meeting.
- iv) If a casual vacancy arises then the position can be filled via election at the next Church Members meeting.

e) Secretary and Treasurer

- i) The Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected from among the Deacons or Elders.
- ii) The Secretary shall, unless the members resolve otherwise at a general Church Members Meeting, have custody of all books, documents, records and registers of the Church, but other than those required to be kept and maintained by, or in the custody of, the Treasurer as stipulated by Section 10 e iii of this document; and ensure that a correct record of all business connected with the Church is kept, shall conduct correspondence, and shall generally deal with the administrative matters of the Church.
- iii) The Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial management of the Church. Unless the members resolve otherwise at a general Church

THE CONSTITUTION OF KALGOORLIE BAPTIST CHURCH INC

Members Meeting, have custody of all securities, books and documents of a financial nature and accounting records of the Church.

f) Removal from Office of office Bearers

At any time a Special Church meeting may be called to review the appointment of a Pastor, Elder or Deacon, or any other office bearer from office by passing a resolution to that effect by a two-thirds majority of members and associate members present and eligible to vote.

11. Conduct Of Church Business

- a) The Diaconate shall be responsible for carrying out all the duties which may have been delegated to it; for the administration of all Church funds and shall be accountable to the Church for the proper performance of its responsibilities.
- b) The financial reports and financial records shall be audited annually by a suitably qualified person who is appointed by the Church and who shall report directly to the Church.

12. Church Members Meetings

- a) There shall be at least 4 Church Members Meetings, other than the Annual Church Members Meeting, each year and at such meetings voting shall be restricted to Members and Associate Members. At least two Sunday's notice must be given of a general Church Members Meeting. Minutes of each Church Members Meeting held will be available for each member and associate member at the church office no later than one week after the completion of each meeting.
- b) Special Church Members Meetings may be convened by the Elders, by the Diaconate, by the Church Members Meeting, or by request in writing of at least three Members or Associate Members. Such a request shall be submitted to the Secretary or the Pastor setting out the purpose for which the meeting is to be convened. At least two Sunday's notification must be given of Members meetings and in the case of Special Members Meetings details of the business to be transacted must be included in the notice. Minutes of each Special Church Members Meeting held will be available for each member and associate member at the church office no later than one week after the completion of each meeting.
- c) An Annual Church Members Meeting shall be held, normally in the month of August, at which reports shall be received from the Pastor(s), the Elders' Meeting, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Leaders of the Departments of the Church. Minutes of each Annual Church Members Meeting held will be available for each member and associate member at the church office no later than one week after the completion of each meeting.
- d) The Chairperson of the Church Members Meeting shall normally be nominated by the Diaconate and the Elders' Meeting, and appointed by a majority vote.
- e) A quorum for a Church Members Meeting shall be one third of the membership on the Resident Members Roll and Resident Associate Members Roll. If a Quorum does not attend within 30 minutes after the announced time of The Church members Meeting, then the Chairperson shall adjourn the Meeting.
- f) All matters brought before Church Members Meetings shall be decided by a majority vote of the members and associate members present and eligible to vote, except where otherwise provided in the Constitution.

THE CONSTITUTION OF KALGOORLIE BAPTIST CHURCH INC

- g) If requested by a Member or Associate Member and agreed to by the Meeting voting shall be by secret ballot.
- h) Non-members are invited to observe Member's Meetings.

13. Diaconate Meetings

- a) The Diaconate shall consist of the Pastor(s), the Deacons and the Elder(s). The Elder(s) may attend at their discretion.
- b) The Diaconate shall normally meet monthly.
- c) The Meeting may be chaired by the Pastor, or by such other person as the Diaconate may appoint.
- d) One half of the Members of the Diaconate shall form a Quorum. If a Quorum does not attend within 30 minutes after the announced time of the Meeting, the Chairperson shall adjourn the Meeting.
- e) All matters considered at Diaconate Meetings shall be decided by a majority vote of those present.

14. Elders' Meetings.

- a) The Elders' Meetings shall consist of the Pastor(s) and the Elder(s).
- b) The Elders shall normally meet monthly.
- c) The meeting may be chaired by the Pastor, or by such other person as the Elders' Meeting may appoint.
- d) One half of the Members of the Elders' Meeting shall form a Quorum. If a Quorum does not attend within 30 minutes after the announced time of the Meeting, the Chairperson shall adjourn the Meeting.
- e) All matters considered at Elders' Meetings shall be decided by a two thirds majority vote of those present.

15. Minutes of Meetings of the Church

- (a) The Secretary shall cause property minutes of all proceedings of all meetings to be taken and then to be entered within 30 days after the holding of each meeting in a minute book kept for that purpose.
- (b) The Chairperson shall ensure that the minutes taken of a meeting are checked and signed as correct by the Chairperson of the respective meeting to which those minutes relate.
- (c) When minutes have been entered and signed as correct under this rule, they shall, until the contrary is proved, be evidenced that:
 - (i) the respective meeting to which they relate (in this subrule called "the meeting") was duly convened and held;
 - (ii) all proceedings recorded as having taken place at the meeting did in fact take place thereat; and
 - (iii) all appointments or elections purporting to have been made at the meeting have been validly made.

16. Departments

- a) All Departments of the Church shall at all times operate within the terms of the Church Constitution and report as requested to the Church Members Meeting and the Diaconate and the Elders' Meeting.

THE CONSTITUTION OF KALGOORLIE BAPTIST CHURCH INC

- b) The Church shall appoint such Officers, Members and Committees as may be considered necessary to carry out the objectives of the Church.
- c) The Heads of all Departments of the Church shall be elected from the membership or associate membership at the Annual Church Meeting and each nominee for these positions shall obtain a majority vote for appointment to Office. An exhaustive ballot may be held if nominees fail to obtain the necessary majority.
- d) Any Office other than Pastor, Elder or deacon that becomes vacant during the year may be filled by a person co-opted by the Diaconate or Elders' Meeting, provided the Church is notified for two consecutive Sundays. Any Member or Associate Member may approach the nominating body to express their opinion on the appointment, and if after discussion a Member or Associate Member still has a reserve about the matter it shall be referred to the next Church Members Meeting.
- e) Nominations for all positions shall be submitted at least twenty one days before the Annual Church Meeting. All Nominations shall be made public no later than the two Sundays preceding the Annual Church Meeting.
- f) All leaders and helpers within the Departments of the Church, except the Heads, may be chosen by the Members of that Department subject to endorsement by the Elders' Meeting.

17. Finances

- a) The Church shall be primarily financed by direct giving.
- b) All methods of financing other than direct giving, shall be subject to the approval of Church Members' Meeting.
- c) No money shall be collected for any fund not approved by the Church.
- d) The Treasurer shall :
 - i) receive and keep an account of all monies received for Church purposes;
 - ii) regularly bank all monies received and make all payments on behalf of the Church in accordance with Church policy outlined by the Church Members' Meeting;
 - iii) Present a financial statement at each Church Members Meeting and Diaconate meeting.

18. Property

- a) No property of the Church shall normally be loaned or hired without the consent of the Diaconate.
- b) The consumption of illegal substances, alcohol and/or smoking shall not be permitted on Church property.
- c) The church property shall normally be used for activities associated with the Church. Exceptions to this rule shall be subject to the approval of the Diaconate or a Church Members Meeting.
- d) No land or building shall be bought, sold, disposed of or mortgaged in any way, without a two-thirds majority vote of a Special Church Members Meeting.
- e) The proceeds derived from the sale, lease, mortgage, or pledge or other encumbrance shall be applied and devoted in such a manner as the Church may deem best fitted to secure the furtherance of the objectives of the Church and the propagation of its principles.

19. Common Seal of the Church

THE CONSTITUTION OF KALGOORLIE BAPTIST CHURCH INC

- (a) The Church shall have a common seal on which its corporate name shall appear in legible characters.
- (b) The Common Seal of the Church shall not be used without the express authority of the Diaconate and every use of that common seal shall be recorded in the minute book referred to in rule 15.
- (c) The affixing of the common seal of the Church shall be witnessed by any two of the Pastor, the Secretary and the Treasurer.
- (d) The Common Seal of the Church shall be kept in the custody of the Secretary or of such other person as the Diaconate from time to time decided.

20. Inspection of Records of the Church

A member or associate member may at any reasonable time inspect without charge the books, documents, records and securities of the Church.

21. Dissolution Of The Church

The Church may be dissolved by a resolution approved by at least a 75% majority vote at a Special Church Members Meeting called for the purpose, provided at least three months notice of the proposal has been given. In the event of such a resolution being passed persons appointed by the Church shall take all the necessary steps to wind up the affairs of the Church.

If, on the dissolution of the Church, any property of the Church remains after satisfaction of the debts and liabilities of the Church and the costs, charges and expenses of that winding up, that property shall be distributed:

- (a) to another incorporated association having objects similar to those of the Church; or
 - (b) for charitable purposes,
- which incorporated association or purposes, as the case requires, shall be determined by resolution of the members when authorizing and directing the Diaconate under section 33(3) of the Act to prepare a distribution plan for the distribution of the surplus property of the Church.

22. Alteration of the Constitution

- a) No alteration or addition can be made to this constitution except by a 75% majority of members present and eligible to vote at a Special Church Members Meeting called for the purpose.
- b) Notice giving details of the proposed additions or alterations must be given to resident members in writing one month before such a meeting.

Any such proposal may be adopted as presented or amended by the Church Members meeting.