

## BETHLEHEM CHURCH LIFE CENTRE

### **STATEMENT OF BELIEFS AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

This document sets out our belief in the essential truths of the Christian faith as held by our Church and an outline of the biblical principles that govern it.

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### **STATEMENT OF BELIEFS**

The Church stands uncompromisingly for the Bible as the Word of God and declares the full gospel to the individual, the Church, the Nation and the World:

1. We believe that the Bible is the inspired and authoritative Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16)
2. We believe in one God, in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit (John 14:16-18)
3. We believe in Salvation by the decision to repent (change direction) and the commitment to ongoing growth and development. (John 3:16)
4. It is important to understand and develop a relationship with the Holy Spirit working alongside our spirit as the daily companion to living life well. (Romans 8:14)
5. We believe in water Baptism and taking Communion as signs of acceptance of the Christian faith and commitment to a Godly life. (Matthew 28:19 and 1 Corinthians 11:23-32)
6. We believe in the return of Jesus Christ (John 14:1-3)

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

### **2. Church Affiliations**

The Church believes in having fellowship with God's people, provided that the essential truths of the scripture are upheld and that its own autonomy is maintained, and maintains its membership of the Evangelical Alliance.

### **3. Membership**

We believe that all who are truly born of the Spirit are members of the global church that Jesus established, and that followers of Christ should seek to be joined to a local Church for fellowship and the common aim of growing in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 3:18)

We seek to integrate new members into the family of God so that they can find joyful expression in the praise and worship of God.

Bethlehem Church Life Centre welcomes into church membership those who:

1. Have confessed Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord:
2. Hold fast to the statement of beliefs held by Bethlehem Church Life Centre:
3. Show commitment to God and Church by attending meetings regularly,
4. Willingly support the finances, vision, leadership and work of the Church:
5. Complete the partnership programme.

### **4. The Leadership of the Church**

The Church acknowledges that Christ as head of the Church calls some to particular ministries, as outlined in Ephesians 4:11-16.

All true leadership is ordained by Him for the wellbeing of the members.

Where and when appropriate, the officers of the church will seek to appoint a Senior Pastor or pastors to full time salaried ministry on the church's behalf.

The Senior Pastor is acknowledged as the leader of the Church and is responsible along with the Senior Leadership Team, for the oversight of the Church.

The Senior Pastor will consider the direction of the Church in their leading, and consult with the senior leadership team on the decisions governing the day to day operation of the church.

Where appropriate, the Senior Pastor may provide recommendations to the trustee body regarding significant decisions that require further consultation or the employment of a church vote for ratification.

As a church body and official charity, we comply simultaneously with the spiritual guidelines outlined in the word of God that govern the church of God, as well as being fully compliant with the best practice principles that govern the day to day operations of a registered charity and evolving organisation.

As such our structure represents our best efforts to serve God, grow the church of God, and serve our fellow man and includes the following:

- Trustees
- Senior Leadership Team (including a minimum of 2 appointed elders)
- Life Group Leaders
- Department Heads

The official officers of the Church (and Charity) are The Trustees, The Senior Pastor, The Treasurer and The Secretary.

Official officers must be members in good standing in order to be recommended to the church for an official position, and are confirmed in their office via the mechanism of a church vote.

## **5. Leadership**

The Church recognises gifts and abilities in all members, and values those who make themselves available for service in the work of the church and the worship of God. The church aims to give leadership responsibilities to some members, to work under the guidance of the Senior Pastor, the senior leadership team and in harmony with other leaders across the various functions of the Church.

All leaders must be members in good standing.

Elders are recommended to the church by the Senior Pastor and are confirmed in their office via the mechanism of a church vote and ordination.

Leaders are appointed by the Senior pastor and publicly recognised by the Church in their role.

When appointed or confirmed by a church vote for a leadership office, the leader is agreeing to embrace the biblical qualities, values, attributes and responsibilities of leadership, the scriptural qualifications for which are outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-13

The Senior Leadership team are required to meet regularly to discuss matters of Church work, prayer and consultation.

All leadership in the Church is functional and leaders can continue for as long as they fulfil the objectives and obligations of the office/function or up to the point that the term of their appointment expires.

Term shall mean the following:

Elders 3 years with annual review

Leaders 1 year with annual review

## **6. Church Discipline**

All discipline in the Church should be exercised with due care by those tasked with the responsibility of leadership, and those charged with tackling moral and doctrinal issues should keep before them the objectives of such discipline,

This will always be to preserve the integrity of the Church and to save the individual.

1 Timothy 5:20, Galatians 6:1-2, Matthew 18:15-20.

## **7. Amendments**

Alterations and additions to these Guiding Principles may only be made via the mechanism of a church vote.