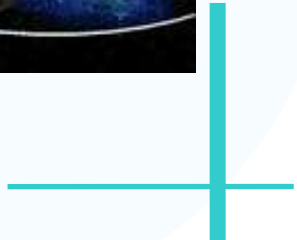
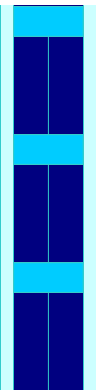




CONSTITUTION & STATEMENT OF FAITH



FINDLAY CHURCH CONSTITUTION

1. The Church shall be called the Findlay Church, and undertakes to manage its own affairs in accordance with God's Word and the practice of the Apostles.
2. **Declaration of Faith:** We believe in:
 - a. The full inspiration of the Holy Scriptures; their authority and sufficiency as not only containing, but being in themselves the infallible and inerrant Word of God and the final authority in all things; the reliability of the New Testament in its testimony to the character and authorship of the Old Testament and the need of the teaching of the Holy Spirit to a true and spiritual understanding of the whole.
 - b. The unity of the Godhead and the divine co-equality of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; the sovereignty of God in creation, providence and redemption.
 - c. The total depravity of human nature in consequence of the fall, and the necessity for regeneration.
 - d. The true and proper deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, His real and perfect manhood, the authority of His teaching, and the infallibility of all His sayings. His work of atonement for sin by His substitutionary sufferings and death, His bodily resurrection and ascension into Heaven, and His priestly intercession for His people at the right hand of the Father.
 - e. The justification of the sinner solely by faith in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ
 - f. The necessity of the work of the Holy Spirit in regeneration and sanctification, also in ministry and worship.
 - g. The universal Church, the body of which Christ is the Head, embracing all the redeemed, called by God through the Gospel, born of the Spirit and justified by faith. The local Church comprises such believers who are the expression of the universal Church and who, through fellowship of such Churches, manifest the unity of the body of Christ.
 - h. The sacraments of Baptism and Communion as being instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ, but not in Baptism as conveying regenerating grace, nor in the Communion as being a sacrifice for sin, or involving any change in the substance of the bread and wine.
 - i. The personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ in glory.
 - j. The resurrection of the body; the judgement of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, with the eternal blessedness of the righteous and the eternal punishment of the wicked.

3. The Pastors and Elders shall have been baptised by immersion upon profession of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and accept and adhere to this Constitution. The Sacrament of Baptism shall be administered by immersion and only to believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.
4.
 - a. Applicants for membership must be 16 years or over, and shall be admitted upon satisfying the Leadership Team as to their faith in Christ, and their willingness to accept this Constitution.
 - b. Members of the Church who are engaged in overseas missionary service shall be afforded full rights of membership, except for the right to vote while abroad.
5. A Membership Roll shall be kept of all who are admitted into membership. Members are expected to attend the organised services and Communion regularly, to contribute towards the ongoing work of the Church, both financially and by becoming involved in some form of Christian service as God enables them, to maintain a spirit of Christian love and unity at all times. " and in every way, make the teaching about God our Saviour attractive" (Titus 2 v 10).
6.
 - a. The management of the Church shall be administered by a Leadership Team consisting of Pastor(s), Elders and not less than six Deacons. Two of the Deacons shall be appointed by them to the offices of Secretary and Treasurer. The appointment of Pastors, Elders and Deacons will be approved by a vote of Church Members.
 - b. Pastor(s) shall be elected by a majority of at least three-quarters of the members' votes registered at a Church meeting called for the purpose by special notice from the pulpit on each of the two preceding Sundays.
 - c. After taking into consideration the views of the membership and discussion with the Leadership Team, the Pastor(s) and Elders will nominate to the members, any candidates for Eldership. These must be approved by a majority of three-quarters of the votes registered at a Church meeting called by special notice from the pulpit on each of the two preceding Sundays. Elders will serve for a period of 7 years and will be eligible for re-nomination.
 - d. The election of the Deacons shall be by a majority of at least two-thirds of the members' votes cast at a Church meeting called by special notice from the pulpit on each of the two preceding Sundays. Deacons shall relinquish office after serving a maximum of 5 years and shall be eligible for re-nomination and re-election.

6. e. Should a Pastor wish to terminate his position, then he shall do so in writing, giving three months notice. Should the Church wish to separate a Pastor from them, then likewise, three months written notice shall be given. This decision shall require a majority of at least three-quarters of the members' votes registered at a Church meeting called for the purpose of considering the Pastorate, by special notice from the pulpit on each of the two preceding Sundays.
- f. Should the conduct of a Pastor be considered inconsistent with his profession of the Gospel and with the terms set out in this constitution, he shall be admonished by the Leadership Team on behalf of the Church, and, if necessary, his appointment shall be terminated.
7. The Sacrament of Communion shall normally be observed on the first Sunday of each month and as otherwise arranged. Communion at the Lord's Table shall be open to all who sincerely love the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord and are walking in fellowship with Him.
8. In the event of a Pastor not being available, the Elders shall be responsible for administering the Sacraments and making arrangements for the services.
9. In cases of private offence between members, it is required that the rule prescribed by Christ in Matthew 18 v 15-17 be faithfully observed. In cases of open backsliding, or doctrinal error, it is the duty of the Church to exercise discipline according to 2 Thessalonians 3 v 6: v 14-15, Titus 3 v 10-11. Such discipline shall be exercised by the Pastor(s) and Elders or any persons to whom it may be delegated.
10. The annual meeting of the Church shall be held in February of each year at which the financial statement, duly audited shall be presented, and any other competent business transacted. At this meeting one of the Deacons shall preside.
11. No alteration shall be made to this Constitution except by a majority of at least three-quarters of the members' votes cast at a meeting called for the purpose by special notice from the pulpit on each of the two preceding Sundays, when such notice specifying the alteration proposed should be submitted. The minute of this meeting signed by the Chairman thereof, or an extract there from certified by him, shall be sufficient evidence of the approved alteration to the Constitution.
12. All matters pertaining to the Church shall be treated by the members as strictly private.
13. This Constitution shall be printed and a copy given to each member and each applicant for membership.