

RULES
OF
Living Hope Church Incorporated

0. The rules of Living Hope Church Inc. herein are in accordance with Section 11 and contain those matters specified in Schedule 1 of the Associations Incorporations Act 2009.

1. NAME:

The name of the organisation – Living Hope Church Incorporated.

2. OBJECTS:

The objects of this organisation are:

- a) To present a message of Christianity in such manner and terms as are currently effective, and including spiritual and practical assistance.
- b) To act as a local church for those who desire it.
- c) To act as a convention, conference, and teaching centre to this local church and to all other people from all other places and all other Christian churches where such people desire such facilities.
- d) To engage in such evangelism and missionary activity and support as endorsed from time to time by the Board of Elders of the organisation herein constituted.
- e) To seek to co-operate with other Christian churches and associations so as to more effectively fulfil sub-sections a), c) and d) of these objects.

3. DECLARATION OF FAITH

A brief summary of the principles of faith embraced by this organisation includes:

- a) The Holy Scriptures - their inspiration and infallibility.
- b) The Godhead - comprising of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- c) The Lord Jesus Christ - His eternal co-existence with the persons of the Godhead, His incarnation, His vicarious death and resurrection for our sanctification and justification, His ascension, His coming personal return to this earth.
- d) The work of the Holy Spirit producing:-
 - i) Salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.
 - ii) The fruit of the Holy Spirit, which is the manifestation of the character of Christ in the believer.
 - iii) The gifts of the Holy Spirit for fulfilling of the ministry of Christ in, and flowing out from, the church.
- e) The work of the Lord Jesus Christ producing:-
 - i) The Spirit-filled Christian life.
 - ii) Divine healing on the basis of His atoning death and resurrection.
 - iii) Liberty from bondage originating in Satan.
- f) The observation of the ordinances of baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper.
- g) The essential spiritual unity of the Universal Church comprised of all believers regardless of organisational affiliation.
- h) The involvement of every believer in the life and outreach of the Church under Scriptural leadership.

4. MEMBERSHIP

(1) Membership Qualifications

A person is qualified to be a member of the association on an entirely voluntary free will basis. This membership will be expressed by visible support of participation in the objects of the association. Membership must be at least five (5) persons and a list of members must be entered into the Elder's meeting minutes annually.

(2) Nomination for Membership

Due to the voluntary nature of the association, nomination of members is not applicable.

(3) Cessation of Membership

A person ceases to be a member of the association if the person:

- (a) dies
- (b) disassociates themselves; or
- (c) is expelled from the association.

(4) Resignation of Membership

At any time a member may choose to disassociate themselves with the organisation, notice of such should be submitted to the Board of Elders.

(5) Register of Members

A register of members of the association shall be kept by the public officer and shall be kept at Living Hope Church Inc. church's principal place of administration, namely, 54 Twingleton Ave. Ambarvale NSW 2560

(6) Fees and Subscriptions

Members of the association shall be free to contribute any amount they see fit to aid the advancement of the association. No minimum fee shall be required as a basis for membership.

(7) Members' Liabilities

A member of the association shall have no liability whatsoever to contribute towards the payment of the debts and liabilities of the association.

(8) Disciplining of Members

- (1) A complaint may be made by any member of the association that some other member of the association:
 - (a) has persistently refused or neglected to comply with a provision of these rules or common Christian Biblical behaviour; or
 - (b) has persistently of wilfully acted in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the association.

- (2) On receiving such a complaint, the Board of Elders shall:
 - (a) Speak to the member person to person.
 - (b) Give the member a reasonable period of days to rectify or respond to the complaint.
 - (c) Take into consideration any submissions by the member.
- (3) If no change in heart or behaviour is detected, two members of the Board of Elders should repeat 8.2(a).
- (4) If still no change is detected the Board of Elders may, by resolution, expel the member from the association.

5. THE BOARD OF ELDERS

(1) Powers of the Board of Elders

The Board of Elders is the management arm of the association and subject to the Act, the Regulation and these rules:

- (a) is to control and manage the affairs of the association; and
- (b) may exercise all such functions as may be exercised by the association within these rules; and
- (c) has power to perform all such acts and do all such things as appear to the Board of Elders to be necessary or desirable for the proper management of the affairs of the association.
- (d) The Board of Elders, under the Lead Elder, shall be responsible for exercising leadership and teaching and for formulating and implementing the development of the vision of the organisation.
- (e) The management of properties, moneys and all business, shall be vested in the Board of Elders.
- (f) The Board of Elders shall meet as often as is necessary and in any case at least once every two (2) months, with bi-monthly meetings recommended.
- (g) At least 6 weeks prior notice must be given to all members regarding the date of the AGM. The AMG's, and subsequent AGM report, will be scheduled to adhere to the Dept. Fair Trading's time guidelines.

(2) Constitution and Membership

- (1) The Board of Elders shall be comprised of Lead Elder and such elders as are nominated by the Lead Elder and confirmed by the members.
- (2) The office-bearers of the association are to be:
 - (a) Chairman, who may be the Lead Elder
 - (b) Public Officer
 - (c) Administration
 - (d) Treasurer.
- (3)
 - (a) Office-bearers may continue to fill these positions for as long as they are recommended by the Lead Elder
 - (b) There is nothing to prevent a member of the Board of Elders holding more than one position.

(3) Election of Board Members

Members will be appointed other than elected due to their qualifications and suitability as recognised by the Lead Elder and the Board of Elders. The Board of Elders may only be reduced by the nomination of the Lead Elder with concurrence by the other members of the Board of Elders.

(4) Administration

- (1) It is the duty of the administrator to keep minutes of:
 - (a) All appointments of office-bearers and members of the Board of Elders.
 - (b) All proceedings at meetings of the Board of Elders.

(5) Treasurer

It is the duty of the treasurer of the association to ensure:

- (a) that all money the association receives is correctly banked and accounted for and that all payments authorised by the association are made;
- (b) that correct books and accounts are kept showing the financial affairs of the association, including full details of all receipts and expenditure connected with the activities of the association;

- (c) an annual statement of income and expenditure and an annual balance sheet shall be prepared and made available for membership;
- (d) the treasurer will ensure that this association will not be operated for profit of any member.

6. DELEGATION BY BOARD OF ELDERS TO SUB COMMITTEES:

- a) The Board of Elders shall have authority to form such sub-committees as may be necessary to carry out duties in specialised areas.
- b) The constituency of such sub-committees may include persons who are not members of the Board of Elders.
- c) Such sub-committees shall be responsible to the Board of Elders.

7. VOTING AND DECISIONS:

- a) Whenever, in accordance with this Constitution, a decision is to be made by members of the Board of Elders, such decisions must be made from a full consensus of the board. ALTERED & EXPANDED ON
- b) In the advent of an inability to reach consensus the Board of Elders will allow the Lead Elder to have the final power of decision. If this position is deemed unacceptable to any of the Board of Elders, they may ask for a representation from New Covenant Ministries International to mediate until a final decision is reached.
- c) Any two elders can authorize a payment (except if that payment is to one of the elders or a related party) of any expense up to \$500 without need for a vote. The lead Elder may nominate themselves, other elders and office bearers to be signatories on the bank accounts of the association providing that all payments made from the association's bank accounts are required to be authorized by at least two of the nominated signatories.

8. POWER OF ADMINISTRATION:

- a) This association shall have the power and authority to make rules and regulations for the administration of its affairs and for the administration, management, provision and disposal of all moneys, revenues, legacies, donations and documents of every description under its control or under the control of any officer elected or appointed consistent with the provisions of this constitution, but always subject to the trusts, if any, affecting the same.
- b) This association shall in all respects have power to manage and control all property both real and personal now or hereafter belonging to this association for the purpose of this association and shall have the right to

determine who and what person or persons whatsoever notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein inferred or implied.

- c) The Board of Elders shall have the power to draw up, amend and implement any by-laws required to fulfil the objects of the association as stated in Section 2 of the constitution.

9. APPOINTMENTS TO POSITIONS AND MINISTRIES:

- a) Appointments to positions and ministries is the right and responsibility of the Board of Elders, under the guidance of the Lead Elder.
- b) The appointment or termination of the Lead Elder's service shall be by mutual consent of the Board of Elders. If agreement cannot be achieved, a member of the New Covenant Ministries International apostolic team shall be appointed to mediate in the matter.
- c) The ministries and positions referred to in this Section include those of:
 - i) **Ministry gifts** as enumerated in Ephesians 4:11 as Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers and collectively called Elders.
 - ii) **Deacons** as in Acts 6:1-3; 1 Timothy 3, those who assist in the spiritual oversight of the congregation under the oversight of the elders.
- d) Upon change or amendment of constitution, the existing elders and deacons shall continue office.

10. PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

As an incorporated body, this association shall have all the powers of property ownership as laid down in the Associations Incorporation Act 1985. Special note is, however, made of the following:

- i) This association may in its corporate name hold, purchase, or take on lease in its corporate name, any land, and may sell, exchange, mortgage, lease or build upon the same (with power to alter and pull down buildings and again rebuild and otherwise deal with the same as fully and effectually as a natural person could do).
- ii) In the event of this association ceasing to function and distributing its funds, no individual member shall be entitled to receive any amount; such surplus shall be paid to a charitable institution, church or religious body having objects wholly or in part similar to this association.

11. INSURANCE

- 1) The association must effect and maintain insurance under section 44 of the Act.
- 2) In addition to the insurance required under clause (1), the association may effect and maintain other insurance.

12. FUNDS - SOURCE:

- 1) The funds of the association are to be derived from donations of members and subject to any resolution passed by the Board of Elders in general meeting, such sources as the Board of Elders determines.
- 2) All money received by the association must be deposited as soon as practicable and without deduction to the credit of the association's bank account.
- 3) Where requested for tax deduction, the association must, after receiving such money, issue an appropriate receipt.

13. FUNDS - MANAGEMENT:

- 1) Subject to any resolution passed by the Board of Elders, the funds of the association are to be used in pursuance of the objects of the association in such manner as the Board of Elders determines.

14. PUBLIC OFFICER:

There shall be a Public Officer for this association when incorporated who shall be appointed by the Board of Elders to perform such duties as are required of him by the Association Incorporation Act 1985.

15. EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS:

Any two Elders may execute documents on behalf of the association as resolved by the Elders and recorded in the relevant minutes of the association. A company seal is not required.

16. PUBLICATIONS:

The Board of Elders shall have the right to approve or disapprove any literature proposed to be published or distributed in the name of this association.

17. MINISTER'S REGISTRATION:

Registration with the Commonwealth Government for the purpose of conducting marriages will be sought by ministers of this association only after the prior approval of the Board of Elders.

18. ALTERATIONS TO CONSTITUTION:

Alterations, additions to, or repeal of any of the provisions of this Constitution shall be made by the Board of Elders and confirmed by two-thirds majority.

19. INSPECTION OF BOOKS:

The financial records of the association are available for inspection, by prior appointment, free of charge to any member of the association.

20. CUSTODY OF BOOKS:

Except as otherwise provided by these rules, the public officer must keep in his or her custody or under his or her control all records, books and other documents relating to the association.