



# **Constitution / Rules of church@paravista**

*November 4<sup>th</sup> 2013*



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## 1. The Name

Of the incorporated association is Church@ParaVista.

Certificate of Incorporation changed from Golden Grove Community Church Incorporated on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2009.

## 2. Definitions

**The Church/Church @ Para Vista:** Situated at 308 Nelson Road Para Vista SA 5093 is the association.

**Elders:** Means the committee of management of the association.

**Deacons:** The administrative and management team as authorised and endorsed by the Elders.

**General Meetings:** Are open to all who attend the Church, and may be an information meeting, a special meeting, and/or the annual general meeting required by these rules.

**The Act:** Means the Associations Incorporation Act 1985.

**ACNC:** Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission

## 3. Objects And Purposes

- a. To maintain the witness of a Christian church in the local community as per our Statement of Faith and core values (in Appendix A).
- b. To meet together for worship, teaching, prayer, and fellowship.
- c. To further the gospel of Jesus Christ through proclamation, practical community involvement, and pastoral care.
- d. To support and assist like-minded projects, and outreach, both within Australia and overseas.
- e. To conduct any other activities as approved by the Elders that is conducive to the beliefs, objects and purposes of the Church.
- f. To welcome any who want to attend our church services.

## 4. Powers

The Church has the powers of an Individual and may –

- a. Enter into contracts.
- b. Acquire, hold, deal with, and dispose of property.
- c. Make charges for services and facilities it supplies.



- d. Receive, borrow, at interest or otherwise, hold or invest monies or other property.
- e. The church may also issue secured and unsecured notes, debentures and debenture stock for the church.
- f. Do other things necessary or convenient to be done in carrying out its objects.

## **5. Members**

### **5.1 Qualifications For Membership**

The Register of Membership for the purposes of constitutional voting, will apply as follows:

- a. The number of members is not limited.
- b. There shall be no fee for membership.
- c. A member must be at least 18 years of age to exercise a vote at a meeting of members.
- d. Membership shall be open to believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, who after a minimum 3 months regular attendance, sign a membership form that states:
  - i. They accept the Statement of Faith and the Core Values in Appendix A.
  - ii. They accept the authority of the Elders
  - iii. And are accepted as members by the Elders.

On the acceptance of this new constitution all current members who have been accepted as such by the Elders (2009 constitution point 3.), will need to re- confirm their membership by signing a membership form as in 5.1d for the purposes of our Register of membership.

### **5.2 Removal From Membership**

- a. May occur voluntarily and should be in writing.
- b. Termination by the Elders according to biblical principles.
- c. Any member who has not attended for 6 months or more, (excludes missionaries sent from our church), for voting purposes only, will be removed from the membership register. A member under this clause should be visited by an Elder to ascertain the reason for non-attendance and provided spiritual help if required.

### **5.3 Register Of Members**

*(Separate from the Directory)*

A register of members must be kept and contain:

- a. The name & address of each member



- b. The date on which each member was admitted to the Church; and
- c. If applicable the date and reason for resignation of the member.
- d. This register must not be used for any other purpose.

## **6. Elders**

### **6.1 Powers And Duties**

- a. The affairs of the Church shall be controlled by the Elders, who are able to delegate various management responsibilities of administration to a committee of Deacons or others.
- b. The Elders have the ultimate control and management of the funds and other property of the church.
- c. The Elders shall re-appoint a Public Officer and an Auditor annually.

Notice of appointment and any change in the identity or address of the public officer are to be lodged within one month after the change to:

- a. (Form 10) with Consumer and Business Services (CBS). Postal address: GPO Box 1719. Adelaide 5001.
- b. Notify ACNC Online as from July 2013 also.

### **6.2 Appointment**

- a. The Elders shall be members of the church, who each accept the statement of faith set out in Appendix A, and be examples of the biblical basis of Elders.
- b. The Elders shall appoint a chairperson, and a secretary, from their own numbers, and maintain a minimum number of 3 on the Eldership.
- c. A treasurer of the Church will be appointed by the Elders, and may or may not be an Elder.
- d. The Elders may add to their numbers as they see fit, according to 6.2(a), and all new appointments are either appointed as Elders, Elders in training, or Provisional Elders until such status is reviewed or changed.

### **6.3 Registration Or Removal**

- a. An Elder may resign by giving written notice.
- b. An Elder may be removed by a consensus of the other Elders if they fail to continue to meet the requirements of 6.2(a), or by a majority vote of members present at a special meeting called for that purpose.



## **6.4 Meetings**

- a. The Elders shall meet regularly, provided that not more than six calendar months shall elapse between one meeting and the next.
- b. Each Elder present has one vote in voting matters and as Elders it is required that they come to an eventual agreement one way or the other, even if this requires further meetings.
- c. A quorum for a business meeting of the Elders shall be a minimum of 2/3rds of the current Elders, being present.
- d. Elders shall keep minutes of all Elders' meetings.

## **7. The Seal**

- a. The church shall have a common seal upon which its corporate name shall appear.
- b. The seal shall not be used without the authorisation of the Elders, and every use of the seal shall be recorded in the minute book of the church.
- c. The affixing of the seal shall be witnessed by 2 office bearers or other persons authorised by the Elders to sign their names as witnesses to the affixing of the seal.

## **8. General Meetings**

### **8.1 Annual General Meeting**

- a. The Elders will call an annual general meeting for all members of the Church within 5 months of the end of its financial year.
- b. The order of the business shall be:
  - iii. Confirmation of previous AGM minutes.
  - iv. Presentation of annual audited financials.
  - v. Election of Deacons as required.
  - vi. Notification of re-appointment of auditor and public officer.
  - vii. Any other business required by the Church at the AGM.

### **8.2 Special General Meeting**

The Elders may call a special general meeting at any time.



### **8.3 Notice Of General Meetings**

- a. Subject to 8.3b, at least 7 days' notice of any general meeting shall be given to members. The notice shall set out where and when the meeting will be held, and particulars of the nature and order of the business to be transacted at the meeting.
- b. Notice of a meeting at which a special resolution is to be proposed shall be given at least 21 days prior to the date of the meeting.
- c. A written notice will be deemed to have been given to each member if it is given personally, or sent by post or email to the address appearing in the register of members.

### **8.4 Quorum**

20% of members present personally or by proxy shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any general meeting of the Church.

### **8.5 Chairperson**

The chairperson of the Elders/or a person nominated by the Elders shall preside at any general meeting.

### **8.6 Voting**

- a. Where voting is required each member including the chairperson has only 1 vote. Voting at any meeting of any committee shall be carried out as decided by the chairman of the meeting.
- b. Decisions on any matter other than an alteration to the Constitution/ Rules of the church shall be by simple majority.
- c. Alteration to the Constitution/ Rules of the Church may be made by a resolution of the Elders and by not less than three quarter majority of the members of the Church **who are present at the special meeting or AGM** where at least 21 days' notice has been given to all voting members outlining the proposed alterations.

### **8.7 Proxies**

- a. A member shall be entitled to appoint in writing a person who is also a member of the church to be their proxy and attend and vote at any general meeting of the church.
- b. The written and signed appointment of a proxy must be handed in to an office bearer prior to the meeting.
- c. This form will be available from the Admin Office.



### **8.8 Minutes Of General Meetings**

- a. Minutes of all proceedings at general meetings of the Church shall be entered within one month after the meeting in the minute books kept for the purpose.
- b. These minutes must be confirmed by the members of the church/committee at a subsequent meeting.
- c. The minutes shall be signed by the chairperson of the meeting at which the proceedings took place, or by the chairperson of the next succeeding meeting at which the minutes are confirmed.

## **9. Financial Reporting**

- a. The financial year of the Church shall be a period of 12 months commencing on July 1<sup>st</sup> and finishing on June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- b. The church shall keep and retain such accounting records as are necessary to correctly record and explain the financial transactions and financial position of the church.
- c. An audited statement of the accounts with the auditor's report is to be presented to the members of the church at the AGM, within 5 months after the end of the financial year.

## **10. Prohibition Against Securing Profits For Members**

The income and capital of the church shall be applied exclusively to the promotion of its objects and no portion shall be paid or distributed directly or indirectly to members or their associates except as bona fide remuneration of a member for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the Church.

## **11. Winding Up**

- a. If after the winding up of the Church, there remain surplus assets, such surplus assets shall be distributed to any organisation which has similar objects and has rules which prohibit the distribution of its assets and income to its members.
- b. Such organisation or organisations shall be identified and determined by a resolution of members in a general meeting.





## **Amendments**

This is the fourth amendment to this constitution. It has been totally rewritten and updated to include:

- Definitions
- More details for the Board of Management
- Membership
- Addition of Proxies
- Change to the Winding up

Dated this 4th Day of November 2013

## **Previous Amendments**

As Golden Grove Christian Centre 1<sup>st</sup> August 1985 (Commencement).

Amended 26<sup>th</sup> April 1992 (Name change to Golden Grove Community Church. Changes to point 11 Voting).

Amended 27<sup>th</sup> May 1995 (Change financial year and re-appointing a Public Officer annually).

Amended 6<sup>th</sup> May 2009 (Name change due to relocation and change financial year).



## **Appendix A**

### **Statement Of Faith**

We Believe That:

- The whole Bible is inspired by God through the Holy Spirit and is the Christian authority for everything to be believed and practiced. 2 Tim 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:21
- The sovereign God is one, in three co-equal eternal persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, who act together in creation, providence and redemption. Matt 28:19, Col 1:12-16
- The Lord Jesus Christ in His incarnation was truly God and truly man. We believe in His virgin birth, His sinless life, His sacrificial death in our place, His bodily resurrection, His bodily return to heaven and His continuous role representing us before the Father. John 1:1-14, 2 Cor 5:21, Rom 8:34, 1 Tim 3:16
- The Holy Spirit is a Divine Person within the God head of Father, Son and Spirit, who has a necessary role in conversion, new birth and in setting us apart for God. John 3:5-7, John 14:16-18, John 15:26
- In Christ's death and resurrection, He took our place, making full payment for our sin. For those who exercise faith in Christ, He secures forgiveness, a right relationship with God and everlasting life. Rom 3:23-26, 2 Cor 5:21, 1 Peter 1:3, 1 Peter 2:24
- Humankind, originally created for a relationship with God, became sinful by nature and practice at the Fall (Gen 3) and is unable by any personal merit or effort to restore that relationship. Gen 1:26-31, Rom 3:23, Titus 3:3-7
- Those who reject the gift of eternal life, available only in the Lord Jesus Christ, will be eternally separated from God. John 3:36, Rev 20:11-15
- Biblically defined marriage as God created it is only between one man and one woman. Matt 19:4-6, Eph 5:31-32, Gen 2:22-24, Heb 13:4
- Salvation is solely by the grace of God, through the work of God the Son and applied by the Holy Spirit. Salvation is a free gift accepted by faith and includes the forgiveness of sin, a new life, the removal of guilt, being set apart for God and conformity to the character of the Lord Jesus Christ. Eph 2:8-10, Rom 8:28-30
- Every believer, regardless of social class, ethnicity or gender has direct access to pray to God and to worship Him through the sole mediation of the Lord Jesus Christ. Acts 10:34-35, 1 Cor 12:13, Eph 2:16-18, 1 Tim 2:5



**church@paravista**

- Satan is a real spiritual being who is opposed to God and His people. His ultimate purpose has been brought to nothing by the Lord Jesus Christ. Gen 3:1-15, Matt 4:1-11, Rev 20:10, Col 2:15
- God has appointed all people to be raised from the dead, those who have been made right with God, through Jesus Christ, to everlasting life, and others to everlasting punishment. Matt 25:31-46, John 5:28-29, Rev 20:10-15
- The Lord Jesus Christ will personally return for His people and will reign in righteousness. 1 Thess 4:13-18, 2 Thess 2:1-8, Rev 22:12, 17-20
- Believers' baptism and the sharing of the Lord's Supper are a regular and normal expression of Christian faith and fellowship. Matt 28:19-20, Luke 22:19-20, 1 Cor 11: 23-26
- The Church is the company of all who receive new life through faith in Christ and are formed by His Spirit into one body, of which Christ is the Head. The church is commissioned to make disciples of all nations. Eph 3: 4-10, Matt 28: 19-20

### **Core Values**

We Value:

- A lifestyle that displays love for God and for one's neighbours as normal for every Christian.
- Prayer, Bible reading and sound teaching as essential for the spiritual growth of individuals and of the church.
- Excellence and integrity in all things.
- The recognition of spiritual gifts and their use for the building up of the church.
- The development and use of spiritual leadership for maintaining a healthy church.
- Relationships characterised by love, grace, unity and flexibility, in the life of the church.
- Small group participation as the best means for the growth and care of believers.
- Cultural relevance in harmony with doctrinal purity.
- People matter to God and are to be served with the love of Christ.
- The exercise of mercy and the promotion of justice at all levels of the community.

Core values are constant, passionate, biblical core beliefs that drive the ministry.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Elder: Daniel Lanthois

Public Officer: John Michael Taylor