

## **SECTION I I** **MEMBERSHIP**

### **1.01 Definition of Membership**

Membership in the Church shall consist only of the Persons recorded as Members of the Church as of the date of passing this By-law. Thereafter, Membership in the Church as a corporation shall consist only of those Persons who:

- (a) have attended Church for a minimum of six (6) months;
- (b) profess faith in Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord;
- (c) have evidenced agreement with the Statement of Faith in writing;
- (d) have been admitted into Membership in accordance with the Church Constitution;  
and
- (e) regularly contribute to the financial wellbeing of the Church by regular tithing, offerings and supporting the fundraising events of the Church.

### **1.02 Qualification for Membership**

A Person, sixteen (16) years old or older, shall qualify to be a Member of the Church if in the opinion of the Board, such Person meets all of the following qualifications:

- (a) the Person fulfills the definition of Membership as set out in Section 2.01;
- (b) the Person, if a Member, would not be under the Discipline of the Church as set out in Section 1.01 of the Discipline Policy; and
- (c) the Person has completed the procedure for admission into Membership set out in Section 2.03.

### **1.03 Admission to Membership**

- (a) Application for Membership in the Church may be initiated by either oral or written request to the Pastor or his or her designate or through any Director to the Pastor or his or her designate.
- (b) The Pastor, or his or her designate, shall give the applicant a complete copy of the Church Constitution with the request that the applicant read the said document in full.
- (c) The applicant will be expected to attend a new members' class where the major tenets of the Statement of Faith and Church Constitution plus the privileges and responsibilities of Membership will be discussed.

- (d) If the applicant understands and agrees with the Church Constitution and understands the fundamental tenets of the Christian faith, the applicant shall be required to sign a covenant for Membership and declaration of his or her profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and a commitment to adhere and be subject to the authority of the Church as expressed in the Church Constitution. Upon completion of such covenant for Membership, the applicant shall automatically be admitted as a Member of the Church.
- (e) If the applicant does not fully understand the fundamental tenets of the Christian faith, then the Pastor or his or her designate shall recommend that such applicant complete a preparatory course in Church matters before proceeding further with the application for Membership in the Church.

#### **1.04 Privileges, Rights and Duties of Membership**

- (a) Church Membership shall carry the following duties, privileges and rights:
  - (i) the duty to minister to one another's spiritual needs as part of the Body of Christ;
  - (ii) the duty to participate in Church activities and ministries as the Lord directs and personal circumstances permit to the extent allowed by the Church Constitution;
  - (iii) the duty to financially support the work of the Church as the Lord directs and personal circumstances permit;
  - (iv) the duty to respect and submit to the spiritual authority and procedures of the Church as expressed in the Church Constitution;
  - (v) the privilege to attend all public worship services of the Church subject to Sections 1.03 to 1.07 of the Discipline Policy;
  - (vi) the privilege to participate in the ordinances administered by the Church;
  - (vii) the right to attend, speak and participate at all Meetings of Members; and
  - (viii) the right to a single vote either in person or by proxy at all Meetings of Members.
- (b) Church Membership is not transferable.

#### **1.05 Termination of Membership**

Membership in the Church is terminated when:

- (a) the Member dies;

- (b) if the Member is not under Discipline of the Church, the Member withdraws by delivering a written request to withdraw to the Board of Directors accompanied by an explanation of the reasons for the request for withdrawal and such Member may be given a letter of recommendation addressed to the church to which the Member is relocating;
- (c) the Member is removed as a Member of the Church in accordance with Section 2.06 or the Discipline Policy; or
- (d) the Church is liquidated or dissolved under the Act.

Subject to the Articles, upon any termination of membership, the rights of the Member automatically cease to exist. Where a person is no longer a Member, then such person shall be deemed to have also automatically resigned as a Director, an Officer and/or a committee member, as applicable, provided that the Board of Directors may, in its discretion, subsequently re-appoint such Member as an Officer or committee member if the Board deems it appropriate in the circumstances.

#### **1.06 Suspension of Membership Rights and Privileges**

- (a) In the event that a Member is habitually absent from the Church for a period of twelve (12) consecutive months without a reasonable explanation, and follow up by pastor or designate, the Board of Directors may suspend the Membership rights and privileges of such a Member, provided that the Chair of the Board has provided twenty (20) days' notice of suspension to the Member and shall provide reasons for the proposed suspension. The Member may make written submissions to the Chair of the Board in response to the notice received within such twenty (20) day period.
- (b) In the event that no written submissions are received by the Chair of the Board, he may notify the Member of the suspension of Membership rights and privileges. If written submissions are received in accordance with this Section, the Board of Directors will consider such submissions to arrive at a final decision and shall notify the Member concerning such final decision within twenty (20) days from the date of receipt of the submissions. Upon the effective date of the suspension, all rights and privileges of the Member set out in Section 2.04 shall be suspended.
- (c) At any time during the suspension, a Member whose rights and privileges have been suspended may request in writing that the suspension be rescinded and to reinstate the Members' rights and privileges set out in Section 2.04. Upon receipt of such written request, the Board of Directors shall determine whether such request may be granted.
- (d) In the event that a Member whose Membership rights and privileges have been suspended for a period of one (1) year, then that person's Membership may be terminated by resolution of the Board of Directors. After the said Board meeting, the Secretary shall send written notice by registered and regular mail to such a

Member at his/her last known address to advise such person of the termination of his/her Membership. The Member's Membership shall be deemed to have terminated on the date of such Board resolution.

**1.07 Membership Record**

A record of Members shall be kept by the Secretary and reviewed by the Board of Directors each year.