

DEC CONSTITUTION

NAME

The name shall be "Dingwall Evangelical Church" hereinafter referred to as the Church.

PURPOSE

The Church shall exist as an independent Church to provide all the offices normally associated with a church to its members and to promote the outreach of the Christian message in the community and further afield with particular emphasis on young people and those who do not normally attend any other church.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Church shall be open to all those who can subscribe to the basis of faith as contained within this document and the separate document on membership and who are not members of any other church. Each member of the Church will also be required to agree to further the interests of the Church and the communication of the Good News of Jesus Christ to the community with regard to the individual's gifts and talents. Members of the Church will be subject to the pastoral care and discipline of the eldership.

Members are also expected to be:-

- diligent in their attendance at worship.
- studious in consideration of Scripture
- prayerful in relation to their own and other people's needs
- liberal in their giving to the work of the Church according to the way God has blessed them.
- involved in the life and witness of the Church in the wider community.

BASIS OF FAITH

The unity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit in the Godhead.

The sovereignty of God in creation, providence, revelation, redemption and final judgement.

The divine inspiration and entire trustworthiness of Holy Scripture, and its supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

The sinfulness and guilt of all men since the fall, rendering them subject to God's wrath and condemnation.

Redemption from the guilt, penalty and power of sin solely through the sacrificial death, as our representative and substitute, of the Lord Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God.

The bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead and His ascension to the right hand of God the Father.

The necessity of the work of the Holy Spirit to make the death of Christ effective to the individual sinner, granting him/her repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The justification of the sinner by the Grace of God through faith in Christ alone.

The indwelling and work of the Holy Spirit in the believer.

The one Holy universal Church, which is the body of Christ and to which all true believers belong.

The expectation of the personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

OFFICE BEARERS

The only offices within the Church will be that of elder, one of whom may be appointed as teaching elder. The number of elders will be decided each year by the membership at the Annual General Meeting and those nominated can only be elected to office if they are members of the Church in the full sense of that term as outlined in this constitution. Elders duly elected will serve for life or until such time as they themselves wish to retire from or terminate that office, except for conduct which is not conducive to the Church's purpose in which case the remainder of the elders must be in agreement to exercise discipline which may lead to the termination of the appointment.

In addition there may be a secretary and treasurer appointed annually.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

There will be an Annual General Meeting of the Church to which all members shall be invited. The purpose of the meeting will be as follows:-

To receive a report on the activities of the Church over the preceding twelve months.

To receive and approve the audited accounts of the Church.

To appoint elders if considered necessary.

To make any decisions or recommendations relative to the ongoing work of the Church as shall seem appropriate to the meeting.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

Meetings of the congregation shall be held throughout the year as required to discuss any appropriate business. Members can call for a special meeting to be held provided at least one third of the current membership is in agreement. At other times the regularity of meetings will be decided by the eldership. Congregational meetings so called will have the power to make decisions other than alterations to the Constitution.

FINANCE

All monies and property of the Church shall be applied to further the objects of the Church and for no other purpose provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent the payment in good faith of reasonable and proper remuneration to any employee of the Church and fees to professional and technical advisors or the repayment to office bearers of reasonable out of pocket expenses.

The treasurer shall keep proper accounts of the finances of the Church.

The accounts shall be audited at least once a year by an auditor or examined and certified by a capable independent examiner.

EXTERNAL PARTICIPATION IN WORSHIP

It will be the policy of the Church to invite speakers, singers etc from other churches, or organisations from time to time but any individuals or groups so invited will be subject to the approval of the elders.

ALTERATION TO CONSTITUTION

This constitution shall not be altered except at an Annual General Meeting and with at least four weeks notice of proposed changes having been given in writing to all members. Such changes would require a simple majority of those present at the Annual General Meeting.

CLOSURE

In the event of the Church ceasing to exist for whatever reason all funds and property/equipment held in the name of the Church shall be realised and after meeting any liabilities any balance remaining shall be donated to such evangelistic work as may be determined by the elders.

Any motion to terminate the affairs of the Church can only be put to the Annual General Meeting and then only if two months notice of the proposed motion has been given to all members. For such a motion to be carried will require the support of two thirds of the number of members present at the meeting.

This constitution as amended to include the finance paragraph was adopted at a congregational meeting on 1 October 1995.

This constitution was further amended to change the name from Dingwall and District Christian Fellowship to Dingwall Evangelical Church upon a motion being put to the annual general meeting held on 23 November 2002.

Certified as a true copy,

Signed by two elders