

HAYFIELDS



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CONSTITUTION

Original Constitution

1945

Subsequent Revisions:

1991

2000

2011

2015

2022

BY-LAWS

2015

2018

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1.0 NAME

The name and designation of the Church shall be THE PORT SHEPSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH.

2.0 BAPTIST UNION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

The Port Shepstone Baptist Church (hereinafter styled 'The Church') shall remain in membership with the Baptist Union of Southern Africa, but shall be independent of any control thereby, save as hereinafter provided.

3.0 CHURCH GOVERNMENT AND OBJECTS

3.1 The Church recognises Jesus Christ as its supreme Head and undertakes to manage its affairs according to the Scriptures, believing that as the Body of Christ it is equipped by His Spirit to act, decide and direct as set out in Article 8.1.

3.2 The objects of the Church shall be:

3.2.1 to glorify the Lord Jesus, the Head of the Church;

3.2.2 to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ as revealed in the scriptures and to encourage and support the proclamation of the Gospel, in accordance with Matthew 28:18 -20;

3.2.3 to provide instruction and fellowship for believers, seeking to build them up to the measure and stature of the fullness of Christ so that, by loving witness and Christ -like example, they may bring the unsaved to the Lord.

4.0 Statement of Faith

(scriptural references to the below statements are available on a separate document).

4.1 We believe (1) that the Holy Scriptures consist of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments in their original writing; (2) that the Spirit of God so influenced the authors that these writings are the Word of God; (3) that because of the divine origin and inspiration of its words, the Scriptures are true in all that they affirm and are trustworthy and without error; (4) that these Scriptures are the complete and only written revelation of God to people; (5) that every translation that is faithful to the originals and responsibly interpreted

clearly reveals those truths necessary for our salvation, godly living, and maturity in Christ; and (6) that Scripture alone is our sufficient and final authority in all matters of belief and practice.

4.2 We believe (1) in one God who eternally exists in three co-equal persons - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; (2) that though each divine person is fully and equally God, they differ in relationship towards each other and their work in the world; (3) that this triune God is perfect and infinite in His being and attributes - an all-holy, all-loving, and all-wise Sovereign; (4) that from before creation, God determined to save sinners through the sacrifice of His Son, to govern all history according to His sovereign plan and to finally bring all things under one head, even Christ; and (5) that all things exist from Him, through Him, and for Him, and are created to display the glory of His wonderful Name.

4.3 We believe (1) that in the beginning God sovereignly created all things visible and invisible and took delight in it all; (2) that He created humankind male and female as his image bearers, endowing each with a dignity of equal worth and calling to govern and care for His creation; (3) that human life is sacred to God and begins at conception, and should not be unnecessarily terminated at any stage; (4) that God created marriage to be an exclusive and lifelong union between a natural man and a natural woman, giving the man the responsibility of loving leadership and the woman the role of compatible support; (5) that the first man Adam sinned and thereby incurred the penalty of death, physical and spiritual, for all people, and as a consequence of his sin, all humans inherit a sinful nature, which results in actual transgression and personal guilt.

4.4 We believe (1) that when the time was right, the eternal Son of God took on human nature, and was made like us in every way, yet without sin; (2) that, after being conceived by the Holy Spirit, He was born of the virgin Mary, was named Jesus (meaning 'God saves'), and from conception was and always will be fully God and fully man in one person; and (3) that He is, therefore, the perfect and only mediator between God and people.

4.5 We believe (1) that the Lord Jesus Christ lived a sinless life, was perfectly obedient to His Father in every way, and ushered in the promised Kingdom of God in all His words and deeds; (2) that, for the joy set before Him, He offered up Himself as the perfect substitutionary and atoning sacrifice for sinners, (3) triumphing over sin, death, and all the forces of evil, and purchasing for Himself a people out of every tribe, language, and nation; (4) that on the cross the Son of God received in His person the due penalty of God's wrath against our sin, and (5) that His shed blood is the sole basis for our salvation and the greatest revelation of the glory of the grace of our God.

4.6 We believe (1) that the Lord Jesus was crucified, buried, and on the third day was resurrected bodily from the dead and glorified as the first-fruits of God's new creation; (2) that he ascended into heaven, where He is seated at the right hand of the Father as ruler over all things; (3) that He presently intercedes as High Priest and Advocate for all who draw near to God through Him; and (4) that He will return personally, visibly, and gloriously to judge the living and the dead.

4.7 We believe (1) that the Holy Spirit is the Lord, the giver of life, who formed the world, empowered certain individuals for God's purposes, and who speaks in the Holy Scriptures; (2) that God anointed Jesus Christ with the Spirit for his ministry and that the Spirit was given to the Church at Pentecost to indwell, lead, and unite believers, giving each of them for various works of service; (3) that the Holy Spirit glorifies Christ, gives understanding of the Word, convicts people of their sin, unites believers to Jesus, and forms the character of Christ within them; and (4) that the Spirit pours the love of God into our hearts, enables prayer and witness, and seals the believer for the day of the redemption of their bodies.

4.8 We believe (1) that through the call of God in the Gospel message, all who receive Christ Jesus as Saviour and Lord are born again by the Holy Spirit, becoming a new creation in Christ; (2) that through faith in Him, sinners have the forgiveness of sins and are declared righteous on the grounds of His shed blood; (3) that repentance is a condition of this salvation and the first sign of that holiness without which no one will see the Lord; (4) that by virtue of their union with Christ, believers share in all the benefits of grace that are in Him, including the adoption as sons and the gift of the Holy Spirit; and (5) that all

who turn from their sin, trusting Christ, may have the assurance that they will be kept and accepted by Him.

4.9 We believe (1) that the Church is the whole company of those who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ, regenerated by the Holy Spirit, reconciled to the Father, and thereby to each other; (2) that this Church is the people of God, the body of Christ and the temple of the Holy Spirit, through whom God's purpose in history is made known; (3) that the local church, as a manifestation of the universal Church, is a community of believers in a particular place where God's Word is preached and practiced, the two ordinances are observed, and church discipline is exercised; (4) that in the local church both men and women are called to serve equally, and male headship should be evidenced; and (5) that each local church is ruled by Jesus Christ, governed by its members, led by its shepherds, and served by its deacons.

4.10 We believe (1) that the Lord Jesus Christ appointed two ordinances – Baptism and the Lord's Supper – to be observed as acts of obedience and as witnesses to the primary facts of the Christian faith; (2) that Baptism is the immersion of a professing believer in water as a confession of identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection; and (3) that the Lord's Supper is the partaking of the bread and the cup, signifying our participation in the Saviour's body and shed blood in remembrance of His death until He comes.

4.11 We believe (1) that the mission of the Church is to make disciples of all people groups in all places through the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to plant and establish local churches to obey all that Jesus taught the Apostles; (2) that in loving our neighbour as ourselves, compassionately, practically and wisely, we image the love of God to all; and (3) that we should do all this according to the Scriptures, under the shadow of the Cross and in the power of the resurrection.

4.12 We believe (1) in the bodily resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous; (2) that all people will appear before God's judgement seat to receive their due for the things done while in the body; (3) that those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life will enter into eternal life, but the unrighteous into eternal condemnation; and (4) that according to God's promise we look forward to a new heaven and a new earth in which righteousness

dwells, when we will forever be with the Lord, and He with us: Come Lord Jesus, come! Amen.

4.13 ANY CHANGE WITHIN THE CHURCH STRUCTURE OR ORGANISATION WHICH IS IN CONFLICT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY WITH ONE OR MORE OF THE PRINCIPLES 4.1 — 4.12 WILL BE INVALID UNLESS APPROVED BY AT LEAST 90% OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT AND ENTITLED TO VOTE AT A DULY CONSTITUTED SPECIAL CHURCH MEETING OF WHICH AT LEAST THREE MONTHS' NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN.

5.0 MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHURCH

Membership of the Church shall consist of those who have given evidence of their personal salvation through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who in obedience to the Lord 's command have been baptised by immersion, and who have accepted this Constitution, as well as those who have been accepted by transfer to this Church from some other Baptist Church, always proving that such applicant gives evidence of personal salvation through repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and providing such applicant has been baptised by immersion, and accepts this Constitution.

6.0 ADMISSION OF MEMBERS

6.1 All applications for church membership, including transfers, shall be made in the first instance to the Pastor or Secretary. The Leadership shall make careful enquiries regarding the applicant's spiritual experience, and submit their recommendation to a General Meeting.

6.2 If deemed necessary by the Executive, two members of that body shall be appointed to interview the applicant, and to render a report to the Executive.

6.3 A Church Meeting shall consider the report called for in Article 6.2 and make a final decision concerning the admission of the applicant to membership.

7.0 TRANSFER OF MEMBERS

7.1 Any member who desires to join another Baptist Church shall be given a Letter of Transfer upon application by the Church concerned.

7.2 Any member who desires to join a Protestant Church of a persuasion other than Baptist may be given a Letter of Introduction and Commendation upon application by the Church concerned.

7.3 Transfers or Letters of Commendation may be sent forward by the Executive, who shall report such action at the next following Members' Meeting.

8.0 PRIVILEGES AND OBLIGATIONS OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

8.1 Under the divine Headship of the Lord Jesus Christ, he final authority and responsibility in all matters touching the life and service of the Church rests with the membership. Each individual member has the responsibility and right to participate fully in the life and government of the Church, including the appointment of its leadership.

8.2 Every member shall be entitled to - and expected to attend General Meetings, unless prevented by some reasonable cause, and to exercise his or her vote for the welfare of the whole Church, in a spirit of prayer and love.

8.3 Members shall be expected to support the ministry and maintain the fellowship of the Church:

- 8.3.1 by prayer;
- 8.3.2 by attendance at services whenever possible;
- 8.3.3 by engaging in some specific service;
- 8.3.4 by conscientious giving as God 's provision enables;
- 8.3.5 by witnessing;
- 8.3.6 by introducing strangers to the Church and making them welcome.

9.0 CHURCH DISCIPLINE

9.1 If any member is absent for a period of THREE months from the services of the Church and/or neglects to comply with any of the privileges and obligations of membership without a reason/s known to the Executive, and acceptable to that body, the Executive shall make enquiry into the matter.

9.2 In the event of such enquiry producing no satisfactory results, the name of the member concerned shall be reported to a Church Meeting for such action as the members present may decide upon after due and prayerful consideration.

9.3 In the event of any accusation of unworthy conduct being brought against a member the Executive, after prayerful enquiry into the matter shall, if necessary, convey its recommendation concerning such member to a Church Meeting for such action as the members present may decide upon after due and prayerful consideration.

9.4 In purely personal matters, members are expected to act in conformity with the Lord 's injunction recorded in Matthew 18:15 -17.

9.5 The suspension or expulsion of any member shall be resorted to only if all attempts at restoration shall prove unsuccessful.

11.0 IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

11.1 All acquisition of immovable property in any manner shall require the approval of a general meeting, due notice having been given of the proposed transaction, with a majority of SEVENTY -FIVE PERCENT and a quorum of SIXTY - SEVEN PERCENT.

11.2 Any proposal to sell, donate, exchange, mortgage, hypothecate or otherwise annihilate or encumber any immovable property, shall have the prior approval of a special general meeting by a SEVENTY -FIVE PERCENT majority vote of the members present and a quorum of SIXTY -SEVEN PERCENT of the members.

12.0 SALE OF PROPERTY

The proceeds derived from the sale or other disposal of any property or other assets of the Church shall be applied and devoted in such a manner as the Church shall deem most in harmony with the principles set forth under 3.0 and 4.0 of this Constitution, and best fitted to secure the furtherance thereof.

13.0 INDEMNITY

The Trustees and all officers of the Church shall be fully indemnified against all actions, costs, charges, losses, damages and expenses which they or any of them shall or may incur in the execution of their duties, except such as they shall incur by their own wrongful action done intentionally or with gross negligence.

14.0 DISSOLUTION

14.1 The dissolution of the church may be affected by the SEVENTY -FIVE PERCENT majority vote of members present at a special general meeting. The quorum of such meeting shall be SIXTY -SEVEN PERCENT of the existing membership.

14 . 2 In the event of 14.1, such meeting shall thereupon authorise the Executive to take the necessary steps to wind up the affairs of the Church, and in particular to transfer the immovable property in due and proper form to the Baptist Union (see 14.4).

14.3 Should the number of Deacons be fewer than required by Clause 14.1, the Meeting shall appoint and authorise any other person/s to comply with the requirements.

14.4 In the event of the Church at any time ceasing to exist, all acquired property or rights to property at such time shall ipso facto vest and become the property of the Baptist Union which shall hold, administer or deal with it in such manner as the said Union through its Executive Committee may deem best fitted to secure the objects in 3.0.

14.5 The Church shall be deemed to have ceased to exist when:

14.5.1 Dissolution shall have been resolved in accordance with 14.1;

14.5.2 Public worship shall have been discontinued for a consecutive period of SIX calendar months, always provided that such discontinuation be not due to epidemic illness or some such national calamity;

14.5.3 The number of members whose names and full addresses are known has dropped to below TEN.

15.0 MODIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION

15.1 Any proposal to change this Constitution may be submitted by way of a Notice of Motion to any General Meeting.

15.2 Such Notice of Motion shall be circulated to all members for consideration at a Special General Meeting convened not less than THREE months after the General Meeting referred to in 15.1.

15.3 Proposed changes shall require the approval of TWO -THIRDS of the members present at the Meeting, with the reservation that the number so present shall be not fewer than TEN regardless of the number on the Membership Roll.

15.4 In that approval of this Constitution by the Executive of the Baptist Union of Southern Africa is a prerequisite to membership of such Union, any amendment of this Constitution or any replacement thereof, shall likewise be subject to the approval of such Executive as a condition of continuing membership.

15.5 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein - before contained, no modification of this Constitution may be made which has the effect directly or indirectly of modifying the principle outlined in Clause 3.1 ('The Nature of the Church') and Clause 8.1 ('Final Authority Resting with Membership').

15.6 It shall be understood that Clause 3.1, 8.1 and 15.5 are entrenched, and may not be revoked, amended or amplified.

15.7 THIS CONSTITUTION WAS APPROVED AT A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 13 MARCH 2022 AND SUPERSEDES ALL PREVIOUS CONSTITUTIONS

BY -LAWS TO THE CONSTITUTION

OF THE PORT SHEPSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

1.0 BUSINESS MEETINGS

1.1 Annual Business Meeting

- 1.1.1 Except under exceptional circumstances the Church business year shall end on 31 December.
- 1.1.2 The Annual Business Meeting shall be held as soon as practicable after that date and, in any case, within THREE months thereof.
- 1.1.3 Accounts of the Church and its departments, checked by examiners appointed by the Executive for that purpose, shall be presented by the Treasurer or his representative.
- 1.1.4 Written reports of the work of the Church departments shall be presented at the meeting.
- 1.1.5 The election of Deacons shall take place at the meeting.
- 1.1.6 The Agenda shall be posted on the notice board on the Sunday preceding.

1.2 Quarterly Business Meeting

- 1.2.1 Business Meetings shall be held in May, August and November, or as the proper conduct of the affairs of the Church shall require. At such meetings the Church may frame or enact such regulations as it may deem necessary for the management of its affairs.
- 1.2.2 Notice of all Church Business Meetings shall be given at both Sunday services at least TWO (2) Sundays prior to the proposed meeting.
- 1.2.3 The Agenda shall be made available to members at latest by the Sunday prior to the meeting so that members may consider them prayerfully beforehand.
- 1.2.4 The non -receipt of the notice as required by 1.1.6 and 1.2.3 shall not invalidate the proceedings of the meeting.

1.3 Special Business Meeting

- 1.3.1 Special Business Meetings shall be convened:
 - 1.3.1.1 As required in this Constitution;
 - 1.3.1.2 On the initiative of the Executive;

1.3.1.3 Upon written request of at least EIGHT members (stating the purpose) and within ONE MONTH of such request.

1.3.2 At the discretion of the Executive, notice of any Special Business Meeting may be posted to all members prior to the meeting, clearly specifying the matters to be submitted for consideration.

1.4 Quorum

1.4.1 Twenty percent of the total membership of the Church when a meeting proceeds to business, shall constitute a quorum. 'Total Membership' shall be deemed to be the enrolment as announced by the Secretary as enrolment at the date of the meeting.

1.4.2 If a business meeting fails to procure a quorum, it shall automatically reconvene at the same time and place FOURTEEN DAYS later. 'Total Membership' attendance present at the meeting shall be deemed to be the enrolment as announced by the Secretary as enrolment at the date of the meeting.

1.5 Voting

1.5.1 Only members who have attained the age of EIGHTEEN YEARS shall be entitled to vote.

1.5.2 Unless otherwise required elsewhere in this Constitution, all matters shall be decided by the majority vote of those present.

1.5.3 Voting shall be by show of hands, unless:

1.5.3.1 Otherwise required elsewhere in this Constitution;

1.5.3.2 At least SIX members vote in favour of holding a ballot.

1.5.4 If at least ONE -THIRD of the members present at a Business Meeting so request, any matter brought forward without due prior notice having been given - i.e., either by Notice of Motion or in the announcement of the meeting - shall be deferred for consideration at a further meeting;

1.5.5 There shall be no postal or proxy voting.

2.0 THE LEADERSHIP

2.1 The Church shall function through its Executive Committee, which shall consist of the Pastor together with the Elder/s and Deacons. During pastoral vacancies, the Elder/s and Deacons shall constitute the Executive Committee.

2.2 The Executive shall act as generally or specifically directed by the Church in General Meeting assembled, and shall be accountable to the Church for all tasks delegated to it, and for the proper administration of all Church funds. 2.3 The Executive shall meet at least once a month, if possible.

2.4 Fifty per cent of the Executive shall constitute a quorum.

2.5 At its first meeting after the Annual General Meeting, the Executive shall appoint from its own number a Secretary and a Treasurer, as well as a deputy Chairman who shall act during the absence for any reason of the Pastor, and during pastoral vacancies. These appointments shall be ratified at the next General Meeting.

3.0 CHAIRMAN

3.1 The Pastor has the option to be chairman of all general and leadership meetings, except when his own position is under consideration, or when he may wish to delegate the chair to another member of the Leadership.

3.2 In the absence of the Pastor, the deputy Chairman of the Diaconate shall act as chairman.

3.3 If neither the Pastor nor the deputy Chairman from the leadership is available, the meeting shall elect a chairman from its number for that meeting.

3.4 The Chairman shall have a deliberative and a casting vote.

4.0 DEACONS

4.1 From its membership, the Church shall elect deacons at a ratio of one to fifteen, but with a minimum of four and a maximum of 12 who at the time of election shall be:

4.1.1 Over TWENTY ONE years of age;

4.1.2 Members of at least SIX MONTHS' standing;

4.1.3 Baptised by immersion.

4.2 Deacons shall be elected at each Annual Business Meeting, and shall hold office for TWO YEARS, after which period they shall retire, but may be re-elected for further consecutive two-year periods.

4.3 Vacancies which occur may be filled by co-option. Such co-opted deacons shall serve on the diaconate up to the following Annual General Meeting where they shall fall away and be eligible for re-election if nominated.

4.4 The names of all nominees shall be made known at both services on the Sunday prior to the date of the meeting at which the election shall take place.

4.5 Voting Procedure:

4.5.1 Nominations for the office of Deacon shall be submitted in writing to the Church Secretary duly signed by the nominee, proposer and seconder not later than **FOURTEEN DAYS** before the date of the election.

4.5.2 Proposers and seconds must be members of the Church.

4.5.3 Voting shall be by ballot.

4.5.4 Each member shall have as many votes as there are vacancies to be filled, but may vote for any candidate once only.

4.5.5 Only nominees receiving more than half the votes of members present shall be declared elected to fill any vacancies, which shall be filled on the basis of votes received by the candidate, from the most to the least, subject to the proviso that the candidate so elected shall receive more than half the votes of members present.

5.0 ELDERS

5.1 The Church may, from time to time, see fit to appoint to the office of Elder such person/s recognised as gifted by the Holy Spirit for this office, and who satisfy the requirements as detailed in Timothy and Titus.

5.2 The Elder/s shall consult with and assist the Pastor/s in the caring ministry and spiritual oversight of the Church.

5.3 In the absence of a minister, the Elder/s shall continue to perform their pastoral function.

5.4 After having also considered any suggestions from Church members, the Executive shall recommend to a General Meeting from its membership such person/s of maturity and good standing in the Faith and in the secular world as it considers suitable for appointment to this office. The name/s of the person/s to be recommended shall be made known at the time Notice of Meeting is given, prior consent having been obtained from the nominee/s.

5.5 The initial appointments of each recommended candidate shall be on the favourable ballot vote of **THREE -QUARTERS** of the members present at a General Meeting properly constituted.

5.6 Each Elder shall hold office for **TWO** consecutive years, and continuance in office for further periods of two years shall be on the favourable vote of three -

quarters of the members present at a properly constituted General Meeting.

5.7 Elders, if they so desire, may attend meetings of the Executive.

5.8 On the recommendation of the Executive, the number of Elders deemed desirable shall be decided from time to time at a Business Meeting.

5.9 In the event of dishonourable conduct (I Tim. 5:19,20), an Elder may be removed from office by resolution at a Business Meeting of members on a basis of an affirmative vote by three -quarters of the members present and eligible to vote.

6.0 THE PASTORATE

6.1 The choice and appointment of a Pastor/s is vested in the membership of the Church.

6.2 When an appointment becomes necessary the procedure shall be as follows:

6.2.1 A Business Meeting shall appoint no fewer than FOUR members to serve with the Diaconate and Elder/s as a Call Committee.

6.2.2 The Committee shall recommend only one name to any Special Business Meeting.

6.2.3 The invitation shall be contingent upon the following:

6.2.3.1 At least seventy -five percent of members present shall vote in favour by ballot.

6.2.3.2 The Executive Committee of the Baptist Union may be consulted in the calling of a Minister/Assistant Minister.

6.2.3.3 Any engagement between the Church and the Pastor shall be terminable by THREE MONTHS' notice on either side, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon.

6.2.3.4 The membership should strive for unanimity in a pastoral call.

6.3 Occasional preachers may be allowed to officiate with the permission of the Executive of the Church, subject to the condition that they shall not teach doctrines which are subversive of the Basis of Faith of the Church.

6.4 Resignation or dismissal of the minister/s

6.4.1 Resignation Procedure:

6.4.1.1 A Business Meeting may be called for the sole and specific purpose of dealing with the resignation;

6.4.1.2 Care shall be exercised to provide that such resignation be not contrary to or in breach of the Terms of Contract entered into between the Church and

such minister/s.

6.4.1.3 The parties may mutually agree to waive any or all of the terms of any Contract entered into.

6.4.2 The minister/s may be dismissed by the Church if he is/they are proved to the satisfaction of the Diaconate after due investigation.

6.4.2.1 To be teaching any doctrine/s which is/are in conflict with the Statement of Faith;

6.4.2.2 To be bringing the Church into disrepute.

6.4.3 Dismissal Procedure:

6.4.3.1 A Business Meeting shall be called for the sole and specific purpose of dealing with a dismissal in terms of 6.4.2.1 and 6.4.2.2

6.4.3.2 The quorum shall be thirty -three percent of the membership of the Church.

6.4.3.3 Voting shall be by ballot, and every member shall have ONE vote.

6.4.3.4 An affirmative vote of at least TWO -THIRDS of members present at the meeting shall be necessary to give effect to the dismissal of the minister/s.

6.4.3.5 Care shall be exercised that such dismissal be not contrary to or in breach of any of the Terms of Contract entered into between the Church and such minister/s.

6.4.3.6 The parties may mutually agree to waive any or all of the terms of any Contract entered into.

7.0 DEPARTMENTS

7.1 No leader of any department shall be appointed without the approval of Church members at a properly constituted Church Meeting.

7.2 Each department shall appoint its own committee/s.

7.3 Each department shall keep proper books of record.

7.4 The Sunday School shall appoint its own staff.

7.5 Notwithstanding anything contained in any of 7.1 - 7.4, the Executive shall have the right to veto any measure introduced by a department if it considers such measure to be:

7.5.1 Contrary to the Word of God;

7.5.2 Contrary to Christian principles, as understood and interpreted by the Church;

7.5.3 Contrary to the welfare of the Church.

8.0 FINANCE

- 8.1 The Church shall be supported by voluntary giving.
- 8.2 The methods of voluntary giving shall be decided upon by the Diaconate.
- 8.3 Proper books of account shall be maintained.
- 8.4 The members shall appoint annually a competent person or persons who shall examine the Church securities, audit the accounts and financial records of the Church and furnish a report thereon to the members in writing, not less than FOURTEEN days prior to the A.G.M. (see 1.1.3). Such report shall refer to the existence of the securities and the adequacy of the records maintained and shall express an opinion on the accuracy of the accounts presented

9.0 FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

The Church shall have power to buy, sell, donate, let or hire, exchange, transfer, receive by way of donation or otherwise, moveable and immovable property and to invest its funds in government or municipal stock, mortgage bonds, or on fixed deposit or otherwise, in banks, post offices, or approved organisations and shall further have power to borrow money with or without security in such manner as the church shall deem fit, negotiate loans from bankers or others by overdraft or otherwise and by passing mortgage and notarial bonds for registration with the proper authorities, and to open and operate banking accounts, and to make, draw, accept, discount, execute and issue promissory notes, bills of exchange and other negotiable and transferable instruments to guarantee the performance of contracts by any person or duly constituted church having objectives wholly or partly similar to the objectives of this Church.