

TYTHERINGTON FAMILY WORSHIP CHURCH
CONSTITUTION ADOPTED 6th APRIL 1984 AS AMENDED

1 NAME

The Church shall be known as “TYTHERINGTON FAMILY WORSHIP CHURCH” (“the Church”) which is also sometimes referred to as TFW Church.

2 OBJECTS

The objects of the Church shall be the advancement of the Christian faith by means of:-

- (a) worship, the preaching and proclamation of the Christian Gospel, the teaching of Christian doctrine and principles in accordance with the Basis of Faith set forth in Appendix A;
- (b) the relief of persons who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress by means of Christian Counselling, Pastoral Care, Advice and material or financial aid if necessary;
- (c) the relief of the aged or sick by means of Pastoral Visiting, transport and/or Prayer in the Macclesfield area and support of Christian work elsewhere in the world.

3 MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Church shall be by personal application and interview by two Elders on acceptance of the Basis of Faith, (Appendix A) and the Responsibilities of Members (Appendix B). Non-members shall be free to attend Church services at will. The Elders shall maintain an up-to-date membership list.

4 TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

The only ground for termination of membership, apart from resignation, shall be that given in the New Testament at Matthew 18:15-17, but always with a view to restoration.

5 SUBSCRIPTIONS

No subscription fees shall be required.

6 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

6.1 The Officers of the Church are known as Elders and Deacons.

6.2 The Elders are responsible for the management of the Church and, as such, are the Charity Trustees for the purposes of Section 97 of the Charities Act 1993.

6.3 An individual may only be appointed as an Elder of the Church if:-

6.3.1 they are not disqualified by law from being a Charity Trustee; and

6.3.2 their appointment is unanimously agreed by the Elders for the time being;
and

6.3.3 their appointment is ratified by the Church Members at either an Annual General Meeting or a Special Church Meeting.

6.4 Elders shall be permanent appointments, terminated only by resignation, gross misconduct as for members at 4 above, departure from the Basis of Faith (Appendix A) or Members Responsibilities (Appendix B), or being unfit or unable properly to discharge the duties and responsibilities of the office.

6.5 One Elder shall be elected by the Elders to act as Chairman for a 2 year term of office. An Elder may not be immediately re-elected as Chairman but may serve more than one term of office as Chairman for non-consecutive periods.

6.6 The Elders may appoint an Elder, Deacon or Church Member to act as Administrator/Secretary. The Elders may revoke that appointment at any time at their absolute discretion.

6.7 The Elders may appoint an Elder, Deacon or other Church Member to act as Treasurer. The Elders may revoke that appointment at any time at their absolute discretion.

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- 7.1 The Deacons assist the Elders in the spiritual and secular management of the Church upon terms, including supervision by the Elders, which are clearly defined from time to time by the Elders;
- 7.2
- 7.2.1 A Church Member may be recommended for nomination for appointment as a Deacon by one or more other Church Members;
- 7.2.2 a Church Member may only be nominated for appointment as a Deacon by the Elders; and
- 7.2.3 a Church Member nominated for appointment as a Deacon as described in Clause 7.2.2 may be appointed as a Deacon by the Church Members at either an annual general meeting or a special church meeting.
- 7.3 Deacons shall usually be appointed for a three year term of office. They may be re-appointed for a further three year term following which they must stand down for one year before being considered again for re-appointment as a Deacon.
- 7.4 A Deacons term of office may be terminated either by resignation in writing to the Secretary or by the Elders in their absolute discretion.

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MANAGEMENT

- 8.1 The membership shall be consulted on a regular basis by means of Church Meetings, one of which shall be the Annual General Meeting.
- 8.2 The Elders shall meet frequently and with the Deacons at regular intervals. Appropriate minutes shall be taken of such meetings. Final decision-making shall rest with the Elders.
- 8.3 The Elders may agree a Church Handbook to describe the practice of the Church in relation to secular and spiritual matters, such as Baptism and Communion, but if there are any inconsistencies between the Church Handbook and this constitution, this constitution shall take priority.

9 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS AND SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

An Annual General Meeting shall be held once in every 12 month period, usually in May for the purpose of:-

- (a) the presentation of Accounts;
- (b) reports on the Church's progress over the preceding year;
- (c) consideration of proposals for the ensuing year; and
- (d) consideration of proposed changes to the Constitution.

The Chair shall be taken by the Chairman of the Elders and the AGM Meeting to last approximately one and a half hours. Notification of the date of the AGM shall be given at least three weeks in advance by means of announcements at Church Services and weekly Notice Sheets. Minutes shall be taken and made available to all members.

The Elders may call a special general meeting of the charity at any time. If at least 10 members request such a meeting in writing stating the business to be considered the secretary shall call such a meeting. At least 21 days' notice must be given. The notice must state the business to be discussed.

The quorum for a special general meeting is thirty per cent of the members or 10 members whichever is the greater.

10 VOTING AT GENERAL MEETINGS

10.1 Resolutions are to be decided on a show of hands unless a ballot is properly demanded.

10.2 Each member present in person or by proxy has one vote both on a show of hands and a ballot.

10.3 If there is an equality of votes on a show of hands or a ballot the Chair is not entitled to a second or casting vote and resolutions which fail to achieve the required majority will be lost.

10.4 An objection to the qualification of any voter may only be raised at the General Meeting at which the vote objected to is tendered. Every vote not disallowed at the

General Meeting is valid. An objection made in time must be referred to the Chair whose decision is final.

10.5 A declaration by the Chair that a resolution has been carried (or not carried) unanimously, or by a particular majority, which is entered into the minutes of the meeting is conclusive evidence of the fact unless a ballot is demanded.

11 PROXIES

11.1 A Member may appoint a proxy in writing. A proxy must be a Member. The Elders may from time to time prescribe a form to appoint a proxy. A proxy may not appoint another proxy.

11.2 The document appointing a proxy may instruct the proxy which way to vote on particular resolutions.

11.3 A proxy will only be valid if the document appointing a proxy is provided to the Chairman of the Elders at least 72 hours before the starting time for the General Meeting or adjourned General Meeting at which the proxy proposes to vote.

11.4 No document appointing a proxy will be valid for more than 12 months.

11.5 A proxy form will not be valid for any part of a General Meeting at which the Member who appointed the proxy is present.

12 HOLDING TRUSTEES

The Elders shall appoint from time-to-time not less than 3 and not more than 7 of the members of the Church to be trustees for the purpose of holding land and other property of the Church. The Holding Trustees shall act on the lawful directions of the Elders and shall be entitled to be indemnified in respect of all expenses properly incurred by them as such Holding Trustees. A Holding Trustee shall cease to be a Holding Trustee if he or she ceases to be a member of the Church or to live in the area of the Church, may be removed from office by the Church in general meeting and may resign his trusteeship by notice in writing to the Secretary of the Church provided that there are at least 3 continuing trustees.

13 LAND AND BUILDINGS

All land and buildings belonging to the Church shall be vested in the Holding Trustees.

14 ASSETS

All interests in property, bank accounts and investments belonging to the Church shall be held by the Holding Trustees. Money requiring investment shall be invested in the names of the Holding Trustees in any of the investments for the time being authorised for the investment of trust funds. The Elders shall be responsible for the selection and transposition of investments and for obtaining advice as appropriate.

15 CASH

All cash received by or on behalf of the Church shall be handed to the Treasurer, who shall pay the same into the Church's bank account. Cheques shall be signed by two of the Elders.

16 APPLICATION OF FUNDS

The property of the Church, whatever its source, shall be used for furthering the objects of the Church and no other purpose. No Trustee may receive any payment or other benefit from the Church other than repayment of his or her reasonable out-of-pocket expenses and no employee of the Church may also be a Trustee.

17 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Church's financial year shall be from the 1st April to the 31st March in the succeeding year. Books of account shall be kept by the Treasurer and a statement of account in the form required by the Charity Commission shall be made up to the end of each financial year shall be presented at the Annual General Meeting and be open to inspection by any member.

18 ALTERATIONS

Alterations to this Constitution may only be made at an Annual or a Special General Meeting and must receive the assent of 50 percent of the members for the time being. A resolution for the alteration of the Constitution must be received by the Secretary of the

Church at least 21 days before the meeting at which the resolution is to be brought forward. At least 14 days' notice of such a meeting must be given by the Secretary to the membership and must include notice of the alteration proposed: Provided that no alteration to clause 1 (objects), clause 16 (dissolution) or this clause, shall take effect until the approval in writing of the Charity Commissioners or other authority having charitable jurisdiction shall have been obtained; and no alteration shall be made which would have the effect of causing the Church to cease to be a charity in law.

19 DISSOLUTION

The Church may be dissolved by a Resolution passed at a Special General Meeting convened for the purpose of which 21 days' notice shall have been given to the members. Such resolution must receive the assent of 75 percent of the members for the time being. Such resolution may give instructions for the disposal of any assets held by or in the name of the Church, provided that if any property remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities such property shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Church but shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to some or all of the objects of the Church as the Church may determine and if and in so far as effect cannot be given to this provision then to some other charitable purpose.

APPENDIX A
BASIS OF FAITH

We, as members of this Independent Evangelical Church, believe in:

One God in three persons; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Deity, Incarnation, Death, Resurrection, Ascension and eventual Return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The presence and power of the Holy Spirit within the Christian.

The Bible as the inspired Word of God. and the final authority in matters of faith and doctrine

Man's need to repent of sin, receive forgiveness for sin and be reconciled with God solely through personal faith in Jesus Christ and acceptance of His sacrificial death.

One universal Church to which all those who believe in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord belong.

APPENDIX B
MEMBERS RESPONSIBILITIES

Having acknowledged, as a sinner, the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ and having accepted Him as my Saviour and Lord, I wish to become a member of Tytherington Family Worship Church.

I accept wholeheartedly the basis of faith and I recognise my responsibility to:

- (a) Pray regularly, both privately and corporately, for the work of the Church of Christ at home and abroad and in particular, for this Church in Tytherington.
- (b) Grow in personal Holiness in accordance with scripture
- (c) Give regularly, of time, talents and money (as the Lord directs), to His work here and abroad
- d) Attend regularly services of worship and communion and other meetings of the Church.
- (e) Study the Word of God.
- (f) Be constantly aware of the needs of others, both locally and throughout the world and try to meet those needs in love.
- (g) Promote the gospel of Jesus Christ.