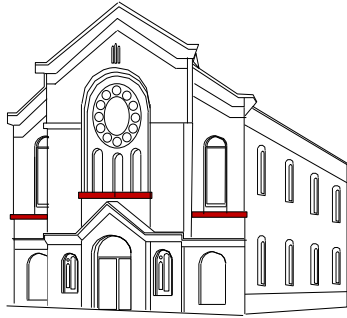


CONSTITUTION OF SALISBURY BAPTIST CHURCH

The following provisions shall apply to the Constitution and Meetings of the Church:



Membership

(a) No person shall be entitled to become or remain a member save such persons as hold the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ and the authority of the Holy Scriptures and that interpretation of them usually called Evangelical and who have made confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ

(b) Salisbury Baptist Church has an open membership and welcomes into fellowship all who know and love the Lord Jesus and seek to be identified as Baptists in the Community, subject to the disciplines and doctrines of the Church

Minister

(c) No person shall be appointed or continue as a Minister save a person holding the qualifications hereinbefore mentioned in relation to Ministers

Elders

(d) The Church shall appoint Elders who are men and women of good standing and spiritual maturity, demonstrating the characteristics and qualities exemplified in 1 Timothy 3: 1-7 and Titus 1:6-9

(e) The role of Elders is to provide pastoral oversight to the whole Church on all matters. Elders are called by God to give exemplary spiritual leadership, be the custodians of church doctrine and practice, to preach, teach and lead in public worship and other Church activities

(f) No person shall be eligible to become an Elder of the Church unless he or she is a member of the Church of at least two years standing

(g) At least a majority of the Elders of the Church shall consist of persons who have been baptised that is to say immersed upon a confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ

(h) The Senior Minister, by appointment, is the Presiding Elder

(i) Associate Ministers who hold the qualifications hereinbefore mentioned in relation to Ministers become Elders on appointment

(j) Ministers in Training, Specialist Pastors (eg Youth Pastor) or other Church staff will not usually be appointed as Elders. They may be invited to attend meetings of the Eldership to advise on specific matters or as part of their training. The Church may choose to elect such members to the Office of Elder, following the procedures and qualifications explained in this Section

(k) When Church members recognise the gifting and calling of God upon one of their number to fulfil the role of Elder, an election shall be called. Nominations shall be made in writing from any Church Member to the Senior Minister, as Presiding Elder. The nomination period shall last for at least one month, closing one month before the proposed date of the election. The Senior Minister and at least one other Elder shall interview those nominated to test their calling and confirm that they have the Mind of Christ upon their nomination. Those recommended for the Office of Elder shall be presented to a Special Church Meeting, which may make the appointment(s) unanimously or by written ballot. The Procedures for Special Church Meetings at Paragraph 17(aa) shall apply

(l) The Elders are accountable to the Church through the Church Meeting and shall hold the Office for a Term of three years. Prior to the completion of their Term of Office, the Presiding Elder and at least one other shall interview the outgoing Elder to review their vocation from the Lord and determine whether they sense the continuing calling to the Office for a further Term. Ministers, Elders and Church Members should be candid and open in reflecting on whether an Elder's Term should be renewed and none may assume automatic extension of Office; all should seek to discover the Mind of Christ on the matter. A Special Church Meeting shall be called to elect an Elder for each further Term of Office

Church Managing Trustees, Office Bearers, Staff and Activity Coordinators

(m) The Managing Trustees of the Church shall comprise the Senior Minister, the elected Elders, the Church Treasurer and other Office Bearers as defined at Paragraph 17(o) subject to the restriction that the Senior Minister is the only employee of the Church who may be a Managing Trustee

(n) At the Annual General Meeting (AGM) the Church shall appoint a Treasurer to manage the Accounts and provide the Annual Report on Church Finances. The Treasurer is to serve for a period of one year and may be re-elected for further Terms of Office

(o) The Church may also appoint Office Bearers to chair committees that manage the Fabric and Finances of the Church as it requires from time to time. Office Bearers shall provide long-term plans and advice on their areas of responsibility to the Elders and shall be appointed annually at the AGM

(p) The Church may employ staff to fulfil spiritual, administrative or practical duties to support the fellowship. These appointments shall be made by or on behalf of the Managing Trustees led by the Elders

(q) Church Activity Coordinators who hold responsibility for directing activities involving the Church's mission, worship, growth, development, outreach to the community, ministry, children's, family, youth work and all other such endeavours shall have their appointments ratified at the AGM

(r) The Elders shall meet regularly with the Managing Trustees, Office Bearers, Staff and Activity Coordinators to oversee the continuing development of the Lord's Work to His glory and to extend His Kingdom

General Church Meeting

(s) A General Meeting of Members of the Church shall be convened not less than once in every quarter by or on behalf of a committee (hereinafter called "the Eldership") consisting of the Minister or Ministers and the Elders. Oral public notice of such meeting and of the time and place appointed shall be given during or immediately after the Worship Service but before the dismissal of the congregation at each of the Public Services on the Sunday immediately preceding the date of such intended General Meeting

Special Church Meeting

(t) The following shall be matters for the decision of a Special General Meeting of the members of the Church namely:

(i) The appointment reappointment or dismissal of a Minister or Elder

(ii) Matters concerning the alteration improvement or enlargement of the buildings on the Church property or the addition to pulling down or rebuilding thereof or the erection of new buildings

(iii) Matters concerning the sale demise letting exchange or mortgage of the Church property or any part thereof and the application of moneys arising therefrom.

(iv) The revocation variation addition to or amendment or alteration of any of the provisions of this Schedule within the limits of and pursuant to the power therein contained or any other enabling power in that behalf

(v) The appointment of new Trustees

(u) Every Special Meeting shall be convened by the Eldership by Notice given in a similar manner to that prescribed for a General Meeting on each of two Sundays immediately preceding the date of such intended Special Meeting

(v) It shall be the duty of the Eldership forthwith to convene a Special Meeting upon the receipt of a written request in that behalf signed by not less than one-tenth of the members for the time being of the Church PROVIDED THAT a Special Church Meeting need not in any case be convened at the request of fewer than twelve members

(w) The purpose for which a Special Meeting has been convened and the matters intended to be transacted or dealt with thereat shall be either stated at the time of giving notice of the Meeting or if the Eldership so decides shall be set out in written notice to be sent by post or electronic mail at least seven days before the date of the Meeting to every member of the Church at his or her last known address in Great Britain but the non-receipt of the notice by any member shall not invalidate the proceedings at the meeting

Procedure at a Church Meeting

(x) In the event of an equality of votes the Chairman of a General or Special Meeting (whether a member of the Church or not) shall have a casting vote whether he has or has not previously voted on the question

(y) Votes shall be taken by ballot if so demanded by not less than three of the members of the Church present at the General or Special Meeting

(z) No resolution passed at a General or Special Meeting shall be rescinded at a subsequent Meeting unless notice of the Resolution for such rescission has been given at the Meeting (whether General or Special) preceding such subsequent Meeting

(aa) A Resolution at a Special Meeting shall not be deemed to have been carried unless supported by the votes of not less than two-thirds of the members personally present entitled to vote and voting at such Meeting

(bb) At any General or Special Church Meeting the Minister or Senior Minister (if any) or Moderator for the time being of the Church shall (if he shall be present and willing to act as Chairman of such Meeting) be entitled to take the Chair unless the Minister or Ministers and Elders or a majority of them shall have previously resolved that there shall be another Chairman in which case or if there shall be no Minister or Moderator then holding office or present and willing to act as Chairman the members present shall elect a Chairman (whether an Elder a member of the Church or some other person) before proceeding with the business of such Meeting

Moderator

(cc) During any period when there shall be no Stated Minister of the Church the Church may and shall at the request of the Association from time to time elect as Moderator some person who is a member of the same or any other Baptist Church and has been baptised as aforesaid. Subject as aforesaid the Moderator for the time being shall act as Chairman at all Meetings of the Church and of the Elders. A Moderator elected by the Church shall cease to hold office at the request of the church or upon appointment of a Stated Minister. If the Church shall fail to elect a Moderator at the request of the Association as aforesaid the Association may appoint a Moderator who shall hold office until the appointment of a Stated Minister or until released or dismissed by the Association

Minutes

(dd) Minutes shall be kept of the proceedings of any Church Meeting and any such Minutes shall if signed by a person purporting to have acted as Chairman of the Meeting to which the Minutes relate or of any Church Meeting at which they were read be conclusive evidence that any Resolution therein stated to have been passed was passed by the requisite majority at a Meeting duly convened and held and also of the due appointment of the person signing the Minute as Chairman

Notes: This statement was adopted and passed at a Church Meeting on 12 November 2007 and is to be read in conjunction with the [Fairbairn Model Trust](#) document, which forms the basis of the church's Trust Deeds lodged with the Baptist Union Corporation Ltd in accordance with Section 4 of the Baptist and Congregational Trusts Act, 1951. This forms the present constitution for Salisbury Baptist Church and is the process of amendment pending the registration of the church as a Charity with the Charity Commission in accordance with the [Charities Act 2006](#).