

Central Baptist Church

Ward Road, Dundee
CONSTITUTION

1. NAME AND AIMS

- 1.1 The Fellowship shall be known as Central Baptist Church, Dundee and it shall be affiliated to the Baptist Union of Scotland (or its successor organisation) and will uphold Baptist Principles both in terms of believers' baptism and church government, subscribing to the Declaration of Principle* as detailed in the Constitution of the Baptist Union of Scotland.
- 1.2 The Aims of Central Baptist Church are to join together in Christian worship and fellowship and to engage in the propagation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ both locally and beyond.

2. SACRAMENTS

- 2.1 The sacrament of the Lord's Supper shall be open to all who profess saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 2.2 The sacrament of baptism shall be administered by immersion to believers on profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, subject to recommendation of a church meeting following interview. If immersion is deemed inadvisable on medical grounds an alternative mode of believers' baptism shall be adopted.

3. MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 A Membership Register shall record the names of the members of Central Baptist Church and consist of those who profess faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who have been baptised as believers into His Name and have been accepted at a church meeting.
- 3.2 Students who satisfy the conditions for inclusion on the Membership Register of Central Baptist Church and who wish to retain membership of their home church may be accepted as Student Members of Central Baptist Church, with full voting rights except on matters of the Constitution following acceptance, by a church meeting, of a letter of commendation from their home church. On completion of the individual's period of study, this form of association with Central Baptist Church will automatically lapse. If the person is remaining in the area he / she will be encouraged to come into full membership.
- 3.3 It is a prime responsibility of each individual in the Membership to live by scriptural principles in such a way as will commend our Lord and His doctrine to all and actively to support the church's work and witness.
- 3.4 Any member who has moved away and/or who does not participate in the church's work and witness shall be transferred to a Supplementary Register. After pastoral consideration and prayer the decision to transfer shall be taken by the Elders and Deacons. Those transferred to the Supplementary Register shall not have voting rights. An appeal against removal to the Supplementary Register can be made to a church meeting whose decision on the matter shall be final. The members at a church meeting will be notified of names placed on the Supplementary Register but the underlying reasons will remain confidential to the Elders and Deacons.
- 3.5 In the event of a person (s) demonstrating a renewed commitment to the life of the Church, they shall be restored in full to the Membership Register on the decision of the Elders and Deacons.
- 3.6 If any member adopts a manner of behaviour or doctrine inconsistent with the responsibilities of a member of Christ's Church and continues to do so after pastoral counselling in the spirit of Galatians 6:1, the offending person shall be removed from the Membership Register by the Elders and Deacons in accordance with the spirit of the New Testament. The members at a church meeting will be notified of the name of any person so removed from the Membership Register but the underlying reasons will remain confidential to the Elders and Deacons. An appeal can be made to a church meeting whose decision on the matter shall be final.

4. ELDERSHIP.

4:1 Pastor(s) - i.e. Stipendiary Elder(s)

Pastor(s), called to that office by a duly constituted church meeting, are required to be evangelical, baptised as believers, meet the Scriptural qualities required of an elder (1 Tim 3; Titus 1), and accept the Constitution of the Church.

4:2 Non-stipendiary Elders

Non-stipendiary elders appointed from among the membership at a church meeting are required to be evangelical, baptised as believers, meet the Scriptural qualities required of an elder (1 Tim 3; Titus 1) and accept the Constitution of the Church.

4:3 Eldership

The Eldership shall comprise the Pastor(s) and Non-stipendiary Elder(s) and shall have primary responsibility for the spiritual oversight of the Church. The Lead Pastor or Pastor shall normally be the Presiding Elder.

5. THE DIACONATE AND OFFICE BEARERS

5:1 The Diaconate shall comprise Deacons, appointed from among the membership at a church meeting, who shall be evangelical, baptised as believers and who meet the Scriptural qualities of a deacon (1 Tim 3). Deacons will be responsible in the main for the oversight of the administration of the church working together with the Pastor(s) and Elders.

5:2 Office-bearers shall be appointed by a church meeting from among the Elders and Deacons. The office-bearers of the Church will be a designated Pastor, the Church Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and any others so designated by a church meeting.

6. TRUSTEES

6.1 The Trustees of the church shall be a Pastor so designated by a church meeting, the Church Secretary and Treasurer. The Pastor is remunerated for his work for the church by payment of a stipend.

6.2 All properties of the church shall be vested in the Trustees.

6.3 Trustees shall act in accordance with the decisions of the Church Meeting provided these accord with the principles of the Baptist Union of Scotland.

7. CHURCH MEETINGS

7.1 The church is congregational in its policy and its practice, recognising Jesus Christ as Head of the church and present at church meetings to guide and direct the membership in all things concerning the work of God in accordance with the Scriptures. The members will meet for this purpose at least four (4) times a year. Only those whose names are on the Membership Register are entitled to vote at any church meetings including the Annual General Meeting.

7.2 The Annual General Meeting shall be held as soon as possible after the publication of the accounts but no later than six (6) months after the end of the financial year. At this meeting the Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer shall present the accounts for approval.

7.3 Other church meetings shall be held at the discretion of the Elders and Deacons or at the written request of not less than ten percent (10%) of the members.

7.4 Notice of all church meetings shall be given on two (2) proceeding Sundays, but this period of notice may be waived at the discretion of the Elders and Deacons in exceptional circumstances. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the registered membership shall constitute a quorum. (See also 9.1)

7.5 In the event of there being a difference of interpretation of God's will at a church meeting and a vote being taken, the minority is requested to accede graciously to the majority view and for all to continue to work in fellowship.

8. CHURCH MINISTRIES

- 8.1 All ministries meeting under church auspices shall be subject to the oversight of the Elders, Deacons and the Church Meeting.
- 8.2 The leader within each ministry shall normally be appointed from within the membership and shall be subject to the approval of the Elders and Deacons.

9. AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

- 9.1 This Constitution may be amended only at a church meeting called specifically for this purpose. Notice of such a meeting and the proposed amendment(s) must be given on the four (4) preceding Sundays. The quorum for this meeting will be twenty-five percent (25%) of the registered membership.
Any amendment of the Constitution/Trust Deed must have the support of at least two-thirds (66²/₃ %) of those members attending and voting at the meeting.

10. DISPOSITION

- 10.1 In the event of the membership taking the decision to disband, the trustees are empowered to dispose of all goods and properties owned by the membership and, after payment of all debts and any expenses resulting from the sale of the properties, to transfer all remaining funds to the Baptist Union of Scotland (or its successor organisation) who will, for a period of five (5) years, hold these finances in trust, capital and interest to be used at the discretion of the Baptist Union of Scotland Office-bearers for the support of new or established Baptist causes in the Dundee area, with any monies remaining thereafter to be applied to the Baptist Union of Scotland work in Scotland.

11. IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS CONSTITUTION

- 11.1 This Constitution shall become effective as from and including the date of 27th April 2011. A copy of this Constitution shall be given to each person on the Membership Register and to all applying to join the membership.

12. APPENDIX I

***Declaration of Principle:**

- 1. That the Lord Jesus Christ, our God and Saviour is the sole and absolute Authority in all matters pertaining to faith and practice as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, and that each church has liberty, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to interpret and administer His laws.
- 2. That Christian baptism is the immersion in water into the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, of those who have professed repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who died for our sins according to the Scriptures, was buried and rose again the third day.
- 3. It is the duty of every disciple to bear witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to take part in the evangelisation of the world.

Adopted at a church meeting held in Central Baptist Church, Dundee on 27th April 2011.

This Constitution replaces that of the 31st October 2007.

Signed.....Minister (Trustee)Date.....

Signed.....Secretary (Trustee) Date.....

Signed.....Treasurer (Trustee) Date.....