

CONSTITUTION FOR THE DREAM CENTRE CHURCH MANUKAU



GUIDELINES FOR CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

1. THE CHURCH

- 1.1 The name of the church is **The Dream Centre Church Manukau**
- 1.2 The church is a community of those who believe in God the Father, in His Son Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Spirit - one God; who are repentant of sin and have been saved by personal faith in Jesus Christ through His atoning death and resurrection; who publicly confess their faith and who are committed to the church's aims and functions.

- 1.3 The church believes in:

- 1.3.1 The Inspiration of the Scriptures**

- We believe that the Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments are inspired by God and are the revelation of God to humanity; they are the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct.

- 1.3.2 The One True God**

- We believe that the one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the creator of heaven and earth and the redeemer of all people. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We speak of God as a Trinity or as one being of three persons. These three persons are coequal, coexistent, coeternal and consubstantial. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are never identical as to person, nor confused as to relation, nor divided in respect to the Godhead, nor opposed as to cooperation. Father, Son and Holy Spirit exist in, with and through each other; united eternally in fellowship, love and common purpose. In their fellowship and community, they share all they are and have in communion, openness and self-giving love. Hence, no person in the Godhead either exists or works separately or independently of the others.

- 1.3.3 The Lord Jesus Christ**

- We believe that Jesus Christ is one, but He has two natures, the human and the divine. He is truly God and truly man, composed of body and rational soul. He is consubstantial with the Father and the Holy Spirit in His deity and consubstantial with humankind in His humanity, except for sin. In His deity He eternally proceeds from the Father, and in His humanity, He was conceived by the Virgin Mary, through the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit. The distinction between the two natures is not diminished by their union, but the specific character of each nature is preserved and united in one person. Christ is not divided into two persons; He is one person, the Son of God. The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. The Scriptures declare His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His substitutionary work on the cross, His bodily resurrection from the dead, and His exaltation to the right hand of God the Father.

- 1.3.4 The Fall of Humanity**

- We believe human beings were created good and upright, being made in the image of God. However, they became sinful by voluntary transgression of

God's command and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God.

1.3.5 The Salvation of Humanity

We believe that a person's only hope of salvation is through the atoning work of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who shed His blood on the cross that all may be saved. Salvation is received through repentance and faith. Being justified by grace through faith, we receive the righteousness of Christ, regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit and become heirs of God according to the hope of eternal life.

1.3.6 Sanctification

We believe that sanctification initially occurs at the time of salvation. It is not only a declaration that a believer is holy, but also a progressive lifelong process of separation from evil as believers continually draw closer to God and become more Christ-like. When Christ returns the Holy Spirit will complete the work of sanctification in our lives. In Christ we become a new creation, the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit.

1.3.7 Christian Character

We believe that the work of sanctification in the life of a believer results in a life characterised by love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. This kind of life rejects pride and rebellion and all behaviour stemming from this, such as homosexuality, sexual immorality and sexual perversion, lust, incest, idolatry, envy, murder, strife, drunkenness, deceit, malice, gossip, slander, insolence, arrogance, boasting, promoting evil deeds, disobedience, greed, covetousness and all forms of moral depravity.

1.3.8 The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

We believe that all believers are entitled to, should eagerly expect and seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit, according to the command of Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Church. This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit received at the new birth. We give continuing emphasis to the New Testament pattern by teaching and encouraging believers to be baptised in the Holy Spirit. This experience:

- I. Enables them to evangelise in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs
- II. Adds a necessary dimension to a worshipful relationship with God
- III. Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the worship of God through Christ, the edifying of the Body of Christ and the evangelisation of the world.

1.3.9 The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is shown by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God enables them to do so.

1.3.10 The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the gifts of the Spirit continue to be experienced by the Church. They are given to empower the believer for life, ministry and witness. They are supernatural having their origin in God but are also incarnational in

that they operate in and through believers. They are intended to be part of the normal spiritual exercise of every believer.

1.3.11 The Ordinances of the Church

We believe in baptism by immersion in water following salvation. This ordinance is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe in Christ as Lord and Saviour are to be baptised. In this act we declare to the world that we have died with Christ and have been raised with Him to live a new life. We believe in Holy Communion, also known as The Lord's Supper, consisting of bread and wine. These symbols express our sharing in the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ. They are also a memorial of His suffering and death and a prophecy of His second coming. The observance of Holy Communion is to be celebrated by all believers until He returns.

1.3.12 The Church and Mission

We believe that the Church is the body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Holy Spirit, with divine gifts and graces for the fulfilment of the Great Commission. Every believer is an integral part of the universal Church and should find a place of connection and belonging in a local church. Since God's purpose concerning humanity is to seek and to save those who are lost, to draw humanity into fellowship, and to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, the primary reason for being of the Assemblies of God in New Zealand as part of the Church is:

- I. To be an agency of God for evangelising the world
- II. To be a corporate body in which people may worship God
- III. To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of believers, who are being perfected in the image of His Son

1.3.13 Christian Ministry

We believe that a divinely called and biblically ordained body of ministers has been provided by Christ for the threefold purpose of leading the Church to evangelise the world, the worship of God and in building a body of believers, who are being perfected in the image of His Son. We also believe that every member of the body of Christ is called to active service.

1.3.14 Divine Healing

We believe that divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Healing, health and wholeness for the whole person is provided for in the atoning work of Christ.

1.3.15 The Kingdom of God

We believe that Christ came to inaugurate the Kingdom of God. This Kingdom is therefore already present but is not yet fully realised. It is seen wherever God's reign is extended and is a present reality in the hearts and lives of believers. The Church is empowered by the Holy Spirit as the agency by which the Kingdom is extended. The Kingdom will be seen in its fullness when Christ returns at the end of this age.

1.3.16 Marriage and Family

We believe that marriage was established by God and confirmed by Jesus Christ as a life-long relationship between one man and one woman. We therefore commit ourselves to solely partake in practices or circumstances that are conducive to this biblical model. We believe that a Christian should marry within the community of faith. We therefore commit ourselves solely to

circumstances and practises Christian marriage is a reflection of the love, purity and permanence between Christ and the Church. We therefore discourage divorce as a solution to marital difficulties and encourage husbands and wives to devote themselves to God and find nurture in the instruction of the body of Christ. Children are regarded as “a heritage of the Lord.” Raising them is therefore considered as a sacred trust.

1.3.17 The Return of Christ

We believe in the physical and visible return of Christ. At this time those who have died believing in Christ will be resurrected. They will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air, along with those believers who are alive at the time of His return. This is the hope of all believers, in all ages. We believe in the millennial reign of Christ.

1.3.18 Judgement

We believe that every person who has ever lived will face a day of final judgment. The righteous will be judged for rewards at the judgment seat of Christ. The unbelievers will face eternal separation from God in hell.

1.3.19 The New Heaven and the New Earth

We believe in the promise of a new heavens and a new earth, the eternal home of the righteous

2. AIMS AND FUNCTIONS

- 2.1 To ensure all strategic plans agreed and implemented by the church are diligently processed and progressed and reviewed every three months
- 2.2 To meet regularly for Worship, Prayer, Teaching, Encouragement and Fellowship
- 2.3 To express the love of God to the community through the ministries of the Word and Practical Care
- 2.4 To prioritise making Disciples of Jesus Christ and bringing them into membership of the church
- 2.5 Engage in the task of Mission principally within New Zealand but also overseas (see Matthew 28 vv 19-20)
- 2.6 To provide necessary Support to all of our Daughter Church Plants and Campuses where possible

3. STRUCTURE

- 3.1 The Church is an autonomous body governed by its Governance Board formally known as the ‘Eldership’ working closely with the church’s membership and other like-minded organisations
- 3.2 The Leadership shall consist of the Eldership and Pastors and Ministry Leaders all of who are responsible to the church’s membership for the governance and management respectively of the church.
- 3.3 The Eldership shall consist of no more than seven church members comprising of the Chairperson who shall be appointed by the Eldership, a Treasurer appointed by the Church’s Finance Team, the Senior Pastor, three Pastors appointed by the Pastoral Team and two church member representatives appointed by ballot by the church family.
- 3.4 The Eldership shall appoint one Eldership member to be the Secretary who will be responsible for the accurate recording of all minutes and the administration of the Eldership’s affairs

- 3.5. The Eldership shall appoint one Eldership member to be the Vice Chairperson who will be responsible for undertaking the Chairperson's roles during his/her absence
- 3.6 The following selection criteria must apply when appointing church members to the Eldership
 - I. Must have been an official church member for at least two years
 - II. Must be a spiritually mature and wise Christian
 - III. Must be a faithful and committed member of the church
 - IV. Must be a faithful financial giver to the church
 - V. Must have a good reputation outside of the church
 - VI. Must attend to and commit to at least 80% of the Eldership's business
 - VII. Must keep all Eldership business in strict confidence where necessary
- 3.7 The Chorum required for all official Eldership Meetings must be at least 50%
- 3.8 All Eldership Meetings should be held on the first Tuesday of every month
- 3.9 All appointments are for a minimum tenure of two years renewable
- 3.10 It is compulsory that all members execute their roles and responsibilities on the Church's Eldership including attending at least 10 out of 12 Eldership Meetings annually
- 3.11 The Dream Centre Church acknowledges that biblically there is no democracy in the church therefore voting is an unbiblical church practice. In the New Testament church matters were determined and affirmed by its appointed 'elders' who sought the mind and heart of God together. Therefore, The Dream Centre Church must be diligent and prayerful in its appointment of its Eldership.
- 3.12 Having appointed members to the Eldership as per the selection criteria in 3.6 above The Dream Centre Church entrusts all decision making concerning The Dream Centre Church to its Eldership. It is recognised that pertinent to this decision making that the Eldership recognises the significant and valued input The Dream Centre Church family has towards those decisions and decision-making processes.
- 3.13 The Harvest 20-25 Plan
The Dream Centre Church officially agrees to and accepts our Harvest 20-25 Plan and/or any amendments or versions of that plan now and/or in the future as its official mission strategy for fulfilling the Great Commission and by which all missional based decisions will be made. It also agrees that the Harvest 20-25 Plan will be regularly monitored by the respective persons and that full diligence will be accorded to this plan at all times. All potential changes and amendments to this plan can only be presented as recommendations which can only be approved by the church's Eldership. Final approval can only be done after a robust consultation has occurred within the Pastoral and Leadership Teams.

4. MEMBERSHIP

4.1 Closed Membership (Partners)

Partners shall be those who have publicly confessed their faith in Jesus Christ in believers' baptism and who meet The Dream Centre Church's criteria to becoming an official partner of The Dream Centre Church Manukau. Applications for baptism shall be made to the Associate Pastor who is responsible with the Eldership for acceptance or otherwise. A believer who desires to be baptised but is prevented by physical disability or other special reason acceptable to the church may apply for membership on the same basis as baptised believers.

4.2 Transfers

A member from another Christian church may be received into official partnership upon transferring to The Dream Centre Church Manukau.

4.3 Official Partnership Roll

An official Church Partnership Roll should be kept and reviewed annually.

5. PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

5.1 Senior Pastors

5.1.1 Pastoral responsibility

The Senior Pastors shall be entrusted with the spiritual oversight of the church in co-operation with the Eldership and Pastoral and Leadership Team. The Senior Pastor(s) shall be an ex-officio member of all organisations of the church.

5.1.2 Pastoral Vacancy

When a vacancy occurs in the Senior Pastorate The Dream Centre reserves the right to internally appoint a new Senior Pastor from within The Dream Centre church family only. This appointment shall be made by the Eldership in consultation with the wider church family. The church will seriously consider any nominee put forward by the existing or previous Senior Pastor. All Senior Pastors will be appointed by the Church's Eldership

5.1.3 Senior Pastor's Performance and Stipend

The Dream Centre Church shall review the Senior Pastor's Performance and Stipend Package annually during the final week of May prior to the church's annual AGM in June every year

5.1.4 Conclusion of Pastorate

Three months' notice shall be given by the Eldership or the Senior Pastor before the pastorate is terminated, unless another period is negotiated between the parties. A termination of service/resignation agreement should be clearly worked out by an independent arbitrator and any need for arbitration will be carried out based on a mutual agreement.

5.1.5 Other Pastoral Staff

Shall operate under the direction of the Eldership. Nominations for pastoral staff positions shall be submitted by the Senior Pastor to the Eldership for approval. The clear conditions offered shall accompany the call together with the term of the call and arrangements for the termination of the ministry.

5.1.6 Other Church Leadership

All Church Ministry Leader appointments shall be appointed by the Eldership.
All ministry staff can be appointed at the discretion of each Ministry leader

5.1.7 Accountability as Leaders

All leaders are accountable to the church family to be highly committed to all aspects of the church's mission including attendance, participation, support and attitude. Given that Leadership is leading by example, all leaders are expected to attend no less than 75% of the church's mission through its daily/weekly/regular calendar events and services

5.2 The Associate Pastors

The Associate Pastors shall be appointed by the Eldership to assist the Senior Pastors in managing the Church's Administration, the Church's Sunday Services and the Church's Online Ministry

5.3 The Executive Pastors

The Executive Pastors shall be appointed by the Eldership to assist the Senior Pastors in managing the Church's Harvest 20-25 Plan and/or any future amendments or versions of this plan and the Church's offline ministry

5.4 The Church Treasurer

The Church Treasurer shall be a member of the Finance Team appointed by the Finance Team to be responsible for financial tasks as defined from time to time. The Treasurer shall also be responsible for providing audited accounts to the annual church meeting and monthly eldership meetings

6. CHURCH MEETINGS

6.1 Frequency

The church members shall meet not less than two times each year, one meeting of which to be the annual general meeting. The church year shall end on the 31st December. At the annual meeting a report shall be presented by the Eldership and/or Assistant Pastors and audited accounts by the Treasurer. All leadership elections shall be normally made at the annual meeting, but vacancies may be filled at any church meeting, provided two weeks notice of the intention is advised.

6.2 Purpose

The purpose of each meeting shall be to discover and confirm the mind of the Lord on matters affecting the life and work of the church and its mission.

6.3 Quorum

At least 25% of the official church's official church partnership is required at any members' meeting where decisions are to be made.

6.4 Special Meetings

The Secretary, on receipt of a request signed by at least 10% of the resident membership, shall call a special meeting of the church within 21 days of the request being received. Two weeks' notice of the special meeting must be given.

6.5 Chairperson

The Senior Pastor or nominee shall chair all members' meetings, except when the Pastor is personally interested or is unwilling or unable to act. In such cases the Eldership shall nominate a chairperson who shall be a person of good standing in The Dream Centre Church and accepted by the church meeting.

6.6 Church Discipline

All church member disciplinary procedures shall be implemented in accordance to the New Testament model of discipline as outlined in Matthew 18:15-17 and Galatians 6:1-4 led by the Senior Pastors and other Senior Leaders appointed by the Senior Pastors

6.7 The church shall have the power to admonish, suspend or expel any member for misconduct. Should a dispute in the church arise causing a serious division and remain unsolved, the church, if requested by 25% of the resident membership, shall apply for advice and help to an agreed external person(s).

6.8 Determining Outcomes

Where there is no overall consensus on any agenda matter at any Church Meeting then the decision shall be made by the church's Eldership

7.0 NO PRIVATE PECUNIARY PROFIT FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL

- 7.1 No decision of the church or its leadership shall be made which would allow a member or members to receive any private pecuniary profit provided that:
 - 7.1.1 A member may receive reimbursement for all expenses properly incurred by that member in connection with the affairs of the church;
 - 7.1.2 The church may pay reasonable and proper remuneration to any officer or employee of the church in return for services actually rendered to the church;
 - 7.1.3 Any member of the church may be paid for all usual professional business or trade charges for services rendered, time expended and all acts done by that member or by any firm or entity of which that member is a partner, employee or associate, in connection with the affairs of the church;
 - 7.1.4 Any member may retain any remuneration properly payable to the member by any company or undertaking with which the member may in any way be concerned or involved for which that member has acted in any capacity whatever notwithstanding that member's connection with that company or undertaking is in any way attributable to that member's connection with the church.
 - 7.1.5 Nothing shall prevent the church from making payments to any individual (whether a member of the church or not) in fulfilling any of the purposes expressed in clause 2 hereof.
- 7.2 Members or leaders of the church, in determining all reimbursements, remuneration and charges payable in the terms of this clause, shall ensure that the restrictions imposed by the following clause are strictly observed.
- 7.3 Notwithstanding anything contained or implied in this constitution, no member of the church or any person associated with that member shall participate in, or materially influence, any decision made by the church in respect to the payment to or on behalf of that member or associated person of any income benefit or advantage whatsoever.

8.0 ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- 8.1 No alterations or additions to this Constitution shall be made unless adopted by a majority of at least two thirds of the members present at a church meeting. Unless the church agrees to forgo its charitable status and income tax exemption, no alteration shall be made to this constitution which would in any way detract from the exclusively charitable nature of the church and in particular shall not alter the provisions of clause 8 hereof. Notice of proposed alterations or amendments to the Constitution shall be given to the church on two Sundays prior to the meeting.

9.0 WINDING UP PROVISIONS

- 9.1 If the members resolve at a properly constituted meeting of the church adopted by a majority of at least two-thirds of the members present at such church meeting that the church should be wound up then the net proceeds arising from such winding up shall be applied with the prior approval of the church members to any or all of the church's recognised daughter church plants as the members may determine or to such charitable purposes as otherwise determined by the church members with priority given in default of such determination, as may be determined by a Judge of the High Court of New Zealand on application by the members, and such proceeds shall not be paid or distributed amongst the members of the church.

SIGNED BY:

CHAIRPERSON Pastor Chris Sola ____ / ____ / 2020

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON Bernice Matautia ____ / ____ / 2020

TREASURER May Tearii ____ / ____ / 2020