



CHURCH RULES (Doctrine & Practice)

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Part 1: Doctrine

- 1.1 FIEC Doctrinal Basis
- 1.10 Doctrinal Distinctives

Part 2: Practice

- 2.0 Principles for Trust Purposes
- 2.4 Church Membership
 - 2.4.3 Admission to Membership
 - 2.4.4 Associate Membership
 - 2.4.5 Disciplinary Procedure
 - 2.4.6 Removal from Membership
- 2.5 Baptism
- 2.6 The Lord's Supper
- 2.7 Church Leaders
 - 2.7.1 Managing Trustees
 - 2.7.2 Pastor
 - 2.7.3 Assistant Pastors
 - 2.7.4 Elders
 - 2.7.5 Home Group Leaders
- 2.8 Church Treasurer
- 2.9 Church Members' Meetings
- 2.10 Church Property
- 2.11 Amendment to the Doctrinal Basis and Rules

Appendix:

- Charities Act 2011 Section 178
- Disqualification of Trustees

The FIEC Doctrinal Basis (1991)

We believe in:

1.1 GOD

There is one God, who exists eternally in three distinct but equal persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. God is unchangeable in his holiness, justice, wisdom and love. He is the almighty Creator; Saviour and Judge who sustains and governs all things according to his sovereign will for his own glory.

1.2 THE BIBLE

God has revealed himself in the Bible, which consists of the Old and New Testaments alone. Every word was inspired by God through human authors, so that the Bible as originally given is in its entirety the Word of God, without error and fully reliable in fact and doctrine. The Bible alone speaks with final authority and is always sufficient for all matters of belief and practice.

1.3 THE HUMAN RACE

All men and women, being created in the image of God, have inherent and equal dignity and worth. Their greatest purpose is to obey, worship and love God. As a result of the fall of our first parents, every aspect of human nature has been corrupted and all men and women are without spiritual life, guilty sinners and hostile to God. Every person is therefore under the just condemnation of God and needs to be born again, forgiven and reconciled to God in order to know and please him.

1.4 THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

The Lord Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, and lived a sinless life in obedience to the Father. He taught with authority and all his words are true. On the cross he died in the place of sinners, bearing God's punishment for their sin, redeeming them by his blood. He rose from the dead and in his resurrection body ascended into heaven where he is exalted as Lord of all. He intercedes for his people in the presence of the Father.

1.5 SALVATION

Salvation is entirely a work of God's grace and cannot be earned or deserved. It has been accomplished by the Lord Jesus Christ and is offered to all in the gospel. God in his love forgives sinners whom he calls, granting them repentance and faith. All who believe in Christ are justified by faith alone, adopted into the family of God and receive eternal life.

1.6 THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit has been sent from heaven to glorify Christ and to apply his work of salvation. He convicts sinners, imparts spiritual life and gives a true understanding of the Scriptures. He indwells all believers, brings assurance of salvation and produces increasing likeness to Christ. He builds up the Church and empowers its members for worship, service and mission.

1.7 THE CHURCH

The universal Church is the body of which Christ is the head and to which all who are saved belong. It is made visible in local churches, which are congregations of believers who are committed to each other for the worship of God, the preaching of the Word, the administering of Baptism and the Lord's Supper; for pastoral care and discipline, and for evangelism. The unity of the body of Christ is expressed within and between churches by mutual love, care and encouragement. True fellowship between churches exists only where they are faithful to the gospel.

1.8 BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

Baptism and the Lord's Supper have been given to the churches by Christ as visible signs of the gospel. Baptism is a symbol of union with Christ and entry into his Church but does not impart spiritual life. The Lord's Supper is a commemoration of Christ's sacrifice offered once for all and involves no change in the bread and wine. All its blessings are received by faith.

1.9 THE FUTURE

The Lord Jesus Christ will return in glory. He will raise the dead and judge the world in righteousness. The wicked will be sent to eternal punishment and the righteous will be welcomed into a life of eternal joy in fellowship with God. God will make all things new and will be glorified forever.

Christ Church Dunstable has further agreed in adopting this Doctrinal Basis and Rules that our understanding and application of statement 1.2 The Bible is as follows:

1.10 BELIEVER'S BAPTISM IN WATER

Christ Church Dunstable believes that baptism into the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit is an outward sign which marks a person's regeneration and baptism by the Holy Spirit into membership of the church of Jesus Christ. As such, it should only properly be administered to adults who publicly profess faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Baptism should, wherever possible and practicable, be administered by immersion in water, symbolising that the person baptised has been united with Christ in his death and resurrection.

- 1.10.1 Only Christians baptised as believers who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, who subscribe in good conscience to the Doctrinal Basis and Rules, and have had satisfactory interviews with the Elders, shall normally be eligible for membership (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:38).
- 1.10.2 Those evangelical Christian believers who hold in all good conscience to a different understanding of baptism in the Bible may be admitted to church membership with the collective agreement of the pastor and elders on condition that they fully respect the beliefs and practices of Christ Church Dunstable in regard to believers' baptism and that they will never seek to undermine them.

1.11 THE LORD'S SUPPER

Christ Church Dunstable believes that the Lord's Supper is a remembrance meal of thanksgiving and celebration instituted by Christ at which Christian believers share bread and wine together to be reminded of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, of the new covenant of salvation which he inaugurated and to proclaim that he will return.

- 1.11.1 The Lord's Supper is celebrated on a regular basis by the members of the church, whether at Sunday meetings, members' meetings, home groups or at other times, demonstrating their unity in the body of Christ. Members undertake to participate in the Lord's Supper as a priority whenever possible.

1.11.2 Whilst it is desirable that all who share in the Lord's Supper have been baptised as believers in obedience to the teaching of the Bible, all those who profess to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their own personal Saviour and Lord, and are walking in right relationship with him and his people, are welcome to take part.

1.12 LEADERSHIP OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

Pastors and Elders: Christ Church Dunstable believes that, in accordance with the pattern established in the New Testament, a local church congregation should be led by suitably gifted pastors and elders. Whilst God created men and women in absolute equality, he also ordained that leadership in the family, within the context of marriage, and in the church, should be the functional responsibility of men. For this reason, in obedience to the Bible, the pastors and elders of Christ Church Dunstable are required to be male.

1.12.1 The duly appointed pastor, assistant pastors and elders of the church are the under-shepherds of Christ, and they must exercise their leadership of the local church in accordance with the character of Christ's own leadership of the universal church. They are to love the members of the church and to give themselves in their service, working to present them to Christ as holy and blameless. In turn the members are required to submit themselves to their leadership in so far as it is exercised in accordance with the Bible (Hebrews 13:17).

1.12.2 Home Group Leaders: In accordance with the pattern found in the Bible suitably gifted men in the church may be appointed by the pastor and elders to serve as home group leaders, with their wives (if applicable) under the oversight and with the support of the pastor and elders. This is how Christ Church Dunstable interprets and applies the biblical role of deacon.

1.13 MARRIAGE AND SEXUALITY

Marriage is ordained by God in the Bible to be the voluntary union for life of one man to one woman to the exclusion of all others and this is what is meant by “marriage” below.

- 1.13.1 Christ Church Dunstable believes that sex is a good gift given by God. However, God has ordained that the only proper relationship within which sexual intimacy may be enjoyed is marriage.
We believe that the Bible prohibits any same-sex sexual relationship.
- 1.13.2 It is therefore part of our doctrine that in relation to any activities of this church we can in no way condone, promote, assist or encourage sexual intimacy outside of marriage, whether between a man and woman, or between persons of the same gender, or any extra-marital sexual practices. As members we are all accountable to one another and to the whole church in this regard.
- 1.13.3 As with other persistent sinful behaviour, those who engage in sexual intimacy outside of marriage, and who do not confess and repent of their sin, face the certain prospect of divine judgment. However, God longs that all persons who have fallen short of his standards of sexual behaviour should come to repentance and faith, so that they might receive complete forgiveness through Jesus Christ, and that they might resist temptation and live in a manner that is pleasing to him.

1.14 GOSPEL UNITY AND ECUMENISM

Jesus prayed for the unity of his people and this is an essential element of our witness (John 17:23). We are urged to maintain spiritual unity in the face of differences of belief and practice which are not essential to the Gospel. Our commitment to unity extends not only within the FIEC, but to all who are united to Christ in a variety of church and para-church groups. We look forward to the day when all of God's people will be united before him in glory.

- 1.14.1 Christ Church Dunstable affirms that “true fellowship between churches exists only where they are faithful to the gospel”. The gospel of salvation by grace is so precious to us that we desire to stand together with all who believe and preach it. For the same reason, we cannot express Christian fellowship with those who reject it. The New Testament warns us repeatedly to guard the church against the influence of false teachers who deny the truth. Therefore we cannot join in partnership in evangelism or activities of Christian fellowship with those who are unable to affirm the essential doctrines of the faith as expressed in our Doctrinal basis. We are unable to affiliate formally to groups such as Churches Together which exist to express unity between churches, but without concern as to whether they hold to the core doctrines of the gospel as expressed in our Doctrinal Basis.
- 1.14.2 There are many opportunities for us to find common cause with others (both inside and outside the professing church), if these do not compromise our distinctive testimony to the Gospel. For example we may be able to speak together on moral issues, in defence of our religious liberties, or to work together in acts of practical charity and compassion. Such activities are at the discretion of the pastor and elders.

1.15 BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Christ Church Dunstable believes that every genuine believer is baptised with the Holy Spirit at the moment at which they are born again and brought to true faith in Jesus Christ.

- 1.15.1 Whilst every genuine believer is therefore indwelt by the Holy Spirit, all believers are urged in the Bible to ensure that they are increasingly filled with, and continually keeping in step with, the Holy Spirit.

1.16 EVERY MEMBER MINISTRY

Christ Church Dunstable believes that the Bible teaches that each and every member of the church is called by God to utilise his or her gifts, whatever they may be, by ministering to other members of the church. The provision of teaching and pastoral care within the life of the church, whilst to be faithfully modelled to the church by the pastor, pastoral team, elders and home-group leaders, is not their sole responsibility. Whilst it is true that the pastor in particular is called and set apart to preach and teach the Word of God, with other church leaders called to serve alongside him, we also affirm that every believer is a priest – as expressed in 1 Peter 2.9 – who enjoys direct access to God through our Lord Jesus Christ and is able to minister to others. Church leaders are therefore not of a different status to other members of the church, but are sinners similarly saved by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. They have been appointed by the members of the church to lead and serve through preaching ministry and by providing pastoral oversight for the congregation.

PRACTICE – HOW THE CHURCH IS GOVERNED

- 2.0** Christ Church Dunstable is established under an Indenture dated 1 May 1838 (as amended by a Deed of Variation dated 6 December 2007 and a resolution passed under section 280 Charities Act 2011 on 4 June 2013) - (“the Trust Deed”) which contains the main legal provisions governing the church, its purpose, its powers, the use of any property owned by the church and recognises The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches Limited as Holding Trustee and the church officers as the managing trustees
- 2.1 This booklet (Part 1: Doctrine and Part 2: Practice) comprises the Doctrinal Basis and Rules which set out the essential practices of the church and its method of internal governance, none of which are contrary to any of the provisions of the Trust Deed.
- 2.2 The managing trustees referred to in the Trust Deed are defined in the Rules as the pastor and elders, of which there shall not be fewer than three in total; assistant pastors may also be appointed as managing trustees if required by the pastor and elders. The Trust Deed contains the following provisions regarding the managing trustees:-
- 2.2.1 The chairman of managing trustees meetings will usually be the pastor, and in his absence another chairman should be agreed and appointed. In the event of a split decision, the chairman will have a second and casting vote.
- 2.2.2 They shall meet not fewer than 4 times a year
- 2.2.3 A quorum shall consist of at least one half of the total number of managing trustees.
- 2.2.4 Minutes of meetings will be kept.
- 2.2.5 In accordance with a Charity Commission Order dated 10 April 2013, the pastor, any assistant pastor(s) who are also managing trustees, and elders of the church may be employed and remunerated from church funds provided those paid are fewer than one half of their number, and they must not be present in the meetings whenever their salary or financial benefits are discussed.

Practice - How the Church is Governed

- 2.2.6 Subject to 2.2.5 no managing trustee shall receive any financial benefit from the church funds, other than the re-imbusement of expenses incurred in carrying out his duties or re-imbusement of costs of the purchase of goods or services supplied to or for the church.
- 2.2.7 Other legal requirements in relation to managing trustees, including legal disqualification, are set out in the Trust Deed and Appendix 1 of this booklet.
- 2.3 This Doctrinal Basis and Rules were initially adopted by the members on 4 June 2013. Any amendments since that date will have been approved as provided for under section 2.11.

2.4 Church Membership

Members of the Church shall be those persons who have confirmed in writing their full agreement with the Doctrinal Basis and Rules, and whose membership has been approved by the pastor and elders and has not been suspended or terminated.

- 2.4.1 Each person becoming a member shall be required to sign a copy of the Doctrinal Basis and Rules, and to retain this for their personal use. They will also sign an acknowledgment of having read and agreed with the Doctrinal Basis and Rules which will be kept by the church. Continued agreement with the Doctrinal Basis and Rules is required for continued membership.
- 2.4.2 Membership brings with it blessings and responsibilities. The blessings arise from membership of the local body of Christ in all its work and worship. These blessings are also accompanied by responsibilities, in particular to:
- Love the church and to strive for the unity of church members together through prayer and loving commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord.
 - Sit under the preaching of God's Word as preached week by week, to hear it and to obey it.
 - Not neglect meeting together with the congregation for preaching, prayer, fellowship and the Lord's Supper (Acts 2:41-47). Prioritising involvement with Sunday services, participation in home groups

Practice - How the Church is Governed

(and for younger members the main youth group) and regular attendance at the main church mid-week prayer meeting and women's/men's Bible studies as held from week to week or month to month.

- Participate in the life of the church through active involvement in serving one another and the local community. This will particularly involve serving in our Christian Community Centre, and other opportunities for reaching out with the gospel and using spiritual gifts and abilities for the good of the church.
- Cheerful, generous and sacrificial financial giving for the support of the church's ministry, which we recognise is an expression of our love and commitment to God and to one another (Malachi 3:8-10; 2 Corinthians 8:7-12, 9:6-11, Philippians 4:17-19).
- Support and pray for the leadership of the church and to recognise the authority God has given them over his church in the Bible (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13).
- Welcome all newcomers irrespective of their background and current circumstances, seeking the salvation of the lost at every opportunity.
- Serve and support one another by way of prayer and pastoral care, through home groups and across the wider church fellowship.
- Seek to honour Christ Jesus as Lord in daily life, setting a godly example to each other and to a watching world, prayerfully desiring to show the fruit of the Spirit as together we seek to keep in step with the Spirit as His holy people.

2.4.3 Admission to Church Membership

Committed Christians who have been baptised as believers (see section 1.10) are encouraged to apply to the pastor and elders to become members of the church.

- 2.4.3.1 The pastor and his wife, and any other member of the pastoral staff and their spouse shall be received into membership in accordance with section 2.4 on the taking up their appointment.
- 2.4.3.2 The church administrator shall maintain an accurate register of all church members.

2.4.4 Associate Membership

Associate Membership may be open to those who

- (a) are temporarily living in Dunstable or the surrounding area and have formal membership of another church elsewhere, or
- (b) have been in church membership at Christ Church Dunstable but have now moved away and (with the agreement of the pastor and elders) wish to retain a formal link with the church, or
- (c) are ministry partners with membership elsewhere at their primary supporting church, or
- (d) those who have been baptised as believers who are under 18 years old (ordinarily they will assume full membership on reaching 18 years of age). Associate members have the same benefits and responsibilities of members at Christ Church Dunstable except the right to vote at members' meetings. All other Church Rules apply to them.

2.4.5 Disciplinary Procedure

The intention of church discipline is to endeavour to help the member to see their need of repentance thus restoring their relationship with the Lord (James 5:19-20). Church leaders will always seek to act in love, gentleness and respect towards church members (Galatians 6:1-2).

- 2.4.5.1 Members undergoing church discipline will have opportunity to meet with representatives from the church leadership to help them understand the need for repentance.
- 2.4.5.2 While church discipline is in progress the elders may instruct the member not to take part in the Lord's Supper, attend home group or other church activities, and also not attend or vote at church members' meetings.
- 2.4.5.3 One responsibility which church leaders have is to seek to reduce the risk of sinful conduct impacting others. This is to protect the church and to guard the honour of Christ in the church and the wider community (1 Corinthians 5:2). Wherever possible, private sins are dealt with privately. It is only in the infrequent situation

Practice - How the Church is Governed

when there is no evident repentance (Matthew 18:15-17), or when sinful behaviour becomes known publicly or there is a legal requirement for church leaders to report a matter to the authorities, that the pastor and elders may need to share a matter more openly with the church.

- 2.4.5.4 Continued refusal to repent may mean that the pastor and elders have no choice but to remove a member from church membership, advising him or her accordingly. The pastor and elders will report their decision to the next church members' meeting. The reason for removal from membership may be kept confidential if it is assessed that there are overriding reasons; however, the church leaders will always act to protect the church members and wider community and will not hesitate to make matters public if required or if there is a compelling reason.
- 2.4.5.5 If the elders believe that it is necessary to investigate the pastor's conduct (1 Timothy 5:19) then this will also be undertaken carefully and sensitively. The elders will follow the FIEC approved Resolution Procedure. Such reasons could include the pastor no longer adhering to the Doctrinal Basis and Rules, sexual immorality or other behaviour that brings serious dishonour to the name of the Lord in the church and/or wider community.

2.4.6 Removal from Membership

A member may be removed from membership by the pastor and elders where:

- (a) over a twelve month period he or she has not regularly attended the church on Sundays or has ceased to play an active part in church life, despite encouragement and support, (excluding reasons of infirmity or living away as per 2.4.4) or
- (b) the disciplinary procedure set out in section 2.4.5 has been followed and the pastor and elders have agreed such a course of action.

- 2.4.6.1 Membership shall cease where a member is no longer able to hold to the Doctrinal Basis and Rules despite having been given counsel and support in the event of difficulties or issues that may have arisen for them.

Practice - How the Church is Governed

2.4.6.2 When membership ceases, the former member will no longer have the right to attend members' meetings nor home groups. They must also relinquish leadership responsibilities they may have had within the church. They may be asked not to attend other church activities.

2.4.6.3 A member may voluntarily resign by submitting a letter to that effect to the church administrator or pastor. The pastor and elders reserve the right not to accept any such resignation if church discipline is in progress.

2.5 Baptism

Section 1.10 sets out the position of Christ Church Dunstable with regard to baptism and church membership.

2.5.1 Any person wishing to be baptised shall submit their request to the pastor and elders who will arrange for the applicant to be interviewed by a relevant church leader. They shall report back to the pastor and elders who will discuss and determine whether to recommend attendance at baptismal classes and subsequently permit baptism. 16 is the usual minimum age for baptism.

2.6 The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper will usually be celebrated at least once a month. The table shall be open to all who truly believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and know Him as their Saviour and Lord, and are walking in right relationship with Him and His people.

2.7 Church Leaders

2.7.1 Managing Trustees

See 2.2. Under English law certain persons are not allowed to be a trustee (see Appendix 1). When the pastor or elders step down from their responsibilities, or are removed under 2.7.4.2 below, they immediately cease to be managing trustees in accordance with the Trust Deed.

2.7.2 Pastor

The appointment of the pastor is made by the elders bringing their recommendation to a meeting of the members, who will be given the opportunity to affirm or withhold their support for the proposal. The pastor must have been baptised as a believer prior to his

appointment and must be in full agreement, and continue to be in agreement, with the Doctrinal Basis and Rules including 1.10 Believer's Baptism in Water for as long as he serves as pastor.

If upon leaving the pastorate the pastor and his wife continue to live in Dunstable or its surrounding area, they may, with the agreement of the elders, remain church members.

2.7.3 Assistant Pastors

The appointment of any assistant pastor or any other paid position on the pastoral team is made by the pastor and elders bringing their recommendation to a meeting of the members, who will be given the opportunity to affirm or withhold their support for the proposal. Each assistant pastor must have been baptised as a believer prior to his appointment and must be in full agreement, and continue to be in agreement, with the Doctrinal Basis and Rules including 1.10 Believer's Baptism in Water for as long as he serves as assistant pastor.

2.7.4 Elders

According to the New Testament, elders are responsible for leading the church of God. The requirements for eldership are laid down specifically in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, 1 Peter 5:1-3, and implied in other passages such as Acts 20:17-35.

- 2.7.4.1 As men of spiritual maturity emerge within the church and begin to show signs that they are being called by God to this work, the existing elders shall prayerfully consult with them, begin to prepare them for eldership, and if appropriate bring their names before a members' meeting for prayerful consideration. A period of 1 month shall then elapse during which any who have reasonable grounds for doubting the proposed elder's call or qualifications shall inform the pastor and elders who shall enquire further into the matter. If the objections are found to be justified the names shall be withdrawn. If no such objections are received in the specified time, or if objections received are found to be groundless, then after the end of the 1 month period, the pastor and elders will bring their recommendation to a meeting of the members, who will be given the opportunity to affirm or withhold their support for the proposal.

Practice - How the Church is Governed

- 2.7.4.2 Elders usually serve for a five year term. The first three years of their first term shall be considered as a probationary period and during this time the pastor and other elders will prayerfully discuss any issues that may arise for him or his wife and seek to provide appropriate support. If the appointment of an elder proves inadvisable or inappropriate, the pastor and other elders may ask him to step down or remove him from office advising the members accordingly. Similarly, the elders may remove one of their number from office as part of church discipline if need arises.
- 2.7.4.3 At the end of an elder's five year term, a review will take place within the eldership as to whether or not the elder will serve for a further term. If proposed by the elders to continue for a further five year term, the elder will have the opportunity to take a short sabbatical before being brought to the members for an affirmation of support.

2.7.5 Home Group Leaders

Home group leaders, together with their wives, agree to take responsibility for assisting the pastor and elders in the service of the church of God, in the leadership and pastoral care of their group. The home group leader also has particular responsibility for teaching the Bible. The requirements are those laid down for deacons in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

- 2.7.5.1 Home group leaders are appointed by the pastor and elders for a term of three years, though may serve for a further term(s) if they are willing. If their appointment proves inadvisable or inappropriate, the pastor and elders may ask them to step down.
- Each home group leader receives support from a specific elder.

2.8 Church Treasurer

The elders shall appoint from among their number a church treasurer.

- 2.8.1 The church treasurer shall be responsible for overseeing the production of the church accounts and for liaison between the church administrator, the finance team and the pastors and elders.

2.9 Church Members' Meetings

General church meetings shall be held at least three times a year. The meeting will usually be led by the pastor, though in his absence the elders will appoint either an assistant pastor or one of their number to be chairman.

- 2.9.1 Special church meetings to discuss or vote upon a particular issue may be called by the pastor and elders from time to time.
- 2.9.2 One of the general church meetings shall be the annual general meeting and there shall not be more than 18 months between any two such meetings. The elders shall present their annual report and the annual accounts of the church funds at this meeting. The meeting will usually be led by the pastor, though in his absence the elders will appoint either an assistant pastor or one of their number to be chairman.
- 2.9.3 Notice shall be given to the members of the church on the two Sundays prior to the meeting of any general or annual church meeting. Failure to be able to give notice to individual members because they are away from the church for any reason shall not constitute failure to give proper notice under this Rule.
- 2.9.4 Unless otherwise set out in 2.11 below all votes at a general, annual or special church meeting shall be carried by a simple majority of those members present and voting in favour of the proposal.
- 2.9.5 No proxy votes shall be permitted, only those members present at the meeting shall be entitled to vote.
- 2.9.6 Whenever practicable, and on all matters to do with the election and appointment of the pastor and elders, the pastor and elders shall provide the members with one month's notice of the matter to be decided.

2.10 Church Property

The Trust Deed lays down the uses to which property owned or leased by the church may be used. These uses are widely drawn. The elders are required to ensure that no use of the property is outside the provisions of the Trust Deed.

- 2.10.1 Where the church wishes to buy new property or sell existing property the holding trustee, as the registered title holder of property for the church, will require a resolution of the members approving the pastor and elders' recommendation for that transaction.

2.11 Amendment to the Doctrinal Basis and Rules

Other than sections 2.0 and 2.2, any of these rules may be amended by the managing trustees under the authority of a resolution of the members of the church approving such a change at a general church meeting, provided that the proposed amendment is consistent with the provisions of the Trust Deed (see 2.11.3 below), and shall not be such as would cause the church to lose its charitable status. Sections 2.0 and 2.2 can only be amended where the provisions of the Trust Deed referred to in those Rules have been amended. Believer's baptism in water is a purpose set out in the 1838 Trust Deed and therefore cannot be amended.

- 2.11.1 A $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of those members present at the church meeting and voting in favour is required to approve a proposed amendment to any rule except:
- (a) Our FIEC Doctrinal Basis (1991) and sections 1.11, 1.12, 1.13, 1.14, 1.15, 1.16 where a majority of $\frac{3}{4}$ is required and
 - (b) Sections 2.0 and 2.2 where any amendment would automatically follow the amendment of the Order without the need for a vote.
- 2.11.2 Notice of a proposed amendment together with the specific wording must be provided to all church members at least one month before the meeting at which the proposal will be put to the vote. Failure to be able to give notice to individual members because they are out of the country or away from the church for any reason shall not constitute failure to give proper notice under this Rule.
- 2.11.3 No amendment may be made under section 2.11 to any provision of the Trust Deed, nor to any other trust deeds in relation to the church property, such as would contradict any provision in the Trust Deed.

CHARITIES ACT 2011, SECTION 178 DISQUALIFICATION OF TRUSTEES

A person is disqualified from being a trustee (*of any charity*) under Section 178 of the Charities Act 2011 if:

- a) he or she has been convicted of any offence involving dishonesty or deception;
- b) he or she has been adjudged bankrupt or sequestration of his/her estate has been awarded and (in either case) he/she has not been discharged;
- c) he or she has made a composition or arrangement with, or granted a trust deed for, his/her creditors and has not been discharged in respect of it;
- d) he or she has been removed from the office of charity trustee by an order of the Charity Commissioners or of the High Court on the grounds of any misconduct or mismanagement in the administration of the charity for which he/she was responsible or to which he/she was privy, or which he/she by his/her conduct contributed to or facilitated;
- e) he or she has been removed under Section 7 of the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions)(Scotland) Act 1990 from being concerned in the management or control of any body; or
- f) he or she is subject to a disqualification order made under the Company Director's Disqualification Act 1986 or the Insolvency Act 1986.

The Charity Commission has discretionary power to waive the disqualification and they must be approached with the facts and their written approval sought.

Published March 2017