

1. THE CHURCH

- 1.1. The name of the Church shall be Andrews Farm Community Church Incorporated, hereafter referred to as “the Church”.
- 1.2. The Church may exercise all the powers of an incorporated association as set out in the Associations Incorporation Act 1985 (“the Act”) as amended from time to time.

2. AFFILIATION

The Church will be a member church of Baptist Churches of South Australia (“BCSA”).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Church holds that its core aims and objectives are;

- 3.1 To worship God together and individually through lives oriented and submitted to Him, and so to continually mature in the knowledge and likeness of Jesus Christ.
- 3.2 To pray for, bless, and reach out to others, particularly the people of Andrews Farm and surrounding communities as God’s ambassadors, demonstrating His kingdom and inviting people to discover it.
- 3.3 To share the Good News of God’s Kingdom with all who show interest, inviting them to join us as disciples of Jesus Christ.
- 3.4 To build one another up as disciples of Jesus Christ and so continually strengthen our fellowship.
- 3.5 To train, prepare and send mature believers to commence or serve other churches as God leads them.

4. BELIEFS

The Church holds to the following core beliefs;

- 4.1. We believe that Jesus Christ is Lord and we confess our faith in Him as our Lord. We affirm the need for personal, experiential faith in Jesus Christ and formative discipleship into his likeness.
- 4.2. We believe that Jesus Christ of Nazareth reveals God to us. Because of this revelation, we confess faith in one God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In affirming this, we acknowledge ourselves to be a part of the whole, world-wide, Christian Church.
- 4.3. Our final authority in faith and practice is Jesus Christ, as revealed in Scripture and present among His people through the Holy Spirit. We recognise the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, interpreted under the leadership of the Holy Spirit and in the community of God’s people, as the primary authority for knowing God’s revelation in Jesus Christ.
- 4.4. We understand the Church to be the People of God, the Body of Jesus Christ, and the Temple of the Holy Spirit. We believe that God calls a local fellowship of believers into a shared life as a means of grounding His presence among His people within particular communities in the service of His mission to the world. These called, local communities of faith are nourished by worshipping, meeting around God’s Word (the Scriptures) and sharing together in the Lord’s Supper.
- 4.5. Baptism is for believers only, in the triune name of God, into the Body of Jesus Christ. Where possible this is by immersion in water as a symbol of our becoming partakers in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- 4.6. We believe that every believer in Jesus Christ is called to witness, with love and compassion, to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. We believe that the church is to share in the whole mission of God in the world.
- 4.7. We affirm the freedom and responsibility of each local congregation to discover the purpose of Jesus Christ for its own life and work in the context of Jesus Christ’s call to His whole church. The

discernment of this purpose will involve the whole congregation in seeking the mind of Jesus Christ under the appropriate exercise of the gift of leadership.

4.8. We affirm the responsibility of each local congregation to engage, as part of the Body of Jesus Christ and with all seriousness, with its obligation to other congregations as partners in God's mission. This is expressed through the joining together of local congregations in association and interdependence.

4.9. We affirm the 'priesthood of all believers' in which the only mediator between God and humanity is Jesus Christ. We affirm the gift of the Holy Spirit to all God's people, male and female, young and old, significant and seemingly insignificant, and so we recognise that all members of the Church have a role to play using their God-given gifts, skills and talents for the good of the Church and the community in the service of God's mission.

4.10. We recognise the responsibility of the Church to be a prophetic community of God's grace in His world.

4.11. We are a people of hope, believing that ultimately God will bring all things to 'perfection'.

5. MEMBERS

5.1 The Members of the Church shall have power to decide all matters relating to the conduct of the Church and its affairs. Member's meetings will be conducted for these purposes in accordance with this constitution.

5.2 The Membership shall consist of all:

5.2.1 Who have been baptised as a testimony of their own faith in Jesus Christ and are able to make a public profession of their faith in Jesus Christ and

5.2.2 Who give general assent to the Aims and Objectives, and Beliefs of the Church as listed, and

5.2.3 Whose application is approved by the Elders

5.3 Resignation and Removal from Membership

5.3.1 Any person who wishes to resign their membership may do so in writing to the Elders.

5.3.2 In situations where the Elders considers a Member's conduct to be discreditable or injurious to the interests of the Church, or clearly not meeting the responsibilities of Members, they may resolve to stand down that person from the Membership, informing them in writing. If the individual wishes to appeal this action, they may pursue the appropriate Grievance Policy guidelines found in the Policies & Procedures document.

6. MEMBERS MEETINGS

6.1. Members shall hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) within five months after the end of the Church's financial year.

6.2. Additional Members meetings may be held for the management of the Church, by resolution of a Members or Elders meeting, or by petition of not less than one fifth of the Members. In each case at least 7 days' notice will be given of such a meeting.

6.3. A quorum for all Members meetings shall be one quarter of the current membership.

6.4. The Chair for each meeting shall be appointed by the Elders. The Chair will be responsible for ensuring that the membership practises wise and timely discernment through (a) Prayer, (b) Appropriate consultation with the wider congregation, (c) Careful listening to one another, and (d) Making clear decisions through a formal process of resolutions and votes.

6.5. Voting will be by show of hands or by ballot if directed by the Chair. No proxy or absentee votes will be permitted.

6.6. Resolutions will require a simple majority to be duly carried (unless specified elsewhere in this constitution). All decisions shall be binding upon all Members, whether present or absent, or refraining from voting.

6.7. Where a Church Seal is required, the use will be approved by a two-thirds majority of the Members. Any 2 members of the Elders may affix and sign under Seal where this approval has been given.

6.8. Minutes will be kept of all Members meetings, and once confirmed at the next Members meeting, signed by the Chair of the meeting.

7. PASTORS

7.1 The Members recognise that ministry belongs to all Members. At the same time, the membership may appoint one or more Pastors to help oversee and guide the Church and its ministries.

7.2 To be eligible for appointment, Pastors must be accredited or registered with BCSA, or working with BCSA towards such endorsement.

7.3 The Elders and the pastoral nominee will agree on a Letter of Appointment which makes clear the terms and conditions of the Pastor's appointment.

7.4 Appointment of a Pastor will require a 75% majority vote conducted by secret ballot as outlined in appointment of Elders (section 8 below). If a Pastor is appointed from outside the Church, they will automatically become a Member.

7.5 As a Member of the church, Pastors will have the right of attendance, participation and voting at all meetings of the Church. However, a Pastor will not be entitled to vote on any resolution for their appointment or review of their pastoral call, and will leave the meeting for the discussion and vote.

8. ELDERS

8.1 The Elders shall be the Committee of the Church as defined in the Act

8.2 The Elders shall have the oversight of the Church, including the Management Group and all Church ministries.

8.3 There shall be as many Elders as the Pastor(s) and Elders deem advisable.

8.4 The names of any new candidates for the position of Elder are to be nominated by the Eldership and will be presented to the membership at all services during two consecutive weeks prior to the election. To be eligible candidates must be 18 years or over and have been members of this church for at least the previous twelve months.

8.5 Elections shall be held by secret ballot in May & November each year if required. Ballot papers must be placed in the ballot box within two weeks from the time of initial issue. For a vote to be valid there must be twenty five percent of ballot papers issued returned.

8.6 If there are no Elders to make nominations, a committee shall be appointed at a Members meeting for the purpose of nominating Elders in the same manner as specified in Clause 8.5.

8.7 All confirmed appointments of Elders shall be announced at all services during the week following the counting of votes. To be elected candidates must receive a number of votes equal to 75% of ballot papers returned.

8.8 Elders shall hold office for three years.

8.9 If an Elder has served one three year term and the Elders intend to nominate them for a further three years, the process set out in Clause 8.5 will take effect.

8.10 After serving as an Elder for six consecutive years, an Elder must stand down for at least one year before being eligible to be considered for reappointment.

8.11 The appointment of an Elder shall be terminated immediately

a. if they become permanently incapacitated by ill health.

b. if they resign.

c. if they cease to be a Member as specified in Clause 5.3 .

d. a motion of no confidence in the Elder is passed at a Members meeting in which the

Elder concerned has had opportunity to speak; or

e. a motion of no confidence in the Elder based on moral or other scriptural grounds is passed at an Elder's meeting in which the Elder concerned has had opportunity to speak.

9. ELDERS' MEETINGS

9.1 The Elders shall generally meet twice a month. Meetings shall be held with Ministry Leaders from time to time as determined by the Elders.

9.2 A simple majority shall constitute a Quorum at all Elders meeting.

9.3 There shall be neither absentee nor proxy voting at any Elders meeting.

9.4 An Elder having a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in a contract or proposed contract with the Church must disclose the nature and extent of that interest to the Elders as required by the Act, and shall not vote with respect to that contract or proposed contract. The Elder must disclose the nature and extent of their interest in the contract at the next Members meeting.

9.5 The Elders shall periodically present a report to the Church. Some business discussed at Elders' meetings may remain strictly confidential.

10. MANAGEMENT GROUP

10.1 The Management group shall include the Treasurer, Administrator, and others selected according to their giftedness by the Elders and the Senior Pastor, from Church members who are active in the life of the Church and who are eighteen years of age or over.

10.2 The Management Group shall manage the running of the administrative and financial aspects of the Church, in accordance with the Management Group Duty Statement.

Management Group members may be appointed or have their appointment terminated at any time at the discretion of the Elders and the Senior Pastor.

11. MINISTRY LEADERS

11.1 Ministry Leaders shall be selected for suitability by the Elders, from eligible Church members who are active in the life of the Church and who are eighteen years of age or over. Ministry groups may be formed or terminated at any time, at the discretion of the Elders.

12. FINANCE AND PROPERTY

12.1 Under the guidance of the Elders, the Church shall be responsible for all finance and property in accordance with the recommended practices of the Baptist Churches of South Australia.

12.2 The Elders shall present the audited financial reports to the Annual General Meeting. If the Church is considered to be a Prescribed Association under The Act, then it must also comply with all accounting and audit requirements within The Act.

12.3 The Church's financial year shall commence on 1 July each year.

13. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

13.1 Within the bounds of this Constitution, the Church may also keep a clear record of the Church's Policies and Procedures, which will be binding on all members.

13.2 All written Policies and Procedures may only be created, altered, amended or removed through a decision of the Elders.

13.3 Members must be advised within 1 month of any new or amended Policies and Procedures when approved by the Elders.

13.4 All Pastors, Leaders and Staff will be provided with a copy of all Policies and Procedures and will be required to uphold them.

13.5 Any Member can request a copy of the Policies and Procedures through the Church office.

14. RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES

In the event of any dispute or difference causing serious division in the Church or any dispute between a Pastor and the Church that is not reaching satisfactory settlement, such a dispute or difference will be referred by the Elders, and may be referred by a resolution of the Members, for a decision to a moderator or panel of arbitrators appointed by BCSA, whose decision will be conclusive and binding on all parties.

15. ALTERATION OF CONSTITUTION

15.1 The Membership shall have power, upon the resolution of at least three quarters of the Members present at a meeting especially convened for the purpose, to repeal, alter, amend or add to the provisions of this Constitution.

15.2 Notice of motion of the proposed change shall be given in writing to each Member at least 30 days before the date of the special Members meeting at which the proposed change is to be considered, and published at all Church gatherings during that period.

15.3 In any matter of dispute with regard to this Constitution, the right of interpretation rests with the Elders.

16. WINDING UP

16.1 The Church may only be wound up pursuant to a resolution passed by at least three quarters of Members present at a special meeting called for this purpose. It shall then be wound up in accordance with the provisions of The Act.

16.2 The assets remaining after paying all the liabilities of the Church and the expenses of the winding up shall be transferred by the Liquidator of the Church to BCSA.