

A Proposed New Constitution for Ringwood Church of Christ

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Proposed Constitution

1. NAME

- 1.1 The name of the association is "**CHURCH OF CHRIST RINGWOOD INCORPORATED**", in these rules called "the Church".
- 1.2 The Church is affiliated with the Victorian and Tasmanian Conference of the Churches of Christ in Australia.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

CLAUSE 1: NAME

- 1.1 The name of the Church shall be Church of Christ, Ringwood Incorporated (hereinafter referred to as "the Church").
- 1.2 The Church is affiliated with the Victorian and Tasmanian Conference of Churches of Christ, which is also affiliated with the Federal Conference of Churches of Christ in Australia.

Reason for Change

Recognise the affiliation with Conference in the Constitution

*Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
15/2/10*

Proposed Constitution

2 STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

To glorify our Lord Jesus Christ by:

- 2.1.1 preaching the gospel as expressed in Matthew, Chapter 28 verses 19 and 20 in order to bring all individuals to a personal faith in and obedience to Christ as Saviour and Lord, and to establish them as active members of a church,
- 2.1.2 applying the principles of Christian love and concern to the total life of the community, identifying and meeting its needs, and
- 2.1.3 maintaining a fellowship after the New Testament order through worship, teaching and mutual ministry.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

CLAUSE 3: CHURCH GOALS

3.1 To glorify our Lord Jesus Christ by:

- 3.1.1 preaching the gospel as expressed in Matthew, Chapter 28 verses 19 and 20 in order to bring all individuals to a personal faith in and obedience to Christ as Saviour and Lord, and to establish them as active members of a church,
- 3.1.2 applying the principles of Christian love and concern to the total life of the community, identifying and meeting its needs, and
- 3.1.3 maintaining a fellowship after the New Testament order through worship, teaching and mutual ministry.

Reason for Change

Required by the Act

*Change the Title to "Statement of Purpose"
from 'Church Goals'*

Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording

15/2/10

Proposed Constitution

3. DEFINITIONS

3.1 In these rules, unless the contrary intention appears:

"Administrator" means the public officer appointed pursuant to the requirements of the Act.

"By Laws" means the collection of policies, procedures and protocols as determined from time to time by the Council of Elders.

"Council of Elders" means the governing body of the Church

"Committee" means a sub-group of the Council of Elders made up of people appointed by the Council of Elders to act for and advise them in specific areas of expertise.

"Church of Christ" means a church affiliated with the Conference of Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania.

"Conference" means the Conference of Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania.

"Corporation" means The Properties Corporation of the Churches of Christ.

"Elder" means a member of the Council of Elders.

"Financial Year" means the year ending on 31 December.

"General Meeting" means a General Meeting of the Church convened in accordance with these rules.

"Meeting Secretary" means a member appointed by the Council of Elders to minute and advise on meeting procedure at Annual General and Special General Meetings.

"Member" means a member of the Church.

"Minister" means an endorsed (or in the process towards endorsement) member of staff in a ministry role and includes the Administrator.

"Ministry Co-ordinator" means a non-ordained member of

staff in a ministry co-ordination role.

“Returning Officer” means a member responsible for the conduct of formal voting at Annual General and Special General Meetings.

"Special Resolution" has the meaning set out in the Act and includes a resolution required for the alteration of these rules, voluntary winding-up and distribution of assets.

"The Act" means the Associations Incorporation Act 1981.

"The Regulations" means regulations made pursuant to the Act.

“Working Group” means a group established for a specific period of time to investigate, consult, develop options and propose recommendations for decision and report to the Council of Elders on any matter as required by the council of Elders.

3.2 Words or expressions contained in these rules shall be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of the Interpretation of Legislation Act 1984 and the Act as in force from time to time.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

CLAUSE 2: INTERPRETATIONS

- 2.1 Except where the context otherwise requires, the following words shall have the meanings described and the singular shall include the plural:
- 2.1.1 **“Business Meeting”** shall mean the Annual Business Meeting or a Special Business Meeting called in terms of Clause 7.3.
 - 2.1.2 **"Key Interest Group"** shall mean a group of Members and others who share an area of common interest within the life of the Church and who meet to further the aims of that area. It shall include all auxiliaries and clubs of the Church.
 - 2.1.3 **"Member"** shall mean any person who satisfies the conditions of Clause 4.
 - 2.1.4 **"Statement of Purposes"** used in relation to the Associations Incorporation Act shall mean the Church Goals in terms of Clause 3.
 - 2.1.5 **"the Board"** shall mean the Board of Elders comprising all Elders elected from time to time in terms of Clause 9.
 - 2.1.6 **"voting Member"** shall mean a Member who has attained the age of 16 years

Reason for Change

This section needs to reflect the wording used

throughout the document

Added "By Laws" 15/3/10

Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
15/2/10

Proposed Constitution

4. MEMBERSHIP

4.1 There shall be admitted into the membership of the Church:-

4.1.1 those who, believing in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and their personal Saviour and Lord, have confessed their faith in Him, and after repentance have been baptised by immersion, or

4.1.2 those commended by approved "Letters of Transfer" from another Church of Christ, or

4.1.3 being a full communicant member or its equivalent of a Christian communion and who accepts the teaching of Churches of Christ and approved by the Council of Elders.

4.2 Membership of the Church implies regular and active participation in Church life.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

CLAUSE 4: MEMBERSHIP

4.1 A Member shall be anyone who has been received into Membership of the Church after:

4.1.1 public confession of his or her faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the Living God and after repentance and turning towards God, has been baptised by immersion into the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, or

4.1.2 being recommended by letter of transfer from another Church of Christ, or

4.1.3 being a full communicant member or its equivalent of a Christian communion and who accepts the teaching of Churches of Christ and has the endorsement of the Board as to their diligence in faith, worship and service.

Reason for Change

4.1.3 better reflects our situation

Changed the numbering and added 4.2

3.2 defines membership – 6.2 allows for the membership review

Reflects expectation of members

*Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
15/2/10*

Proposed Constitution

5. MEMBERSHIP FEES

- 5.1 There shall be no membership fee or annual subscription fee.
- 5.2 Members and regular worshippers are expected to contribute financially to the ministry of the Church as an expression of their stewardship.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

CLAUSE 4: MEMBERSHIP

- 4.2 There shall be no membership fee payable by any Member

Reason for Change

Reword Title to "Membership Fees" from 'Entrance fees'

Renumber and Add 5.2

Reflects expectation of Membership and practical stewardship.

*Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
15/2/10*

Proposed Constitution

6. MEMBERSHIP REGISTER

- 6.1 The Administrator shall keep and maintain a register of Members.
- 6.2 A quarterly revision of the register of Members shall be undertaken and shall be the responsibility of the Administrator. Members who are no longer considered to be actively associated with the Church would be removed from the membership roll, following contact by a minister or a representative of the Council of Elders.
- 6.3 Revisions to be ratified by the Council of Elders.
- 6.4 Unless it is impracticable to contact a Member, the name of a Member shall not be removed from the membership roll until that Member has been contacted by an Elder or a minister and advised of the decision of the Council of Elders.
- 6.5 The register of Members is the list of names of those eligible to vote where elsewhere in these rules voting is restricted to Members, aged sixteen (16) or over, only.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

CLAUSE 4: MEMBERSHIP

- 4.3 The Secretary shall keep and maintain a Church roll which includes the names and addresses of all Members.
- 4.4 The Church Roll shall be under regular revision by the Board which may, by resolution at any meeting of the Board, remove the name of any Member who is no longer considered to be actively associated with the Church Normally a Member would attend at least 15 times each year.
- 4.5 Unless it is impracticable to contact a Member, the name of a Member shall not be removed from the Church roll in terms of Clause 4.4 until that Member has been contacted by an Elder and advised of the decision of the Board.

Reason for Change

Sets cycle of review

Less prescriptive than current constitution

Added ratification wording in 6.2 22/3/2010

Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording

15/2/10

Proposed Constitution

7. COUNCIL

7.1 Responsibility and Powers:

The Council of Elders -

7.1.1 shall have the responsibility for the governance as distinct from the management of the Church. In particular, it will be responsible for determining the mission, vision and values; stewardship of spiritual values in accordance with biblical principles:

:

- (a) engaging in strategic planning;
- (b) selecting and supporting the Senior Minister and ministry team and producing assurance of Senior Minister's performance;
- (c) legal compliance;
- (d) fiscal accountability;
- (e) public image and relationships with related organisations and conference;
- (f) producing written governing policies;
- (g) encouraging and developing potential council members so that the future leadership of the Church is assured;
- (h) delegating implementation of goals;
- (i) monitoring achievement of goals;
- (j) ratifying staff appointments;
- (k) job descriptions for Senior Minister and Administrator;
- (l) establishing committees, working groups and reference groups as required from time to time.

7.1.2 appoint a Meeting Secretary for Annual General and Special General meetings.

7.1.3 appoint a Returning Officer for all matters requiring formal voting in Annual General and Special General meetings.

7.1.4 may, without limit to the foregoing and subject to these rules, the by-laws, the Regulations and the Act, exercise all such powers and functions as may be exercised by the Church other than those powers and functions that are required by these rules to be exercised by Members and regular worshippers in general meetings.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

5.1 Board of Elders

5.1.1 The Board shall be responsible for the general oversight of all areas of the

Church's life and witness, except where this Constitution requires that business be exercised by the Members at a Business Meeting in terms of Clause 7.

Reason for Change

Clearly defines roles, responsibilities and powers
Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording 15/2/10
- added (m) 1/3/10

Proposed Constitution

7.2 Composition:

The Council of Elders shall consist of the following members:-

Senior Minister	1
Elected Members	7
Administrator (ex officio)	1

Existing Ringwood Constitution

5.1 Board of Elders

- 5.1.2 The Members shall elect Members as Elders as the needs determine. The ratio of Elders to Members shall not exceed 1: 15 or be less than 1:30 except that there shall never be less than three (3) Elders. Equal opportunity shall be given to men and women to be elected to the Board of Elders.
- 5.1.3 Any Minister appointed in terms of Clause 11 shall be an ex officio member of the Board with full voting rights at meetings of the Board except on any resolution where that Minister has a pecuniary interest.

Reason for Change

The Proposed is more workable in terms of size, function and responsibility.

Simplified wording.

*Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
15/2/10*

Proposed Constitution

7.3 Council of Elders Meetings:

- 7.3.1 The Council of Elders shall meet as regularly as required for business, prayer and fellowship.
- 7.3.2 There will be a minimum of six (6) business meetings in a calendar year

Existing Ringwood Constitution

CLAUSE 6: PROCEDURE AT BOARD MEETINGS

- 6.2 The Board shall normally meet each month and all resolutions and proceedings of the meeting shall be kept in a minute book provided for that purpose. The minutes shall be accepted as a true and correct record if signed by the Chairman of the next meeting of the Board after their acceptance by that meeting.

Reason for Change

Add 7.3.2

*Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
15/2/10*

Proposed Constitution

7.4 Qualifications of Members of the Council of Elders:

7.4.1 Members of the Council of Elders shall be a Member over the age of eighteen (18) able to fulfil the requirements of Section 7.1 Responsibility and Powers of the Council of Elders.

7.4.2 If an Elder fails to fulfil the requirements and responsibilities of the office and upon receipt of a recommendation from the Council of Elders, or upon a written submission to the Council of Elders signed by no less than five (5) percent of voting Members, the Council of Elders shall call a Special Business Meeting to enable the Members to vote on the termination of the office of such Elder.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

Silent but:

5.1.4 If an Elder fails to fulfil the requirements and responsibilities of the office and upon receipt of a recommendation from the Board, or upon a written submission to the Board signed by no less than eight (8) voting Members, the Board shall call a Special Business Meeting to enable the Members to vote on the termination of the office of such Elder.

Reason for Change

Key qualifications not previously referred to.

Reworded 7.4.1. Add 7.4.2

*Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
1/3/10*

Proposed Constitution

7.5 Quorum and Procedure:

- 7.5.1 The quorum for any Council of Elders meeting shall be any five (5) of the Senior Minister and Elected Members of the Council of Elders.
- 7.5.2 No business shall be transacted unless a quorum is present and if within half an hour of the time appointed for the meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting shall stand adjourned to the same place and at the same hour of the same day in the following week.
- 7.5.3 Questions arising at a Council of Elders meeting shall be determined by a show of hands save in the case of Ministry appointments where voting by secret ballot shall be required.
- 7.5.4 The Senior Minister and the Elected Members of the Council of Elders shall each be entitled to one (1) vote on questions arising at a Council of Elders meeting.
- 7.5.5 Each member present at a Council of Elders meeting and entitled to vote, including the Chairperson shall, have one vote and, in the event of an equality of votes on any question, the question shall be resolved in the negative.
- 7.5.6 Each member present at a Council of Elders meeting shall hold full voting rights except on any resolution where that member has a pecuniary interest.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

CLAUSE 6: PROCEDURE AT BOARD MEETINGS

- 6.4 A quorum at a meeting of the Board shall be one-half (1/2) of the Elders.
- 6.3 The Chairman of the Board shall have a deliberative vote but in the event of an equality of votes shall not have a casting vote.

Reason for Change

*Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
1/3/10*

Proposed Constitution

7.6 Chairperson:

The Council of Elders at its first meeting shall appoint a Chairperson for the ensuing year.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

CLAUSE 6: PROCEDURE AT BOARD MEETINGS

6.1 The Board shall elect from within its number a Chairman for meetings

Reason for Change

*Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
1/3/10*

Proposed Constitution

7.7 Term of Office:

- 7.7.1 Elected Members of the Council of Elders shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years with, as near as practicable, one third of the number retiring annually.
- 7.7.2 After the initial term, members of the Council of Elders may be re-elected for a successive term. Following a successive term an Elder will not be eligible for further re-election until a period of one year has elapsed.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

CLAUSE 9: ELECTIONS

- 9.2 The term of office of an Elder shall be three (3) years and the term of office of the Secretary and the Treasurer shall be two (2) years. A retiring Elder, Secretary or Treasurer shall be eligible for re-election at the meeting at which they retire **provided that** after an Elder has served for two (2) consecutive terms that Elder shall not be eligible for re-election until a period of one (1) year has elapsed.

Reason for Change

Added wording after ‘... provided that ...’.

Clarified wording for 7.7.2.

Reflects current practice.

*Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
1/3/10*

Proposed Constitution

7.8 Casual Vacancies:

7.8.1 For the purposes of these rules, the office of a Member of the Council of Elders becomes vacant if the Member of the Council of Elders:-

(a) ceases to be a Member;

(b) resigns from office by notice in writing given to the Administrator.

7.8.2 In the event of a casual vacancy occurring on the Council of Elders, the Council of Elders may appoint a Member to fill the vacancy and the Member so appointed shall hold office, subject to these rules, until the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting next following the date of the appointment.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

- 10.1 If a vacancy for the Secretary or the Treasurer should occur at any time, the Board shall have power to fill the vacancy and the Member so appointed shall act until the next Church Business Meeting.
- 10.2 If a vacancy for an Elder occurs at any time, the Board may call a Special Business Meeting to elect a replacement Elder prior to the following Annual Business Meeting.

Reason for Change

*Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
1/3/10*

Proposed Constitution

7.9 Committees:

- 7.9.1 The Council of Elders may establish Committees for the purpose of
- (a) Finance, Governance and Audit
 - (b) Pastoral Care
 - (c) Risk Management, Assets and Facilities
 - (d) Mission, Discipleship and Evangelism
 - (e) others as required
- 7.9.2 Committee membership may include one Elder (Chair of Committee), one minister or ministry coordinator, and a number of members as determined and appointed by the Council of Elders.
- 7.9.3 Each Committee shall have a Charter approved by the Council of Elders
- 7.9.4 Each member present at a Committee meeting shall hold full voting rights except on any resolution where that member has a pecuniary interest.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

Silent

Reason for Change

Defines Committees – replaces management group and special interest groups.

*Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
15/3/10*

*Clarified wording – removed 'Sub' and 7.9.2
22/3/2010*

Proposed Constitution

8. ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

8.1 Election Procedure:

- 8.1.1 On the sixth Sunday immediately preceding the Annual General Meeting (AGM) the Administrator shall advertise the names of the retiring Elders, the names of the members of the nominations committee and the fact that members may submit to the nominations committee names of persons for consideration as nominees for election to the Council of Elders.
 - 8.1.2 Before the third Sunday immediately preceding the AGM, the nominations committee shall provide to the Administrator the details of the nominees who meet the qualifications for of Members of the council of Elders as set out in 7.4.1 for election to the Council of Elders.
 - 8.1.3 On the third Sunday immediately preceding the AGM the Administrator shall advertise a list of the nominees.
 - 8.1.4 On the second and first Sundays immediately preceding the AGM, voting by secret ballot shall be conducted by the Returning Officer.
-

Existing Ringwood Constitution

CLAUSE 9: ELECTIONS

- 9.1 **Elders, the Secretary and the Treasurer**, shall be elected from within the Members by the voting Members in terms of Clause 9.3 and declared at the Annual Business Meeting or at a Special Business Meeting called for that purpose.
- 9.3 **The following procedures shall be used for the Election of Elders, the Secretary and the Treasurer.**
- 9.3.1 The election shall be by secret ballot and a Returning Officer shall be appointed by the Board
- 9.3.2 Nominations may be submitted in writing by any voting Member and shall be in the hands of the Secretary twenty-one (21) days before the date of the Business Meeting.
- 9.3.3 The Secretary shall prepare appropriate ballot papers which shall be available for issue to all voting Members for two (2) Sundays prior to the Business Meeting.
- 9.3.4 Voting Members shall record the desired votes on the ballot papers provided by placing a tick in the square opposite the candidate or candidates for whom they wish to vote. However, voting for a lesser number is permissible.
- 9.3.5 After voting, the ballot papers shall be placed in the ballot box located in the foyer of the Church building. Ballot papers must be lodged no later than the declared time before the commencement of the Business Meeting.
- 9.4 An election for Elders, Secretary and Treasurer shall always be held, even if insufficient nominations are obtained to fill the vacancies. Where there is more than one nomination for the Secretary or the Treasurer the appointment shall be made on the basis of a simple majority vote.
- 9.5 After election, the Church shall set apart these persons for service in a worship service.

Reason for Change

Clarified procedure and wording

Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording

1/3/10

Proposed Constitution

8.2 Nominations:

- 8.2.1 Nominations for election to the Council of Elders shall be brought by the nominations working group.
- 8.2.2 The nominations working group shall be appointed annually by the Council of Elders and shall consist of the chairman of the Council of Elders, Senior Minister, one other Elder and three Members.
- 8.2.3 At its first meeting, the nominations working group shall appoint a chairman.
- 8.2.4 Each nominee shall be a Member and nominations shall be in writing signed by the nominee and the chairman of the nominations working group.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

Silent

Reason for Change

Formalises current practice

*Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
1/3/10*

Proposed Constitution

8.3 Voting Procedures:

8.3.1 A Nominee shall only be elected if approved by at least seventy percent (70%) of the votes cast by Voting Members.

8.3.2 If there are more Nominations than Vacancies the Nominee with the greatest number of votes will be elected subject to 8.3.1 to the Vacant positions.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

CLAUSE 9: ELECTIONS

9.3.6 To be elected, a candidate must obtain a majority of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast.

Reason for Change

Reflects current procedure

*Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
1/3/10*

*Added 8.3.2 15/3/10 – clarified wording
22/3/2010*

Proposed Constitution

9. ADMINISTRATOR

- 9.1 The Administrator is a Member of the Council of Elders and shall be or forthwith on appointment, shall become a member of the Church.
- 9.2 The Administrator shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Church, including the financial, treasury and the appointment of administration staffing matters of the Church.
- 9.3 The Administrator shall act as secretary of the Council of Elders and in that role, shall be accountable to the Council of Elders. The Administrator shall be responsible for maintenance of all records required by the Council of Elders and applicable Acts, Regulations and By Laws. Service of documents or other material upon the Council of Elders may be effected by serving them on the Administrator.
- 9.4 Subject to clause 9.3, the Administrator shall be accountable to the Senior Minister.
- 9.5 The Administrator holds the role of Public Officer

Existing Ringwood Constitution

5.2 Management Group

- 5.2.1 A Management Group shall be formed consisting of the Secretary, Treasurer and an Elder. The Board may nominate at least four (4) additional Members. Members may indicate to the Board their willingness to make themselves available for appointment. Appointed Members shall serve for a period of twelve (12) months and shall be eligible for reappointment.
- 5.2.2 The Management Group shall oversee the administration, planning and management of the Church.
- 5.2.3 The Management Group shall normally meet each month and all resolutions and proceedings of the meeting shall be kept in a minute book provided for that purpose. The minutes shall be accepted as a true and correct record if signed by the Chairman of the next meeting of the Group after their acceptance by that meeting.
- 5.2.4 The appointed Elder of this group shall report to the meetings of the Board with a copy of the minutes of the Management Group Meeting.
- 5.2.5 A quorum at a meeting of the Management Group shall be four (4) Members.

Reason for Change

Proposed wording reflects current practice -
consistent with model being adopted
*Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
1/3/10*

Proposed Constitution

10. MINISTRY

10.1 Responsibility:

There shall be appointed to the Church, Minister(s) who shall have oversight of the preaching, teaching, mission, worship and pastoral care of the Church and have responsibility for implementation of direction set by the Council of Elders.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

Silent

Reason for Change

Defines responsibilities of Ministers
*Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
1/3/10*

Proposed Constitution

10.2 Appointment:

- 10.2.1 The calling and appointment (including extension of appointment) of the Senior Minister shall be the responsibility of the Church following a recommendation by the Council of Elders. Appointment of a Senior Minister shall require the approval of at least seventy percent (70%) of Voting Members voting at a secret ballot to be conducted over two (2) consecutive Sundays.
- 10.2.2 The Appointment and Extension of Appointment of the Senior Minister shall be in blocks of no more than five (5) years.
- 10.2.3 The calling and appointment of a Minister other than the Senior Minister shall be entrusted to the Council of Elders. The initial appointment shall be for a period of between two (2) and five (5) years. Extension of appointments shall require the approval of at least seventy percent (70%) of Voting Members voting at a secret ballot to be conducted over two (2) consecutive Sundays.
- 10.2.4 The calling and appointment of a Ministry Co-ordinator shall be entrusted to the Council of Elders.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

CLAUSE 11: APPOINTMENT OF MINISTER

- 11.1 The initial appointment of a Minister shall be decided by the Board after consultation with the Working Group appointed in terms of Clause 13.4 and the Department of Ministry of the Conference of Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania.
- 11.4 The reappointment of a Minister shall be decided by the Members at a properly constituted Business Meeting on a motion on notice presented by the Board.
- 11.5 The following procedures shall be used for voting for the reappointment of a Minister:
- 11.5.1 the Secretary shall prepare ballot papers stating the motion on notice proposed by the Board
 - 11.5.2 For two (2) Sundays prior to the Business Meeting, ballot papers shall be available for issue to all voting Members.
 - 11.5.3 Voting Members shall record their vote either in favour or against the motion.
 - 11.5.4 After voting, the ballot papers shall be placed in the ballot box located in the foyer of the Church building. Ballot papers must be lodged no later than the declared time before the commencement of the Business Meeting.

- 11.5.5 To be reappointed a Minister must obtain a majority of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast

Reason for Change

Clarifies the Appointments procedure to reflect current practice

Added 10.2.3 and wording of reappointment of minister

*Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
1/3/10*

Proposed Constitution

10.3 Terms of Engagement:

Subject to clause 10.2, the terms of engagement of a Minister shall be the responsibility of the Council of Elders.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

CLAUSE 11: APPOINTMENT OF MINISTER

- 11.2 The terms of appointment of a Minister shall not be less than those recommended by the Department of Ministry of the Conference of Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania.
- 11.3 The terms of a Minister's appointment shall be set down in writing and shall be signed by the Secretary on behalf of the Church and by the Minister concerned and shall specifically make provision for the following matters:
- 11.3.1 the period of appointment,
 - 11.3.2 the remuneration and its adjustment,
 - 11.3.3 annual holidays,
 - 11.3.4 remuneration during sickness, and sickness benefits,
 - 11.3.5 termination of the appointment other than by efflux ion of time,
 - 11.3.6 an agreed duty statement which shall be reviewed annually.

Reason for Change

Clarifies wording

*Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
1/3/10*

Proposed Constitution

10.4 Accountability:

10.4.1 The Senior Minister shall at all times be accountable to the Council of Elders.

10.4.2 Other Ministers and Ministry Co-ordinators shall be accountable to the Senior Minister.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

Silent

Reason for Change

Defines the accountability of the SM

*Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
1/3/10*

Proposed Constitution

10.5 Role of Senior Minister:

The Senior Minister shall be the delegate of the Council of Elders for the execution of policies and implementation of plans and shall be responsible for the day to day management of the work of the Church.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

Silent

Reason for Change

Defines the role of the SM

*Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
1/3/10*

Proposed Constitution

Silent

Existing Ringwood Constitution

5.3 Key Interest Groups

- 5.3.1 Key Interest Groups may be established with the consent of, or terminated by, the Board, and continued subject to oversight of the Board. Where appropriate the Board shall appoint Members to assist in the Key Interest Groups.
- 5.3.2 The Board shall appoint one or more Elders to be responsible for overseeing the various matters associated with each of the Key Interest Groups for which they have been appointed. The policy pertaining to each Key Interest Group shall be determined annually by the members of the Group together with appropriate consultation with the Board.
- 5.3.3 Without approval of the Board, no person shall teach, or hold executive office in any Key Interest Group of the Church.
- 5.3.4 Should any Key Interest Group cease to exist at any time, such funds and materials as may be in its possession shall become the property of the Church.
- 5.3.5 No activity for the purpose of raising funds shall be held without the consent of the Management Group.
- 5.3.6 No concert or entertainment shall be held on the Church property without the consent of the Management Group.

Reason for Change

May not require this in the detail it's given – may only need a reference to the Elders ability to form KIG
Replaced by Committees [Section 7.9] and Working Groups [Section 14]

*Accepted this clause is no longer required
1/3/10*

Proposed Constitution

11. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 11.1 The Church shall in each calendar year convene an Annual General Meeting (AGM) of its Members.
- 11.2 A meeting secretary will be appointed in accordance with 7.1.2 and as required a Returning Officer in accordance with 7.1.3.
- 11.3 An Annual General Meeting shall be deemed to be properly convened if announced to the Membership in writing at least twenty-eight (28) days prior to the meeting, stating date, time, and place. The Agenda and Reports shall be distributed at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting.
- 11.4 The AGM shall be held on a date to be determined by the Council of Elders provided that the AGM is held within five (5) months of the end of the Financial Year.
- 11.5 The ordinary business of the AGM shall be:-
 - 11.5.1 to confirm the minutes of the previous AGM and of any general meeting held since that meeting.
 - 11.5.2 to declare the results of the Council of Elders elections.
 - 11.5.3 to receive financial reports, ministry reports and reports from Church Auxiliaries.
 - 11.5.4 to receive and consider the statement submitted by the Church in accordance with section 30(3) of the Act.
 - 11.5.5 to appoint the auditor.
- 11.6 A member desiring to bring any business before a general meeting may give notice of that business in writing to the Council of Elders which shall include that business in the notice calling the next general meeting after receipt of the notice.
- 11.7 The AGM may transact special business of which notice is given in accordance with these rules.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

CLAUSE 7: CHURCH BUSINESS MEETINGS

- 7.1 An **Annual Business Meeting** shall be held each year within eight (8) weeks of the end of the Church's financial year, and shall be deemed to be properly convened if announced to the Members in writing at least twenty-eight (28) days prior to the meeting, stating date, time, and place. The Agenda and Reports shall be distributed at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting.
- 7.2 The Purpose of the Annual Business Meeting shall be:
- 7.2.1 Presentation of reports from the Board, Minister(s), Secretary, Treasurer and Key Interest Groups,
 - 7.2.2 Election of Elders, Secretary and Treasurer from within the Members,
 - 7.2.3 Appointment of an auditor,

Reason for Change

5 months is the wording of the Incorporated Associations Act and allows flexibility of timing to accommodate a finalised audit report.

*Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
15/3/10*

Proposed Constitution

12. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

- 12.1 All general meetings other than the AGM shall be called special general meetings.
- 12.2 A meeting secretary will be appointed in accordance with 7.1.2 and as required a Returning Officer in accordance with 7.1.3.
- 12.3 Special general meetings of the Church may be held from time to time:-
- (a) as determined by the Council of Elders, or
 - (b) upon written application served on the Administrator, and signed by not fewer than five (5) percent of the members. Such application must state the nature of the business to be discussed and the meeting must be confined to this business. Should the Council of Elders fail to convene the meeting within four weeks, the applicants may convene such a meeting within a further fourteen days and appoint a Chairperson of their own choice.
- 12.4 A member desiring to bring any business before a general meeting may give notice of that business in writing to the Council of Elders which shall include that business in the notice calling the next general meeting after receipt of the notice.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

7.3 Special Business Meetings

7.3.1 A Special Business meeting may be held from time to time as determined by the Board or upon written application to the Secretary, signed by no less than eight (8) voting Members.

7.3.2 A Special Business Meeting shall be deemed to be properly convened if announced to the Members in writing at least twenty-eight (28) days prior to the meeting, stating date, time, place and purpose. The Agenda shall be distributed at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting.

7.3.3 The business to be discussed at a Special Business Meeting shall be limited to the items and motions on notice included in the Agenda.

Reason for Change

Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording

15/3/10

Proposed Constitution

13. QUORUM AND PROCEDURE AT GENERAL MEETINGS

13.1 Quorum:

13.1.1 The quorum for General Meetings shall be 25% of the number of Members.

13.1.2 No business shall be transacted unless a quorum is present and if after half an hour of the time appointed for the commencement of the meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting, if convened upon the requisition of members, shall be dissolved and in any other case, shall stand adjourned to the same place and at the same hour of the same day in the following week and if at the adjourned meeting, the quorum is not present within half an hour after the time appointed for the commencement of the meeting, the members present (being not less than 10) shall be a quorum.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

CLAUSE 8: PROCEDURE AT CHURCH BUSINESS MEETINGS

8.5 Twenty-five percent (25%) of the voting Members shall constitute a quorum at a Church Business Meeting.

8.6 If a quorum is not present at a properly convened Business Meeting the Chairman shall adjourn the meeting for a period not exceeding fourteen (14) days, and at least seven (7) days notice shall be given to all Members. At such adjourned meeting the Members present shall constitute a quorum.

Reason for Change

*Keep 25% as we have a culture of good attendance at meetings
Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
15/3/10*

Proposed Constitution

13.2 Notice:

Notice of a general meeting shall be by announcement to the Church on the two Sundays immediately preceding the meeting, stating the date, time, place and the nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

CLAUSE 8: PROCEDURE AT CHURCH BUSINESS MEETINGS

- 8.7 Where any period of notice is required to be given to Members prior to a Business Meeting, it shall be deemed to have been given if an announcement is made to Members at a morning worship service on two (2) Sundays at least one of which is prior to the required period of notice.
- 8.8 Where any Agenda item or motion on notice is required to be given in writing to Members prior to a Business Meeting in terms of Clause 8.7, it shall be deemed to have been given if a copy of the item or motion on notice is addressed to each Member and is left in the foyer of the Church building before the beginning of the required period of notice.

Reason for Change

*Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
15/3/10*

Proposed Constitution

13.3 Conduct of Meeting:

- 13.3.1 **Chairperson:** The Chairperson of the Council of Elders shall be the Chairperson of all general meetings, unless the Council of Elders appoints some other person.
- 13.3.2 **Rules of Debate:** The Chairperson may, at his or her discretion in relation to the issue under discussion, declare that the rules of debate shall apply.
- 13.3.3 **Voting:** Voting on all questions except where otherwise provided shall be in the first instance by a show of hands of those regular worshippers present. In the event of a demand by five or more, the question shall be determined by secret ballot of those regular worshippers present and voting thereon. The Chairperson shall have only one vote. In the case of equal voting, whether on a show of hands or by ballot, the question shall be resolved in the negative.
- 13.3.4 **Voting Rights:** The Council of Elders may, at its discretion, determine that voting on some issues be restricted to Church Members only. Subject to sub-rule 13.3.5, all voting must be in person.
- 13.3.5 **Voting on a Special Resolution:** In the event of any business at a general meeting requiring a special resolution, votes may be given by proxy, notice of which has been given in writing to the Council of Elders no later than 24 hours before the time of the meeting.
-

Existing Ringwood Constitution

CLAUSE 8: PROCEDURE AT CHURCH BUSINESS MEETINGS

- 8.1 The Chairman of any Business Meeting shall be appointed by the Board prior to such meeting.
- 8.2 All resolutions and proceedings of the meeting shall be kept in a minute book provided for that purpose. The minutes shall be accepted as a true and correct record if signed by the Chairman of the next Board meeting after their acceptance by that meeting.
- 8.3 Voting on all business, except where otherwise provided in this Constitution, shall be by show of hands. However, upon request for a ballot, the motion shall be decided by secret ballot. No proxy voting shall be permitted.
- 8.4 In the event of an equality of votes, the Chairman shall not have a casting vote.

Reason for Change

*Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
15/3/10*

Proposed Constitution

N/A

Existing Ringwood Constitution

7.4 Combined Meeting of the Board and members of Key Interest Groups and Management Group.

Apart from the Annual Business Meeting there shall be held on a regular basis of not less than three (3) per annum, meetings of the Board and members of all Key Interest Groups and Management Group for future planning and sharing matters concerned with each of the Key Interest Groups. Such meetings shall be open to all Members.

The business which may be conducted at a meeting in terms of Clause 7.4.1 must, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, not be of such a nature as to require a motion on notice to a Special Business Meeting.

The fact that a quorum is not present shall not invalidate any resolutions passed in terms of Clause 7.4.2

Reason for Change

Not required – reflects structural change

Accepted the deletion of this Clause 15/3/10

Proposed Constitution

14. WORKING GROUP

- 14.1 The Council of Elders may appoint a Working Group to investigate, consult, develop options and propose recommendations for decision and report to the Board on any matter of significance to the Church.
- 14.2 A Working Group shall have a specific, time-limited task.
- 14.3 Composition of the Working group shall be determined by the Council of Elders and shall include at least one Elder.
- 14.4 The Council of Elders will inform the Members of the establishment and purpose of the Working Group.
- 14.5 Before a Working Group is established the Council of Elders determine the terms of reference.
- 14.6 The Members shall be informed of the final decision made by the Council of Elders after the Working Group has reported.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

CLAUSE 13: WORKING GROUP

- 13.1 The Board may appoint a Working Group to investigate, consult, develop options and propose recommendations for decision and report to the Board on any matter of significance to the Church. The Management Group may recommend to the Board that a Working Group be established.
- 13.2 A Working Group shall have a specific, time-limited task and shall comprise a minimum of three (3) but not more than six (6) Members. The Group must include one (1) but not more than two (2) Elders.
- 13.3 Before a Working Group is established the Board shall advertise the terms of reference to the Members to enable them to:
 - 13.3.1 indicate to the Board their willingness to make themselves available to be selected as members of the Working Group, or
 - 13.3.2 make a submission to the Working Group
- 13.4 A Working Group shall be established in the case of ministerial appointment or reappointment, purchase or sale of property, major modification of plant or a proposal of major significance for the Church.
- 13.5 The Members shall be informed of the final decision made by the Board after the Working Group has reported.

Reason for Change

Reflects new model and promotes good consultation
Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording

15/3/10

Proposed Constitution

15. FINANCE

15.1 Responsibility:

Control of the Church Funds shall be vested in the Council of Elders.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

CLAUSE 12: FUNDS

12.2 Control of funds shall be vested in the Management Group, which shall regularly bank same and submit an audited statement of receipts and expenditure to the Annual Business Meeting. The Treasurer, in conjunction with other members of the Management Group, shall be empowered to operate the bank account(s). All cheques shall be signed by at least two (2) members of the Management Group.

Reason for Change

Reflects new structure with F&A committee

*Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
15/3/10*

Proposed Constitution

15.2 Bank Accounts:

- 15.1 The signatories for the Church Bank Account(s) shall be any two of the authorised signatories to the accounts.
- 15.2 Council of Elders shall appoint signatories to the accounts at least annually.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

Silent

Reason for Change

*Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
15/3/10*

Proposed Constitution

15.3 Reports and Auditing:

- 15.3.1 An auditor must be appointed at each annual general meeting.
- 15.3.2 Nominations for the position of auditor are to be taken at or before each annual general meeting.
- 15.3.3 An auditor must not be a Member of the Council of Elders of the Church.
- 15.3.4 An auditor may be removed by resolution of a general meeting.
- 15.3.5 Where an auditor resigns or is removed by resolution of a general meeting, the Council of Elders may appoint another person, not being a Member of the Council of Elders, to be the auditor until the holding of the next annual general meeting.
- 15.3.6 The auditor will-
- (a) have the power at all times to examine the books and documents of the Church;
 - (b) after the close of the financial year in each year and prior to the annual general meeting, audit the balance sheet and statement of receipts and expenditure of the Church.
- 15.3.7 The Administrator shall present a finance report to the Council of Elders monthly and to the Members at least two times per year.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

CLAUSE 12: FUNDS

- 12.3 The Treasurer shall present a financial statement to the Management Group each month, and a copy shall be made available to the Board and to any Member who requests it. Other Members shall be advised by a summary in the Church newsletter.
- 12.4 All Key Interest Groups shall present to the Management Group a financial statement of receipts, expenditure and a closing balance within six (6) weeks of the end of the Church's financial year.

Reason for Change

Provides an independent review of operation of church functioning and governance

Working Document - Ver 0.1 9th June 2010

Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording 15/3/10

Proposed Constitution

15.4 Sources of Funds

The funds of the Church shall be derived from offerings, tithes, gifts, interest, loans, income derived from business conducted under a trading name and such other sources as the Council of Elders determines.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

CLAUSE 12: FUNDS

12.1 The funds of the Church shall be derived from offerings, donations, fund-raising and investment income. The financial year of the Church shall end on 30 June each year.

Reason for Change

Updated wording to reflect current practices and allow future development
*Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
15/3/10*

Proposed Constitution

15.5 Loans

Save with the approval of a General Meeting of the Church, the aggregate of new borrowings in any financial year shall not exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the budgeted income of the Church for that year.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

CLAUSE 12: FUNDS

12.5 No modification shall be made to existing Church plant or property to an amount exceeding ten percent (10%) of the Church's annual budget unless the Board presents a motion on notice to a Business Meeting.

Reason for Change

The proposed wording is a better reflection of current and future requirements for a growing church

*Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
15/3/10*

Proposed Constitution

16. REGULAR WORSHIPPER ROLL

- 16.1 A Regular Worshippers Roll ("the roll") shall be kept by the Administrator to record the attendance of all worshippers at Sunday services.
- 16.2 The roll shall include the names of Members and of other worshippers who regularly attend Worship Services.
- 16.3 The roll shall be revised quarterly to add names of recent new worshippers who regularly attend Sunday Services and delete the names of those whose attendance has lapsed.
- 16.4 The roll will be the list of names of those eligible to vote where elsewhere in these rules voting by regular worshippers is allowed.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

Silent

Reason for Change

This register becomes a 'non-restricted voting roll' refer 13.3.3
*Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
15/3/10*

Proposed Constitution

17. CHURCH LAND AND BUILDINGS

All real property purchased by the Church shall be registered in the name of the Corporation and the Corporation shall act as trustee on behalf of the Church in respect of such property in conformity with "The Churches of Christ in Victoria, Property Act 1941".

Existing Ringwood Constitution

CLAUSE 14: ASSETS

- 14.1 The real property of the Church, both present and future, shall be vested in the Victorian and Tasmanian Churches of Christ Properties Corporation, to be held in trust for the Church.
- 14.2 The assets and income of the Church shall be applied solely in the furtherance of its goals and no portion shall be distributed either directly or indirectly to its Members except as bona fide compensation for expenses incurred on behalf of the Church.

Reason for Change

Simplifies wording – achieves same intent and outcome as current wording

*Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
15/3/10*

Proposed Constitution

18. BY LAWS

The Council of Elders is empowered to make and enforce By-Laws necessary for the conduct of the Church.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

Silent

Reason for Change

Provides for and acknowledges the practical operation of the church.

Added 'By Laws' to the Definitions page.

Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording

15/3/10

Proposed Constitution

19. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSES

19.1 This Constitution and the Statement of Purposes of the Church shall only be altered by a Special Resolution.

19.2 A resolution is a Special Resolution if-

19.2.1 at least twenty one (21) days notice is given to Members of the intention to pass a resolution as a Special Resolution; and

19.2.2 the resolution is passed by at least seventy-five percent (75%) of all valid votes cast at a properly convened meeting.

19.3 Notwithstanding the above, there shall be no alteration to these Rules where such alteration affects the distribution of the income of the Church either during its currency or upon its dissolution unless approved by the Commissioner of Taxation and the provisions for trading and for winding up contained in these Rules shall not be altered without the consent of the Federal Government Minister for the time being under the Act.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

CLAUSE 18: ALTERATION TO CONSTITUTION

- 18.1 This Constitution and the Statement of Purposes may only be altered or amended by a three-quarters majority of voting Members, present and voting, at a Business Meeting, **provided that** notice of the proposed amendment has first been given to Members in terms of Clause 18.2.
- 18.2 Notice of any proposed amendment shall be in writing and shall be in the hands of the Secretary at least forty-two (42) days prior to calling the Business Meeting at which the proposed amendment is to be presented and any clarification given the Secretary shall then make the Agenda of the Business Meeting (including the proposed amendment) available to the Members at least twenty-eight (28) days prior to the meeting
- 18.3 Clause 8.6 shall not apply in the case of Clause 18 which must be governed by Clauses 18.1 and 18.2

CLAUSE 17: PREVIOUS CONSTITUTION

- 17.1 This Constitution repeals any previous Constitution.
- 17.2 Any appointment made or motion passed under the previous Constitution, hereby repealed, if in force at the commencement of this Constitution, shall continue in force as far as practicable, as if made or passed under this Constitution.

Reason for Change

Clarifies and simplifies the existing wording – required by the Act
Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
15/3/10

Proposed Constitution

20. CUSTODY OF THE COMMON SEAL

- 20.1 The common seal of the Church shall be kept in the custody of the Administrator.
- 20.2 The common seal shall not be affixed to any instrument except by the authority of the Council of Elders and the affixing of the common seal shall be attested by the signatures of two members of the Council of Elders.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

CLAUSE 16: COMMON SEAL

- 16.1 The Common Seal of the Church shall be kept in the custody of the Secretary.
- 16.2 The Common Seal of the Church shall not be affixed to any instrument except by resolution carried at a meeting of the Board and the affixing of the Common Seal shall be attested by the signature of any two Elders.

Reason for Change

*Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
15/3/10*

Proposed Constitution

21. CUSTODY OF BOOKS

- 21.1 Except as is otherwise provided in this Constitution, the Administrator shall keep in his or her custody or under his or her control all books, documents, data held in computer systems and securities of the Church.
- 21.2 The accounts of the Church and the minutes of the resolutions of each general meeting and each Council of Elders meeting shall be available for inspection by Members. The Council of Elders shall have absolute discretion in considering requests by Members for inspection of other books of the Church.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

CLAUSE 15: CUSTODY OF DOCUMENTS

15.1 The Management Group shall be responsible to keep under custody all books, documents and securities of the Church.

15.2 Such books, documents and securities shall be available for inspection by any Member upon giving at least seven (7) days notice in writing to the secretary.

Reasons for Changes

The role of Administrator replaces Management Group for this function.

It is neither appropriate nor legal; to allow access to some of the information now kept [personnel records, health records, etc]. The revised Act provides for member access to accounts and minutes of meetings.

*Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
15/3/10*

Proposed Constitution

22. WINDING UP OR CANCELLATION

In the event that on the winding up or cancellation of the incorporation of the Church there are assets remaining after payment of the Church's debts and liabilities, the remaining assets are not to be paid to or distributed among the Members but are to be given or transferred to the Conference -

22.1 to be applied for purposes similar to the purposes for which the Church has been established; and

22.2 provided always that the Conference is at all times an income tax exempt institution that prohibits the distribution of its income and assets among its members to an extent at least as great as is imposed on the Church.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

Clause 14.3

If upon the dissolution of the Church there remains after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any money or assets other than those mentioned in Clause 14.1, the same shall be given or transferred to some other Churches or organisations having goals similar to the goals of the Church, all as determined by the Members at a Business Meeting held on or before the time of dissolution.

Reason for Change

Updates wording and reflects current practice [Foundation, etc]

*Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
15/3/10*

Proposed Constitution

23. PROCEDURE FOR DISCIPLINE

The procedure (if any) for the disciplining of members and the mechanism (if any) for appearances by members in respect of disciplinary action taken against them shall be determined by the Council of Elders.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

Silent

Reason for Change

Acknowledge a process – hopefully never required.
Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
15/3/10

Proposed Constitution

24. INCOME AND ASSETS

24.1 The income and property of the Church whenever it is derived, must only be applied towards the promotion of the Purposes of the Church as set out in the Statement of Purposes.

24.2 The income and property of the Church must not be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise to the Members except

24.2.1 for payment, in good faith, of remuneration to any Member, Member of the Council of Elders or employee or agent of the Church;

24.2.2 payment to any Member, Member of the Council of Elders, employee or agent of the Church in return for services actually rendered to the Church or for goods supplied in the ordinary and usual way of business;

24.2.3 the payment of interest on money borrowed from any Member, Member of the Council of Elders, employee or agent of the Church;

24.2.4 the payment of reasonable and proper rent for premises let to the Church by any Member, Member of the Council of Elders, employee or agent of the Church;

24.2.5 payment of fees to any Member, Member of the Council of Elders, employee or agent of the Church who has been appointed to a salaried office of the Church.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

Clause 14: ASSETS

14.1 The real property of the church, both present and future, shall be vested in the Victorian and Tasmanian Churches of Christ Properties Corporation, to be held in trust for the Church

Reason for Change

Updated wording to reflect current practices and expectations

*Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
15/3/10*

Proposed Constitution

25. DISPUTES

All disputes between one Member and another Member, or between a Member and the Church, may be resolved on the Biblical principles set out in *Matthew 18:15-20, 5:23-26 and Galatians 6:1-5*.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

Silent

Reason for Change

Acknowledge a process – hopefully never required.
Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
15/3/10

Proposed Constitution

26. TRADING

The Church is authorised to trade in accordance with Section 51 of the Act in order to facilitate the achievement of the purposes of the Church.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

Silent

Reason for Change

Insert this Clause to acknowledge that we do trade – sell tickets to events, training courses, etc

*Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
15/3/10*

Revisions

Revision Number	Date	Comment
0.0	March 2010	Initial draft

Proposed Constitution

27. CONSTITUTION REVIEW

This Constitution shall be reviewed

- (a) whenever required by legislation
- (b) when the Membership has increased or decreased by twenty percent (20%)
- (c) every five (5) years.

Existing Ringwood Constitution

Silent

Reason for Change

*Accepted the Proposed Constitution Wording
15/3/10*