

# CONSTITUTION

A constitution relating generally to the conduct of the affairs of

## MARKHAM CHINESE BAPTIST CHURCH

(the "Corporation" or the "Church")

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**WHEREAS** the Church is now subject to new legislation for corporations without share capital in the province of Ontario, and the directors deem it necessary and desirable to enact a new constitution to clarify the roles, responsibilities and purposes of various of the Church and its congregation;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Church has repealed Bylaw Number 1 and any other extant operating Bylaws of the Church;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Church has enacted Bylaw Number 2;

**THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED** that the following operating constitution is enacted as a supplement to Bylaw Number 2 the Church:

## **ARTICLE 1. INTERPRETATION**

- 1.01 Definitions.** In this constitution, unless the context otherwise requires:
- (a) “Act” means the Ontario *Not-For-Profit Corporations Act, 2010*, SO 2010, c 15 including the Regulations made pursuant to the Act, and any statute or regulations that may be substituted, as amended from time to time;
  - (b) “articles” means the original or restated articles of incorporation or articles of amendment, amalgamation, continuance, reorganization, arrangement or revival of the Corporation;
  - (c) “Board” means the board of directors of the Corporation and “director” means a member of the board;
  - (d) “constitution” means this constitution as amended and which are, from time to time, in force and effect;
- 1.02 Interpretation.** Unless otherwise specified in this Constitution, all terms contained in this Constitution that are defined in the Act shall have the meanings given to such terms in the Act. Words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa, and words importing one gender include all genders. The Chinese version of this Constitution, if available, is for reference only. In all interpretation, the English version of the Constitution and shall be used.
- 1.03 Severability.** The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of this Constitution shall not affect the validity or enforceability of the remaining provisions of this Constitution. If any of the provisions contained in the constitutions are inconsistent with those contained in the Articles or the Act, the provisions contained in the Articles or the Act, as the case may be, shall prevail.
- 1.04 Bylaw to prevail.** In the event a section of this constitution is in conflict with, or otherwise confused by, the operating bylaw or Articles of the Church; the meanings, interpretations, and rules set out in the operating bylaw and Articles will prevail.

**1.05 Purpose.** With Christ as her Head, this Church shall be established following the Biblical principles: to worship the true God with one-heart; to nurture and to equip the believers with His grace; to live out the Body Life; to fulfil the great commission of Jesus Christ through evangelism, missions and social ministries; --- to the glory of God.

**1.06 Ordinances.** According to New Testament teaching, this Church shall observe the following two ordinances:

(a) Baptism - the mode of baptism by total immersion in water is to identify with Christ's death, burial and resurrection.

(b) The Lord's Supper - this is the communion service by believers of partaking the Lord's bread and cup in remembrance of the sacrificial death of the Lord Jesus Christ for their sins. It provides believers an opportunity to meditate upon the love of God and reflect and confess their sins before God.

## **ARTICLE 2. STATEMENT OF FAITH**

We believe

1. That the Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, is the inspired and in-errant Word of God and is the final authority for Christian faith and life.
2. That there is but one true and living God who exists in the past, the present, and forever throughout eternity in the Trinity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
3. That God is the creator, sustainer and governor of all creation.
4. That Jesus Christ, the only begotten eternal Son of God, is given to mankind as the only salvation. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. In Him perfect humanity and deity is found in one person. He is the mediator between God and man. He was crucified on the cross for the sins of all mankind and His blood was shed to fulfil the requirements of God's righteousness. He rose again bodily from the dead, and ascended to Heaven.

In the last day, Christ will return personally to earth as He has promised, to judge the living and the dead. There will be a bodily resurrection of the dead, with the believers inheriting eternal life and blessedness, and the non-believers eternal punishment and condemnation.

5. That the Holy Spirit convicts men and women of their sins, leads them into salvation in Christ, and as their Counsellor, He continues to transform their lives by comforting, helping, teaching, enlightening, and equipping them with gifts.
6. That humankind was created in the image of God. Since the first man Adam sinned against God, all humankind have come short of the glory of God, have lived in sin, and cannot, by their own effort, attain righteousness in the presence of God. Salvation of humankind depends solely on the finished work of Christ who once and for all, poured out His blood on the cross as a vicarious atonement for the sins of humankind. Those who confess and repent of their sins and receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour shall be saved.
7. That the universal church comprises of all believers set apart from the world to belong to Christ. With Christ as her Head, the universal church shall follow Christ's teachings and commandments. Local churches are autonomous and independent organizations of believers who are endowed with the gifts of God's grace to build up fellow-believers, to preach the Gospel and to become the salt and light of the world.

### **ARTICLE 3. MEMBERS COMMITMENTS**

**3.01 Assembly.** Subject to the Articles and bylaws, the members will form the Assembly, to which those governing the church are responsible.

**3.02 Members Covenant**

Members commit to the following covenants:

(a) Christian Code of Living

- (i) Members shall carefully observe the teachings of the Bible and behave in a consistent manner that is Christ-like.

- (ii) Members shall observe regular reading of the Holy Scriptures and prayer. They shall endeavour to lead a devotional life consistent with the teachings of the Bible, and lead others to Christ.
- (b) Members shall attend church services regularly.
- (c) Members shall pray for and participate in various church ministries.
- (d) Members shall cheerfully support financially various ministries of this Church.

**ARTICLE 4. GOVERNMENT**

**4.01 Polity.** Recognizing Jesus Christ as the only head of the Church, this congregation shall seek to ascertain and to obey the will of our Lord in all matters of faith and practice. Authority to reach decisions for governing the spiritual and temporal affairs of this Church being given to us by Christ, we hold that such authority and responsibility are vested in the membership of congregation.

**4.02 Composition.** There shall be a Board of Directors reporting directly to the church members with a majority of directors elected from church members.

**ARTICLE 5. BAPTISM**

**5.01** A person may be accepted for baptism after demonstrating to the Pastors and Deacons Committee satisfactory evidence of regeneration and personal faith in Christ as his/her Savior and Lord. Baptism shall be carried out by the Senior Pastor or other pastors as arranged by the Pastors and Deacons Committee.

**5.02** Those Christians who were previously baptized by modes other than immersion are encouraged to undergo baptism by immersion at this Church. In so doing, they are publicly identifying and sharing the same belief and tradition with other Baptist believers.

- 5.03** Those Christians who were baptized but did not truly understand the true meaning of baptism at the time are urged to undergo baptism again.

**ARTICLE 6. PASTORAL AND OTHER STAFF**

- 6.01 Qualifications and Duties.** The church pastoral staff shall consist of the Senior Pastor and a number of regular and temporary or contract staff as from time to time deemed necessary according to the organizational structure to address the ministry needs of the church.
- 6.02 Eligibility.** All pastoral staff must meet the Biblical requirements (1 Timothy 3:1-7), and shall have been baptized by immersion and become church members after becoming regular staff.
- 6.03 Staff.** The Senior Pastor shall be the spiritual leader in the overall ministry of the church, and in conjunction with other pastoral staff and Pastors and Deacons Committee, shall minister the Word to his flock. In the absence of the Senior Pastor, the duties may be performed by another pastoral staff, or by such person(s) as may be recommended by the Pastors and Deacons Committee and approved by the Board of Directors and Members Assembly. Other pastoral staff shall assist and work with the Senior Pastor in church ministries. They may be appointed to be members of the Board of Directors or Pastors and Deacons Committee, with or without voting right.
- 6.04 Ordination of Pastors.** The church may from time to time ordain new pastors according to the needs of the church. All candidates shall be nominated by the Pastors and Deacons Committee and approved by the Board. The procedure will be under the policy of the Pastors and Deacons Committee.

**ARTICLE 7. DEACONS**

- 7.01 Eligibility.** All deacons must meet Biblical requirements (Acts 6: 1 - 3; 1 Timothy 3: 8 - 13), be members of this Church and have been baptized by immersion and must have been a Christian for over five years with a

good record of Christian service. In accordance with the resolution approved in the 2017 Second General Members Meeting, the church will no longer ordain deacons for life terms. From January 1, 2018, onward, the existing deacons (who are all ordained for life) shall be referred to as "Ordained Deacons". All new deacons shall be commissioned for four-year terms with no limit on the number of terms, with the option that they may choose to dis-continue after serving for two-years in each of the terms.

#### **ARTICLE 8. PASTORS AND DEACONS COMMITTEE**

- 8.01** The Pastors and Deacons Committee shall consist of all term deacons of the church, the Senior Pastor, and other pastoral staff as may be appointed by this committee.
- 8.02** Its primary duty is to assist the Pastors in ministering to this church, in formulating the spiritual direction, and in monitoring and maintaining the spiritual quality of this church.
- 8.03** After the transition period which ends December 31, 2019, Ordained Deacons shall not take up chairing role and not have voting rights in the official meetings of Pastors and Deacons Committee and Board of Directors and any committees set up and reporting to these two bodies.

#### **ARTICLE 9. DISCIPLINE**

- 9.01** **Disciplinary Action.** Members failing to observe the basic principles of Christian faith and conduct as outlined in the bylaws, the Constitution, or any other policy of the Church, to such a degree as to bring reproach upon the name of Christ and of the Church and its ministry, shall be interviewed by the Pastors and Deacons Committee to bring about repentance and correction. Only after due notice and a hearing before the Pastors and Deacons Committee, or after faithful efforts have been made should disciplinary actions be considered. The Pastors and Deacons Committee will then make recommendation for approval by Board of Directors as to the appropriate disciplinary actions to be taken, which may include suspension and termination.

**ARTICLE 10. AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION**

**10.01** Any resolution to repeal, amend or re-enact the Constitution, or any of the individual articles, shall require a three-quarter majority (3/4) vote in an Extraordinary Members' Meeting as described in the Bylaws 4.11(b) , which will require a quorum of 30% of voting members.

**ENACTED** at a duly constituted meeting of the Directors and confirmed by the Members this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September, 2024.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** the following Officers of the Corporation affix their signature here below:

Alex Wong

Chair

Jonathan Wong

Secretary