

GyMEA Baptist Church Constitution

(As Adopted at an Extraordinary General Meeting held on 23 June 2024)

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1. NAME

- 1.1 This is the Constitution of GyMEA Baptist Church ('the Church'). The Church takes the form of an unincorporated association of individuals. It is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission as a charity formed for the primary purpose of the advancement of the Christian faith.
- 1.2 The Church consists of followers of Jesus who are committed to the Church's vision, mission, values, and goals and who subscribe to the Statement of Beliefs in Clause 4 of this Constitution.

2. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

Definitions

- 2.1 In this Constitution, unless the context otherwise requires, each of the terms noted in the left hand column has the meaning outlined in the right hand column: Clause references are to this Constitution.

Term	Meaning
'ACNC'	the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission

Term	Meaning
'Associate Pastor'	a person appointed by the Church to assist in fulfilling the Pastoral Team's responsibilities, as set out in Clause 7.2(e)
'Association'	a not-for-profit organisation being The Baptist Union of New South Wales as established by the 'Baptist Union Incorporation Act 1919' as amended, and commonly known as 'Baptist Churches of NSW & ACT'
'ballot'	a secret vote in which a person anonymously indicates their vote in writing or electronically
'Baptist Churches of NSW Property Trust'	the incorporated body created by the Baptist Churches of New Wales Property Trust Act 1984
'Church'	GyMEA Baptist Church
'Church Council'	the body responsible for Church governance, as described in Clause 6.2
'Church Meeting'	a meeting of Members, as set out in Clause 9
'Elder'	A Member appointed by the Church to assist the Pastoral Team and provide spiritual leadership to the Church through pastoral care, as set out in Clause 7.2(f)
'Extraordinary Church Meeting'	a Church Meeting held to conduct special business, as set out in Clause 9.2
'General Church Meeting'	a Church Meeting held to conduct general business, as set out in Clause 9.1
'Member'	A person who has been admitted into Membership of the Church as set out in Clause 5
'Objects'	the objects of the Church as set out in Clause 3
'Pastoral Team'	the body responsible for the spiritual oversight of the Church and the pastoral care of the Members and contacts of the Church, as set out in Clause 7.2
'Public Officer'	A statutory role assigned to the Secretary
'Secretary'	Secretary of the Church, appointed from the membership of the Church Council, as set out in Clause 6.2(c)ii.
'Senior Pastor'	the person appointed to the role overall leadership and management of the Church, its staff, volunteers, and activities, as set out in Clause 7.2(d)
'Statement of Beliefs'	the Statement of Beliefs adopted by the Church, as set out in Clause 4

Interpretation

- 2.2 Headings at the beginning of each clause are for convenience of reference only and do not affect the interpretation of the clause.
- 2.3 In this Constitution, unless the context otherwise requires:
- (a) words referring to a particular gender are gender inclusive
 - (b) the singular includes the plural and vice versa
 - (c) a reference to any legislation includes any modification or re-enactment of or legislative provision substituted for that legislation
 - (d) a reference to any agreement or document is a reference to that agreement or document as amended, supplemented, or replaced from time to time
 - (e) where a word or phrase is given a defined meaning, any other part of speech or other grammatical form in respect of that word or phrase has a corresponding meaning
 - (f) explanatory text in square brackets is there to assist the reader but does not form part of this Constitution
 - (g) 'shall' represents a mandatory requirement
 - (h) 'may' represents an optional requirement
 - (i) 'should' represents a recommendation rather than a mandatory requirement
 - (j) a reference to a Church Meeting is a reference to a meeting of the Church's Members
 - (k) a reference to 'Membership' is a reference to membership of the Church.

3. OBJECTS

- 3.1 The aims and objects of the Church are to participate in the mission of God the Father to restore and renew all things in Christ Jesus through the enabling presence of the Holy Spirit. This all-encompassing purpose is expressed by:
- (a) gathering in ways that foster discipleship, including preaching and teaching of Scripture, worship, prayer, mutual service, and the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper
 - (b) proclaiming, in word and deed, the good news of Jesus to our neighbourhood, city, state, nation, and world
 - (c) seeking to cooperate with and support kingdom work in our neighbourhood, city, state, nation, and world.

4. STATEMENT OF BELIEFS

- 4.1 The Church has adopted the Association's Statement of Common Beliefs, as reproduced in APPENDIX A of this Constitution.
- 4.2 The doctrines embedded in the statement of beliefs are:
- (a) The nature and unity of the Godhead
 - (b) The deity and humanity of Christ
 - (c) The Holy Spirit
 - (d) The Divine inspiration of the Scriptures
 - (e) The sinfulness of people
 - (f) Christ's atonement for human sin
 - (g) The work of the Holy Spirit in salvation

- (h) The Church
- (i) The baptism of believers only by immersion
- (j) The communion
- (k) The return of the Lord Jesus Christ
- (l) The resurrection of the dead
- (m) Rewards and punishments in a future state

5. MEMBERSHIP

5.1 Basis of Membership

- (a) Membership of the Church is open to all baptised believers who love the Lord Jesus Christ, whose lives indicate an active Christian faith and who affirm the Church's statement of beliefs and support its vision, mission, values, and goals.

5.2 Membership Terminology

- (a) The Church may decide at a General Church Meeting to adopt other terms in relation to Membership, such as 'Partner' and 'Partnership'. If so, the requirements of this Constitution relating to Members and Membership shall also apply to the new terms.

5.3 Admission to Membership

Direct Application

- (a) Application for Membership shall be made to the Church Council through the Secretary of the Church.
- (b) The applicant should be a baptised believer who has made a public declaration of their faith in Jesus Christ.
- (c) Applicants shall be interviewed by two (2) Members appointed by the Church Council for the purpose of confirming that the applicant satisfies the requirements of clause 5.1, and to address any membership-related questions.
- (d) If an applicant has not been baptised by immersion for a reason accepted by the Church Council as good and acceptable, they may still be considered for Membership provided they satisfy the other requirements of clause 5.1.
- (e) Based on the interview, the Church Council shall decide by resolution on the application for Membership. Membership shall commence from the date of that Church Council meeting, immediately after which the applicant shall be advised of the outcome.

Transfer

- (f) In the case of an applicant seeking transfer of membership from another Baptist Church the Secretary shall request a letter of transfer from the former Church. If possible, this letter will be sought in time to be read at the Church Council meeting at which the application is considered. If the letter is not then available the Church Council may, if it thinks fit, proceed without it.

Rejoining

- (g) In cases of a former Member seeking to rejoin the Church, the Church Council may, if it thinks fit, proceed without the need for interview required in clause 5.3(c) and may accept the applicant back into Membership. The Church Council shall decide by resolution on the application for Membership.

5.4 Review of Membership

- (a) A Membership Roll shall be kept and actively reviewed on a regular basis, as determined by the Church.
- (b) Opportunity shall be given to Members to periodically reaffirm their commitment to the Church in a form, and at a frequency, determined by the Church.
- (c) If the Member does not reaffirm their commitment, they shall be deemed inactive, ineligible to vote and liable for removal from the Membership Roll.

5.5 Removal from Membership

Transfer to another Baptist Church

- (a) If a Member in good standing wishes to join another Baptist Church that Church, upon request, shall be granted a letter of transfer and the Member's name removed from the Membership Roll.
- (b) The Secretary shall be empowered to grant a letter of transfer and report the transfer to the Church Council.

Personal Request for Removal

- (c) If a Member feels unable or unwilling to agree with the Statement of Beliefs or policies of the Church, or for other reasons, the Member may request the removal of their name from the Membership Roll.
- (d) The request may be submitted in writing directly to the Secretary and upon receipt by the Secretary they will cease to be a Member and their name will be removed from the Membership Roll.

Resolution of the Church

- (e) Should any Member behave in a manner contrary to behaviour reasonably expected of a follower of Jesus Christ they should be counselled by the Senior Pastor or nominee.
- (f) If they continue the contrary behaviour, the Church Council may recommend to a Church Meeting that the Church should resolve to remove the Member's name from the Membership Roll. Removal from the Membership Roll shall be from the date of the resolution. The former Member shall be advised of their removal as soon as possible.

Death of a Member

- (g) Should any Member die, their name shall be removed from the Membership Roll from the date of their death and a report shall be made to the next Church Meeting.

Reporting

- (h) A report regarding all membership changes since the last membership report shall be brought to the next Church Meeting.

6. THE GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE CHURCH

6.1 The Basis of Governance

- (a) Under the guidance of God and Scripture, the Church shall be governed in line with the principles of the autonomy of the local church and congregational government, with a Church Meeting being the final authority on all matters.

- (b) The Church recognises the Church Council as its governing body and authorises it to manage the affairs of the Church subject to this Constitution and decisions of Church Meetings.
- (c) The Church Council shall maintain open communication with Members regarding the affairs of the Church.

6.2 The Church Council

Responsibilities

- (a) The Church Council is responsible for the governance of the Church. These responsibilities include:
 - i giving prayerful and spiritual oversight to the Church
 - ii developing and advancing the Church's mission, vision, and values
 - iii engaging in strategic planning
 - iv legal compliance
 - v financial accountability
 - vi producing written governing policies and processes
 - vii determining the responsibilities of the Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer, consistent with the requirements of the Constitution
 - viii reviewing the Senior Pastor's performance
 - ix establishing and reviewing ministry teams and other such bodies to best suit the fulfilment of the Church's mission
 - x recommending to the Church those deemed fit for appointment to the Church Council and to the Pastoral Team
 - xi appointing ministry, administrative and operational staff as necessary in line with approved budgets and strategy.
- (b) The Church Council may delegate those of its responsibilities it considers to be appropriate.

Composition

- (c) The Church Council shall comprise:
 - i the Senior Pastor (or Interim Senior Pastor)
 - ii no fewer than four Members, directly elected by the Church, of whom three shall then be appointed by the Church Council as officers of the Church (Chair, Secretary/Public Officer, and Treasurer)
 - iii the Chair of the Elders.

Meetings

- (d) The Church Council shall meet as regularly as required for business, prayer, and fellowship, and its members shall be given reasonable notice of such meetings.
- (e) The Church Council shall meet no fewer than four times each year.
- (f) The quorum for any Church Council meeting shall be not less than half of the membership of the Church Council.
- (g) A resolution may be passed by the Church Council where it is supported by at least half of the members of the Church Council that are present at the relevant Church Council meeting.
- (h) Records of the decisions of all Church Council meetings shall be kept and made available for inspection if a Church Meeting or Member requests them.

Eligibility

- (i) A Member shall only be eligible for appointment to the Church Council if they
 - i are at least 18 years of age at the time of election, and
 - ii have been a Member for at least six months immediately preceding the election, and
 - iii sincerely seek to fulfil the biblical principles of leadership as outlined in the Church's policy statement on biblical leadership principles.

Terms of Office

- (j) Elected members of the Church Council shall be appointed for a term of two years and shall be eligible for re-appointment at the end of that term. The elected members are eligible to be appointed for three successive terms before being required to stand down for one year, after which they shall be eligible for re-appointment.

Appointment

- (k) Nominations shall be sought and received by the Nominating Committee in sufficient time to allow due consideration of the nominations and make all reasonable enquiries to determine the suitability of each person nominated.
- (l) The names of those who are deemed suitable by the Nominating Committee shall be forwarded to the Church Council for consideration, which will then recommend their appointment to a General Church Meeting.
- (m) To be appointed, each nominee shall require a positive vote of at least four-fifths of the eligible Members present at the meeting.

Casual Vacancies

- (n) Should a casual vacancy occur, the Church Council may appoint an eligible Member to fill the vacancy until an election, which shall be held at the next available General Church Meeting.
- (o) The Member appointed or elected under sub-clause (n) will hold office for the remainder of the original term.

Nominating Committee

- (p) A Nominating Committee shall be appointed annually at the final General Church Meeting of each calendar year.
- (q) The Nominating Committee shall comprise two members of the Church Council, two members of the Pastoral Team, and two Church Members in good standing.
- (r) The Nominating Committee shall be responsible for considering nominations for the following positions, as required:
 - i Church Council members
 - ii Pastors (including the Senior Pastor)
 - iii Elders.
- (s) The nomination process shall include:
 - i receiving nominations
 - ii interviewing potentially suitable candidates
 - iii making recommendations to the Church Council
 - iv submission of proposed recommendations by the Church Council to the Church for consideration.
- (t) In the case of Pastors and Elders, no more than one name shall be submitted for consideration by the Church for any single position.

7. DAY-TO-DAY LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

7.1 The day-to-day leadership and operational management of the Church shall be the responsibility of the Pastoral Team and the Staff Team, as directed by the Church Council.

7.2 The Pastoral Team

- (a) The Pastoral Team consists of the Senior Pastor, the Associate Pastors, and the Elders.
- (b) The Pastoral Team's responsibility is:
 - i the spiritual oversight of the Church
 - ii the pastoral care of the Members and contacts of the Church.
- (c) The functions and responsibilities of the members of the Pastoral Team will be as determined by the Church from time to time

Senior Pastor

- (d) The Senior Pastor shall be responsible to the Church, through the Church Council, for the overall leadership and management of the Church, its staff, volunteers, and activities.

Associate Pastors

- (e) The Church may appoint one or more Associate Pastors to assist in fulfilling the Pastoral Team's responsibilities.

Elders

- (f) The Church may appoint Elders to assist the Pastoral Team and provide spiritual leadership to the Church through pastoral care.
- (g) The number of Elders should be no fewer than two.

Eligibility

- (h) Pastors shall be Members or persons eligible for Membership of the Church who possess the necessary spiritual and other gifts and fulfil the biblical principles of leadership as outlined in the Church's policy statement on biblical leadership principles.

[If not already a Member, the person will be admitted into Membership upon their appointment.]

- (i) Elders shall be Members of the Church who possess the necessary spiritual and other gifts and fulfil the biblical principles of leadership as outlined in the Church's leadership policies.

7.3 The Staff Team

- (a) The Staff Team consists of those staff, excluding the Pastoral Team, who are employed by the Church in ministry or operational roles.

Eligibility

- (b) Staff are not required to be Members, but they shall support the Objects of the Church, as set out in clause 3.

7.4 Appointment

- (a) Pastors may be appointed for an indefinite period or a fixed term, as determined by the Church on a case-by-case basis.
- (b) Elders shall be appointed for four-year overlapping terms with approximately half of the Elders reaching the end of their term every two years.

- (c) Elders may be appointed for two consecutive terms, after which they should stand down for two years before being eligible for reappointment.
- (d) Appointments for the role of Pastor or Elder shall follow the nomination process set out in clause 6.2(s) and be made at an Extraordinary Church Meeting or a General Church Meeting, respectively, as set out in clauses 9.1 and 9.2.
- (e) To be appointed, each nominee for the role of Pastor or Elder shall require a positive vote of at least four-fifths of the eligible Members present at the meeting.
- (f) Appointment of other staff shall be by the Church Council.

Interim Senior Pastor

- (g) If the office of Senior Pastor is vacant the Church may appoint an Interim Senior Pastor. The appointment shall be made on the recommendation of the Church Council and passed by a simple majority at an Extraordinary Church Meeting called for the purpose. The term shall be until a Senior Pastor is appointed or the Church otherwise determines.

8. SUBSIDIARY ORGANISATIONS

- 8.1 The Church may establish subsidiary organisations in the pursuit of its objectives, on the approval of a Church Meeting.
- 8.2 Such organisations shall be administered by a Board of Management whose membership shall be approved by the Church.
- 8.3 The relationship of the Church with such organisations shall first be approved by a General Church Meeting
- 8.4 At least annually, each Board of Management shall submit to the Church:
 - (a) an audited financial report
 - (b) a report on its operations.

9. CHURCH MEETINGS

9.1 General Church Meetings

- (a) There should be no fewer than three General Church Meetings per calendar year.
- (b) The first, held as soon as practicable in the new year, but not later than April shall present and review the annual reports and audited financial statements for the preceding calendar year.
- (c) The second, held in mid-year (June-July) may consider any matters relating to Church life and ministry.
- (d) The final meeting, held as close as practicable to the end of the calendar year shall include:
 - i setting the Church objectives and budget for the following year
 - ii appointment of Church Council members, Elders, and a Nominating Committee
 - iii Appointment of an auditor
 - iv Other general business.

9.2 Extraordinary Church Meetings

- (a) An Extraordinary Church Meeting shall be convened for the purpose of conducting special business, including but not limited to:
 - i the appointment or removal of Pastors
 - ii property matters as referred to in clause 10.2 and 10.3
 - iii alterations to the Constitution.
- (b) An Extraordinary Church Meeting may be convened at any time by resolution of the Church Council or by requisition of not less than twenty percent of the Members eligible to vote

9.3 Meeting Chair

- (a) The Senior Pastor or nominee shall be the Chair of all Church Meetings, except for those Meetings involving appointment or removal of the Senior Pastor, in which case the Chair shall be the Chair of the Church Council or nominee.

9.4 Notice of Church Meetings

- (a) At least two weeks' notice shall be given to Members of all Church Meetings.
- (b) At least four weeks' notice shall be given in the case of proposed alterations to the Constitution.
- (c) Notice of Church Meetings about property dealings shall be given in accordance with the requirements of the Baptist Churches of New South Wales Property Trust Act and its By-Laws and Regulations.
- (d) Notice may be given by public announcement, letter, and/or electronically.

9.5 Voting

- (a) All matters submitted to a Church Meeting shall be decided by a show of hands or by voices or by ballot of those Members eligible to vote.
- (b) The Chair shall determine which method of voting shall be used in each instance.
- (c) Unless otherwise stated, decisions shall be by a simple majority vote, with the Chair having a casting vote.

9.6 Quorum

- (a) For General Church Meetings, the quorum shall be ten percent of the total number of Members eligible to vote.
- (b) For an Extraordinary Church Meeting, the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of Members eligible to vote.
- (c) If a quorum is not present at a General Church Meeting within 30 minutes of the scheduled starting time, the meeting may proceed but all resolutions shall be confirmed at a subsequent General Church Meeting.
- (d) If a quorum is not present at an Extraordinary Church Meeting within 30 minutes of the scheduled starting time, the meeting shall be adjourned to a time and date determined by the Church Council. Notice of the further meeting will be given as usual. Except for meetings held for the purpose of appointing or removing a pastor or changes to the Constitution, notwithstanding the absence of a quorum, the further meeting shall be competent to transact the business of the adjourned meeting.
- (e) If the number of Members present at a meeting falls below the quorum, the relevant provisions of paragraphs (c) and (d) above shall apply.

10. PROPERTY AND FINANCE

10.1 Financial Risk Management and Financial Reporting:

- (a) The Church Treasurer shall be responsible for ensuring that:
 - i a financial report setting out the financial position, financial performance and cashflows is provided to the Church annually [usually at the first General Church Meeting held after the end of the financial year]
 - ii the financial report is audited independently
 - iii financial management and reporting by the Church and any associated entities is conducted according to law, and subject to the Church's Financial Policy as determined from time to time by the Church Council. The Church Council may appoint a Finance Committee which will include the Treasurer and may take advice from that Committee regarding financial matters of the Church.

10.2 Property Ownership

- (a) The Trustee of all and any freehold and strata property beneficially owned by the Church shall be the Baptist Churches of New South Wales Property Trust.

10.3 Application of Church Assets and Income

[Sub-clauses (a) and (b) shall not be altered except with consent of the ACNC]

Not for Profit

- (a) The assets and income of the Church shall be applied solely in the furtherance of its primary charitable purpose, namely the advancement of religion, and no portion shall be distributed directly or indirectly to the Members except as bona fide reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of the Church.

Church Dissolution

- (b) In the event of the Church being dissolved, the amount that remains after such dissolution and the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities shall:
 - i in the case of property held in trust pursuant to the Baptist Churches of New South Wales Property Trust Act 1984, be dealt with in accordance with that Act and in particular Section 29 which said trusts provide that no portion shall be distributed directly or indirectly to the Members of the Church
 - ii in all other cases be transferred to the Association or to any other organisation with similar purposes and which has rules prohibiting the distribution of its assets and income to its Members and which is exempt from income tax.

Application of assets for charitable purpose

- (c) Church buildings and properties shall not be used or occupied by people or organisations for any purpose except where previous consent has been obtained from the Secretary or delegate, who may give such consent in accordance with the policies decisions and guidelines of the Church and with due regard to the charitable objects of the Church.

11. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- (a) The Church shall implement policies and procedures that cover the timely, impartial and effective resolution of all disputes and complaints.

- (b) The policies and procedures should include, but are not limited to:
 - i general complaints made against Church leaders, employees, and officers
 - ii general complaints made against Church volunteers and interns
 - iii alleged breaches of the Safe Church Policy.

12. CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

- (a) No alteration shall be made to the Constitution except at an Extraordinary Church Meeting convened for the purpose, as specified in clause 9.2.
- (b) The quorum for such a meeting shall be as specified in clause 9.6(b).
- (c) Any proposed changes to the Constitution shall be given in writing to the Church Council, as a Notice of Motion. The Church Council shall be responsible for ensuring details of the proposed changes are made available to all persons entitled to vote not less than four weeks before the date of such meeting.
- (d) The ACNC shall be notified within such time as may be prescribed by the ACNC whenever changes are made to the Constitution, and a copy of the complete current operating Constitution shall be provided to the ACNC.

DPM/LG/KW: April 1988

Amended 26 July 1988

Amended 21 October 1992

Amended 9 March 1994

Amended 18 April 1999

Amended 29 August 2004

Amended 5 December 2007

Amended 1 December 2010

Amended 14 April 2013

Amended 23 June 2024

APPENDIX A: Statement of Common Beliefs of the NSW & ACT Baptist Association

1. The Nature and Unity of the Godhead

There is one God Who is eternal personal Spirit. He is infinite in power, wisdom, holiness and love. God is Triune in essential being and revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

2. The Deity and Humanity of Christ

Jesus Christ as the second Person of the Godhead is eternally one with God the Father of whose person and glory Jesus is the accurate expression. To become human He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, so that two whole and perfect natures, the nature of God and human nature, were united in one Person; truly God and truly human.

3. The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit as the third Person of the Trinity is eternally one with the Father and the Son yet He is sent by Them to achieve the divine purpose in the world and in the Church.

4. The Divine Inspiration of the Scriptures

The Scriptures, consisting of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, are the infallible Word of God. They were written by holy people of God inspired by the Holy Spirit and have supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

5. The Sinfulness of People

People were made in the image of God and for fellowship with God. By transgression of God's command humankind fell from fellowship with God and their nature was corrupted. As a consequence all people are spiritually dead under Satan's dominion and control and subject to God's wrath and condemnation. Therefore, apart from God's grace, people are helpless and hopeless.

6. Christ's Atonement for Human Sin

In order to redeem people from the guilt, penalty and power of sin, Jesus Christ became human and died a sacrificial death as our representative substitute. By His resurrection, God's acceptance of His atoning death was demonstrated. This atonement is sufficient for the whole world, but effective only in those who receive it. The sinner is justified and reconciled to God, not through any personal merit, but solely on the basis of God's gracious gift of salvation in Jesus Christ received through faith.

7. The Work of the Holy Spirit in Salvation

The ministry of the Holy Spirit is necessary for the acceptance of God's provision of salvation. The Holy Spirit convinces sinners of their sinfulness, leads them to personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and so brings them to spiritual birth as God's children and to fellowship in Christ. Working within the life of believers the Holy Spirit makes real the presence of Christ, witnesses to their relationship with God, leads into all truth, bestows gifts for effective service and produces graces for holy living.

8. The Church

The Church is the body of people whom God has separated from the world through faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. All regenerate persons are members of the universal Church of God which takes local form wherever groups of believers unite for worship, fellowship and service in accordance with scriptural principles. All believers are called to a priestly ministry in the offering of spiritual sacrifices and sent into the world to be witnesses. God calls individuals to positions of oversight and leadership or to special ministries. The

Church recognises such by ordaining pastors, commissioning missionaries, appointing deacons and other leaders, following New Testament practice.

9. The Baptism of Believers Only by Immersion

Baptism is an ordinance of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a public declaration of a person's faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. In accordance with New Testament Scripture it should be administered only by total immersion which symbolises the believer's identification with Christ in death, burial and resurrection, the remission of sins and the believer's dedication of themselves to God to live and walk in newness of life.

10. The Communion

The Lord's Supper is an ordinance of the Lord Jesus Christ instituted by Him to be celebrated with the elements of bread and wine by believers in Christ until the end of the age. It commemorates and declares our thanks for the Lord's substitutionary death. The celebration of the ordinance expresses our fellowship with and in the Lord Jesus Christ as members of the Body of which He is the Head.

11. The Return of the Lord Jesus Christ

At the end of this age, according to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in His glory to the earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom of God awaits His return.

12. The Resurrection of the Dead

At the end of the age, there is to be a resurrection both of the righteous and the unrighteous. After death people's bodies return to dust, but their spirits return immediately to God – the righteous to be with Him and the unrighteous to be reserved for the judgment.

13. Rewards and Punishments in a Future State

God has appointed a day of final judgement for the world. At that time Jesus Christ will judge every person and each will receive reward or punishment according to their deeds. Those judged righteous, in their resurrected and glorified bodies, will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment.