

LIVING WATERS CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY
LOXTON CHURCH OF CHRIST INC.

ABN: 88 020 286 691

CONSTITUTION & RULES

The Loxton Church of Christ was constituted on 21/09/1996.

Subsequent amendments have been made in the light of further thought and experience.

The amended Constitution was adopted on 26th November 2017.

To be reviewed by November 2021.



Pastor/Elder- Sonny Pillay



Public Officer- Geoffrey Haddon

This is a certified **TRUE COPY**

CONSTITUTION OF THE LOXTON CHURCH OF CHRIST INCORPORATED

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Preamble

It is the express purpose of God, our Heavenly Father, to call out of the world a saved people, who do constitute the Body of Jesus Christ, built and established upon the foundations of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief cornerstone.

The members of the Body, the Church of Jesus Christ, now are called together for worship, fellowship, counsel and instruction in the Word of God and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices set forth in the New Testament.

We recognise ourselves as a body of Christian believers according to the Scriptural plan for the local assembly, in order that we may worship God as a united Body, exercising all our privileges granted to us by God.

Article 1. Name

1.1 The name of this Congregation is **Living Waters Christian Community (Loxton Church of Christ Inc.)**, hereinafter referred to as "the Church".

1.2 The Church is affiliated with the Churches of Christ in South Australia and Northern Territory Inc.

Article 2. Objects of the Association

2.1 To love and worship Jesus and be one in Christ with each other. (1)

2.2 Full evangelisation in obedience to the great commission of Matthew 28:19-20. (2)

2.3 To send out missionaries in obedience to the great commission of Matthew 28:19-20.

2.4 To encourage members and others to gather together in worship.

2.5 To plant churches and foster their development under the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

2.6 To set apart ministers and sponsor their ordination. (Ref. C of C SA & NT Employment Handbook, ver 2, March 1 2016)

2.7 To follow the vision Jesus Christ has directed according to New Testament pattern as confirmed through the Church Eldership.

2.8 To uphold the Churches of Christ plea calling Christians to restoration and unity on the basis of the Bible.

2.9 To provide Christian education and equipping for all age groups and encourage training for active ministry service in Australia and abroad.

2.10 To encourage and support faithful and dedicated Christian action in every strata of Australian life, particularly in inspired leadership in the cultural, social, media, economic, and political affairs of our nation.

2.11 To do all in the power of the Holy Spirit to uphold the family, as defined in scripture, as the basic unit of society.

2.12 Marriage means the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life. (18)

Article 3. Governance

3.1 The Leadership Governance Team shall be the Management Committee of the Church, hereinafter referred to as "the Board".

3.2 The Board shall comprise all Pastors, Elders and Deacons. (10)

3.3 Subject to this Constitution and any Rules made pursuant to this Constitution, the Board shall be responsible for the management of the administrative affairs of the Church. (7)

3.4 The Board shall be responsible for the recognition and appointment of gifted members to ministry leadership roles.

3.5 The Board shall determine which of its members shall be the Public Officer, the Chairperson and the Secretary.

3.6 The Board is responsible for the employment of such staff as are necessary for the efficient functioning of the Church.

3.7 The Board shall be responsible for ensuring Minutes are taken at General, Business and Special Meetings and at Board Committee Meetings.

3.8 The quorum for Board Committee Meetings is half the voting members of the committee.

3.9 The Church is an autonomous entity but respects the right of the Board to seek advice and counsel from other Christian bodies of similar purposes as outlined in Article 2 in line with Ephesians 4:11. (8)

Article 4. Eldership

4.1 The Eldership shall consist of all Pastors and Elders. (6)

4.2 The Pastor as fellow elder is accountable to Jesus Christ and the Church, according to the scriptures and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. (9)

4.3 The Eldership shall be entrusted with the spiritual oversight of the Church.

4.4 The Eldership is to establish and maintain the vision, purpose and direction of the Church according to Biblical principles.

4.5 The Eldership is to organise and oversee the ministry, teaching and pastoral care of the Church.

4.6 The Eldership is responsible for ensuring that discipline and unresolved matters in the church follows the three-step process in Matt 18:15-17 and is done according to 1 Cor 16:14.

4.7 Appointment to the Eldership (14)

4.7.1 The Church may seek at any time to appoint an Elder. The Church seeks to maintain at least three Elders at all times (not including the Pastor/s). (11)

4.7.2 The proposed Elder must demonstrate in their life the qualities as set out in the New Testament. (13)

4.7.3 The proposed Elder must be an active member of the Church according to the Eldership, and participate regularly in the life and worship of the Church.

4.7.4 Elders can be nominated by any member and must be seconded with the nomination submitted in writing to the Secretary.

4.7.5 The Eldership will review the nomination/s and will inform the Board of the name of recommended person/s whom they have endorsed to serve as Elders.

4.7.6 The recommendation must be announced to the Church over two consecutive Sunday Services.

4.7.7 Any member who has a spiritual concern regarding the recommended Elder will have fourteen days, from the final announcement, to express this in writing to the Eldership. No proposed new Elder shall be appointed until any scriptural concerns have been resolved to the satisfaction of the Eldership.

4.7.8 A proposed Elder must receive 75% of the membership vote, of the members personally present, at a General, Business or Special Meeting to be eligible to serve. The vote will be by secret ballot.

4.7.9 The initial term of office is to be five years, with an ongoing process of self-review together with an annual mandated review by peers.

4.7.10 An Elder must be affirmed after their initial five year term of office, and thereafter at every Annual General Meeting by receiving 75% of the membership vote, of the members personally present, at the Annual General Meeting to be eligible to serve. The vote will be by secret ballot. If any Elder is not affirmed, then that Elder shall cease to act in that role.

4.7.11 An Elder may resign their office at any time.

4.7.12 Any member who has a spiritual concern regarding an Elder must express this in writing to the Eldership. (16)

4.8 Appointment of Pastor (as defined by Taxation Ruling TR92/17)

4.8.1 The Board may call such Pastor or Pastors to do the work of spiritual ministry and leadership as it considers to be appropriate. Ref. C of C in SA & NT Employment Handbook , ver 2, March 1 2016

4.8.2 The Pastor will be provided with a Contract of Tenure and Ministry Employment Agreement which should include a requirement for ongoing self-review, together with an annual mandated review by other members of the Eldership.

4.8.3 The initial call for tenure is to be five years. The Pastor shall be chosen by a ballot vote of at least 75%, of the members personally present, at a Special meeting, duly convened for that purpose. The vote will be by secret ballot.

4.8.4 Thereafter any extension of tenure must be recommended by the Board, with the acceptance of the Pastor, and ratified by a secret ballot vote of at least 75%, of the members personally present, at a

General, Business or Special Meeting. At the conclusion of any extension of tenure, a further extension of tenure may be entered into under the same provisions.

4.8.5 The termination of the tenure of the Pastor will be in accordance with their Contract of Tenure and Ministry Employment Agreement, which will include a favourable outcome clause should the Pastor sense an affirmation to respond to another call. (Ref. C of C SA & NT inc. Employment Handbook, ver 2, March 1 2016, para 1.24.4)

4.8.6 The Church will engage a Pastor who has the endorsement of the Conference of Churches of Christ in South Australia.

Article 5. Deacons

5.1 Deacons are accountable to the Board and the Church for:

- 5.1.1 the administrative affairs of the Church
- 5.1.2 oversight of ministries allocated to them by the Board
- 5.1.3 key support of the Ministry Leaders and the ministry/ies.

5.2 There shall be not less than seven nor more than twelve Deacons. If the number of Deacons at any time falls below seven, then the nomination process will be called for a Special Meeting, duly convened for that purpose. Any Deacon so elected, shall hold office only during the unexpired term of the office which that person has been elected to fill.

5.3 The proposed Deacon must demonstrate the spiritual and practical qualities for that office as set out in the New Testament.

5.4 The proposed Deacon must be an active member of the Church, according to the Eldership, and participate regularly in the life and worship of the Church. (20)

5.5 Deacons can be nominated by any member and must be seconded and the nomination submitted in writing to the Secretary.

5.6 The Eldership will review the nominations and will inform the Church of the recommended persons whom they have endorsed to serve as Deacons.

5.7 Details of the recommendations must be announced over two consecutive Sunday Services.

5.8 Any member who has scriptural concerns regarding any recommended Deacon will have fourteen days, from the final announcement, to express in writing any concerns to the Eldership. No proposed new Deacon shall be appointed until any scriptural concerns have been resolved to the satisfaction of the Eldership.

5.9 Each Deacon must receive 75% of the membership vote, of the members personally present, at a General, Business or Special Meeting, to be eligible to serve. The vote will be by secret ballot.

5.10 Each Deacon shall hold office for a period of two years. At the conclusion of the two year term of office a Deacon can offer themselves for renomination.

5.11 Any member who has a spiritual concern regarding a Deacon must express this in writing to the Eldership. (16)

Article 6. Ministry Leaders

6.1 The Board shall be responsible for the recognition and appointment of gifted members to ministry leadership roles. (15)

6.2 Ministry Leaders are responsible for directing the various matters associated with their ministry area and reporting through the responsible Deacon on the Board.

6.3 The proposed Ministry Leader must be an active member of the Church, according to the Eldership, and participate regularly in the life and worship of the Church.

6.3 The Board may delegate matters with clear frames of reference to authoritative and/or advisory sub-committees.

Article 7. Membership

7.1 A member is any person who has the recommendation of the Eldership, having answered to them in the affirmative the simple confession of faith, "Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ and accept him as your Lord and Saviour?"

7.2 A member is expected to adopt the Statement of Faith:

7.3 The cessation of membership of an individual member can be by either:

7.3.1 the member expressing the desire to terminate their membership

7.3.2 the member displaying a lack of loyalty to Jesus Christ and the Living Waters Christian Community. This will be determined by the Eldership. (17)

7.4 All new members must have their names recorded in the Minutes of the meeting of the Board at which their membership was recommended by the Eldership. The Secretary will add these names to the Membership Roll.

7.5 The Membership Roll will be maintained by the Secretary and reviewed by the Board before the AGM.

Article 8. General, Business and Special Meetings

8.1 The Chairperson will be appointed by the Board prior to each duly convened Meeting.

8.2 An Agenda shall be produced at least fourteen days prior to the Meeting.

8.3 Twenty per cent (20%) of the total Membership Roll at the time of the Meeting will be the number that will constitute a quorum. Only those members personally present at the Meeting will be eligible to vote.

8.4 If at any such Meetings, which have been properly convened, a quorum is not present, then at the subsequent, properly convened Meeting, the members personally present will constitute a quorum.

8.5 The Chairperson may not vote except in those situations where a casting vote is required.

8.6 A **General Meeting** shall be held annually as soon as practicable, but not exceeding five months, after the conclusion of the Church's financial year on the 30th June, and must be announced to the Church at least forty-two (42) days prior to the Meeting. The purpose of the meeting will be:

8.6.1 Confirmation and signing of the Minutes of the previous General Meeting.

8.6.2 Elections, as required.

8.6.3 Presentation of the Pastors Reports and the Church Ministry Reports.

8.6.4 Presentation of Audited or Reviewed annual financial accounts.

8.6.5 Appointment of Auditor or Accountant to review the financial records.

8.6.6 Conducting any other business as required ensuring the Objects of the Association are to be fulfilled.

8.7 A **Fellowship Business Meeting** will be held during the months of April or May of every year and must be announced to the Church at least forty-two (42) days prior to the Meeting. The purpose of the meeting will be:

8.7.1 Confirmation and signing of the Minutes of the previous Fellowship Business Meeting.

8.7.2 Elections, as required.

8.7.3 Presentation of the Budget for the following year by the Treasurer or Treasurer's representative.

8.7.4 Conducting any other business as required ensuring the Objects of the Association are fulfilled.

8.8 A **Special Meeting** may be called by the Board on an ad hoc basis, if in the opinion of the Board the need for such a Meeting is warranted. The Meeting must be announced to the Church at least forty-two (42) days prior to the Meeting listing the purpose of the Meeting.

Article 9. Administration and Powers

9.1 Unless otherwise specified in the Rules, the property of the Church, real and personal, present and future, will be vested in the Churches of Christ in South Australia and Northern Territory Incorporated, and will be held for the Church according to the provisions of a deed of trust.

9.2 The Church may in addition to the powers conferred by section 25 of the Associations Incorporation

Act 1985 do all such things as may be necessary desirable or incidental to the attainment of its Objects.

9.3 The Board may from time to time make Rules, Policies and Procedures consistent with this Constitution for the general administration of the affairs of the Church.

9.4 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.

Article 10. Constitutional Matters

10.1 Any member may propose an alteration to the constitution in writing to the Board which will be presented at the next available Board meeting.

10.2 After consideration and review the Board may amend and circulate the proposed change to the Church between 30-42 days after the Board Meeting.

10.3 A Special General Meeting will be called to vote upon the change with at least forty-two (42) days written notice provided to all members, specifying the intention to propose the resolution.

10.4 The Constitution may only be altered or amended by a 75% majority vote of the members personally present, at the Meeting.

10.5 A specific review of the current constitution will be carried out every five years by the Board or their nominees.

Article 11. Dissolution of Congregation

11.1 Dissolution of the Church will be determined by the decision of the Eldership and confirmed by a majority of the membership of the Church at a duly constituted meeting held for that purpose.

11.2 At least 21 days written notice specifying the intention to propose a resolution as a special resolution, to dissolve the association, must be given to the association.

11.3 For the proposed resolution to take effect it must be accepted by a vote of a majority of not less than three quarters (75%) of such members of the association as being entitled to vote in person, or where proxies are allowed, by proxy, at that meeting.

11.4 In the event of dissolution any surplus assets will not be distributed amongst Church members, but instead will be distributed in consultation with Churches of Christ in South Australia and Northern Territory Inc. (or if that entity does not exist, in consultation with another church or incorporated association with similar objects), to be used where practical to support the establishment of new congregations and/or the revitalisation of existing congregations.

Appendix 1 - Declaration of Faith

The fundamental teachings of this Congregation are reflected in the following statements of faith which do not constitute a creed (where the Bible speaks we speak and where the Bible is silent we are silent.)

- A. We believe that the Holy Scriptures (Bible) as originally given is the absolute inspired Word of God. We believe that the Scriptures are infallible, inerrant, and the sole and final authority for all matters of faith and conduct. (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21)
- B. We believe in the eternal God-Head who has revealed Himself as one God existing in three Persons. Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Genesis 1:26, Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Colossians 2:9; 1 Peter 1:2; 1 John 5:5-8)
- C. We believe in the creation, test and fall of man as recorded in Genesis; his total spiritual depravity and inability to attain to Divine righteousness. (Romans 5:12-19)
- D. We believe that God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God He created them, male and female He created them.(Genesis 1:27) When God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. He created them male and female and blessed them. And when they were created he called them "man".(Genesis 5:1-2)
- E. We believe in the LORD JESUS CHRIST, the Saviour of the world conceived of the Holy Spirit, born to the Virgin Mary. Very God and very Man. (Isaiah 7:14. 9:6; Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:26-35; John 1:14; Philippians 2:5-8). We believe in His sinless life, miraculous ministry, substitutionary atoning sacrificial death and abiding intercession. (Luke 24:39: Acts 2:22-36, 10:38; Romans 8:34; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 4:8-10; 1 Peter 2:22; Hebrews 7:25-27, 9:11-12)
- F. We believe Christ died for our sins, was buried and was bodily resurrected from the dead on the third day and personally appeared to His disciples.(Romans 4:23-25; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4)
- G. We believe in the bodily ascension of Jesus to Heaven, His exaltation to the right hand of God the Father and personal literal and bodily coming again the second time for His Church. (John 14:2-3; Acts 1:9. 2:33; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)
- H. We believe in the salvation of sinners by grace, through repentance and faith in the perfect and sufficient work of the cross of Calvary by which we obtain remission of sins and liberty from bondage originating in Satan. (Romans 5:9-11, Ephesians 2:1-10; Hebrews 9:12; 1 John 5:10-13)
- I. We believe in the necessity of water baptism, by immersion, in the Name of the Eternal God-Head to fulfil the command of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 8:34-39, 10:47-48, 16:14-15, 16:30-34, 19:1-6; Romans 6:3-6, Colossians 2:11-

12; 1 Peter 3:18-22)

- J. We believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit as a real experience at/or subsequent to salvation, with scriptural evidence. (Mark 16:17-18; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-5. 2:1-4,2:38-39, 4:29-33, 8:14-17, 10:44-46, 19:1-6)
- K. We believe in the operation of the Gifts of the Spirit as enumerated in Romans 12:6-8 and 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 12:31-14:40 as manifested in the early Church. (Romans 1:11. 11:29, 1 Timothy 4 :14)
- L. We believe in the Spirit-filled life, a life that places us in to world physically but not of it in the spiritual sense and perfecting holiness in the fear of God as expressing the true Christian Faith. (2 Corinthians 6:14, 7:1; Ephesians 5:18, 1 Peter 1:15-17, 2:9, 3:15)
- M. We believe in the healing of the body and whole person by Divine power, or Divine healing in its varied aspects as practised in the Early Church. (Matthew 8:14-17; Acts 3:6-16,4:30, 19:11-12; 1 Corinthians 12:9, 12:28; James 5:14-16, 1Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:4-6)
- N. We believe in the table of the Lord, commonly called the Communion or the Lord's Supper, for believers. (Matthew 26:26-29; Luke 22:15-20; John 6:47-58: 1Corinthians 10:14-17. 11:23-32)
- O. We believe in the HOLY SPIRIT, the Third Person of the Godhead, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, and is ever present and active in the work of convicting and regenerating the sinner, and sanctifying and guiding the believer into truth. (John 14:26, 16:7-11; 1 Corinthians 6:11; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18; Romans 8:14-17, 8:26-27; Titus 3:4-7; 1Peter 1:2 O.
- P. We believe the devil is both real and personal and appointed to eternal judgement in the Lake of Fire along with his fallen angels. (Matthew 25:41; Revelations 20:14-15)
- Q. We believe in the eternal life for believers (John 3:16-18, 5:24, 12:24-25, 17:3; 1 John 5:11-13) and eternal punishment for unbelievers. (Luke 16:19-31; Mark 9:43-48; Revelations 20:10-15)
- R. We believe that there is one true universal Church made up of born again Christians, but this one universal church is composed of many local Churches in given localities. These Churches are under the sovereign Headship of the Lord Jesus Christ exercising autonomous government under Him, administering all its local affairs and ministry as well as the propagation of the gospel. (Matthew 16:18.18: 15-20; Acts 15:22, Ephesians 1:22-23; Hebrews 12:22-23)
- S. We believe in parents consecrating themselves and their children to the Lord, for the purpose of God's blessing, protection and anointing. (Genesis 48:9, Deuteronomy 6:6-7, Proverbs 22:6,15, Isaiah 51:13; Matthew 18:10; Mark 10:13-:6, Luke 2:22, 18:15-17)

- T. We believe that Government is ordained by God, and the powers that be are ordained as ministers of God to us for good. To resist the powers and ordinances is to resist the ordinance of God. We are subject not only for wrath sake but for conscience sake, rendering to all their dues, custom to whom custom, fear to whom fear, honour to whom honour. We declare our loyalty to our Government and its leaders and will assist in every way possible consistent with our faith in the Scriptures as Christian citizens. (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-4; Titus 3:1-2; 1 Peter 2:13-17)

Endnotes

- ¹ Psalm 133:1-3; John 4:23-24, 13:34-35, 17:1-3; Romans 15:5-7; Galatians 5:14
- ² Mark 16:20; Acts 4:29-31; Romans 15:18-19; 1 Corinthians 2:3-4; Hebrews 2:2-4
- ³ Philippians 1:1
- ⁴ Acts 6:3-4; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; Hebrews 11:1-3
- ⁵ Ephesians 4:11
- ⁶ 1 Peter 5:1; 1 Timothy 5:17
- ⁷ Numbers 27:16-17; Isaiah 55:4; 1Thessalonians 5:12-13; 1Peter 5:3-4; Hebrews 13:17
- ⁸ Ezekiel 34:1-16; Acts 20:28; Romans 12:8
- ⁹ Romans 16:1; Titus 2:3-5; Gen 1: 27; Gen 5: 1-2
- ¹⁰ Romans 12:8; Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 1 Thessalonians 5 12-13
- ¹¹ Acts 20:28; 1Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9 and Hebrew 11:1-3
- ¹² Romans 11:29
- ¹³ 1 Timothy 5:17-20
- ¹⁴ Acts 6:1-7
- ¹⁵ 2 Timothy 3:16
- ¹⁶ Deuteronomy 19:15; Proverbs 15:10; Acts 20:27-32; Romans 16:17-18; 1Corinthians 5:11-13, 6:1-2, 16:15-16; Galatians 2:11-14; 2 Thessalonians 3:15-16; 1 Timothy 6:3-5; Titus 3:9-11; Hebrews 13:17: 2 Peter 2:1-22; 2 John 7-11
- ¹⁷ Ezekiel 3:17-21; Matthew 5:23-26, 18:16-20; Luke 17:3-4, Galatians 6:1; 1Timothy 1:20; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Peter 2:13-14
- ¹⁸ Gen 2: 19-25; Ecc 9: 7-10; Mat19: 1-12; 1 Cor 7: Eph 5: 22-23; Mark 10: 6-9;
- ¹⁹ Church of Christ in SA & NT Employment Handbook, ver 2, March 1 2016
- ²⁰ 1 Tim 3: 8-10

RULES OF THE LOXTON CHURCH OF CHRIST INCORPORATED

1. Good Governance:

The Church must remain compliant with the Associations Incorporation Act 1985 and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (Cth) (ACNC Act)

2. Finance:

It shall be the general policy of the Church to meet its financial obligations by freewill offerings. The Church, through its Members' Meetings, may approve other methods of financing projects and/or fundraising, provided such methods do not minimise the freewill offering principle.

3. Meetings of the Eldership and the Board:

The Eldership and the Board are expected to meet monthly, with the exception of January.

4. Members' Meetings:

Although encouraged to attend and participate in Members' Meetings, members under the age of sixteen years shall not be eligible to vote in matters of Church business.

5. Harmony:

Where the opinion of the Members appears to be keenly but evenly divided and the harmony of the Church in danger, the Meeting may vote to defer the decision, enabling the Members to seek the will of God through prayer and the Scriptures.

6. Eligibility:

The Senior Pastor and Senior Elder shall be male appointments. Both male and females shall be eligible for appointment to any other office.

7. State Body Review:

The Board will approach the State Body with an invitation to visit for the purpose of a Church review at least every seven years.

